



HERRNHUTER MISSIONSHILFE

MORAVIAN MISSION SOCIETY IN GERMANY

Herrnhuter Missionshilfe e.V. · Badwasen 6 · 73087 Bad Boll

Moravians in Conversation

Monday 16 february 2026

05.02.2026

Dear Unity sisters and brothers,

All are invited to share the next “Moravians in Conversation” online gathering on

Monday, February 16, 2026.

This quarterly event brings together Moravians from the four geographical regions of the Worldwide Moravian Church to share the Daily Text and a focused discussion relevant to the church today.

We'll meet at the following hour:

16:00	Berlin
17:00	Cape Town
10:00	Kingston
10:00	New York

Here is the link:

Moravians in Conversation

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83535273269?pwd=mAW2Tm8LFUwfwONJPoQW7MzK4azlv.1>

Meeting-ID: 835 3527 3269

Kenncode: 597244

Immigration and the movement of people is not only a local or national issue—it is a deeply global reality that touches nearly every country where the Moravian Church is present. Across the world, people are being forced to leave their homes because of war, violence, economic hardship, climate change, and political instability.

These movements connect us across borders and remind us that human suffering, hope, and resilience do not stop at national boundaries.

As a global church, the Moravian Unity is uniquely positioned to engage this theme. Our shared **history is one of migration**, refuge, and hospitality, and our present reality is shaped by members who live on every continent, many of whom know displacement firsthand.

When we reflect together on immigration, we are **listening** not only **to Scripture**, but **also to one another's lived experiences** within the worldwide body of Christ.

This conversation matters because it challenges us to see immigration not as an abstract debate, but as a question of faith, justice, and discipleship. In gathering to reflect on these statements, we seek to discern how God is calling us—across cultures and contexts—to respond with courage, compassion, and faithful witness in a world on the move.

After reading the Unity Synod 2016 and the 2018 Southern Province Statements, let us meditate on the following questions:

1. As you read the Moravian statements on immigration and refugees, which biblical stories or images stand out to you most, and why do you think they are emphasized in our church's witness?
2. Both documents remind us that the Moravian Church has its roots in migration and refuge. Where do you see connections between this history and the realities of immigrants and refugees in your own country or community today?
3. The 2018 Southern Province statement speaks about standing against injustice toward immigrants, regardless of legal status. What tensions or questions does this raise for you personally or for the Church in your context?
4. The 2016 Unity Synod Statement calls us to refuse fear, hatred, and discrimination toward refugees. Where do you see fear or misinformation shaping attitudes toward immigrants today, and how might the Church respond faithfully?
5. Share an experience—personal, congregational, or communal—where you encountered immigrants or refugees in a way that deepened your understanding of hospitality, justice, or faith.
6. After engaging with these statements, what do you sense God may be calling Moravians in your province to do or to become in relation to immigrants and refugees at this time?

Angelica Regalado-Cieza/The Southern Province of North America

Attachments

Statement by the 2016 Unity Synod

Take a Stand for Refugees – A Word of Encouragement

The Unity Synod in Montego Bay / Jamaica, 12-20 August 2016 is concerned with the present situation of a growing stream of refugees worldwide, having to leave their homes because of war, violence, oppression and harsh poverty. In many countries where the Moravian Church is present, we are affected by this global situation and we experience a growing hostility against refugees and foreigners. We see racial prejudice becoming prevalent again.

The Bible calls us to stand up for justice, to be hospitable and to protect the foreigner. Therefore we refuse to go along with those who stir up fear and mislead people to hatred. We refuse to believe that refugees are a threat to our way of life, our cultures and our values.

Because we believe in the God of love and justice who sides with the homeless and deprived through Jesus Christ, we encourage our congregations and members in the worldwide Unity to side with the refugees, to lend them their voice, to speak out against hatred and discrimination.

We believe that there is a blessing of God in the encounter with the stranger who seeks our protection, our hospitality and friendship. In embracing him we grow in love and in wisdom. In the encounter with people of other faiths we learn to let behind our prejudices and to discover the value of humanity across cultures and religions.

