

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you may be aware that the Concerned Moravians group published a paid advertisement in today's edition of the Winston-Salem Journal newspaper.

The PEC has chosen not to respond through the media, but within our church family.

As always, we ask that, if representatives from the media contact you, please refer them to the PEC Office. This helps us to have a common and consistent message.

We trust your judgement about how to communicate about this in your setting, including whether you make mention of this in announcements during worship this Sunday, or through other channels.

In August, we sent an update letter which summarizes where we are as a church in responding to our Synod's Resolutions 13 and 14. That may be helpful information, and we have attached it to this email.

Here are some brief points (similar to the August letter) which may also be useful should members of your congregation have questions or want to talk about the advertisement:

- In 2018, the Synod of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, by a 64% majority, decided:
 - Our unity in Christ is far greater than our differing views and understandings about homosexuality.
 - We welcome, respect and love one another in our differences.
 - We acknowledge, respect and allow members to express their differing viewpoints related to LGBTQ+ issues.
 - Pastors and church boards continue in their long-standing roles to prayerfully determine who may become a member of a congregation, and participate in the rites and sacraments (including marriage), and the purposes for which church facilities may be used.
- These decisions opened the possibility – not the requirement – that same-gender couples could be married by pastors and in congregations who so decide.

- We have differing understandings about human sexuality (and homosexuality) within our worldwide Moravian Church, the 53 congregations of our Province, and within many of our own families.
- We have been living into the actions of Synod over the past 18 months, with our congregations and pastors discussing and making decisions about what is best for their congregations.
- This has meant being open to and listening to one another, and sometimes engaging in difficult conversations about our strongly-held differences. For many this has been emotional, painful and challenging.
- We maintain our central focus on Jesus, the importance of the Bible in our lives and faith, our continual search for sound doctrine, and our commitment to mission service.
- We will continue - even in our differences – to remain in fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to engage in mission and service together in a world in need of Christ's love.

If you have questions, or need further information or support from the PEC, please be in touch.

On behalf of the PEC,

David