

**Resolutions of the 43rd Unity Synod  
(the 27th Unity Synod of the Renewed Moravian Church)  
August 12-19, 2016  
Montego Bay, Jamaica**



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## Resolutions.

### **Resolution US2016.1: The Unity Business Administrator right of speaking at Unity Synod.**

- Whereas the Unity Synod approved the appointment a UBA (COUF #351), but did not at the time give the UBA the right to speak at Unity Synod; and
- Whereas there is a need for the Unity Business Administrator to be able to speak to Unity Synod in order to deliver reports and offer advice to the Unity Synod; be it
- Resolved that the UBA is given the right to speak to Unity Synod; and be it
- Resolved that COUF #351 be amended to include giving the right of the Unity Business Administrator to have a voice at the Unity Synod.

### **Resolution US2016.2: Confirmation Committee of the Unity Synod**

- Whereas COUF #283 states that the Synod, through a committee, examines the statement of election or appointment of delegates; be it
- Resolved that a Confirmation Committee is elected at the beginning of the Unity Synod, consisting of 4 delegates, one from each region; and be it further
- Resolved that the statement of election or appointment of delegates is declared to be true by each delegate signing a declaration, listing the delegates.

The nominees for the Confirmation Committee were approved by the Synod:

Caribbean region	Jeaneta Waithe
American region	Clifford Jimmie
African region	Elise Theunissen
European region	Jan Horalek

### **Resolution US2016.3: Report of Unity Board to the Unity Synod**

- Whereas the Unity is an entity under the leadership of the Unity Board and its President; and
- Whereas the nature of the Unity, due to an increased number of provinces is changing and more issues are being dealt with by Unity Board now; and
- Whereas the Unity Synod 2009 consequently installed the office of a Unity Business Administrator; be it
- Resolved that the President's Office, on behalf of the Unity Board offers a report to Unity Synod on the activities and dealings of the Unity Board in the intersynodal period.

### **Resolution US2016.4: Ratifications of Designations as Mission Areas, granted status as Mission Provinces and Unity Provinces.**

- Whereas the following changes in status of Unity Undertakings, Mission Areas and Mission Provinces have been resolved by Unity Board in the intersynodal period 2010-2016, the Unity Synod is asked to ratify these resolutions.  
Ref.: COUF #201.1.c.

#### **Designation as Mission Area**

- South Asia (UB2010). Supervision the British Province

- Sierra Leone (UB2010). Supervision: Southern Province, North America
- Zanzibar (UB2010): Supervision: Moravian Church Tanzania, Eastern Province
- Ruvuma + Njombe (UB2010): Moravian Church Tanzania, Southern Province
- Moravian Church in Sud Kivu and Katanga, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (UB2014). Supervision: Moravian Church Tanzania, Lake Tanganyika Province.
- Moravian Church Iringa (UB2014). Supervision: Moravian Church Tanzania, South-Western Province
- Moravian Church Kiwele (UB2016). Supervision Moravian Church Tanzania, Western Province

**Granted the status of a Mission Province:**

- Honduras Unity Undertaking (UB2012). Supervision Moravian Church in Nicaragua
- Czech Unity Undertaking (UB2012). Supervision: European Continental Province.
- Moravian Church in Burundi (UB2014). Supervision Moravian Church Western Tanzania.
- Moravian Church in Cuba (UB2016). Supervision Moravian Church Southern Province, America.

**Granted the status of a Unity Province:**

- Moravian Church in D. R. Congo (UB2010)
- Moravian Church Tanzania, Northern Province (UB2012)
- Moravian Church in Malawi (UB2012)
- Moravian Church in Tanzania, Lake Tanganyika Province (UB2012)
- Moravian Church Zambia (UB2014)
- Moravian Church Tanzania, Eastern Province (UB2014 and written ballot Dec. 2014)
- Moravian Church Guyana (UB2016)

**Resolution US2016.5: A Unitas Fratrum Code of Conduct in the event of a major conflict within a Moravian Church Province**

Whereas in light of the number of conflict situations which have developed within the past couple of decades between groups of members within Unity Provinces, Mission Provinces or Mission Areas; and

Whereas a code of conduct in the Unity is required; be it

Resolved that a code of conduct will include the following:

- when a conflict, as a rule between several groups or entities within a Province<sup>1</sup> develops and the conflict involves the leadership, and in the event that the synod, being the highest appeal body within the Province, is unable to find a solution to the said conflict, the Provincial Board notifies the Unity office as early as possible;
- In that case, the Unity office strives at its earliest convenience to visit the area with a Unity Delegation in order to learn about the situation, and if possible to call the parties together to a common meeting in order to find a way forward. As no conflict must be left to develop for a longer period of time and subsequently get out of hand, the Unity has the right and the duty to intervene with measures of mediation, even if not invited to do so by one or both parts;
- the Unity Synod, the Unity Board and the Unity Executive Committee, whichever is applicable, has the right and duty to hear both parties, to give careful consideration to all matters, to seek to understand the issues and seek a way forward.

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<sup>1</sup>From time to time, a conflict with an individual arises within a province and is dealt with by the province and/or its synod and it may not need Unity interventions.

- Because differences in the understanding of Moravian identity and theology are accepted within the Unity, based on the fundamental notion of seeking unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials and love in all things, the ruling principle is that the Unity, through its structure of leadership, does its best to ensure that all members, who wish to be part of the Unity, can remain so.
- This however, does not mean that everything and anything is accepted. Clear obedience to and agreement with COUF and the Constitution of the Province is paramount. In cases of doubt as to how to understand COUF, the structure of leadership of the Unity will offer an interpretation. In cases of a group not wishing to accept COUF, this group might be better off leaving the Unity.
- But first and foremost, all Provinces, all leaders, all ministers are asked always to consider carefully, what builds the Kingdom of God and what is to His glory; and be it

Resolved that this resolution be included in section three of COUF.

### **Resolution US2016.6: Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF)**

Whereas a number of Moravian provinces have property including settlements, mission stations, church buildings and other structures that date back to the 18th Century and later, which are considered cultural heritage of historical and sociological importance, and

Whereas many of the Provinces, if not all, face challenges in restoration, maintaining, revitalizing some of the structures due to financial constraints, due to lack of architectural staff, lack of sufficient knowhow concerning historic craftsmanship, conservation principles, national conservation legislation, possible avenues of funding, knowledge of experience from other provinces concerning restoration issues of Moravian buildings, and

Whereas the Moravian building culture and Moravian architecture are part of the heritage of our faith; and have been proven to be extraordinary, important to maintain, and valuable for society far beyond the limits of the Moravian constituency, be it

Resolved that the Unity Synod charges the Unity Board Executive Committee to form a Steering Committee composed of one appropriately qualified individual from each region of the Unity and one additional person to serve as chair. This steering committee will be in place before the 2018 meeting of the Unity Board; and be it

Resolved that this Steering Committee is charged to take into consideration, at a minimum, the following points:

- Develop a proposal to establish a Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF), as a Unity Undertaking
  - The MUCHF will be governed by a board, which, in the interim, may be appointed by the Unity Board, and beginning in 2023 will be elected by Unity Synod according to relevant rules approved by Unity Synod.
  - With the agreement of the MCF Board, to situate the capital of MUCHF with the MCF and arrange for financial operations to be managed by MCF under instruction of the chair of the board of MUCHF and/or the Unity Board.
- Identify internal Moravian and external National and international funding sources and to make efforts to establish a capital of 1.000.000 USD as the first goal, and possibly later a larger capital is established.
- Invite Moravian provinces to seek support for restoration projects of buildings and other structures considered a Cultural Heritage, doing it according to relevant bylaws,

- Develop a set of rules which, in the interim, may be approved by the Unity Board, and beginning in 2023 will be approved by the Unity Synod, taking preservation policies, architectural principles, financial viability, and general importance for the Moravian Unity.
- Identify and assemble a group of international experts in Moravian Architecture, Church History, restoration, historic craftsmanship, cultural heritage management and other relevant subjects in order to offer guidance and advice to the Provinces.
- Begin a central register of structures to be considered as cultural heritage within the Unity.

### **Resolution US2016.7: Moravian Unity Disaster Relief Fund**

Whereas natural disasters and manmade disasters occur in areas, where the Moravian Church is present; and

Whereas Moravian Provinces, in the event of natural or manmade disasters, experience expectations of assistance from victims of the disasters, without often being able to meet the expectations due to limited financial resources; and

Whereas it is the call and duty of the Moravian Church to offer any possible assistance to humanity when needed; be it

Resolved that Unity Synod tasks the Unity Board, or a sub-committee or special working group appointed by the Unity Board to:

- Establish a Moravian Disaster Relief Fund (MUDRF) and to identify internal Moravian and external international funding sources, including entities that provide matching funds for disaster relief.
- Make efforts to establish a capital of 500.000 USD as the first goal, and possibly later a larger capital is established.
- Create a communication plan within the Unity for responding to disasters wherever they may occur within the Unity.
- Involve the Unity Mission Development Board (UMDB) in decision-making about and coordination of response to disasters within the provinces of the Unity, in cooperation with national and international relief agencies, and to include the delivery of resources, funds and supplies.
- Establish response teams within the regions of the Unity and to provide a disaster recovery plan template for their activities. These teams will consist of Moravians experienced in disaster relief work and with good knowledge of the Region and of the Unity.
- With the agreement of the MCF Board, to situate the capital of MUDRF with MCF, and the financial operation with MCF under direction of the Unity Board.
- Assist Moravian provinces to seek support for disaster relief from the MUDRF, and national and international agencies, in the event of natural disasters or manmade disasters occurring in the area of operation of the Moravian Provinces.

