

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution G-1 to the 66th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton Anglican-Moravian Ecumenical Relations

It will be moved and seconded:

That this Synod request the Bishop to authorize the creation of a trilateral 'Ecumenical Coordinating Commission' between the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, the Alberta and the Territories Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Canadian District of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in North America, with a mandate to:

- 1) develop a 'Local Trilateral Covenant for Shared Ministry and Mission' between identified trios of Anglican, Lutheran, and Moravian congregations in geographical proximity to one another, outlining ways in which these partner congregations would agree to pray and work and witness together in their neighbourhoods to as full an extent as possible;
- 2) encourage the national governing bodies of these three churches to expeditiously pursue further steps towards their full ecclesial communion in Canada building on the model of existing covenant partnerships and full communion relationships between these churches in the UK and US.

Background

Like the Anglican Church, the Moravian Church has roots in the central European reforming movements in the catholic Church of the 15th century (and earlier). Also like the Anglican tradition, it is a church that sought to retain the ancient common tradition of the early Church, a strong sacramental character, and an episcopal polity, while also embracing the major theological impulses of the 16th century Reformation. Though it has endured significant persecution during its history, its wide involvement in missionary activity during the 18th and 19th centuries mean that today it is a global church with representation in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. One of the great gifts of this expression of Church has always been its special emphasis on seeking Christian unity for the sake of a more authentic witness to the Gospel.

Anglicans and Moravians have been involved in partnerships and ecumenical conversations for over two hundred years. This has been especially so recently with regard to three of our fellow Provinces of the Anglican Communion. In Tanzania, where the largest concentration of Moravians now lives, the two churches have enjoyed very close partnerships for many years. In 1995, on the basis of close collaboration in local communities as well as ongoing dialogue on matters of faith and order, the Church of England and the Moravian Church in Great Britain mutually recognized one another as churches sharing in the apostolic faith. In the United States, the Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church in North America went a step further to establish a relationship of full communion in 2010 as a result of their mutual recognition of one another's

faith, sacraments, and ministers (including presbyters and bishops). A similar relationship of full communion with the Moravian Church in North America has existed since 2000 with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which is itself a church which the Anglican Church of Canada enjoys full communion relations with as of 2019.

In Canada, Moravian congregations exist in three Provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and Alberta. There are eight congregationally organized Moravian ministries in Alberta, and six of these are in the Edmonton and surrounding areas. Positive contacts and areas of cooperation have existed between Anglican parishes and Moravian Congregations for decades, and have been increasing in recent years. This includes participation in one another's synodical gatherings, pulpit exchanges by clergy, common prayer services during the seasons of Lent or Advent, shared neighbourhood service and outreach projects, joint youth and young adult ministries of various kinds, and collaborative ministry among the LGBTQ2SIA community. In many cases these efforts have also included our full communion partners in Alberta and the Territories Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, who are also pursuing deeper relationship with the Moravian churches in Alberta.

Resolution L-1 to the 66th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton

Canon 5 – Purchase and Sale of Property

It will be moved and seconded:

That Canon 5.142 be amended by:

- 1) making the current canon section 5.142(a);
- 2) inserting “Council; and”; at the end of section 5.142(a) and
- 3) adding a new section 5.142(b) as follows:

(b) no real property shall be sold by a Parish without the approval in writing of the Bishop and the Executive Council.

The new canon will read:

- 5.142 (a) no real property shall be purchased for the use of a Parish, and no debt shall be incurred therefore, without the approval in writing of the Bishop and the Executive Council; and
- (b) no real property shall be sold by a Parish without the approval in writing of the Bishop and the Executive Council.

Background

As part of the review of the Holy Trinity Riverbend project, it was determined that the Canons were deficient as to the approval process for the sale of real property by a parish. Canon 5.142 covered purchase of land for use of a parish, but not sale.

The purpose of the amendment is to add a missing word in subparagraph (a), and to also break down the Canon into two subparagraphs for the purposes of making the addition as to approval of sale of real property by a parish.