

Resolution #33 - Conflict Resolution Resources

Subject: Conflict Resolution Resources

From: Provincial Development Ministry Group

WHEREAS, our Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (14-15) acknowledges that conflict is a part of the Christian life, and that effective conflict management and resolution are important to promote the unity of the Church and our witness to the world;

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church works through a confederal system of government in which decisions are made after careful discussion with all parties affected and with a concern for the health of the church as a whole;

WHEREAS, the renewal of the Moravian Church on Aug. 13, 1727 was closely connected to the successful resolution of conflicts within the Herrnhut congregation through the signing of the Brotherly Agreement; and

WHEREAS, other Christian churches have found help in dealing with conflict by developing Biblically-based resources that include clear guidelines on how members and groups involved in the conflict should conduct themselves; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the PEC appoint a working group of 5-7 individuals with interest and expertise in this area to develop resources and policies for conflict resolution that is Biblical and expresses the Moravian heritage of brotherhood and sisterhood;

RESOLVED, That these conflict resolution resources draw upon Scripture, The Ground of the Unity, Essential Features of the Unity, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, the original Brotherly Agreement, The Book of Order, and the wisdom and experience of Moravian leaders (especially bishops);

RESOLVED, That the working group review existing Moravian resources and materials used by other churches and conflict resolution organizations, especially the Mennonite program titled "Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love;" (attached)

RESOLVED, That the working group develop a program for education and training that can be used in congregations and on the provincial level;

RESOLVED, That the working group submit progress reports at appropriate intervals to the PEC and complete its work by Jan. 2008; and

RESOLVED, That PEC will determine the best methods for introducing these resources to pastors, congregations, and provincial ministries so they may become the standard way of dealing with conflict in the Southern Province.