### **Resolution US2016.8: Funding for the Unity Women's Desk (UWD)**

Whereas the First Unity Women's Consultation (1995) affirmed the need for a Unity Women's Desk (hereafter referred to as the UWD) to address the needs and concerns of the women of the Moravian Unity; and

Whereas women represent the majority of members within most Provinces, and

Whereas each succeeding Unity Women's Consultation (2002, 2008, and 2016) has reaffirmed the need for the UWD; and

- Whereas the Unity Women's Desk was officially formed in January 2011 and recognized by the Unity Board; and
- Whereas the UWD has been responsible for working on global change for improving the lives of Moravian women from that time; and
- Whereas the Unity Women's Desk has impacted the lives of countless women since its inception at the first Consultation in 1995; and
- Whereas the UWD has been responsible for raising its own funds to provide for the needs of the UWD and the women it supports and by heretofore using all volunteers for its work; and
- Whereas the work of the UWD grows exponentially each year; therefore be it
- Resolved that the Unity Synod re-affirm the work of the UWD by providing funding to a maximum of fifteen thousand dollars US (\$15,000.00 US) per year, depending upon a budget being sent to the Unity Board, to sustain the work of the UWD for the future and to hire a part-time Coordinator; and be it further
- Resolved that each Province provide support for the UWD as may be available or by authorizing fund-raising efforts in each of their Provinces for the Unity Women's Desk (2002,#902); and be it further
- Resolved that each Province will support the work of the UWD through prayer and providing any other resources available from that Province.

**Resolution US2016.9: MCF Funding of Theological Education**

- Whereas COUF #833 identifies Theological training within the worldwide Unity as Priority 1 for the Moravian Church Foundation, and
- Whereas MCF currently funds the theological education for most Moravians around the worldwide Unity, be it therefore
- Resolved: the 2016 Unity Synod extends its heartfelt appreciation to MCF for this priority funding that makes theological education possible for Moravians throughout the worldwide Unity.
- Whereas the provinces of the Unity benefit when their leaders are theologically trained, and
- Whereas seminaries in the America North, Britain, and Europe do not currently receive MCF funding for theological education, and
- Whereas some individuals from provinces that do receive MCF funding for theological education choose to obtain further theological education at Moravian seminaries located in provinces that do not receive MCF funding, and
- Whereas at least one seminary (Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA) has educated a number of students from Moravian provinces outside North America and has funded this education through its own shrinking operating budget, thus limiting the number of such Moravian students it can accept without financial support,
- Whereas Moravian Theological Seminary offers distance theological education to Moravians who live in various provinces around the Unity via technology that allows for students to learn from scholars in Bethlehem while living in the context in which they will lead and serve, therefore be it
- Resolved: the Moravian Church Foundation offer financial support to seminaries that provide theological training, whether on site or via Distance Learning, for Moravian students who come from provinces that would receive MCF funding, even if those seminaries are located in provinces that do not normally receive MCF funding.

**Resolution US2016.10: UAMM (United Alaska Moravian Ministries)**

- Whereas The Unity Board has received reports on the ongoing matter of the group in Alaska calling themselves United Alaska Moravian Ministries (UAMM) in 2012 and 2014; and
- Whereas Delegations from the Unity Board have made multiple trips to seek to bring about reconciliation between the Alaska Provincial Board (APB) and UAMM; and
- Whereas the leadership of UAMM has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to adhere to the directions of the Unity Board concerning the polity and practices of the Moravian Church; therefore be it
- Resolved Unity Synod 2016 affirms UB2016 that no longer recognizes the group UAMM as an organized group of Moravians within the worldwide Unity; and be it further
- Resolved by this resolution, Resolution UB2012.11 is no longer in force; and be it further
- Resolved the Unity requests that UAMM, or part of it, no longer uses the name "Moravian", nor that they represent themselves as part of the Moravian Church, nor that they interfere in the life and ministry of any Moravian Provinces, especially the Alaska Moravian Church; and be it further
- Resolved should present members of the UAMM (as a group or as individuals) at a later date wish to be part of the Unity and follow its polity and practices, the Unity may be open to consider this.

**Resolution US2016.11: Unity Prayer Day Offering allocation**

- Whereas previously the projects receiving Unity Prayer Day Offerings have been determined for a whole 7 year period; and
- Whereas it is generally not viable to precisely identify a specific project, which may only be executed after up to 7 years; and
- Whereas Unity Synod 2009 created the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB) with the task of taking responsibility for mission and development projects throughout the Unity; and
- Whereas UMDB is now the entity within the Unity receiving applications and proposals for mission and development projects from the provinces; be it
- Resolved that the UMDB, on behalf of the Unity, determines the projects that will receive the Unity Prayer Day offering, taking into consideration that the allocations will be distributed as fairly as possible within the regions and taking into consideration, which provinces have benefitted from the Unity Prayer Day offering in previous years.

**Resolution US2016.12: Amendment COUF#801, Unity Offering**

Be it resolved that COUF#801 is amended to say:

**#801. UNITY OFFERING**

Once a year on the proposed Unity Prayer Day in all congregations of the Unity, a Unity Offering shall be collected. Monies received shall be sent ***no later than the end of June*** of that year to the **Unity Office** [*Unity Business Administrator*] who will administer the collected funds, distribute them to the recipient Province, and provide a written report to all Provinces.

The Board of the recipient Province is to formulate a report on how it intends to use the funds received from the Unity Offering and forward this report to all Provincial Boards by the first of

November before the date of the Offering. Prior to **November 1st**, the Unity Board President should remind the recipient Province to send this important information. This report should be communicated to all congregations at least a **fortnight (two weeks)** before the date of the Offering in order to inform all members of the special purpose of the Unity Offering.

**Resolution US2016.13: Unity Youth Committee (UYC)**

- Whereas the Youth is the present and the future of the Unity; and
- Whereas the Unity wishes the youth to grow in the Christian faith and maturity with an understanding of the lives and contexts of brothers and sisters around the world; and
- Whereas the Worldwide Moravian Unity is focusing on the Moravian identity and needs means of preserving and developing this common and worldwide identity; and
- Whereas the Worldwide Moravian Church is one church and wishes to uphold and strengthen its identity as one church, situated in many different ethnic and cultural contexts; and
- Whereas a Unity Youth Committee (UYC) has been preparing (2012-2013) and running a Unity Youth Heritage Tour in 2013, as instructed by Unity Synod 2009; and
- Whereas the UYC has convened in 2014 and established that there is a need for having a standing committee for the youth work on Unity level; and
- Whereas the Unity will be strengthened by having a UYC; be it
- Resolved that a Unity Youth Steering Committee is established; and be it further
- Resolved that the Unity Youth Steering Committee
- has a task in meeting the need to empower and inspire our youth from all areas of the worldwide Moravian Unity as pronounced by the Unity Synod; the committee is focusing their efforts on Unity youth and young adults from ages 18-35;
  - bears in mind that the need is integral and imperative to the present and future life of our communities and thus has called to action the forming of the Unity Youth Committee;
  - sees its role as facilitator of furthering the interests of the youth of all provinces across the worldwide Unity; and be it further
- Resolved that the UYC
- oversees the work and operation of the Unity Youth Desk;
  - supervises the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator;
  - takes initiatives to further the interaction between youth across the Unity;
  - takes responsibility for arranging and running a Unity Youth Camp/Conference at least once every 5 years, in cooperation with the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator;
  - encourages the regional representative on UYC to stay in contact with provincial youth leaders and convey information to and from the provinces;
  - challenges the unity, the regions and the provinces to support provincial/international/regional youth gatherings, mission trips, and youth exchange programs; and be it further
- Resolved that the UYC
- Consists of 6 persons:
    - I. Africa Region (2),
    - II. American Region (1),
    - III. Caribbean Region (2),
    - IV. Europe Region (1);

- the committee members of the UYC are elected by their regional meetings for a period of 2 or 4 years (term length optional per region) with the option to reelect the same committee member (maximum of 8 years of service on the committee);
- the UBA and the UYDC are ex-officio members of the UYC;
- the UYC reports to the Unity Executive Committee;
- the UYC meets once every two years;
- elects moderator and a secretary for a period of two years;
- the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator reports normally to the moderator of UYC, who is the primary contact person;
- the cost of operation of the UYC is included in the unity budget, with the unity seeking support from MCF; and
- a representative of the committee will be a member of the Unity Synod.

#### **Resolution US2016.14: Unity Youth Desk**

Whereas the Youth is the present and the future of the Unity; and

Whereas the Unity wishes the youth to grow in the Christian faith and maturity with an understanding of the lives and contexts of brothers and sisters around the world; and

Whereas the Worldwide Moravian Unity is focusing on the Moravian identity and needs means of preserving and developing this common and worldwide identity and

Whereas the Worldwide Moravian Church is one church and the means of communication and exchange between the different parts of the Unity are increasingly available; and

Whereas the members of the Unity live in different cultures and contexts, but all parts of the Unity are dependent on youth; and

Whereas some provinces in the Unity have a vibrant youth work, while other provinces are still trying to organize provincial youth work; and

Whereas there is a need to create a platform of information and material useful for Moravian youth work in most parts of the Unity and to disseminate these materials to enhance the work throughout the Unity; be it

Resolved that a Unity Youth Desk is established; and be it further

Resolved that a Unity Youth Desk Coordinator, having the following responsibilities, is employed:

- be secretary of the Unity Youth Committee;
- establish and maintain means of communication for the youth in the worldwide Unity through social media like Facebook, Twitter, e-mails among others;
- establish and maintain a Unity youth website;
- collect material useful for practical youth work including Bible studies, songs, music, plays etc. and create a data base, available to the youth work in all provinces;
- provide information about existing structures for youth work within provinces to other provinces, which wish to set up youth work on provincial and district levels;
- through the social media initiate discussions and debates, prayers, words of encouragement etc., and thereby seeking to create a sense of unity among the youth of the worldwide Moravian Church;
- take a leading role in organizing a Unity youth event at least once every 5 years; and be it further

Resolved that

- the Unity youth coordinator (UYC) is answerable to the Unity Executive Committee;
- the Unity youth coordinator is employed in a job limited to 30 % of a full time job;
- the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator reports normally to the moderator of UYC, who is the primary contact person;
- the UYDC works in conjunction with the UBA;
- the salary of the Unity youth coordinator is paid, at least partly, through the contribution to the Unity from MCF;
- the Unity youth coordinator is employed for 5 years with the possibility of renewal by their provincial rules if applicable; and be it further

Resolved that the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator has the following qualifications:

- is an active member of the Moravian Church, who knows the Moravian Church very well;
- has good theological knowledge;
- has proven knowledge of communication and administration;
- is at the beginning of the employment between 26 and 33 years old;
- has cross cultural understanding;
- is flexible as far as work time goes, ready to take on more work in some periods;
- is able to travel, when needed; and
- apart from the mother tongue and English, the Unity Youth Desk Coordinator speaks at least one of the larger languages of the Unity.

