

Unity Synod 2009

List of Resolutions

Resolution 1: Education

Whereas violence against women continues to impact upon women and families in our Provinces;

Whereas pastors receive training at seminaries regarding pastoral care of their congregations but this care may not include specific information to enable pastors to recognize and adequately address the issue of violence against women and children; and

Whereas in many instances pastors of our churches are a first resort of women who are victims of violence;

Be it resolved that:

1. The Unity directs the provinces to adopt a policy that mandates training in pastoral care and includes training to recognize and appropriately address violence against women and children;
2. Pastors who have completed their training be given regular refresher training courses by means of retreats, conferences, seminars as are appropriate to equip them to give pastoral care to victims and families of victims of violence; and
3. Each Province be required to report to the Unity Board during the next two years on steps taken to address this issue.

Resolution 2: Unity Prayer Watch Schedule

Be it resolved that:

The Unity Prayer Watch schedule be amended as follows:

January 1-18	America South
January 19-23	Costa Rica
January 24-31	Guyana
February 1-3	Czech Undertaking
February 4-7	Czech province
February 8-25	Suriname
February 25-March 14*	Tanzania, West
March 15-22	Alaska
March 22-31*	European Continental & Star Mt
April 1-14	Eastern West Indies
April 15-16	Labrador
April 16-17*	Congo
April 18-19	Kigoma
April 20-May 7	Jamaica, Cuba & Grand Cayman
May 8-25	Honduras
May 25-June 25*	South Africa
June 26-July 9	Great Britain & South Asia
July 10-23	Tanzania, Rukwa
July 24-September 6	Tanzania, South & Malawi
September 7-October 5	Nicaragua
October 5-6*	Zambia
October 7-November 30	Tanzania, South West
December 1-31	America North

*time starts one day earlier to cover time difference with the previous province.

Resolution 3: Reception of Ministers from other Denominations

Whereas prior to the Unity Synod of 1988 the *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* did not address the matter of the order of ministry into which an ordained minister from another denomination would be received;

Whereas the Unity Synod of 1988 amended the *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* #865, to state that an ordained minister from another denomination shall be received as a Deacon;

Whereas some other denominations have a three-fold ministry of Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops as does the Moravian Church, and some other denominations have ministers ordained as Presbyters only; and

Whereas Provinces often desire that a minister from another denomination have a period of service under appointment before being called to service, and such a period can serve the same purpose as the period of service of a Deacon before consecration as a Presbyter;

Be it therefore resolved that:

1. In #685 of the *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* the following sentence be deleted:

"In the event of the reception of an ordained minister from another denomination into the ordained ministry of the Moravian Church, the minister shall be received as a Deacon"; and

2. The following sentence shall be added to #683:

"In the event that an ordained minister is received from another denomination, the Provincial Board is free to receive him or her as a Deacon or Presbyter as it deems appropriate."

Resolution 4: Financial support for retired pastors in Nicaragua

Whereas

1. The society of retired Moravian pastors consisting of one hundred and thirty members are humans who dedicated practically their whole life to the ministerial service of the Almighty, and are now beyond sixty years of age without any complementary source of revenue other than the equivalent of four to six US dollars per person monthly as a stipend, versus seven to twenty dollars monthly that they earned while still in active service;
2. The survival food basket per person in Nicaragua is equivalent to one hundred and seventy-six US dollars as stipulated by the United Nations; and
3. The socio-economic status of Nicaragua, post Hurricane Felix became increasingly difficult to the point of unabling us as a church to substantially support the families of our pastors whose homes and communal livelihood were terribly shattered and infested with proliferating diseases requiring surging need for effective medical care;

Be it resolved that:

In the light of the difficult financial circumstances facing retired ministers in Nicaragua, the Synod recommends to the Unity Board, in cooperation with persons or institutions having financial experience (such as MCF) to review the retirement plans and programmes for ministers in the provinces and to assist those provinces having non-existent or inadequate plans to develop more secure retirement programmes for their ministers.

Resolution 5: Residential home for Moravian student pastors in Nicaragua

Whereas:

1. The Moravian church in Nicaragua has been fulfilling its ministry of evangelizing and preparing human resources for the pastoral work for over five decades, providing them with teaching, housing and eating facilities until the time when its infrastructures were totally devastated during the war by the Sandinist Front for National Liberation in 1980; and
2. The Moravian Theological Seminary in Puerto Cabezas, which withstood the fierceness of Hurricane Felix that flattened many of our rural area churches and parsonages, has been serving the Province over the past ten years;

Be it resolved that:

Unity Synod appeal to all provinces to assist in constructing a decent home for student pastors who wish to study at the Theological Seminary in Nicaragua.

Resolution 6: Youth Heritage Tour

Whereas the first Unity Youth Conference was held in Jamaica in 2004 and a steering committee was elected from that number to plan and pursue a second conference;

Whereas the leadership of our young people is integral and imperative to the present and future life of our communities;

Whereas there is a continued need to empower and inspire youth from around the world-wide Moravian Unity to claim their heritage as Christians and as Moravians in authentic ways through living out the Mission of God in their individual countries; and

Whereas the gift of relationship between and among the diverse populations of Moravians throughout the world should be shared and continually encouraged through gatherings such as the Unity Youth Conferences;

Be it resolved that:

1. The steering committee proposes a plan for a second conference to be held in 2011 hosted by the European Continental Province, and with a recommended 2 delegates per Province.

