

Resolution #43 - Mission Challenge 550

Subject: Mission Challenge 550

From: Social Concerns Ministry Group

WHEREAS, the year 2007 is the 550th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church, Unitas Fratrum, in 1457, and it is the 275th anniversary of the beginning of the "Great Missionary Decade" of the Moravian Church in 1732;

WHEREAS, Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum declares witness and service to be central to the calling of the Moravian Church:

#1. The Lord Jesus Christ calls His Church into being so that it may serve Him on earth until He comes. The Unitas Fratrum is, therefore, aware of its being called in faith to serve humanity by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It recognizes this call to be the source of its being and the inspiration of its service. As is the source, so is the aim and end of its being based upon the will of its Lord.

#700. The Moravian Church still accepts the challenge and command of the Lord, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost". It does this confessing that only by continuing to bring the message of the Cross to other people will it continue to be a living Church; and

WHEREAS, there is great appreciation for the mission involvement of all our Moravian congregations, as they respond to ever increasing and more desperate needs, locally and globally; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Southern Province's celebration of the 550th anniversary of the Unitas Fratrum focus on building up mission outreach while continuing to support existing mission programs;

RESOLVED, That according to Scripture and Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum this synod understands "mission outreach" to be broadly defined as ministry to the spiritual, social, physical and economic needs of humanity. This total ministry will express itself in the preaching of the Word, the healing of the sick, the education of both the young and adults to fit them to face life in a competitive society and by social service to the needy in mind and body (COUF # 701); and

RESOLVED, That as a high priority PEC will seek out interested persons and appoint a Mission Challenge 550 Leadership Team, (including at least one youth) accountable to the PEC, with the following responsibilities:

1. To lead our province in seeking ways for each congregation to identify local needs and have access to resources for mission outreach.

2. To meet with and seek the assistance of provincial and interprovincial boards and agencies in building up and expanding mission outreach.
3. To promote cooperation, exchange of information, and sharing of resources among congregations, boards, and agencies.
4. To encourage financial and volunteer support by each congregation for the good work of Moravian mission agencies including Sunnyside Ministry, Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries, the partnership of BEHM and BWM in Moravian Disaster Response, Mission Society and Mission Camp at Laurel Ridge.
5. To encourage each congregation's youth to participate in mission outreach opportunities and programs both within the church worldwide and in the community.
6. To disseminate information on possibilities for cooperation in mission outreach with other denominations and with Christian ministry organizations (for example, Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan's Purse, Church World Service, World Vision, etc.).
7. To facilitate during the year 2007 two or more events that give expression to this focus on building up mission outreach; one of these events shall be a Province-wide Youth mission event.