#### **Resolution US2016.15: The New World Unity Youth Tour in the USA 2018**

Whereas the unity youth heritage tour took place in 2013 in Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands; and

Whereas the youth tour proved to show the importance of having a unity youth tour/conference in the minds of the 2013 participants; and

Whereas the group forming the unity youth heritage tour in 2013 desired to have another tour five years later; and

Whereas in an increasingly diverse world, the worldwide Moravian unity needs to offer opportunities for young adults to meet across the borders of the Unity; and

Whereas there is a need for Moravians to understand the history of the Moravian church in different parts of the world; and

Whereas the Unity youth steering committee, meeting during September of 2015 in Winston Salem, North Carolina, looked into the need for a new tour to provide these opportunities for young people across the unity; be it

Resolved that a New World Youth tour takes place in 2018 in the United States, including visits to the Bethlehem area in Pennsylvania and Winston Salem, North Carolina in order to expose the participants to the Moravian history in the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved that participants are invited from all Unity and Mission provinces, two persons from each province, one male and one female; and be it further

Resolved that participants from the mission areas are invited, one from each area; and be it further

Resolved that all costs for this proposals be borne by the individual provinces; however, in order to make the cost manageable for all provinces financial support from MCF shall be sought out; and be it further

Resolved that the Unity Youth Committee takes the responsibility to set up the tour in the United States with the support of a local steering committee in the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved that the New World Tour 2018 takes place on August 9 - 22, 2018.

**Resolution US2016.16: Resolution to Replace COUF #810 on the Unity Women's Desk and Consultations**

Whereas the First Unity Women's Consultation affirmed the need for a Unity Women's Desk to address the needs and concerns of the women of the Moravian Unity; and

Whereas each succeeding Unity Women's Consultation (2002, 2008, and 2016) has reaffirmed the need for such an organization; and

Whereas the Unity Women's Desk (hereafter referred to as the UWD) was officially formed in January 2011 and recognized by the Unity Board; and

Whereas the Unity Board elected/appointed an official Advisory Board for the UWD that took office in January of 2013; and

Whereas the UWD has been responsible for working for global change for Moravian women from that time; and

Whereas the UWD Advisory Board took responsibility for the planning and implementation of the Fourth Unity Women's Consultation held in 2016; and

Whereas the UWD is the most likely organization to arrange for the planning of future Consultations; therefore be it

Resolved that the UWD be responsible for coordinating the ongoing work with the women of The Unity in the future and be responsible for coordinating the efforts of planning and implementing future Consultations in addition to its regular work of looking out for the welfare of the women of The Unity as regards Education, Violence against Women, Alleviating Poverty and Unemployment, Health Issues of Women and Children, Parenting, and issues pertaining to Women in Ministry; and be it further

Resolved that the Unity Board and Unity Synod continue to elect members to the Advisory Board in the following manner: There will be one woman from each of the four Regions of The Unity on the Advisory Board. Each Advisory Board member will be elected for a four year term with the possibility of re-election for one additional four year term. Two Board members to be elected every two years by the Unity Board or Unity Synod with the terms staggered so that there will be continuity for the Board members with two members remaining on the Board and two new members being elected every two years; and be it further

Resolved that the Advisory Board will be responsible for appointing officers of the Advisory Board: Coordinator/President (with the approval of the Unity Board/Synod), Assistant Coordinator/Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and other officers as deemed necessary for the efficient operating of the UWD. Appointment of these officers to be made at the beginning of each calendar year at the first quarterly meeting of the Advisory Board; and be it

Resolved that each Region be represented by an appropriate number of Sub-Desk Coordinators (three from the Africa Region, two from the Caribbean Region, one from the European Region, and one from the American Region), and by an appropriate number of Provincial Coordinators within each Province, Mission Province, and Mission Area to coordinate efforts within the Province and to report to the Advisory Board and to make requests for support and financial assistance as may be needed to award scholarships, micro-loans, and other project support. The Sub-Desk Coordinators will be approved by the Unity Board and Provincial Coordinators will be chosen with the cooperation of the Provinces and the Advisory Board; and be it further

- Resolved that the Advisory Board may appoint additional members to the Planning Committee for the purpose of planning the Consultations which have been approved by the Unity Synod The Planning Committee will begin its work at least four years before the planned Consultation in accordance with the Unity Synod schedule; and be it further
- Resolved that this resolution replace Article #810 in the Church Order of the Moravian Church, effective upon the completion of the Unity Synod of 2016 to continue the work of the Unity Women's Desk and the planning of future Consultations.

**Resolution US2016.17: Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre as a Common Unity Undertaking**

- Be it resolved that Unity Synod 2016 affirms the mission effort at the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, and be it further
- Resolved that Star Mountain Rehab Centre continues as a Common Unity Undertaking, maintaining its distinctive Moravian Christian social outreach character.

**Resolution US2016.18: The Timing of Unity Women's Consultations**

- Whereas the Unity Synods of 2002 and 2009 affirmed the gathering of the women of the Moravian Church once every five years for a Consultation; and
- Whereas the Unity Synod meets every seven years; and
- Whereas these Consultations are costly to the Provinces and the Unity Women's Desk; and
- Whereas more provincial and regional Women's Conferences are being held on a regular basis; be it
- Resolved that the Unity Women's Consultations be held every seven years, not less than one year prior to Unity Synod; and be it further
- Resolved that the Unity Women's Desk and the Provincial Boards support and encourage each Province and Region to hold regional conferences and utilize relevant technology to maintain good communication within the region and with the Unity Women's Desk.

**Resolution US2016.19: - Resolution to include the Unity Women's Desk in the Unity Mission and Development Board**

- Whereas the Unity Women's Desk functions as a ministry of the Unity; and
- Whereas some of the Focus Areas of the Unity Women's Desk overlap with the work of UMDB; be it
- Resolved that the Unity Women's Desk be represented at meetings of the Unity Mission and Development Board by invitation of the Board.

**Resolution US2016.20: Statement on Food Speculation**

Be it resolved that Unity Synod issues the following statement be distributed throughout the Unity and forward to respective governments:

The Unity Synod strongly encourages a ban on food speculation.

We make this appeal for the sake of justice, because ...

- Food speculation is immoral as long as it has not been proven beyond doubt that food speculation does not influence food prices in such a way that human beings are no longer able to meet their basic needs.
- Trading food and raw materials in the form of future contracts develops its own momentum and thus moves away from real economy and human needs.

- Food speculation can result in food being held back and thus lead to hunger, distress and finally death.

We make this appeal for the sake of peace, because ...

- Food speculation leads to aggression and violence up to the point of war (e.g. the hunger revolution in Haiti, the Arabellion etc.)
- It results in people fleeing from their home countries

We make this appeal for the sake of the protection of creation, because ...

- Speculating with food favours industrialized agricultural practice which is primarily profit-oriented, which in turn favours pollution of the environment and exploitation of nature. This leads to the destruction of our common basis of existence on this earth.

### **Resolution US2016.21: Statement Concerning Refugees**

- Whereas the world is presently confronted with an unprecedented stream of more than 60 million refugees, fleeing their homes because of war, violent conflicts, oppression and great poverty, many of them losing their lives on their way; and
- Whereas this situation affects many of the countries where the Moravian Church is present; and
- Whereas the growing number of refugees and migrants in some countries has created a climate of fear, rejection, discrimination and hatred against foreigners – a climate which is being exploited by politicians who call for a closure of borders and who further incite hatred; and
- Whereas the Bible calls us to offer hospitality to foreigners and to protect refugees; and
- Whereas our forefathers and -mothers were welcomed as refugees in Herrnhut and offered shelter and protection; be it
- Resolved that the 43rd Unity Synod 2016 accepts the present situation of refugees in the world as a challenge to her witness of the love of Christ to all people. It encourages all provinces with their congregations and institutions to stand by the refugees who seek shelter and protection in their countries. It calls provinces and congregations to clearly speak out against hatred, racism and rejection within their societies and be advocates of those who have neither right nor voice to express their needs. It expresses this in the following statement, which is communicated to all provinces and members:

Statement by the 43rd Unity Synod 2016, Montego Bay

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 Herrnhut – 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.

