

Report B - Moravian Episcopal Dialogue

SUBJECT: Moravian Episcopal Dialogue

FROM: Ecumenism Ministry Group

Our Ecumenism Ministry Group received the proposed resolution to discontinue the Moravian Episcopal dialogue. The group decided, after much discussion and listening to one another, and with the undergirding of our prayers, that in light of the significant division of concerns and convictions that it would not be appropriate to discontinue the dialogue.

Instead of the original resolution, the Ecumenism Ministry Group recommends that the dialogue continue with the understanding that the dialogue will not necessarily lead to full communion with the Episcopal Church in the USA. The dialogue is to continue between our historic churches, who along with other churches of our day are struggling with difficult issues. Our dialogue continuation will respect our Savior's prayer for oneness among His followers and will respect the "charge" to find unity, clearly stated in our own Ground of the Unity. It will be an effort to be consistent with our church's centuries of ecumenical ministry. Moreover, continued dialogue honors our own need to be in significant conversation with other Christians.

We communicate the deep concern, felt by many among us, that there be no proposal for, nor movement towards, full communion between our two denominations without clearly evident and very significant progress towards healing of the divisions that threaten us. We ask that the Unity & Ecumenical Affairs Commission, the PEC, and especially those currently engaged and representing the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in the Episcopal-Moravian Dialogue, take such steps as may be necessary, to communicate our heartfelt concerns to our brothers and sisters in the ECUSA, and to share openly with our church any important future developments or proposals in the continuing dialogue. We pray for them, and ask that they pray for us.