The host Province is to be responsible for the organization and for arranging the local staff of the conference, with the theme of:

*Our Moravian Heritage...Who We Are
Claiming Our Identity in Christ and Reclaiming Our Identity in the Moravian Church
The Moravian Heritage Road*

As we travel along the paths of our Moravian ancestors from the Czech Republic to Germany to Holland and then out to the wide world we will find inspiration through our history and the reality of the risks that those people took in order to bring the Gospel of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to our respective homelands. We will work together to respond to God's continued call to share the Gospel of Jesus with the world around us in authentic ways in the context of a globalised world;

2. A steering committee be chosen from the conference to maintain the website, connecting with Unity Youth, liaising with short term mission teams, and they will begin planning a conference with a Face to Face meeting around 2015 in preparation for an inter-synodal conference;
3. All costs in the above proposals be borne by the individual provinces.

Resolution 7: Ordination of Women

Whereas we recognised that there are areas of the Unity which do not afford women the same access to ordination as men enjoy;

Be it resolved that:

This Unity Synod reaffirms #861 and #905 of the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum.

Resolution 8: Advocacy

Whereas violence against women in the Unity continues unabated and has a negative impact on women, children and family life in the Unity;

Whereas because it is contrary to the Unity's understanding of our call as Christians, it is desirable that there be policies regarding the recognition of the problem and the adoption of ways to address it; and

Whereas it is acknowledged that in some Provinces in the Unity there is work being done to address this issue;

Be it resolved that:

The Unity include the topic of violence against women in the inter-synodal calendar and that Provinces seek ways to address the issue and implement a plan of action.

Resolution 9: Our Stewardship of Creation

That the original Proposal 16 be taken back to Provinces as it stands:

1. We believe that God
created and continues to create the whole universe;
sustains and nurtures creation;
through Christ, wills to redeem the whole of creation from its bondage to decay;
entrusts creation to our care, calling us to be stewards of it;
calls us to be partners in God's ongoing creative, renewing and redeeming activity;
commands us to act justly and in righteousness not only towards our fellow human beings, but to all creation;
requires us to care for creation so that future generations, whom God also loves, can enjoy it and benefit from it.
2. We affirm that Christian mission includes caring for God's earth and of all creation.
3. We know that human activity has contributed to the degradation of the earth in its land, seas and atmosphere, and that this is contrary to the will of God. We believe that this degradation limits the attainment of the fullness of life that God wills for all creation, and is a sin for which we should seek forgiveness. We recognise that urgent response is now required in the face of the catastrophic consequences of climate change caused by this environmental damage and the disproportionate suffering this brings to the poorest in the world, including brothers and sisters within our Moravian Unity.
4. We challenge and encourage our congregations and members to care for the earth by following sustainable practice in their lifestyles. This will include conservation and careful consideration of how we use resources in church life and at home; active involvement in community initiatives aimed at sustaining and renewing the environment; and taking action on global environmental issues

Resolution 10: Coordination of Provincial Efforts to address HIV/AIDS

Whereas the Unity Synod of 2002 has, through resolutions #887 and #906 (COUF) addressed issues relating to HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS continues to spread with over 33 million people estimated to be living with HIV: (2008 report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, UNAIDS);

Whereas despite increased global efforts to stem the spread of HIV, whole societies, especially in southern Africa, continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS, and the diseases impact on economic instability, and breakdown of family structure, with women and children being especially vulnerable to poverty and infection via rampant sexual violence;

Whereas people living with HIV/AIDS experience significant stigma that impacts all areas of their lives;

Whereas the majority of persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS struggle to acquire needed treatments, adequate testing, and sufficient resources and economic stability for their families; and

Whereas Jesus of Nazareth modelled compassion for the suffering, restoration to community for the marginalized and sharing of resources;

Therefore be it resolved that:

Synod mandates Provinces to increase efforts for the stemming of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Resolution 11: Measured Community Impact

Whereas many issues that face the church throughout the world are intimately connected with the social and communal manifestations of the Gospel outside the walls of our congregations;

Whereas issues of physical and psychological hardship due to poverty, continual threat of natural disasters, gender inequality, violence, economic distress, etc. affect members of churches and the societies in which we live;

Whereas the call to social justice and service is clearly stated in scripture (Matthew 5:1-12, Matthew 25:37-40, James 2:14-17);

Whereas we know that the mandate of scripture is being understood and acted upon in many areas throughout the church in a variety of social and community ministries; and

Whereas the reports to Unity Synod from the provinces have included information about the evangelical and clerical work of the provinces;

Be it resolved that:

1. The entire Unity seeks more ways to effectively engage their cultures and societies in tangible mission that addresses the many issues of disparity, hardship, and distress that come from the experiences of life in the community;
2. The Unity Board also engage in reporting issues that directly connect with the various social ministries of local congregations, provinces, and unity undertakings in order to elevate that work which was so closely intertwined with the work of Christ in his earthly ministry to those who suffered disease, poverty, oppression, destitution, etc;
3. During the inter-synodal period provinces be encouraged and directed to maintain and include additional measurable evidence of community impact in their reporting to Unity Synod.

Resolution 12: Stages of Development of Provinces

Whereas relationships among provinces and mission areas of the Moravian Unity continue to change in the post-colonial world; and

Whereas, we expect Unity Provinces to undertake new mission outreach and Mission Areas to work toward becoming Unity Provinces;

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF) be amended as follows (changed language is in italics):

PART III

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITAS FRATRUM

CHAPTER I

THE UNITY AND ITS PROVINCES

A. GENERAL FEATURES

#200. The Unitas Fratrum consists of Provinces.