### **Resolution US2016.22: Human Trafficking**

- Whereas human trafficking is a global phenomenon which constitutes modern day slavery; and
- Whereas human trafficking is an increasingly serious problem in many parts of the world; be it
- Resolved that the Moravian Church stands firmly against all forms of human trafficking, stands in solidarity with victims of Human Trafficking and seeks opportunities within our own contexts to advocate on their behalf; and be it further
- Resolved the Unity Synod 2016 makes the following statement:

The Moravian Church believes that human trafficking is illegal and immoral. It is a serious crime which violates human rights, and which should be clearly condemned and prosecuted.

We affirm the statements made against human trafficking by the World Council of Churches (Refer to “Minute on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling” dated June 27, 2016) and by various denominations.

We believe that all human beings should be treated with dignity and respect. Victims of human trafficking need loving care and support.

In this regard, we endeavour to promote the awareness of human trafficking by educating our members and our wider communities so that we can respond appropriately.

We acknowledge the definition of human trafficking as published in Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, as shown below:

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the receiving or giving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery,

servitude or the removal of organs... The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth [above] shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth [above] have been used.”

**Resolution US2016.23: Unity Prayer Watch Schedule**

Whereas the number of Mission Areas, Mission Provinces and Unity Provinces has grown and will continue to change; be it

Resolved that Unity Synod 2016 requests that the Unity Prayer Watch Schedule be revised to reflect these changes and then be considered at each Unity Board, taking into consideration the membership of provinces, the number of congregations and other relevant information, and be revised as necessary to reflect the current make-up of the worldwide Unity; and be it further

Resolved that Unity Board 2016 takes measures to help improve the awareness and practice of the Unity Prayer Watch as a unique Moravian service to the world and to the church.

**Resolution US2016.24: Resolution pertaining to Justice for Women**

Whereas Church discipline in some areas of the Unity is being imposed on women in a disproportionate manner than to men; be it

Resolved that COUF #845 be amended to read “d) Unity Synod 2016 affirms that both women and men are equally valued and loved by God; and any discipline exercised by the church should not be imposed on women disproportionately more than to men.”

**Resolution US2016.25: Formal Adoption of the Motto “Our Lamb Has Conquered”**

Whereas there is uncertainty about what is the motto or if there is a motto of the Unity; be it

Resolved that, "Our lamb has conquered. Let us follow Him" be accepted as the motto of the Unity.

**Resolution US2016.26: Unity Board representation on the Board of MCF.**

Whereas there is an established practice for the President of the Unity Board to attend the MCF annual meeting as an ex-officio member, and

Whereas the President of the Unity Board may be a board member of the MCF; be it

Resolved that a member of the Unity Executive Committee attends the MCF annual meeting as an ex-officio member in the event that the President of the Unity Board is a member of the MCF Board.

**Resolution US2016.27: New name of the Caribbean Region**

Whereas there are 4 regions that comprise the Moravian Unity; and,

Whereas the current membership composition of the Caribbean Region has expanded; be it

Resolved that the name of the Region be changed to the "Caribbean and Latin American Region”.

**Resolution US2016.28: Designation of Unity Undertakings, Prospective Mission Areas, Mission Areas, Mission Provinces or Unity Provinces**

Amendment to COUF #201.1.c.:

Whereas COUF #201.1.c. directs that a Mission Area can be so designated by the Unity Board and then ratified by Unity Synod; and

- Whereas the procedure for recognition of a Unity Undertaking, a Mission Province or a Unity Province is not suggested in COUF; be it
- Resolved that COUF #201.1.c. is amended as follows and removed to become paragraph 3 of the introduction to COUF #201:
- Recognition  
A new Unity Undertaking, Prospective Mission Area, Mission Area, Mission Province or Unity Province shall be so designated by the Unity Board and then ratified by Unity Synod. Responsibility for administering or supervising a Unity Undertaking, a Prospective Mission Area, Mission Area or a Mission Province shall be assigned by Unity Board to a Province or a Mission Board.

### **Resolution US2016.29: Prospective Mission Area**

- Whereas a number of new Mission Areas is part of the Unity and we even see areas, which are not yet officially recognized as Mission Areas, the term “prospective mission areas” has been introduced; and
- Whereas some of the new Mission Areas and the prospective mission areas are established churches or congregations, wishing to join up with the Moravian Unity, but further investigation is still needed; be it
- Resolved that the Unity Synod include the term “prospective mission area” in the terminology of the Unity. The detailed set of criteria for a “prospective mission area” shall be an amendment to COUF#201.1

#### **Prospective Mission Area**

##### a) What and Where?

A Prospective Mission Area is a new work of one or several groups of people, who have a desire to be part of the Moravian Unity, and who are being recognized as such by a Moravian Unity Province or Mission Province, or it is an area in which a Province or a Mission Agency seek possibilities to bring witness of Christ to non-Christian or un-churched people.

Such a Prospective Mission Area is subject to the attention by a Province, and/or a Mission Agency and/or the Unity and possibly the Province, Mission Agency or the Unity will give guidance as to how the work might continue and develop.

A Prospective Mission Area might be granted the status of a Mission Area, once it fulfills the criteria for that, or the Prospective Mission Area might be terminated if not showing the desired development

The geographical boundaries and extent of new areas of mission need to be defined by the supervising body of the Unity.

A Prospective Mission Area can be situated 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, or the Prospective Mission Area can be within a country or area in which the Moravian Church has not previously had any work.

##### b) Authorization and recognition

A Prospective Mission Area can be working as such under the authority of an established Province, which would be the normal situation or in some cases, under a Mission Agency or directly under the Unity Board Office.

Normally, an area should be classified as a Prospective Mission Area no longer than 3 years, then a decision must be taken, as to whether it should be recognized as a Mission Area or should cease to exist within the Moravian Unity.

##### c) Organization

1. When a new Prospective Mission Area is initiated, the associated Unity Province or Mission Agency will seek the possibility of making adequate resources available for the development of the work.

2. The constituency of the Prospective Mission Area should show interest in the Unitas Fratrum and in Moravian Identity, and should decide whether it can identify itself with the Moravian

ecclesiology and with the Brotherly Agreement. The leadership should show willingness to start developing rules and regulations which are consistent with COUF. The initiation of this process can lead to the establishment of a Mission Area.

3. The supervising Province, supervising Mission Agency or the staff of the Unity is accountable to Unity Board for the work within the Prospective Mission Area, and has the responsibility to keep the Unity informed about any progress.

4. Moreover, the responsible body of the Unity must seek to lead the constituency of the Prospective Mission Area according to the ecclesiological principles of the Unitas Fratrum

5. Once, when after instruction, members are ready to be received into congregations by baptism or confirmation, and proper records are kept with lists of members, it is normally time to establish the work as a Mission Area proper.

### **Resolution US2016.30: Members of Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT)**

Whereas the Unity Committee on Theology plays an important role in discussing and discerning the theological developments within the Unity; and

Whereas the Worldwide Moravian Unity exists in a diversity of cultures, traditions, consisting of members with a wide range of world views; and

Whereas it is important that the regions of the Worldwide Moravian Unity to some extent are well represented in the Unity Committee of Theology; be it

Resolved that COUF is amended and reads as follows:

#808. UNITY COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

The Committee on Theology be constituted as follows:

NAME: Unity Committee on Theology.

MEMBERS:

Three from the African Region

Two from the North American Region

Two from the Caribbean and Latin American Region

Two from the European Region

### **Resolution US2016.31: Title of the Unity Business Administrator**

Whereas the Unity Business Administrator has been a position created by the 2009 Unity Synod; and

Whereas the title Unity Business Administrator does not readily convey the function of the office holder within the Unity as well as within the ecumenical community; be it

Resolved that the name Unity Business Administrator be changed to 'Unity Board Administrator'.

### **Resolution US2016.32: MCT Acknowledged as Affiliated/ associate Member of the Unitas Fratrum**

Resolved that this proposal not be accepted because of the lack of such provisions and guidelines in COUF; and be it further

Resolved that 1) the Unity Board does further study and reflection on the matter of affiliate/ associate membership of the Unity and 2) If it deems necessary, establish guidelines/ criteria for affiliate/ associate membership and makes recommendation to the next Unity Synod.

### **Resolution US2016.33: Reaffirmation of Resolution 11 (US 2009)**

Whereas mission is still the heartbeat of the Church; and

Whereas resolution 11 (2009) which is similar in text to #847 COUF encourages congregations and Provinces to be engaged in measured community impact; and  
 Whereas the sharing of information among Provinces is of vital importance for our Unity and can be a means of encouraging and inspiring each other in the work of mission; be it  
 Resolved that this Unity Synod reaffirms resolution 11 and #847 COUF; and be it further  
 Resolved that appropriate means (Newsletter, webpage etc.) be employed to share the information received with the entire Unity.

**Resolution US2016.34: Removal of Wincap Cassy as a Bishop in the Honduras Unity Province**

Whereas the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church in Honduras has submitted this proposal to the Unity Synod; and  
 Whereas in the Honduras Unity Province Wincap Cassy has been removed from serving as a bishop at their Provincial Synod in 2013 (in Brus Laguna); and Wincap Cassy continues to create problems and confrontations in the churches and also with the government; be it  
 Resolved that Unity Synod 2016 affirms the decision to remove Wincap Cassy as a bishop serving in the Honduras Unity Province; letters are to be sent to the Honduras Unity Province and the relevant Honduras government official confirming this decision; and be it further  
 Resolved that this decision of the Honduras Unity Province is effective throughout the Unity and Wincap Cassy will no longer be recognized as a bishop in the Unity.

**Resolution US2016.35: Unity Women's Desk Representation at Unity Synod**

Whereas Unity Women's Desk has become an entity structured in accordance with the Unity structures by adopting proposal 43; and  
 Whereas the gender balance of delegates at the Unity Synod is still an aim the Provinces have to achieve; and  
 Whereas the UWD does important work in networking, supporting women throughout the Unity and addressing their issues; be it  
 Resolved Unity Provinces are mandated to elect at least one female delegate into their delegations to Unity Synod; and be it further  
 Resolved the UWD is given the right to send one delegate without vote to Unity Synod to report about its work and to contribute to the deliberations at Synod.