We bear in our collective memory that our forefathers and –mothers were welcomed as refugees in Hermhut – this is paramount to our church. This history challenges us to take a stand and to support refugees wherever we have the chance to do so.

- approved August 2016, Unity Synod

Resolution South Province of North America

Resolution # 12 (Proposal 6)

Subject: Moravian Statement Concerning Immigration

From: Mission

Topic Area: Mission

WHEREAS, In Genesis 12:1 we read that God told Abraham and his family to be immigrants; and,

WHEREAS, In Exodus 2:11-22 we are told that Moses fled illegally to the land of Midian and that Jethro gave him asylum; and,

WHEREAS, In Exodus 3:1-7 God commanded Moses to take the Israelites out of Egypt and into a new land where they would find better economic conditions ("flowing with milk and honey"); and,

WHEREAS, We find in Leviticus 19:33-34 that "the foreigners residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourselves, for you were foreigners in Egypt"; and,

WHEREAS, Deuteronomy 10:18-19 states that God "defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt"; and,

WHEREAS, Jesus was a descendant of an immigrant, Ruth the Moabite (Matthew 1:5); and,

WHEREAS, Jesus began his life as a sojourner, journeying in the womb to Bethlehem because of a political decree, and then fleeing to Egypt with his parents after his birth to escape political violence (Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:13); and,

WHEREAS, We can see that throughout his ministry on earth our Savior cared for the poor and marginalized, often crossing borders, and challenging unjust laws in the process (John 4; Luke 15:21-28; Matthew 12:1-14; Matthew 25:35); and,

WHEREAS, New Testament churches were commanded to welcome the foreigner, immigrant, and refugee (Ephesians 2:12; Hebrews 13:2); and,

WHEREAS, We are commanded to share the good news of Jesus with people of all nationalities and social classes; and,

WHEREAS, Church leaders in New Testament times respected government authorities and the law, but they also understood that there are times when “we must obey God rather than human beings” (Acts 5:29); and,

WHEREAS, In the Old Testament, the prophets were called to speak up against the legal structures that allowed injustices (Amos 5:12-15; Micah 7:2-3; Isaiah 10:1-4; Jeremiah 7:1-7); and,

WHEREAS, The founders of Herrnhut were refugees who crossed the border from Moravia to Saxony illegally; and,

WHEREAS, Count Zinzendorf protected the Moravian immigrants at great personal risk; and,

WHEREAS, On August 13, 1727, God blessed the Herrnhut community with an outpouring of the Spirit; and,

WHEREAS, In 1732 Herrnhut began sending out missionaries who crossed borders, learned new languages, and welcomed people of many nations into the church; and,

WHEREAS, The Southern Province Synod of 1995 resolved to create a fund for the purpose of providing assistance in preparing the necessary documentation and other needs to comply with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations for those persons coming from overseas; and,

WHEREAS, The Southern Province Synod of 2002 resolved to offer “legal assistance to immigrant pastors” (resolution 9: Florida District Immigration Assistance Program); and,

WHEREAS, The 2016 Unity Synod resolved to “encourage all provinces with their congregations and institutions to stand by refugees who seek shelter and protection in their countries; clearly speak out against hatred, racism, and rejection within their societies; and advocate on behalf of those who have neither right nor voice to express their needs” (Resolution 21: Statement Concerning Refugees); and,

WHEREAS, In response to a growing number of immigrants in the Southern Province, in 2017 the PEC Southern Province created a called position for a new and emerging ministry reaching out to immigrants, and this position is currently served by our sister the Reverend Angelica Regalado; therefore be it

RESOLVED, **That** the Moravian Churches in the Southern Province reaffirm the position of opening our church doors to share the Gospel with everyone in the community, including immigrants, regardless of their legal status; and,

RESOLVED, **That** both as individuals and as a Christian body, our Moravian church should stand against injustices to the marginalized and the voiceless among immigrants; and,

RESOLVED, **That** congregations in the Southern Province should be aware of challenges the Church faces in working with immigrants within local communities and to support mission efforts to go and share the Good News of Christ to everyone and anyone in love.