#201. The Provinces of the Unitas Fratrum are found in many areas of the world and are among many races and of many tongues. All are indigenous to their geographical and national location. Some are found in highly industrialized communities; others are in developing regions of the earth. As a consequence, the Provinces of the Unity offer a wide variety of economic, social and political development. Yet all are one, without distinction, in their membership in the Unity (COUF, # 7).

Because of this divergence in circumstances and development, some Provinces must of necessity look to other Provinces or to the Unity as a whole for assistance with workers and money, and for encouragement and advice. Such Provinces are considered to be in affiliation with the supporting Province. This support is given and received in a spirit of mutual love and concern, and is an essential feature of the fellowship of the Unitas Fratrum.

Stages of Development of Provinces

Three important points must guide the use of the following criteria:

- a) *It is assumed that each stage of transition will be monitored and recommended by representatives of the Unity to the Unity Board for ratification by the Unity Synod.*
- b) It is not assumed that it is inevitable that each new area of work will automatically develop towards the status of a full Unity Province. Some may remain at a stage, which, due to circumstances, best suits their situation.
- c) The criteria outlined here are not hard and fast rules or requirements, but guidelines as a basis for further consideration by the Unity Board and/or Unity Synod.

1. Mission Area

What and Where?

The geographical boundaries and extent of new areas of mission need to be defined and approved by Unity Board.

- a) They can be within a country where the Church is already working and established but where there are people and communities unreached by the Gospel. This would be a mission outreach from an established base.
- b) They can be in a country or area where the Church has not previously had any work.

Authorisation for new work

If this mission cannot be funded from existing work and is more than just a natural development and growth out of an established Province, then authorization for it should come from the Unity through the Unity Board, after representatives of the Board have visited it or delegated others to do so and reported back. It is envisioned that much new work would, in the first instance, be identified by one of the established Provinces of our Church to which it would be primarily attached.

Recognition

A new Mission Area would be so designated by the Unity Board and then ratified by Unity Synod. Responsibility for administering this new work should be assigned by the Unity Board to a Province or a Mission Board.

Organisation

- a) *When a new Mission Area is initiated, the associated Unity Province or Mission Agency will make sure that adequate resources are available for the development of the work.*
- b) *The Mission Area should set its own goals and strategies. The leadership and the constituency should together develop rules and regulations which are consistent with COUF. This process leads to the formation of a Church Conference.*
- c) *It is the responsibility of the Unity Province in concert with the Mission Area to define clearly the relationship/accountability between the supervising Province and the Mission Area. In most cases, work should be leading toward formation of congregations. After instruction, members should be received into congregations by baptism or confirmation, and proper records kept with lists of members.*
- d) *Leadership initially comes from inside the new Mission Area, in accompaniment by the designated Unity Province. Training in pastoral and administrative leadership, (including theological training, management, stewardship, and development) should be encouraged from the outset.*
- e) *The mission area should carry initial operational costs before outside financial support is rendered. Subsequently financial support for special needs can come from the Unity Mission Fund (New World Witness Fund) or other sources. The accompanying Unity Province makes sure that regular reporting on the development of the work is forwarded to the Unity Board.*
- f) *Prior to becoming a Mission Province, the Church Conference must approve a constitution consistent with COUF for approval by the Unity Board.*

2. Mission Province

The Mission Province should satisfy the following criteria:

- a) *It has a Church Constitution, which is consistent with COUF. The civil authorities of the country in which it operates, should recognise this Church Constitution.*
- b) *It has its own Synod representing the membership in the congregations that have been established.*
- c) *It should elect a Provincial Board. The Mission Province continues to be accompanied by and accountable to the designated Unity Province.*
- d) *(former c) It should establish an infrastructure with several recognised congregations or centres for regular preaching and teaching ministries. After instruction, members should be received into congregations by baptism or confirmation, and proper records kept with lists of members. Congregations are recognised in accordance with the regulations in force for the supervising Province.*
- e) *The Mission Province should carry its own operational costs before outside financial support is rendered. The Mission Province should develop its own strategy for self-reliance. Financial support for special needs can come from other sources.*
- f) *It should contribute to the Unity budget.*
- g) *It should produce its own devotional literature if this is in a language not already covered in the Unity. (Some books of the Bible/NT, Daily Texts, Hymnbook/Songbook, etc.)*

3. Unity Province

The criteria for recognising a full Unity Province are implicit in the above sections of *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum*, but they can be summarized as follows:

- a) It is governed by a Synod.
- b) It elects a Provincial Board to administer its life and work.
- c) It has a Constitution/Church Order that is appropriate to its work in line with COUF.
- d) It is faithful to the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:17-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) by providing programmes of worship, Christian education, evangelism, diaconal service, and fellowship.
- e) It is able to supply its own ministers, other church workers, and the means to train and support them in service.
- f) *It is financially self-supporting or has an approved strategy for moving toward this in a definite time frame.*
- g) It contributes to the whole Unity in terms of resources, personnel, and meeting its assessment for the Unity Budget.
- h) It has the Bible (or at least the New Testament), Hymnbook, Liturgy, and Daily Text Book in the language of its members.

#202. All Provinces share equally in the common faith, tradition, and witness of the Church. The members of all the Provinces are in relationship to one another. The goal set before each Province is to fulfil the calling of Christ in its life, worship, and organisation.

#203. All Provinces are linked together in a constitutional form of government, which, while encouraging the liberty of Provincial development, may provide mutual help and cooperation and provide the corporate responsibility of the Unity towards its Provinces.

