

Heather Vacek, Th.D.
Dean
Moravian Theological Seminary
Bahnson Center
1200 Main Street
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June 19, 2023

Dear Dean Vacek:

It has come to my attention that Moravian Theological Seminary had a participatory role at the Pride-sponsored event held in Easton, Pennsylvania, on June 10, 2023. The items displayed at the Seminary table clearly and loudly showed support for the purpose of this event: advancing the cause of homosexuality, a behavior that is sinful, disordered, abominable, deviant, and is to be avoided. Such a sponsorship by the Seminary at a time when the Moravian Church in America is undergoing a significant decline in church membership questions the logic of this form of ecclesial irrationality. Surely, Dean Vacek, you were aware of the Seminary's participation in this public event.

As a lay member of the Moravian Church in America's Southern Province, and a member of the Concerned Moravians, I was astonished to view a student/faculty member wear a shirt with the wording: "Queer & Tired," while sitting at the Seminary display. It would appear to me that such boldness reflects what is being taught at your institution relative to homosexuality: "garbage theology!" I am sure you are aware of the students at your alma mater, Duke University School of Divinity, when they recently held a Pride worship service, defiantly praying to their "Queer God." These exhibitions of unfledged activism question the direction of an academic program designed to prepare candidates for clergy membership.

Genderless sexual intimacy is harmful to the soul; but then, so are many other sins. Elevating this sinful behavior to a solemn marriage ceremony in a church setting is deeply troubling. Isolating and singling out this particular sinful behavior, amongst many others, while recognizing its psychosis of willful continuity, illuminates the arrogance and hauteur of the Moravian Church in America. Same-sex marriage is, indeed, a church doctrine taken "a bridge too far." It is truly an American Moravian Church doctrinal "faux pas!"

As you know, it is Biblically clear and explicit: same-gender sexual behavior is abominable. So why is the Moravian Church in America teaching otherwise?

Quoting Leviticus 18:22; 20:13, and Romans 1:26-27 can be annoying to advocates of homosexual behavior, but it is the “Law of God.” It is, perhaps, unpleasant to active participants or those who support the practice of homosexual behavior; but the Latin dictum’s message says it all: “duro lex sed lex” (The law is hard, but it is the law!). This may be difficult to accept for those clergy and other church officials and educators who erroneously maintain that the love expressed in the New Testament overrides the laws of the Old Testament. It does not!

Flippant language promoting love for the sinner, but not the sin, as seminary-trained clergy are wont to do, does not negate the sinfulness of homosexual behavior. It remains an abominable offense against God.

We modern-day Christians tend to forget that the “Old Testament” was Scripture to Jesus. As you know and most likely teach at the Seminary, in Matthew 5: 17-18, Jesus says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” If Jesus felt obligated to the mandates of the “law,” why shouldn’t we?

The worldwide Moravian opposition to sexual immorality is real and it is vast. It recognizes homosexuality as morally wrong and reprobate in its intentions. It is my personal belief that the majority of American Moravians, the so-called “pew dwellers,” are also opposed to the action taken by the American Moravian Church hierarchy, institutions, and complicit clergy. However, their silence, for whatever reason, remains a mystery.

I trust, Dean Vacek, that you will lead your educational institution to Biblical truths, as well as traditional Moravian beliefs and practices.

Sincerely,

Jules Modlinski, Ph.D.
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