**Resolution US2016.36: Membership on Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB)**

Be it resolved that COUF #875 be amended as follows:

Be it resolved that a Unity Mission and Development Board be established according to the following specifications:

Composition 15 members

Unity Board Administrator (or, if there is no UBA, an appointee of the Unity Board

Representatives:

Four from the African Region

Two from the Caribbean and Latin American Region

One from the North America Region

One from the European Region

One from each of the following Mission Agencies:

- American Board of World Mission
- Zeister Zendings – Genootschap
- Brodremenighedens Dansk Mission
- Hernhutter Missionshilfe
- British Mission Board
- Mission 21

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
- Prioritizes mission projects
- Administers the use of the Unity Mission and Development Fund (Formerly new World Witness Fund)
- Oversees and coordinates 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 US2016.37: Violence Against Women and Children**

- Whereas we affirm Article #843 of the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF) addresses Violence against Women and Children, and
- Whereas Article #843 “Mandates all Provinces of the Unitas Fratrum to form support and study groups to provide contexts for discussions, counselling and support to victims and perpetrators of violence;” and
- Whereas this matter still does not receive sufficient attention in all Provinces because the victims are afraid to raise their hurt and pain in the church, be it
- Resolved that every Province mandates a process by which an individual can safely report the abuse by another individual (including the pastor, other church leaders, teacher, family member, etc.):” and be it further
- Resolved that said Provincial policies be formulated and sent in written form to the Unity Board President and the Unity Board Administrator by the year 2018 and copied to the Unity Women’s Desk; and be it further
- Resolved that a Provincial Code of Conduct wherever it exists be made public, and in cases where a Code of Conduct does not exist, efforts be made to develop one.

#### **Resolution US2016.38: South Asia and Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre supported through UMDF**

- Whereas South Asia after being a Unity Undertaking was designated a Mission Area; be it
- Resolved that South Asia is supported through UMDF with an amount of 15.000 USD p.a.; and
- Whereas Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre is a Unity Undertaking and as such a responsibility, and
- Whereas the proposed support through the Unity Fund is decreased from USD 117.000 USD p.a. to 40.000 USD p.a., and
- Whereas the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre serves as a witness of Christ in Palestine and as such is a project of mission as well as a humanitarian project, be it

Resolved that the Star Mountain is supported through UMDf with an amount of at least 30.000 USD p.a.

**Resolution US2016.39: Terrorism and Violent Acts**

Whereas we face escalating violence and terrorism in different parts of the world; be it  
 Resolved that the Moravian Church stand in solidarity with the victims of violence and terrorist acts; and be it further  
 Resolved that the Moravian Church condemns all actual or attempted terrorist and other violent acts: and be it further  
 Resolved that the Moravian Church also condemns any attempts or pursuits to misuse the refugee status for unjust goals, and be it further  
 Resolved that we condemn any attempts or pursuit to misuse the refugee status for unjust goals; and be it further  
 Resolved that the Moravian Church in all of its Provinces make every effort to pursue peace and justice.

**Resolution US2016.40: Replacement Articles of Association of MCF**

Whereas the Articles of Association of the Moravian Church Foundation have been amended by Unity Synod 2002 by Resolution 809 – 2002 and  
 Whereas these Articles of Association have been amended by notarial deed of December 1, 2003, and  
 Whereas the Articles of Association were also synchronized with the current Dutch law, and  
 Whereas the text of Resolution 809 – 2002, has been incorporated in 2002 COUF #551 and 2009 COUF #551 does not reflect the actual wording of the Articles of Association, and  
 Whereas the Amended Articles of Association were shared with the Unity Synod 2009 as an attachment to the report to Unity Synod by the Moravian Church Foundation, which report was approved by Unity Synod 2009, NOW THEREFORE BE IT:  
 Resolved (1)- that COUF #550 (a) be amended by deleting the words “Article 2” and replacing it with the words “Article 3” in the second last line of the paragraph; and be it  
 Resolved (2) – That COUF #550 be amended to include – (e) where the term “pensionable age” is referenced in the Articles of Association contained in COUF #551, that pensionable age is deemed to mean the age of 70 years. (2009 COUF #551 Article 5 (1)); and be it  
 Resolved (3) – That COUF #550 be amended to include (f) after the expiration of each calendar year and before the first of September of the following year, the Board of Directors shall issue a report in writing concerning the management and financial position of the Foundation to the Unity Board. The report shall be accompanied by a balance sheet and operating account of the Foundation. The Board of Directors shall at all times give its cooperation in any measure of verification that may be considered necessary by the Unity Board and shall on its request supply all information desired in respect of the management and work of the Foundation. (2009 COUF #551 Article 6); and be it  
 Resolved (4) – That between two Unity Synods of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) the Board of Directors of the Foundation is responsible to the Unity Board for the accounts of the Foundation. (2009 COUF #551 Article 10); and be it  
 Resolved (5) – that the Articles of Association as mentioned in COUF #551 be replaced by the present Articles of Association of the Moravian Church Foundation, dated December 1, 2003.

## Resolution US2016.41: Unity Budget 2017-2023

### Income Proposed

Province	% 2009-2016	USD p.a. 2009-2016	% 2017-2023	USD p.a. 2017-2023
Alaska	2.4%	\$10,170.85	2.0%	\$8,200
America North	20.3%	\$86,028.50	20.6%	\$84,460
America South	13.4%	\$56,787.29	13.5%	\$55,350
Britain	10.5%	\$44,497.50	10.5%	\$43,050
Burundi			0.5%	\$2,050
Congo	1.0%	\$4,237.86	1.0%	\$4,100
Costa Rica	1.0%	\$4,237.86	1.0%	\$4,100
Czech UP	1.0%	\$4,237.86	1.1%	\$4,510
Czech MP			0.5%	\$2,050
Eastern West Indies	3.3%	\$13,984.93	3.4%	\$13,940
European Continental	17.9%	\$75,857.64	18.4%	\$75,440
Guyana	1.0%	\$4,237.86	1.0%	\$4,100
Honduras UP	1.1%	\$4,661.64	1.0%	\$4,100
Honduras MP			0.5%	\$2,050
Jamaica	2.5%	\$10,594.64	2.5%	\$10,250
Labrador	1.1%	\$4,661.64	1.0%	\$4,100
Malawi	0.5%	\$2,118.93	0.5%	\$2,050
Nicaragua	1.5%	\$6,356.79	1.5%	\$6,150
South Africa	7.5%	\$31,783.93	5.0%	\$20,500
Suriname	3.3%	\$13,984.93	3.0%	\$12,300
Tanzania Eastern	1.0%	\$4,237.86	1.0%	\$4,100
Tanzania L. Tanganyika	0.5%	\$2,118.93	0.5%	\$2,050
Tanzania Northern	0.5%	\$2,118.93	0.5%	\$2,050
Tanzania Rukwa	1.7%	\$7,204.36	1.5%	\$6,150
Tanzania Southern	2.0%	\$8,475.71	2.5%	\$10,250
Tanzania South Western	2.0%	\$8,475.71	3.0%	\$12,300
Tanzania Western	2.0%	\$8,475.71	2.0%	\$8,200
Zambia	1.0%	\$4,237.86	0.5%	\$2,050
<b>MCF to UMDF</b>				<b>\$14,286</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$423,785.72</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$424,286</b>

### Expenditures

Item	USD p.a.	2010-16	2017-2013	USD p.a.	2017-23
President travel	\$2,142.86	\$15,000	Unity office	\$22,500	\$175,000
President office	\$15,642.86	\$109,500	Unity staff	\$17,500	\$140,000
Unity Synod	\$27,142.86	\$190,000	Unity Synod	\$38,000	\$280,000
Unity Fund	\$36,857.14	\$258,000	Unity Fund	\$35,000	\$245,000
South Asia	\$36,000.00	\$252,000		\$-	\$-
Star Mountain	\$117,000.00	\$819,000	Star Mt	\$40,000	\$280,000
Unity Archives	\$114,000.00	\$798,000	Unity Archives	\$95,000	\$665,000

UMDF	\$75,000.00	\$525,000	UMDF	\$115,000	\$805,000
MCF to UMDF+A74	\$7,143.00	\$50,000	MCF to UMDF	\$14,286	\$98,000
			UWD	\$15,000	\$105,000
Unforeseen			Unity Youth	\$15,000	\$105,000
				\$17,000	\$140,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$430,928.72</b>	<b>\$3,016,500</b>		<b>\$424,286</b>	<b>\$3,038,000</b>

**Resolution US2016.42: Future Ownership of C. Kersten & Co. N.V. Paramaribo, Suriname**

Whereas the Unity Synod of 1981 passed Resolution #834, mandating (among other actions) the transfer of 24 % of the ownership interest in C. Kersten & Co., N.V., from the Moravian Church Foundation to the Suriname Province; and

Whereas this resolution has not been implemented; and

Whereas the Provincial Board of the Moravian Church in Suriname submitted a proposal for resolving this matter to the Unity Synod 2016, which was discussed in Committee; be it

Resolved that, a 24% ownership interest in the C. Kersten & Co., N.V. be issued from the Moravian Church Foundation to the Suriname Province after the successful completion of the following process:

- a three-member “Commission on Kersten Shares” will be formed, with one nominated by the Moravian Church Foundation, one nominated by the Suriname Province, and the third appointed by the Unity Board Executive Committee. All three members of the commission must be acceptable to both the Moravian Church Foundation and the Suriname Province. This three member commission shall be determined and named on or before December 31, 2016, and shall meet to begin its work on or before July 1, 2017;
- the purpose of this commission is to thoroughly discuss financial, legal, regulatory, and any other matters related to the issue of 24% ownership interest from the C. Kersten & Co., N.V to the Suriname Province;
- the commission shall also review the Priorities of MCF Financial Support provided for the Moravian Church in Suriname and bring a recommendation to the Unity Board 2018 about the appropriate level of funding for this priority;
- the commission shall bring all reports and recommendation(s) to the Unity Board 2018 for its ratification prior to any transaction taking place.
- if the commission report is not unanimous, a minority report may also be presented to the Unity Board, which shall have final decision in this matter; and be it

Resolved that, this current resolution supersedes and replaces US 1981 Resolution #834.