The Saviour, through the work of the Holy Spirit, has given each province gifts, which can be of help and blessing to the other provinces of the Unity. Each province is in need of the strength and ministry, which can be offered by the other provinces of the Unity. Thus mutual guidance can be given by provinces to each other under the guidance of Unity Board and Unity Synod. By such guidance, the provinces will value the concerns expressed by one another. This ministry of guidance is provided in various forms, including visits to provinces by the bishops of the Unity, gatherings of leaders and members from various provinces for mutual sharing of concerns and ideas, and the ministry of those gifted in mediation when this is deemed advisable. The Unity Board in cooperation with the leaders of the provinces shall administer this ministry of mutual guidance and accountability.

Resolution 13: Vesting Act of Parliament, 1884

Whereas the Moravian Church in Jamaica was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1884. By virtue of this Act, the Moravian Church in Jamaica is required to refer to the British Mission Board various matters especially those relating to land transactions;

Whereas this legal provision is outdated and causes delays and prejudice to the Jamaica Province in completing transactions; and

Whereas the aforesaid provision in the law has not kept pace with the responsibilities conferred on the PEC;

Therefore be it resolved that:

This Synod grants to the Jamaica Province the authority and permission to prepare and submit to the Jamaican Parliament the appropriate documentations so as to amend the Vesting Act of Parliament, 1884, in such a way as to allow the Jamaica Province to administer its own business affairs.

Resolution 14: Unity Mission and Development Fund

Whereas the New World Witness Fund was established to fund mission work;

Whereas the term "New World" does not appropriately describe the mission activities of the Unity; and

Whereas there is a need to secure a better coordination and management of this fund;

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. The New World Witness Fund be called the Unity Mission and Development Fund;
2. The Unity Mission and Development Board (pending approval; if not approved return to the status quo) administer the Unity Mission and Development Fund; and
3. COUF #881, 882, 883 be deleted and replaced with the following:

The aim of the Unity Mission and Development Fund is to support the work of the Unity in Missions. Priorities are:

- *Mission to unreached people of different cultures;*
- *Mission to people in countries, where there are other Christian churches, but previously no Moravian witness;*
- *Expansion and development of existing Moravian provinces.*

Criteria for distributing monies from the Unity Mission and Development Fund are set out in COUF #926.

Resolution 15: New Mission Areas

Whereas the research work has been done in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda for possible establishment of new Mission Areas of the Moravian Church;

Whereas the general report of these areas has been sent to London since 2008 on the development of the work in these countries; and

Whereas the acting leaders have been elected with the local members and are doing fine;

Therefore be it resolved that:

This Unity Synod recognise Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda as new Mission Areas and that these new works be under the supervision of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, Western Province.

Resolution 16: Financial Support for Programmes in Nicaragua

That Proposal 30: A Project for a Small Cacao Enterprise and a Strategy for Self-Sustenance of the Nicaragua Moravian Province and Proposal 34: Financial Support for HIV-AIDS Programme be forwarded to the Unity Board for advice.

Resolution 17: Reconciliation in Honduras

Whereas in the Moravian Church in Honduras there has been a division that has affected the life of the church;

Whereas the Moravian Church in Honduras recognizes the necessity of dialogue among all affected parties;

Whereas during the past six years there has been a process of reconciliation that has not fully achieved the desired goal of unity; and

Whereas a united church strengthens God's mission in the world;

Be it therefore resolved that:

1. The previously unrecognized part of the Moravian Church in Honduras be recognized and admitted into the Moravian Unity under the category of "Unity Undertaking, related to the Unity as whole" (COUF #219); and
2. The proposal to designate the previously unrecognized part of the Moravian Church in Honduras as a Unity Undertaking is for the purpose of working toward unity within the Honduras Province in accordance with a process that will be carried out between both parties under supervision of the Unity Board.

Resolution 18: Czech Province

Whereas during the last inter-synodal period relationships between Czech Province and the larger Moravian Unity have at times been strained;

Whereas questions have arisen about the doctrine and practice of the Czech Province in the matters of the sacraments and the orders of ministry, about the desire of the Czech Province truly to collaborate in the ministry and witness of the Moravian Unity, and about the apparent lack of understanding in the Czech Province that the Unitas Fratrum is one church world-wide and not just a confederation of provinces;

Whereas the Unity Board has imposed sanctions on the Czech Province which have had the effect of disenfranchising that Province on the Unity Board and at Unity Synod;

Whereas Unity Synod has received the report of the Czech Province and the "Report of the Work of the Unity Board with the Czech Province and the Czech Unity Undertaking 2002-2009"; and

Whereas the Committee on Mission and Unity Affairs has met with the delegates to Synod from the Czech Province for a full, frank, and open-hearted discussion of their report and other issues;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Moravian Unity Synod 2009 request the Unity Board to continue discussions with the Czech Province on the matter of the right administration of the sacraments and about the three issues listed in Paragraph 4 of the "Report of the Work of the Unity Board with the Czech Province and the Czech Unity Undertaking 2002-2009," with the goal of restoring the Czech Province to full fellowship within the Unity.

Resolution 19: Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic

Whereas Unity Synod has received the report of the Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic; and

Whereas the Committee on Mission and Unity Affairs has had a full, frank, and open-hearted discussion with the delegate from the Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic;

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. This Unity Synod affirm and encourage the Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic; and
2. The status of the Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic be continued for the next inter-synodal period, allowing for its further development.

