

# My reasons

**Rev. Armando Rusindo**

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Greetings dear Brother Cortroy  
A hug in the love of Christ

Armando Rusindo

Havana, May 29, 2019

## My reasons

When I decided to join my life to the Moravian church and started the work for its foundation in Cuba, 25 years ago, I did it convinced that this was a church that lived and honored what God teaches us in his Word. The stories of Jus, our spiritual father, of Gregory the Patriarch, of Comenius, of Zinzendorf and of other servants of God who wrote very beautiful pages of surrender and sacrifice in the service of his Plan, the extraordinary missionary work done in difficult places and conditions, the multiple works of social service and all this sustained in a fervent spiritual life grounded in a personal relationship with our Lord, in a devotion and dedication to Him which was admirably expressed in the words of Zinzendorf: "I have a Passion: it is Him "; they inspired me and supported me in the difficult task of building a new church in the conditions existing in Cuba; but always I felt stimulated and proud, and very, very grateful to God for that opportunity to serve in the ranks of this my beloved Unitas Fratrum at the feet of the Lord and I endeavored to honor that opportunity a life of work, sacrifice and discipline and with a testimony of consecration to Christ and rectitude of life before the churches and people of my country.

The moment came when the Province of Jamaica, after 14 years of accompaniment, decided to start a mission in Haiti and abandon its work in Cuba when the Rev. Paul Gardner, President of that Province and then President of the Board of Unity, he asked me which Province I wanted to accompany to Cuba from now on, we look towards the Moravian Church in North America with which we had already begun to relate through our compatriot Illovis González. We think of the Moravians of the United States because of the historical ties that bind us to that nation because of our emigration there, by the Moravian North American ministers who know and love our lands and Latino identity and because the relations between the churches of one country and another contribute to create bridges between our nations

separated for 60 years by a political dispute and when we began a closer relationship with the Church in North America we were very impressed by the great work done by that Church since its beginnings in 1741, in its own land and in other lands of the world, in what has been, undoubtedly, a great tribute to our founding fathers and all those who served in the past.

But today I must say with great sadness and pain that I am ashamed and repent very bitterly, and I feel very guilty before my Lord, for having made the decision that the Moravian Church in Cuba, the church that I founded and is the daughter of my spiritual entrails, was accompanied by the Moravian Church in North America. Why? Because the Synods of the two Provinces of that church assumed the very serious responsibility of, relying solely on human arguments, to invalidate what is ordered in the Word of God and reject what is established in our historical documents, in the pronouncements of the maximum pastors of our church, and in the resolution of our highest decisions-making body: the Synod of Unity and have abandoned the lofty principles that have governed the life of our church for more than 500 years and with that behavior have opened the doors of the Moravian Church in North America, and with this the doors of the World Moravian Unity, to the abomination of practices against nature reaching the point of enabling this abomination to be installed in the Holy Place through the admission of those who practice these practices in the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments, and although they were decisions of the synods currently the leaders of both provinces they ardently defend these erratic decisions, always on the basis of considerations that do not take into account the manifest will of God.

"Be holy because I am holy" the Lord tells us and his Word warns us that friendship with the world is enmity with Him and, clearly, the Moravian Church in North America has excluded holiness from its ecclesial agenda and with its openness to the practices of the world has antagonized God and has allied itself with the kingdom of darkness that tries to crush the Church of Christ and impede the advancement of his Kingdom, and its action has become a great stumbling stone for our whole Church generating disturbance and discomfort and putting in serious danger the unity of our ranks. The Lord said: "The stumbles must come, but !woe to him through whom the stumbling comes"" (Mt 18: 7)

Africa covers 70% of our membership; the Caribbean and Latin America 23%; North America and Europe are only 7%. What can lead a very small part of the Moravian church to think that arrogantly it can take with total impunity decisions that break the principles in which we believe and put the rest of the Unit in a critical situation? Is it because it has been one of the traditional centers of power in our church or because it has more financial resources than other parts of it? There will never be impunity for those who, being custodians of God's work, contaminate it and harm it with their actions. God cannot be mocked by anyone whatever their position and certainly not escape from their God cannot be mocked by anyone, whatever his position, and certainly cannot escape from his judgments, the leaders who lead their flocks down roads of perdition nor those

who must pronounce in these situations and with their silence become accomplices of the ignominy and "It is a horrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hb 10:31)

But in the middle of this valley of shadows of spiritual death our Good Shepherd with his rod and staff It will encourage us, and guide us and sustain us to those of us who rise up in defense of that principles that should never be broken and, like David, we will face the sling of our faith, our love and our hope to the Goliath of the prevarication and iniquity that threatens to destroy the unity of our Church and its fidelity to that vision of a life conformed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ with which it was founded in Kunvald on March 1 of 1457.

In those of us who rise up in this hour, in whom we raise our voices for what must be defended, is the sacred mission and is the hope that our Unitas Fratrum, our Moravian Church, will be shown to the world, wherever it is, as the faithful and worthy wife of our Lord and Savior, the Lamb who has conquered.

Term informing that in compliance with Article 395 of the Book of Order of the Moravian Church in Cuba, which states that: ***"It may be requested to the Provincial Board, in writing, permission to temporarily be absent from the ministerial exercise. The Provincial Board will evaluate this request jointly with the Pastoral Council. Permits may be granted for up to one year with the option to renew it annually if requested. Upon the expiration of the permit, the minister will be interviewed in search of a solution to his status."*** I have asked the Province Board of the Church in Cuba, and I have been granted permission, to leave my status, responsibilities and salary as an ordained minister of the Morava Unity during a time in which I will be in prayer for the Lord to guide the course of the World Moravian Church, and in particular of the Moravian Church in North America, and in which I will serve the Moravian Church in everything that is within my reach from the position of a member without ministerial rank. At the end of this time I will decide, under the guidance of the Lord, what course I will give to my ministry in the Church of Christ.

In the service of Christ, our Chief Elder,

Brother Armando Rusindo