**Resolution US2016.43: Priorities of MCF Financial Support**

Whereas COUF #833 states that the Unity Board should revise the list of priorities and prepare a recommendation for each Unity Synod; and

Whereas a proposal to Unity Synod concerning transfers of shares of MCF to Suriname were forwarded to Unity Synod; and

Whereas the proposed budget for the Unity proposes an increased contribution to UMDF; and

Whereas the Unity Board 2016 determined that theological education should remain as Priority 1 for MCF financial support, and asked Unity Synod to determine other priorities based on the outcome of the above-mentioned proposals; and

- Whereas the outcome of these proposals have been taken into account by the Committee; therefore be it
- Resolved that the Moravian Church Foundation is urged to give financial support to the work of the Moravian Church during the next inter-synodal period (2017-2023) in the following order of priority:
1. theological training within the world-wide Unity;
  2. Unity undertakings, including but not limited to: the Moravian Rehabilitation Centre, Star Mountain, new Ramallah; the Unity Archives, in Hernnhut; and the Unity Mission Development Fund;
  3. the Moravian Church in Suriname for economic, educational and social work. **NOTE:** This priority will remain unchanged until the Commission on Kersten Shares renders its report and recommendations to the Unity Board 2018 and the Unity Board reaches a decision;
  4. grants for projects which play a significant role in the welfare of the requesting Province. Priority shall be given to projects which support mission, evangelism, justice, peace and the care of creation. For such grants, the MCF will work in cooperation with the Unity Mission and Development Board. Grants will only be given to start projects, not to cover operating costs;
  5. grants may be given in emergency cases. For such help the Executive Committee of the Unity Board may act as an advisor if necessary;
  6. other requests may be considered at the discretion of the Unity Board; and be it also
- Resolved that for all grants, the MCF is empowered to request and receive appropriate documentation and reports, including such things as: statements of purpose and description of projects, an official recommendation from the respective Provincial Board, a final budget indicating the Province's own contribution, and written status reports to the MCF from those receiving grants until the work or project is completed.

**Resolution US2016.44: Message to the America North Province**

- Whereas since the Unitas Fratrum was founded in 1457, marriage, as a bond between one man and one woman, has been a principal and widely affirmed article of both the faith and life of our congregations; and
- Whereas the statements of COUF in sections 656 and 657 and the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living 21 through 23 understand marriage to be a bond between one man and one woman; and
- Whereas the declarations of the Bishops' conference from the years 2007 and 2014 affirm the statements in the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living 21 through 23; and
- Whereas the Worldwide Unity in 2016 accepts the principle, based on its understanding of faith and biblical testimony, that marriage is a bond between one man and one woman and is a precious gift from God; and
- Whereas in June 2014, the Synod of the American Northern Province approved a resolution named "The ordination and pastoral service of gay and lesbian individuals, whether single, married, or in covenanted relationships", in which it allows that ordained ministers of the church practice homosexuality (if they live in a "same-sex marriage" or in a same-sex "covenanted relationship", and in "sexual fidelity to their partner"); and
- Whereas the decision of the American Northern Province in 2014 concerning the ordination and/or marriage of same gender couples does not involve only the American Northern Province, since the issue of ordination and marriage concerns the very essence of practice and life of the worldwide Unitas Fratrum; and

- Whereas according to the COUF, “the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum” (Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum, The Ground of the Unity, #4), and the practice of homosexuality is in contradiction with Unity Synod 2016’s understanding of Scripture; and
- Whereas the issue concerning homosexual lifestyle has been appearing in every Unity Synod since 1995 without resolution; be it
- Resolved that Christian Marriage in the Moravian Church is between a man and a woman; and be it
- Resolved that the Unity Synod 2016 declares to the American Northern Province that the actions of its June 2014 Synod concerning the marriage of same gender couples and the ordination of homosexual people is not in accordance with the 2016 Unity Synod’s understanding of marriage based on Unity Synod 2016’s understanding of COUF, the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living and Scripture; and be it further
- Resolved that that the Unity Synod 2016 commissions the Unity Board to observe the development in the American Northern Province, to take necessary measures.

#### **Resolution US2016.45: Unity Mission and Development Fund Budget 2017-2023**

- Whereas the Unity Mission and Development Fund is part of the Unity Household; and
- Whereas the Unity Synod is responsible for passing the Unity budget for the coming intersynodal period; be it
- Resolved bearing in mind the comments found below that the Unity Mission and Development Fund works with the following budget for 2017 – 2023, both years included, is:

#### **Unity Mission and Development Fund draft budget 2017 – 2023**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Annually 2017 – 2023</b>
<b>Area supported</b>	<b>USD</b>	
Albania	5000	
Belize	3000	
Burundi	7000	
Congo Eastern	5000	
Cuba	5000	
French Guiana	4000	
Haiti	10000	
Honduras, Garifuna	7000	
Iringa, Tanzania	2000	
Kenya	3000	
Latvia	4000	
Njombe/Ruvuma, Tanzania	2000	
Peru	3000	
Rwanda	4000	
Sierra Leone	1000	
South Asia		15000
Star Mountain Rehab. Ctr	30000	
Uganda	1000	
Zanzibar	<u>4000</u>	
	<b>115000</b>	
UB Discretionary		25000
Projects by UMDB		49000

New Mission areas		<u>10000</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>199000</b>

**Income Budget, annual**

Available from Unity	115000	
Available from MCF		14000
Expected from Mission Agencies		
BDM		15000
HMH		15000
ZZG		
5000		
BMB		15000
NABWM		15000
Mission 21		
<u>5000</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>		
<b>199000</b>		

**Comments for consideration**

- The budget is with 100,500 USD p.a. on the following background:
  - a. The subsidy from Unity Fund to Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre is reduced from 114,000 USD p.a. to 40,000 USD direct from the Unity Fund. In addition a budgeted 30,000 USD through will result in a total subsidy from the Unity of 70,000 USD.
  - b. South Asia used to be a Unity Undertaking and as such was subsidized by the Unity Fund with the amount of 36,000 USD p.a. After attaining the status of a Mission area, the subsidy to South Asia will come through UMDF, with the granted, reduced amount of 15,000 USD p.a.
  - c. The budget line UB Discretionary has been increased from 15.000 USD to 25,000 USD. A new budget line is proposed, namely Projects by UMDB with the proposed amount of 49,000 USD. The aim is to build more flexibility into UMDF budget. Experience shows that having almost all the money tied down in a fixed 7 years budget, does not sufficiently cater for the many changes and development the worldwide Moravian Church experiences. Still 58% of the budget is tied to specific areas, and as a rule those areas should have priority if the budgeted income is not received.
  - d. On the income side, significant changes are proposed: In former intersynodal period, the Unity contribution was 75,000 USD, now increased to 115,000, made possible especially because the contributions to Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre, Unity Archives and South Asia are proposed reduced or eliminated.
  - e. The MCF contribution was 7,143 USD p.a. This amount is proposed to be increased to 14,000 USD.
  - f. In the intersynodal period 2009 – 2016, some Mission Agencies started conveying funds to UMDF. The proposed budget appeals to the Mission Agencies to increase the total amount from 23,500 USD to 70,000 USD. Unity Synod cannot order the Mission Agencies to pay, but can appeal to the whole Unity, including the Mission Agencies to follow the vision of the Unity Mission and Development Fund, namely the Mission is the task of the whole Worldwide Unity and the UMDF and UMDB are the means of making that happen.

**Resolution US2016.46: Unity Undertaking Finances**

The committee proposes the following:

Whereas the Unity Undertakings, Star Mountain and the Unity Archives, are the two entities receiving the largest financial support from the Unity budget; be it

Resolved that Unity Undertakings present their audited financial statements to the Unity Board annually.

**Resolution US2016.47: Arrears of Assessments**

Whereas some Provinces are in arrears and to make sure this is communicated to Provinces; and

Whereas in the effort to achieve progress; be it

Resolved that

1. a statement of their annual contribution including any arrears from previous years is sent to every Province at the beginning of the financial year;
2. every Regional Representative on the Unity Executive should receive this information for their Region to follow up the reasons for the arrears in his / her Region. The representative should report back to the Unity Board; and be it

Resolved that each Province makes some payment during every financial year or informs the Unity Board the reasons for non-payment; otherwise funding from Unity Funds, including MCF, in the following year may not be considered and travel costs for Unity meetings may not be paid; and be it further

Resolved that any arrears prior to and including 2013 should be written off.

**Resolution US2016.48: Unity Fund Budget**

Whereas a 7-year fixed budget is hard to fulfill, be it

Resolved that the Unity Board are given authority to make a rolling budget every two years, keeping within the overall boundary of the proposed budget carried at Unity Synod.