Resolution 20: Standing Committee on Theology

Whereas the Unity Synod recognizes the need for continuing discussion of matters related to the church's ministry to homosexual persons;

Be it resolved that:

The Unity Standing Committee on Theology continue its discussions of theological, biblical and pastoral issues related to the church's ministry to homosexual persons with the goal of producing discussion materials for the provinces prior to Unity Synod 2016.

Resolution 21: Charismatic Gifts

Whereas issues of the Charismatic Movement have been divisive within the Unity for some years now;

Whereas Unity Synod recognizes the need for continued and further discussion of matters relating to the Charismatic Movement;

Whereas the Standing Committee on Theology has spent some significant time in discussion of these matters; and

Whereas the church and individual believers are the work of the Holy Spirit and possess gifts of the Holy Spirit;

Be it resolved that:

While the Unity Synod recognizes the presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within the church, it does not recognize the position that individual believers MUST experience or manifest specific spiritual gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit, such as, for example, speaking in tongues in order to be a Christian.

Resolution 22: Bishops attending Unity Synod

Whereas the bishops of the Unitas Fratrum have an important consultative role in matters of doctrine and practice (COUF #688); and

Whereas it is not necessarily guaranteed that bishops of the Unitas Fratrum are elected by their respective Provincial Synods or appointed by their respective Provincial Boards as delegates and be present at Unity Synod;

Be it resolved that COUF #265 be amended as follows:

1. To insert a new point (e): *The Bishops of the Unitas Fratrum shall have two delegates without the right to vote, elected from among them;*
2. To change the numbering of the existing points (e) – (h) into (f) – (i).

Resolution 23: President of Unity Board - voting rights

Whereas, unless the President of the Unity Board is a delegate from his/her province to Unity Synod, he/she has no vote;

Whereas much of the reporting from the Unity Board is channelled through the President; and

Whereas many of the proposals emanating from the report of the Unity Board will have been drafted and will be proposed by the President who will have a considerable level of understanding of the issues involved;

Be it resolved that COUF #265 (c) be amended as follows:

The President of the Unity Board shall have a seat with the right to vote.

Resolution 24: Business Administrator of the Unitas Fratrum

Whereas the worldwide Unitas Fratrum, consisting of 19 provinces, new mission areas and several Unity undertakings, has a structure which reflects the variety of the Unity members, e.g. Unity Synod and Unity Board, but does not have a business administrator serving the whole Unity;

Whereas, according to COUF #351.(a), the President of the Unity Board remains in office for a maximum of four years and therefore this office cannot provide continuity within the Unitas Fratrum with regard to communication and information, this lack of continuity sometimes weakening the Unity as a whole; and

Whereas the President of the Unity Board is too much occupied with executing secretarial tasks (e.g. organization and execution of elections, edition of the Unity Newsletter, preparation of various meetings and conferences);

Be it resolved that:

1. The Unitas Fratrum establishes the position of a Unity business administrator (UBA) of the Unitas Fratrum (this proposal would make redundant the office of administrative assistant COUF #351.(b);
2. The UBA should be integrated in or connected to an existing Provincial or Mission Board office;
3. The UBA must have a good knowledge of the Unity; and should have a basic theological education or practical theological experience as well as
 - a. Good administrative skills
 - b. Good communication skills
 - c. Proficiency in written and spoken English and at least a working knowledge of one other language spoken in the Unitas Fratrum
 - d. Computer skills
 - e. Finance skills; and
 - f. Professional education and training.
4. The UBA shall be appointed by the Unity Board preferably for an initial period of five years, reappointment is possible;
5. The UBA is responsible to the Unity Board through its president;
6. The core tasks of the UBA are:
 - to prepare, execute and monitor elections within the Unity (e.g. President/Vice President of the Unity Board);
 - to prepare for the Unity Board meetings/the Unity Synod together with the President of the Unity Board and to function as secretary during these meetings;
 - to prepare for other meetings/conferences within the Unity;
 - to monitor the execution of the decisions taken by the Unity Synod/Unity Board, including the meeting of committees;
 - to edit and publish the Unity Newsletter and other sources of information within the Unity;
 - to assist in financial matters of the Unity (e.g. monitoring payments by provinces for Unity projects and Unity undertakings);
 - to monitor the finances of the Unity Mission and Development Fund in consultation with the MCF and with the Unity Board to oversee compliance with the criteria for the Unity Mission and Development Fund as specified in COUF #926;
 - to represent the Unity wherever the Unity Board/President deems this necessary;
 - to organize and maintain the archive of all Unity Synod and Unity Board documents, including COUF;

- act as liaison between Provinces;
 - (act as Unity Mission and Development Board convenor);
 - any other duties assigned by the Unity Board;
7. The UBA shall be financed by the Unity Budget and the Moravian Church Foundation; his/her salary, office and travel expenses must be included in the Unity budget.

This proposal necessitates deleting COUF #351.(b) (elimination of administrative assistant to the Unity Board).

Resolution 25: Order of Priorities

Whereas #879 of the Church Order (2002 edition) does not give a true picture of the activities of the Moravian Church Foundation (MCF) anymore;

Be it resolved:

To amend this paragraph as follows:

"That the Moravian Church Foundation (MCF) be urged to give financial support to the work of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) in its various Provinces and undertakings in the following order of priority:

1. Theological training within the world-wide Unity.
2. The Moravian Church in Suriname for economic, educational, and social work.
3. Unity Undertakings, consisting of the work in Southeast Asia, the Moravian Rehabilitation Centre Star Mountain near Ramallah, the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, and the Unity Mission and Development Fund.
4. Help may be given in the form of grants for projects which play a significant role in the welfare of the requesting Province; priority shall be given to projects which support mission and evangelism, justice, peace and integrity of creation. Help will only be given to start projects, not to cover the running costs.
5. Help may be given in emergency cases. For such help the Executive Committee of the Unity Board may act as an adviser if necessary.

