

## **Resolution #17 - New Models for New Congregational Development**

**Subject: New Models for New Congregational Development**

**From: Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Group**

**WHEREAS**, our culture is becoming more diverse everyday in most every respect;

**WHEREAS**, many of our congregations are effectively serving their communities through our rich traditions of worship and ministry; and there are also a growing number of unchurched people in our communities, who may not respond to typical evangelism and outreach efforts;

**WHEREAS**, the researcher, George Barna notes that millions of young unchurched have no understanding of or interest in a church, even if it is "contemporary" in style. "Millions of young adults are more interested in truth, authenticity, experiences, relationships and spirituality than they are in laws, traditions, events, disciplines, institutions and religions. The confluence of preconceived notions, past experiences and evolving lifestyles and values means that existing churches simply cannot reach millions of today's unchurched people." (*from: The Barna Update, "Number of Unchurched Adults Has Nearly Doubled Since 1991," May 4, 2004*);

**WHEREAS**, for nearly 550 years Moravians have striven to go into new areas of ministry in the name of Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a variety of models of new congregational development (such as house church networks, store front churches, intentional missional communities, etc.) which may reach new believers in new ways; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Board of Evangelism and Home Mission explore alternative models for new congregational development and, as it deems practical, put at least one of these into practice by the next Synod of the Southern Province (2010).