**Resolution US2016.49: Geographical Borders of Provinces to be Respected**

Whereas it is recognized that within the Unity there are places where a Province and Mission Province exist in the same geographic area; be it

Resolved any new Moravian congregation, even when made up by persons originating in another Unity Province or Mission Province, shall be part of the Unity Province or Mission Province in which the new congregation is situated and serve under the authority of the Provincial Board of this Province or Mission Province. The geographical borders of a Unity Province or a Mission Province shall be respected at all times.

**Resolution US2016.50: Resolution Pertaining to Ordination of Women.**

Whereas the Unity Synods of 1957, 1967, 1981, 2002, and 2009 have affirmed the call of women to the ordained ministry of The Unity; and

Whereas the Synod of 2002 requested that all Provinces report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the intersynodal meetings of the Unity Board (2002, #905); and

Whereas such a report has not been compiled; therefore be it

Resolved that the research and writing of this report be assigned to the Unity Women's Desk; and be it further

Resolved that said report shall be completed by the time of the Unity Board meeting of 2018 to establish that the goals set by the foregoing resolutions have been fulfilled and that women are being included in all forms of ministry within the church; and be it further

Resolved that this report be widely distributed to all Provinces, Mission Provinces, and Mission Areas by 2020.

### **Resolution US2016.51: A Minister Being Deprived of the Rights Connected with Ordination**

Whereas COUF #863.e states that:

A minister is deprived of the rights connected with his/her ordination if:

1. In the opinion of his/her Provincial Board he/she misuses these rights;
2. He/ she grossly violates the Church Order of the Moravian Church; or
3. He/she leads a life that is contrary to the principles of the Christian faith (1981, #810); and

Whereas a minister while Ordained as a deacon, later on might be consecrated as a Presbyter and eventually as a Bishop; be it

Resolved that a minister deprived of the rights connected with his/her ordination, is deprived of the said rights, whether being a Deacon, a Presbyter, or a Bishop.

### **Resolution US2016.52: The Ministry**

Whereas UB2012 commissioned UCOT to work on a revision of COUF #687-688 and

Whereas UCOT 2013 presented a proposal of a revised COUF #687-688 to UEC2013 and

Whereas UEC2013 passed the proposal to UB2014 with the recommendation to pass it as a resolution recommending US2016 to adopt the amendments,

Be it resolved that UB2014 asks US2016 to replace COUF #682-691 for the reasons mentioned:

#### **CHAPTER XIII**

#### **THE MINISTRY**

##### **Introduction**

The understanding of Christ being the Chief Elder is the basis for the understanding of the Ministry in the Moravian Church. *Unitas Fratrum* underlines the priesthood of all believers, as well as the calling of specially appointed and ordained ministers. The offices of the ministry are a gift from the Chief Elder. Those called into the constituted orders of the Moravian Church are called and ordained by Christ.

The ordained minister, whether Deacon, Presbyter or Bishop, is a servant of God and the congregation. He or she is never considered the head or the body of the congregation, but often serves as the congregation's mouth, hands, and feet as the church bears witness to the love of Christ. The ordained minister is solely a servant to the Lord, ministering to Christ by serving the congregation and its neighbors. In this role of a servant, he or she is called together with the Board of Elders to lead the congregation with Godly conduct essential to effective ministry. Ordained ministers are also called to maintain within the congregation the structure and order provided by Provincial and Unity Synods.

The ordained minister must be knowledgeable about the Moravian understanding of the role of ministry and live and act accordingly.

#### **A. ORDINATION**

##### **1. Ordination in General (#104)**

#682. The constituted orders of the ministry in the Moravian Church are those of Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops. Those who are ordained, are authorized to administer the Sacraments in the Moravian Church.

This ministry of the ordained is an expression of the ministry of the whole people of God and a response to the call and gifts of Christ Who is Chief Elder of the Church and its ministry.

The orders are expressions of service rather than rank. Only One is recognized as having authority in Himself: Jesus the Christ Who also served.

Persons feeling a call to ordained ministry in the Moravian Church shall be given equal consideration without reference to their sex.

#683. Only the Provincial Board, the Provincial or Unity Synod has the authority to commission ordination. In extending such a commission, they are guided by careful consideration of the spiritual, mental and physical qualifications of the candidate for ordination. Ordination should be preceded by appropriate ministerial training (see #692).

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.

#684. The ordained minister remains a servant of Christ and the Church as a whole, not merely of the congregation to which he/she is called. Even as Jesus Christ came not to be ministered unto but to minister, so His servants should be willing to minister wherever the Church calls them under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The minister is a brother or sister, who is called to the ordained service, and to whom the church has certain expectations concerning conduct and lifestyle as spelled out in Provincial constitutions. To be ordained as a minister means to be under the order and authority of the church.

#684.a. Ordination and consecration as a rule is for life.

However, under specific circumstances, spelled out in Provincial constitutions, the ordained minister may be placed under corrective discipline by the PEC and is not any longer considered an ordained or consecrated minister. The ordination is suspended as long as the minister is under corrective discipline, but may in case of repentance followed by the authorization of the PEC be put into effect again. This re-installation of the ordination takes place in a special service led by a Presbyter or a Bishop appointed by the PEC. In the event of a Bishop's ordination and consecration being put into effect again, a Bishop of the Unity shall preside. It is not a re-ordination.

- Corrective discipline for ordained ministers is exercised by the Provincial Board, after a process of testing other possible corrective measures and after careful consideration of the Provincial Board and bishops. The excluded minister can appeal to the Provincial Synod.

- Reasons for corrective discipline measures for ordained ministers are those mentioned in #103.c-e. and any reasons mentioned in Provincial constitutions concerning expectations of ministers.

- In case of imposing corrective discipline measures on a bishop, the PEC must contact the chairman of the region and at least one other bishop prior to starting the process of corrective discipline.

-The Unity Board must be advised of any bishop in the respective Province that has been placed under corrective discipline. The Unity Board may ask the PEC to investigate the need for corrective disciplinary measures against a bishop.

## 2. Orders of the Ministry

### a) Deacon

#685. The ordination of a Deacon admits him/her to the first order of the ministry. As a Deacon he/she has authority to serve in the pastoral office and to administer the Sacraments under the rules and regulations of the Church in effect for such an office. The ordination as a Deacon embodies the understanding of ministry as service, which underlies all the orders. The newly ordained minister is normally guided and nurtured in establishing his/her work in the ministry by a Presbyter who lives nearby or by someone appointed for this purpose by the Provincial Board.

### b) Presbyter

#686. Deacons are consecrated to the office of Presbyter after a number of years in the ordained ministry.

In the service of consecration the Church spiritually encourages the Deacon, recognizes his/her professional and spiritual maturity, affirms his/her ministry since ordination and renews its own commitment to serve Christ.

For the individual, the service of consecration should be an occasion to give witness to the Christian faith and to rededicate him/herself to the ordained ministry.

The consecration of a Presbyterian is also a celebration of the whole Church, calling all to renew their commitment to serve Christ.

A Provincial Board might assign a particular duty to Presbyters in order to share leadership responsibilities and/or provide support for Deacons.

### c) Bishop

#### i. The Office of Bishop

#687. We hold to the understanding, common both to the Ancient and Renewed Unity, that only Christ is Head of the Church and pastoral oversight is exercised in responsibility to Him.

The Renewed Unity received the episcopacy as an inheritance from the Ancient Unitas Fratrum.

The Renewed Unity understands the fundamental function of a bishop as being a pastor of pastors.

A Bishop of the Moravian Church is consecrated to a special priestly pastoral ministry in the name of and for the whole Unity.

The office of Bishop represents the vital unity of the Church and the continuity of the Church's ministry, although the Unity does not place emphasis on any mechanical transmission of the apostolic succession.

The office and function of a Bishop is valid throughout the Unity as a whole.

Before consecration, a Bishop-elect shall receive appropriate orientation regarding the role and function of the office from at least one other Bishop of the Unity.

The PEC appoints a bishop to give the orientation, with the affirmation of the Unity Executive Committee.

By virtue of their office, all Bishops shall have a seat at the Synod of the Province in which they reside, with the right to vote determined by each Province.

Bishops serve under the authority of the Provincial Board and Synod of the Province in which they reside. Once decisions have been reached by a provincial board or synod, Bishops are not to interfere with such decisions.

A Bishop is not by virtue of his/her office member of the PEC, but can be elected on the PEC. However, the bishop cannot serve as President of the PEC.

#### ii. Duties of Bishops

#688. A Bishop as a Bishop has responsibility primarily for providing pastoral care to pastors and the Church and assisting the Church in its faithfulness to Christ and the Gospel.

A Bishop has a special duty of intercession for the Unity, and also for the Church of Christ as a whole.

The opinion of a Bishop (Bishops) shall customarily be sought and given due consideration and weight in matters of doctrine and practice. A Bishop represents the Church in the act of ordination

Only Bishops have the right to ordain or to consecrate to the various orders of the ministry, but only when commissioned to do so by a Provincial Board or Synod.

A Bishop, however, has the right to decline a commission to ordain, should he/she wish to do so.

In exceptional cases, the ordination of a Deacon may be performed by a Presbyterian on behalf of the Church, commissioned by the PEC.

Bishops in active service should be enabled to visit congregations for the deepening of their spiritual life.

A Bishop (Bishops) should share in the decisions regarding the training of candidates for the ministry and should maintain a special pastoral relationship with such candidates throughout their training.

A Bishop may be assigned by his/her Province to represent the Province in ecumenical gatherings and before governmental agencies.

Each Province shall decide if it wishes to free its Bishops from congregational duties to enable them to function properly as pastors for all workers.

### iii. Election and consecration of Bishops

#689. Wherever possible, every Mission Province and Unity Province shall have at least two bishops.