Requests for help must include a statement of the purpose of the project, a clear description of the project, an official recommendation from the respective Provincial Board and a final budget, indicating the Province's own contribution. Where a request has been granted, a written report must be submitted annually to the MCF until the work is completed.

6. Other requests may be considered at the discretion of the Unity Board.

Be it further resolved that

The Unity Board revises the list of priorities and prepares a recommendation for each Unity Synod.

Resolution 26: Structure of the Unity Board

Be it resolved that:

1. The original Proposal 8 be rejected;
2. During the inter-synodal period the Unity Board gives consideration to changing the structure of the Board and the Executive Committee to foster greater continuity and prepare a report for the next Unity Synod.

Resolution 27: The General Directory

Whereas COUF #302 requires the election of the President of the General Directory;

Whereas the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province appoints one of its members as overseer of the Unity Archives; and

Whereas this position is presently held by Br J Bøytler;

Be it resolved that:

Unity Synod elects Br J Bøytler as President of the General Directory.

Resolution 28: Mission Outreach

Whereas Part V of COUF needs some clarification; and

Whereas the Conference of Bishops of the Unitas Fratrum dealt with this matter;

Be it resolved that:

1. #701 be amended to read: "... this total ministry will express itself in the preaching of the Word *which may include...*"
2. #703 be amended to read: "... where the Gospel has never been preached *or where other churches need support.*"
3. #708.(3) be amended to read: "...shall circulate to the Unity *Provinces and to the Unity Board ...*"

Resolution 29: Membership in Unity Synod

Whereas there have been structural changes in the Unity;

Be it resolved that:

1. #265.(a) be amended to read: "The mission provinces shall have one delegate each with the right to vote. The delegate and alternate shall be appointed by the Provincial Board.
2. #265.(b) be amended to read: "The Unity Provinces shall have...
3. #265.(e) be amended to read: "The Unity Board may invite representatives from Unity Undertakings and Mission Areas to attend as advisory delegates without vote.

Resolution 30: Protection of Moravian Name and Moravian Seal

Whereas there is evidence that the name and seal of the Moravian Church has been used by breakaway groups as well as non-Moravians; and

Whereas it is desirable for the protection of the name and seal of the Church;

Be it resolved that:

The Unity Board investigate the possibility of registering and protecting the name and seal of the Church in each province and mission area.

Resolution 31: Unity Committee on Theology

Whereas, the "Standing Committee on Theology" was created by Unity Synod resolution in 1995 in effect as an ad hoc committee for the Committee on Gospel and Culture (see Church Order #870 [p106]), even though it bore the name "Standing Committee", and then essentially re-established in 2002 (see Church Order #903 [p.125]; see also #908 [128]), it was founded with no clear purpose statement or mechanisms for election/appointment of members, membership terms, meeting times and schedules, or a process for the Unity to hear its voice;

Whereas, the Committee on Theology needs to be regularised as a permanently constituted Committee of the Unity that will continue to be a forum for discussion of theological matters critical to the life of the Moravian Church, and a place where the Moravian Unity worldwide is represented; and

Whereas, the Committee would be an inter-synodal committee, and therefore it should be responsible to the Unity Board;

It is proposed that the Committee on Theology be constituted as follows:

NAME: Unity Committee on Theology.

MEMBERS: Two from each region (as at present), appointed by the Unity Board from recommendations made by PEC Chairs from those regions, with no two members of the Committee from any single province. The Committee recommends that gender diversity on the Committee be a priority of the Unity Board. The Unity Board may appoint up to two additional members.

TERMS: One seven-year term to coincide with the inter-synodal period between Unity Synods with the possibility of reappointment for a second term.

RESPONSIBILITY: Responsible to the Unity Board.

MEETINGS: Meetings to be at the discretion of the Unity Board. It is recommended that various communication technologies be used for the meetings. Meetings to be funded by the MCF up to an amount determined by the MCF.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: To discuss theological matters relevant to the Unity referred to it by Unity Synod or the Unity Board or to discuss issues the Committee deems relevant. The Committee shall produce a minimum of one report to Unity Board between meetings. In addition, it shall produce any materials mandated by Unity Synod or the Unity Board.

DISSEMINATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK: The reports of the Committee to be sent to the President of the Unity Board and to the President of each PEC for dissemination. In addition, the Committee should have its own web page on the Unity website, where its reports and other relevant materials shall be publicly available; the page to display clearly a disclaimer that the opinions expressed in the material posted are those of the Committee on Theology and not necessarily of the Unitas Fratrum. Other pertinent information shall be included as well, including members' names and the times and dates of the Committee's meetings. Provinces will be asked to insert the links to this web space on their websites to facilitate the public distribution of its work.

