

CM Meeting
March 19, 2022
Bethabara Moravian Church

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. This meeting is to provide you some history and update on actions that have taken place and plans going forward
4. Meeting – 2:00pm – 3:00pm
5. Thank Bethabara Moravian – offering to Bethabara
6. Thank everyone for their support. This must be a movement by the lay people of all Christian denominations. Our ministers and seminaries have decided to take us on a different path.
7. At the 2018 Synod, the Southern Province PEC submitted a proposal that is in direct conflict with the SP Book of Order and the Unity's Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF), which became Resolution 14.
8. In June of 2018, the Southern Province issued the latest Book of Order (dated June 2018) The SP Book of Order now contains the COUF and the SP Book of Order (SP dated 2014). The SP Book of Order states that after a Synod that a committee is to be appointed to review the Book of Order and make changes based on Synod. Resolution 14 language was not changed in the Book of Order issued June 2018. The COUF which is part of the SP Book of Order states marriage between man and woman. (The book will be in Conflict with itself if SP part is changed)
9. Just a little history – Northern Province 2014 Synod passed a Resolution allowing same sex marriage and 2016 Unity Synod passed Resolution 44 advising the Northern Province they were not in compliance with the COUF. Then Southern Province Synod follows in 2018 with a conflicting Resolution but gave each church the option of same sex marriage.
10. June 2018 – CM started with 3 people starting to research what had happen at Synod and following a lead that the PEC was directing the minister of Bethania to shut down a member that had written the PEC a letter regarding Resolution 14. More about the Bethania man later. At this point I had heard about the Unity but never heard about the COUF. The COUF states rules and regulations of how each of the provinces are to operate and provides spiritual doctrines of the Unity.
11. We created a mission and a history statement in 2018 and listed on the CM Website:
 - a. Our Mission – ***Our mission is to follow Christ as our Chief Elder, restore unity with the world-wide Moravian Church, return the Southern Province to full compliance with the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum, uphold scripture as the sole standard of our doctrine and faith, and to love and serve all for whom Christ gave His life.***
 - b. History - ***The Concerned Moravians came to life from a shimmer of hope, and faith that we might be able to appeal to the leaders of our Church within the bounds of the Church's constitution, to correct unconstitutional resolutions passed at the 2018 Southern Province Synod. We seek to follow the***

foundational truths we know to be our Father's will, to use these Truths to guide our lives, to restore life and unity to His Church, and to serve God and His word, as individuals, families, and congregants, according to His purpose.

12. CM has been accused of splitting the church – people left 2018 Synod before it was over because actions taken. When other members heard about the resolution, people started leaving the Moravian church or moving their membership to another Moravian church that was against Resolution 14. Some Moravian minister in both Northern and Southern Province retired because of this. Some current ministers agree with us but will not speak publicly. We have been told that people voted at Synod on feelings not scripture. They did not want to hurt feelings of members.
13. We know that at the 2018 Synod scripture was argued about this proposal, so we took the path based on rules and regulations of the Southern Province and Unity.
14. In later summer of 2018, we have started gathering signatures of like-minded Moravians. The PEC heard of this effort and request a meeting. During this meeting the PEC asked that we stop obtaining signatures and they understand our concerns and would address them. We did not stop and gathered over 900 signatures, and it took the PEC until January of the next year to tell us they would not do anything. SIDE NOTE: During a meeting with the PEC – President David Guthrie stated that Resolution was not passed by a 2/3 majority and could have been stopped at Synod by someone appealing this proposal. (NEED to Determine how) It is interesting that a local Moravian minister host a website and FB page stated that this Resolution was passed by more than at 2/3 majority. And through research and the book Mountain of Despair, and statement by Guthrie it was not a 2/3 majority. Also, the website hosted by a Moravian Minister has listed Rev Worth Green's July 4, 2021 message where he talks a lot about the Concerned Moravians. I find it interesting that Worth Greens states that the CM has won!! He knows of only two churches that have agreed to marry same sex. I don't feel this is a game. On the Moravians Minister's FB page, followers have stated that before some of our meeting we have restricted who could attend. **NOT True**. People from the CM leadership went out and invited all that were protesting to come into the meeting.
15. So it was been almost 4 years since the 2018 Synod and CM group was started. What has happened:
 - a. We are self-funding and unlike posting made on the Moravian minister's FB page by his followers, we are not funded by the Southern Baptist and are not under their direction.
 - b. Our email and snail mail distribution has over 500 households listed and covers. People outside of North Carolina has requested to receive emails. We receive comments via mail and email offering prayers and financial support.
 - c. Lay members in individual churches stood up against Resolution 14. And through actions of church boards, Ministers, and church councils, action was taken to not marriage sex. Unfortunately, there was one Moravian congregation (Christ the King in Durham) that decided to leave the Southern Province. It was just announced that the congregation has purchased the property from the Southern Province.