A Bishop shall be elected from among the Presbyters of a Province by a Provincial Synod with a secret ballot

A majority of two-thirds shall be required to secure the election of a Bishop.

On the occasion of the consecration of a Bishop, at least two Bishops of the Unity must officiate. Whenever possible, at least one of the officiating Bishops shall come from another Unity Province. The Provincial Board (or when applicable, the Provincial or Unity Synod, see #687), designates two or more bishops. Authorization for these bishops to officiate the consecration is sought from the Unity Executive Committee's office.

The President of the Unity Board or his or her representative, on behalf of the Unity, shall attend the consecration of a Bishop.

#690. All Provinces entitled under the Constitution of the Unitas Fratrum to elect and consecrate Bishops shall, on the occasion of the consecration of a Bishop, send to the office of the President of the Unity Board notification of such consecration, giving the name of the brother or sister so consecrated, the names of the officiating Bishops and the date and place of the consecration, and the office of President of the Unity Board shall transmit this information to all Provinces of the Unity and to the Archivist at Herrnhut.

### iv. Bishops' Conference

#691. A regular conference of Bishops for the purpose of furthering the faith, spiritual life, unity and doctrine of the Church shall be convened once in every seven years prior to Unity Synod and prior to a meeting of the Unity Board and the Bishops have the authority to organize such a conference. Each conference should include an in depth reflection on the understanding of the role of the Bishop in the Unity.

a. Each participating Province will pay the average cost of travel for one Bishop. If additional Bishops attend the full cost must be met by the respective Province.

b. The expense of hosting the conference shall be met by the Moravian Church Foundation.

### 3. Reception of Acolytes

#692. The Renewed Moravian Church has taken from the Ancient Church the title of "Acolyte" which was one of the seven steps of ordination and has transformed this into a call of discipleship in the congregation and Church. Such a call is extended to any brother or sister who carries a particular responsibility in the congregation or Province who, upon acceptance of the call, is then received as an Acolyte. This takes place in the presence of the assembled congregation by the Right Hand of Fellowship, given by the presiding pastor.

An Acolyte's selection should be made by the local congregation's board or boards and approved by the Provincial Board, and his/her reception authorized by the Provincial Board. The Provincial Board has the right to authorize the reception of Acolytes for denominational service. He/she should be a person who exemplifies the teachings of Christ and who is respected by fellow members of the Church.

The duties may include assisting the pastor in pastoral duties, special supervision for specific areas of service within the local congregations, assisting in serving the elements in Holy Communion when an ordained minister is present to consecrate the elements and preside at the Sacrament.

Provincial Boards shall have the authority to appoint a qualified person as an Acolyte to serve as pastor of a specific congregation. Such appointments shall be for a period of one year. These can be renewed. When an ordained person is not available for the administration of the Sacraments, the Provincial Board may, after special instruction regarding the meaning and observance of the Sacraments, authorize such a person to administer the Sacraments in the congregation for the period of time in which he/she has been appointed.

### **Resolution US2016.53: Concept of Archives in the Moravian Unity**

Notwithstanding, the designation Unity Archives in Herrnhut as a Unity Undertaking, there are other Archives that serve the Unity in the British Province, North America and others, be it

- Resolved that Provinces make proper arrangements for the safe keeping of their archival materials; and be it further
- Resolved that Provinces should seek further local and international funds for their safekeeping and management costs; and be it further
- Resolved that Provinces move into digitalization as this will enhance access, and reduce costs; and be it further
- Resolved that Unity Synod directs that the Unity Board look further into the role of the Unity Archives in relation to the provincial archives.

### **Resolution US2016.54: Pilot project for Moravian African Studies**

The following questions, needs, objectives and scope have been identified:

#### **A. Introduction:**

1. **Project History:** This project has come up as a result of several reasons, some of them are as follows:
    - a. **Frequent questions: There have been frequent questions** from various people from inside and outside of Africa, but particularly more specifically people from Europe and America concerning African Moravian Theology. People from outside have shown interest on knowing and experiencing more on the history, traditions, growth, and challenges which the African people are facing or experiencing.
    - b. **Academic Needs:** Students and scholars have been longing to study and research more on issues of Moravian Church in the African context and perspectives on theological issues.
  2. **Project Objectives:** To foster students and scholars to get an opportunity to learn and do research in all issues related to Moravian scholarships in the African context. Also to share the Moravian African Studies research findings with other people within and outside Unity.
  3. **Scope:**
    - a. **Institutions to Begin with:** Teofilo Kisanji University and Moravian Theological Seminary/College
    - b. **Location:** Tanzania and USA
    - c. **Classes Involved:** Second year students of Masters Programme (MTh) or Bachelor of Divinity (BD) after one year
    - d. One PhD Student doing research
    - e. **Lecturers:** One lecturer each year for one to three months.
- #### **B. Planning:**

**1. Description of the project characteristics:** The project intends to research, survey, learn and share experiences in order to create awareness on Moravian African Studies. This project will build the bridge/relationship between the Moravians in Africa and those in other places in the world through educational institutions in the Unity. Moravian African Studies will be a source of sharing knowledge and expertise in different institutions of the Unity (Unitas Fratrum) and to inform other Moravians about the findings on the Moravians in Africa.

**2. Activities to be deployed**

Through this project students and lecturers will be given opportunities to learn and research on Moravian issues in African context and be able to share with others. This will involve learning and addressing the following:

- a. Moravian Contemporary issues in an African context and its challenges.
- b. Research on the understanding Moravian Theology in African context (African Moravianism) in comparison with the Western and other Countries around the globe.
- c. Students' Exchange program so as to expose students to a cross-cultural experience of learning in different environment.
- d. To enable students and scholars to study the cross-cultural gospel witness and its value.
- e. Lecturers' Exchange program (sabbatical leave, visiting lecturing, public lectures etc.)
- f. Lecturers from the two institutions to partner in research and publications.
- g. The Moravian Theological Seminary and Teofilo Kisanji University will work together in Developing a Center for African Studies. This will meet the need for many non-African to know more on African culture, languages, arts to name but a few.

**3. Roles and Responsibilities**

- a. To learn and experience what others are doing in fulfilling the needs of the Moravian Church and the nation at large.
- b. To teach and share cultural and faith experience in the context of both parties
- c. To develop a common course curriculum which is transnational and worldwide applicable.

**4. Budget and Funding Sources**

- a. **Accommodation and Meals:** The host institution will fund the project for the accommodation and meals for all the days one spent.
- b. **Transport:** The cost for transport outside the country will be funded by the outside source (i.e. MCF or any other Mission Agencies etc.)
- c. **Other Costs:** (i.e. Pocket money\stipend, health insurance, etc) will be carried out by the host institution.

**5. Timeline**

This pilot project is expected to go for 3 years until when it goes to a full swing collaborating with other institutions and involving more activities and educational programmes/faculties.

**Project Duration:**

1. Commencement Dates: September 2017
2. Completion Dates: June 2020

**C. Execution**

The President/Dean of MTS and Vice Chancellor of TEKU will be the contacting people on the whole procedure of running the project in collaboration with the office of the Moravian Unity. The two institutions will ensure the smooth running of the project for the period allocated for the whole process and further implementation of the plan.

**D. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

The report of involved personnel will be prepared in each semester (After three months). This report will be presented to the President of MTS and the VC of TEKU who will finally send the full report to the Executives of the Moravian Unity at the end of the year (after two semesters).

**E. Budget for the Project**

The budget is estimated for eight people who include three students from the two institutions and two lecturers for three years.

S\N	Item	2017\2018	2018\2019	2019\2020	Total amount for 3 Years
1	No: People	8	8	8	
2	Transport Return ticket @ \$1700	\$ 13600	\$13600	\$13600	\$ 40.800.00
3	Stipend @ \$ 500	\$ 4000	\$4000	\$ 4000	\$ 12000.00
4	Insurance @ \$ 500	\$ 4000	\$ 4000	\$ 4000	\$ 12000.00
5	Grand Total				\$ 64.800.00

Be it solved that the Teofilo Kisanji University and Moravian Theological Seminary/College, Bethlehem are asked to prove the viability of this project and if possible take steps to initiate and execute the project.

Be it further resolved that Teofilo Kisanji University and Moravian Theological Seminary/College, Bethlehem are asked to secure the necessary funding for the project.

#### **Resolution US2016.55: Standards in Theological Education**

- Whereas there is a need for a list of subjects which should include the minimum theological subject areas and specific Moravian topics which are aimed at equipping ministers who function in the Moravian Church, with requisite tools to provide leadership and advance the work of the Church in the proclamation of the gospel and in building lives for the Kingdom of God within the Moravian church; and
- Whereas it is important to have basic requirements that will allow Moravian Ministers the competence to function effectively within the Moravian Unity with the confidence that should allow them to be effective in meeting and responding to the needs of congregations, specifically and generally; and
- Whereas we acknowledge that because of some cultural differences some subjects will be cultural specific, and therefore there should be opportunities for some subjects to be required subjects while some should be electives; be it
- Resolved that the Unity establishes of an Association of Moravian Theological Schools Committee, and be it further
- Resolved that the Moravian Theological Schools Committees look into list of subjects:
1. for ordination, Moravian Provinces should require a basic minimal standard of two years of full time theological training;
  2. the starting academic qualification requirement of each student;
  3. number of academic subjects and Moravian topics.

#### **Resolution US2016.56: Discussion Paper on the role of the Worldwide Moravian Unity**

- Be it resolved that the committee has studied the discussion paper with interest and recommends that the paper be disseminated to the Provinces, Unity Committees and Unity Desks for further study and discussion and that the reports of the study and discussion be submitted to the UCOT, and be it further
- Resolved that the UCOT shares the results of the discussions, after further refinement, with the Unity Board.