Resolution 32: Revision of COUF ##218-220 – Extent of the Church

Whereas Unity Synod 2009 decided on a new order of the stages of Development of Provinces (COUF ##200–203);

Whereas a decision must be made on the future status of the present affiliated provinces and mission provinces; and

Whereas the Unity Board and the Unity Synod decided on new Unity Undertakings;

Be it resolved that:

1. The Unity Board is mandated to revise COUF ##218–219 and to bring it in an up-to-date form before publishing the new edition of COUF;
2. The Unity Board is mandated to revise further paragraphs in COUF concerning affiliated provinces, mission provinces, mission areas and unity undertakings (for example: ##207, 350. 689); and
3. The new and updated COUF be disseminated to the Unity as a hard copy and as an unalterable PDF text posted on appropriate Unity websites within 12 months from Unity Synod.

Resolution 33: Status of Provinces

Be it resolved that:

1. The Stages of the Development of the Unity be as follows:

Unity Province	Costa Rica
Mission Province	Kigoma Congo Zambia East Tanzania and Zanzibar North Tanzania Malawi Labrador Guyana
Mission Area	Kenya Peru Cuba Burundi Rwanda Uganda Belize French Guiana

2. The Unity Board be empowered to change the status subject to meeting the relevant criteria.

Resolution 34: Major financial requests

Whereas the current global economic climate necessitates that Provinces and the Unity have to be very careful with their financial resources; and

Whereas we are called to be good stewards of all resources, including finances;

Be it resolved that:

The following proposals be laid aside due to an in-ability to fund them:

Proposals	2010 - 2016
#25 Mission work in Malawi	315,000.00
#26 Belize Mission (Home for Abandoned Children)	1,324,600.00
#27 Extension of Belize Mission	971,900.00
#28 Mission Work to Hispanic population	419,600.00
#29 Land for Moravian Ministry in Nepal	426,666.00
#38 Mission Work Garifuna	470,000.00
Total	\$3,927,766.00

Resolution 35: New World Witness Allocations

Mission Work	2002-2009	2010-2016 Proposed
Albania	44,000.00	34,900.00
Belize	28,400.00	22,500.00
Burundi	-	14,000.00
Congo	90,000.00	71,400.00
Cuba	40,000.00	31,700.00
Eastern Tanzania	-	14,000.00
French Guiana	35,000.00	27,700.00
Grenada	-	5,000.00
Guyana	24,000.00	9,000.00
Honduras, Garifuna	80,000.00	63,500.00
Kenya	-	7,000.00
Lake Tanganyika	13,600.00	13,800.00
Latvia	80,650.00	64,000.00
Malawi	90,000.00	71,400.00
North Tanzania	27,200.00	21,600.00
Rwanda	-	7,000.00
Zambia	98,700.00	78,300.00
Comenius	10,000.00	-
East Germany	49,200.00	-
Slovakia	16,500.00	-
Florida	13,600.00	-
Western Tanzania (Congo)		
New March 2005	8,500.00	-
Unity Board Discretionary Mission	-	18,200.00
Total	\$ 749,350.00	\$ 575,000.00

Resolution 36: Funding for Communication for Women Steering Committee

Whereas Unity Synod has already agreed to support the Unity Women's Desk for the purpose of communication and networking;

Be it resolved that:

\$500.00 per year be funded from the Unity Fund.

Resolution 37: The Number of Working Days of Unity Synod

Whereas the current global economic climate necessitates that Provinces and the Unity have to be very careful with their financial resources; and

Whereas we are called to be good stewards of all resources, including time and finances;

Be it resolved that:

1. Unity Synod take place over a period of six working days, including a Saturday;
3. The Unity Board takes appropriate steps to ensure that the business is conducted in a timely manner, amending the programme as necessary.

Resolution 38: Unity Prayer Day Offerings

Whereas requests have been made by more than seven provinces for an allocation of the annual Unity Offering;

Whereas it is advisable to allocate the offerings as fairly as possible among the Regions;

Whereas it is justified to allocate the offerings as much as possible to provinces that had not been selected for this purpose in the inter-synodal period 2003-2009; and

Whereas the following provinces have received the Unity Offerings in the inter-synodal period 2003-2009;

- 2003 - Moravian Church in Tanzania, Southern Province for archives building
- 2004 - Mission work in Guyana Province
- 2005 - Jamaica Province for mission work in Cuba
- 2006 - Moravian Church in Tanzania – Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU) in Mbeya
- 2007 - Development of Christian schools in former Eastern Germany
- 2008 - Girls' secondary School in Mbeya, Tanzania South Western Province
- 2009 - Youth work in the Unity

Be it resolved that the funds for the coming seven years be allocated as follows:

Year	Province	For
2010	Costa Rica	Multipurpose Building
2011	Tanzania	Lake Tanganyika building a secondary school
2012	Nicaragua	Orphans and children re Hurricane Felix
2013	Congo	Construction of new classroom for Theological College
2014	Suriname	Ministry in the interior of Suriname
2015	South Africa	Project for Youth and Sunday School
2016	EWI	Construction of a Church Building in Tortola

Resolution 39: Unity Budget 2010 – 2016

Provinces	%	Total US \$ per annum
Alaska	2.40	10,170.86
America North	20.30	86,028.50
America South	13.40	56,787.29
Britain	10.50	44,497.50
Congo	1.00	4,237.86
Costa Rica	1.00	4,237.86
Czech	1.00	4,237.86
Eastern West Indies	3.30	13,984.93
European Continental	17.90	75,857.64
Guyana	1.00	4,237.86
Honduras	1.10	4,661.64
Jamaica	2.50	10,594.64
Kigoma	0.50	2,118.93
Labrador	1.10	4,661.64
Malawi	0.50	2,118.93
Nicaragua	1.50	6,356.79
South Africa	7.50	31,783.93
Suriname	3.30	13,984.93
Tanzania Eastern Zanzibar	1.00	4,237.86
Tanzania North	0.50	2,118.93
Tanzania Rukwa	1.70	7,204.36
Tanzania South	2.00	8,475.71
Tanzania South West	2.00	8,475.71