- d. There were times when we did not know what to do and through prayer, I believe that God sent us encouragement through others. I personally believe that God sends solutions and directs us where we need to work and when we are ready to embrace His guidance.
 - e. Frist - Bishops from Czech Province and Cuba stood up and agreed with us. This began the movement outside of the Southern Province. Because of their standings the SP PEC told them to stay out of the SP Business.
 - f. Then came "Bethania Man" – Jules Modlinski
 - i. Did research – published several books – with submission from Moravians in the SP, Czech Moravians and African Moravians.
 - ii. One book has been translated into Czech and two books translated in Swahili
 - iii. Books have been disturbed through Africa and are being used in their seminaries.
 - g. Then came "Rev. Luke Bell"
 - i. He served as a Methodist and Moravian minister.
 - ii. He stood tall in the pulpit a spoke about there is only one way to salvation and that is through Jesus Christ. He preached this sermon because at the time a Moravian Minister say that there were many ways to salvation. He was called to the office of the PEC for standing up and speaking the truth.
 - iii. He said that he was led by God to come to a CM Worship Service and questioned God if he was supposed to attend the CM Worship as he was pulling into Bethabara parking lot
 - iv. He delivered a message at one of our CM Worship Services
 - v. He has been asked by Bethabara to lead them in Sunday Worship Service through Easter.
 - vi. He has a firm belief and stand on God's Holy Word and stands tall to deliver this from the pulpit.
 - h. Then came Rev. Sanette Fleming – Northern Province – Nazareth, PA. She and her husband co-pastor a Moravian Church together. She is from Jamaica and attend Moravian seminary. In seminary she expressed her opinion regarding that the Bible is Essential and God is "HE". She got major push back from professors. There was an attempt to push her out of seminary. She asked to come a lead us in a worship service which was cancel due to her family getting COVID. She still wants to arrange a time she can come. Due to her publicly standing up and wanting to start a CM group in the Northern Province, she has come under great persecution. Please keep her in your prayers.
16. Now 2022 Synod
- a. Synod committee –
 - i. Theme – "In the Faith we Travel by, God is in the other place" not sure why this is being used and it might be something good, but when I see this and what I have seen in the leadership of the Moravian church --- I paused ... I feel "God is with Us" better than He is in other place.

- b. We would encourage all delegates you know to read “Mountain of Despair” to learn from what happened at 2018 Synod so that the same does not occur in June 2022 Synod.
- c. Delegates were asked to sign a Covenant before attending Synod – asking them to follow the SP Book of Order and the COUP --- I sent an email to Chris Thorne asking by what authority (rules and regulations) did they have to do this. He advised that the Synod planning committee asked for this and the PEC Approved. Interesting that PEC is asking delegates to abide by the COUP and SP Book of order at the 2022 Synod but they did not with their proposal in 2018 which became Resolution 14.
- d. Several Proposal are being writing now
 - i. Bible is Essential – **give example of burning bible and pilot**
 - ii. Overturn Resolution 14
 - iii. Requiring Southern Province to be in compliance with COUF
 - iv. Non-delegates proposals must be submitted to the PEC by March 31. After that date any proposal must be submitted by delegates during Synod Business meeting.

17. Summary –

- a. I do not feel that 2022 Synod will bring the Southern Province back into compliance with the COUF
- b. I feel that only the UNITY Synod of 2023 can fix both the Northern and Southern province non-compliance.
- c. What can be done by lay people --- stand up and fight to bring your congregation back --- Bible is Essential, Marriage is between a man and woman. Boards make sure that the minister is teaching from the Holy Word. Also, you need to study the new catechism book and determine if you want this to be used in your congregation. We have been told that several churches and ministers are refusing to use the new catechism.
- d. This small group has been able to let the world know that we are standing up for God’s Word. You might not see it in this room, but there are thousands of other Moravians that believe as we do.

18. Announce Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson – Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 11:00am-12:00n (Topic: A Discussion About the Essential Word of God)

19. Thanks – any questions or comments.

20. Rev. Luke Bell - Prayer