

Report A - Ecumenical Involvement

SUBJECT: Ecumenical Involvement

FROM: Ecumenism Ministry Group

Having received resolutions regarding our participation in the various councils of churches, our Ministry Group discussed at some length various aspects of the ecumenical work of the Moravian Church. We noted the words of Jesus in his "High Priestly Prayer" as well as parts of our doctrine and practice in the Covenant for Christian Living, and the Ground of the Unity. We also reviewed the history of division in the worldwide church and recent efforts to better understand the differences among the denominations as members of the worldwide church. Members of this Ministry Group who are or have been involved in ecumenical work for the Moravian Church explained the work in which they have been involved. This included a member of the Unity & Ecumenical Affairs Commission, one who has worked with the North Carolina Council of Churches and a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

As members who represent the churches of our province discussed our ecumenical work, there seemed to be less than complete information about and understanding of our ecumenical efforts. In light of that we discerned that there is a need to broaden the amount of information about and understanding of this work and the cooperative efforts of organizations in which our church participates.

While we do not believe that this rises to the level of legislation by Synod, we suggest that PEC and the Unity & Ecumenical Affairs Commission jointly consider how furthering understanding among our churches might be accomplished. We especially ask that PEC and Unity & Ecumenical affairs commission share how our ecumenical involvements fulfill our understanding of being "...called in faith to serve humanity by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ." (*Ground of the Unity*, paragraph 1) Efforts might include, but not be limited to, such things as a conference including representatives of various

ecumenical groups, the subject of an intersynodal conference or information papers circulated to church boards and provincial agencies.