Tanzania West	2.00	8,475.71
Zambia	1.00	4,237.86
Total	100.00	423,785.71

2010-2016 **3,016,500.00**

Resolution 40: Assistance from MCF

Whereas the MCF has been supportive of Unity efforts;

Be it resolved that:

The following proposals are referred to MCF for their consideration:

Proposals	2010 – 2016
#31 HIV/AIDS – Nicaragua (Youth)	6,000.00
#35 Unity Committee on Theology	50,000.00
Theological Training Honduras Unity Undertaking	20,000.00
MCF grant for NWW	50,000.00
Total	\$126,000.00

Resolution 41: Unity Mission and Development Board

Whereas the Moravian Church is a worldwide church being united in the mission of the world;

Whereas the Moravian Mission endeavour to a globalised world is best carried out when Moravians work closely together, utilising the spiritual, educational and technical opportunities available; and

Whereas the pattern of mission today is multi-cultural and dependent on both human and other resources, offered to carry out the great task of the church;

Therefore be it resolved that:

A Unity Mission and Development Board be established according to the following specifications:

Composition: 12 members

Unity Executive Director (or, if there is no UED, an appointee of the Unity Board)

Representatives:

- Four from Africa
- Two from the Caribbean
- One from each of the following Mission Agencies:
 - American Board of World Mission
 - Zeister Zendings-Genootschap
 - Brødremenighedens Dansk Mission
 - Herrnhuter Missionshilfe
 - British Mission Board

Frequency of meeting: At least once every two years

Responsibilities:

- Works under the jurisdiction of the Unity Board
- Considers and monitors new mission work
- Monitors and evaluates progression of established mission work
- Refers issues of concern to Unity Board
- Funds mission work
- Re-visits support to present projects and undertakings
- Prioritize mission projects
- Administers the use of the Unity Mission and Development Fund

(formerly New World Witness Fund)

- Oversight and co-ordination of partnerships between mission areas/Provinces and Mission Agencies
- Concerning Star Mountain and South Asia, any proposed changes must be approved by the Unity Board.

Resolution 42: Youth Steering Committee Website

Whereas the reality of the Moravian Unity makes communication difficult between and among the various locations of the Moravians in the world;

Whereas the need for connection and engagement is integral in the lives of all members of this body; and

Whereas youth are especially well-versed in the use of technology as a means of communication and connection;

Be it resolved that:

525 Euros be paid from the Unity Fund to ensure that a web domain name and server space will be available for Moravian Youth to connect through forums, articles, updates and pictures.

Resolution 43: Appointment of Members of Women's Steering Committee

Whereas the Women's Consultation acknowledges the urgent need for ongoing communication amongst the sisters of the Unity and has noted parts 3, 4 and 5 of Resolution #902 of the Unity Synod 2002, that

3. That Unity-wide consultations of Moravian sisters be convened every five years;
4. That Unity Board appoint a new Steering Committee, representative of the four regions of the Unity, with the power to co-opt members; and
5. That the Chair of the previous consultation serves as the ex-officio member of the new Steering Committee;

Whereas the Consultation 2008, recognizes that there is an urgent need for a new Steering Committee to be appointed in a timely manner for the purpose of organizing the Consultation; and

Whereas the Consultation further recognizes that in order to maintain the communication links in the interim period between the end of a Consultation and the appointment of a new Steering Committee, and that such links can be maintained by the existing Steering Committee;

Be it resolved that:

1. The Unity Board give urgent consideration to beginning of the process of appointing a new Steering Committee within one year of the end of a consultation; and
2. The existing Steering Committee be given the mandate to continue in office until the appointment of a new Steering Committee.

Miscellaneous Resolutions

Election of the Board of the Moravian Church Foundation

Br I A Hiralal (alternative candidate Sr C Rozenblad) - Suriname Province
Br R Hopcroft – British Province
Br N Nkosi – South Africa Province
Br A L Pixley – Costa Rica Province
Br J Stam – European Continental Province
Sr A McCoy Smith – America South Province
Br D Roth – America North Province
Sr A Swart – South Africa Province
Br H Fernandes Mendes – European Continental Province

Suspension of the Rules of Synod

That the rules of Synod be suspended and that Br P Gardner, President of the Unity Board, be from this point of Synod allowed to vote (COUF #771).

Appreciation of Sr Lindsey Newens

Whereas the resolution to establish an office for the Unity Business Administrator will make redundant the office of the Administrative Assistant to the Unity; and

Whereas Sr Lindsey Newens has served this position with distinction for the past eight years;

Be it resolved that:

The Unity Synod expresses profound appreciation to Sr Newens for her faithful and meritorious service to the Unity.

Withdrawal of Proposals

That Proposal 18: Homosexuality be rejected without discussion.

After discussion within the Ministry Committee and clarification by the Jamaican delegation of Proposal 19: Baptism, the Committee determined that the salient issues of the proposal are covered by the paragraph on re-affirmation of baptism in COUF #863.3, and the Committee suggests that the proposal is withdrawn.

The Committee on Constitutional Matters recommends that the proposal on the Suriname delegation (Difficulty in Obtaining Visas) be rejected because it is impractical to implement.

Recommended the withdrawal of Proposal 7: Setting the Budget for the Unity Fund and Unity Synod.