

## **Resolution #5 - Congregational Strategies to Confront HIV and AIDS**

**Subject: Congregational Strategies to Confront HIV and AIDS**

**From: World Mission Ministry Group**

**WHEREAS**, the global pandemic of HIV and AIDS continues to spread, with around 46 million people estimated to be infected;

**WHEREAS**, whole societies, especially in southern Africa, are experiencing devastation, economic instability, and breakdown of the family structure, with women and children especially vulnerable;

**WHEREAS**, people living with AIDS experience significant stigma that impacts all levels of their lives;

**WHEREAS**, our own society, while having better treatment options, continues to see increases in infection, with youth under the age of 25 representing about 50% of all new HIV infections; and

**WHEREAS**, our Lord models compassion for the suffering and restoration to community for the marginalized; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the 2006 Southern Province Synod shall ask each congregation to schedule an AIDS Awareness day to better understand this disease and its impact both locally and globally;

**RESOLVED, That** this Synod shall ask each congregation to find a way to support a specific program of AIDS Ministry, focusing specifically on areas of education, prevention, and ministering to caregivers, orphans and those living with HIV; and

**RESOLVED, That** this Synod shall recognize December 1st as World AIDS Day, and shall proclaim it as a day of commemoration and prayer by our Moravian churches.