



Unity Synod September 4th – 10th, 2023.

Resolutions and reports passed and accepted by the Unity Synod.

Resolutions

Resolution 1. South Asia Mission Area being granted the status as Mission Province.

Passed and accepted per acclamation.

Resolution 2. Moravian Church Foundation Funding.

- Whereas Proposal US2023.4.13 proposed a significant shift in the practice of accepting, assessing and providing funding by the MCF for various Moravian projects based on an established order of priority, and
- Whereas the current practice has been in place for many years and
- Whereas there has not been any significant or substantial complaint or criticism of the MCF's handling of this activity, and
- Whereas the MCF has expressed their sentiments to the Finance Committee, which notes,
 - a) It is surprised and was not informed about the said proposal, and
 - b) It was not given the opportunity to discuss, comment or advise, and
 - c) There is no need for the proposed change of the structure, and
 - d) It is unclear of the background of this proposal and the problem it is intended to solve, and
 - e) If accepted, the consequences for the MCF are unknown, unclear and could potentially have negative legal and governance reaction from stakeholders, and
- Be it resolved that this proposal be rejected by this Synod, and
- Be it further resolved that the MCF and the Unity Executive use the intersynodal period to consider if any proactive changes are needed and the impacts.

Resolution 3. Members of Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) 2024-2030:

Africa Region

- Samwel Kabigi, MCST
- Denver Graumann, South Africa
- Emmanuel Mtunda, Tanzania West

America Region

- John D. Rights, MCSP
- Heather Vacek, MCNP

Caribbean and West Indies

- Adrian Schmith EWI
- Freddie Mill Müller, Nicaragua

Europe Region

- Philip Cooper, British Province
- Erdmute Frank, ECP

Resolution 4. Members of Unity Mission and Development (UNDB) elected:

Africa Region

- Lizwi Mtumtum, MC South Africa
- Dick Mlimuka, MCWT
- William Sungura, MCLT
- Emeliana Kasebele, MCET

America Region

- Andrew Craver, America North Province

Caribbean and West Indies

- Doreen Nelson, Guyana
- Marscha Edward Brown, Jamaica

Europe Region

- Peter Krasny, CZ UP

Resolution 5. The Mission Area of Ruvuma and Njombe becoming a Mission Province.

- Whereas the Moravian Church Mission Area of Ruvuma and Njombe was designated in 2006, and
- Whereas the Mission has been in place and seen considerable development in number of pastors and members from five pastors and 300 church members, and
- Whereas to date thus has developed to 20 pastors and 13 evangelists, with 31 congregations and over two thousand four hundred and fifty (2,450) members, and
- Whereas they have been able to elect mission area board and conduct church conference for the last eight years, and
- Whereas they are now able to pay salaries to the pastors and evangelists for four years, and
- Whereas the mission run two vocational training colleges, be it
- Resolved that the Mission Area be considered to become Mission Province of Ruvuma and Njombe in Tanzania.

Resolution 6. The Iringa Mission Area becoming a Mission Province.

- Whereas the Moravian Church Iringa Mission Area, Tanzania was designated as a Mission Area in 2012 under the supervision of the Moravian Church Tanzania, Southwestern Province, and
- Whereas the performance of Iringa Mission Area has been magnified in terms of building infrastructure for main office and Congregations, and
- Whereas the said Mission Area has been able to collect finances for pastors' emoluments including supporting all services required by congregations in its area, and
- Whereas the mission has been in place and seen considerable development in number of 31 pastors 31 (26 male and 5 female), 6 evangelists (4 male and 2 female), counting a total of more than 3075 members in 26 congregations, be it

- Resolved that the Iringa Mission Area is given the status of a Mission Province.

Resolution 7. Members of MCF Board, retirement age.

- Whereas a MCF Letter received, proposed to amend the retirement age for members of MCF in COUF #550.e to allow completion of the term when members are appointed.
- Be it resolved that US2023 recommends that MCF consider the implementation of a two-term limit of a 7-year term and
- Be it further resolved that US2023 recommends that #550.e be changed to read, "A candidate shall not be eligible for appointment for the MCF Board if the candidate will not be able to serve at least 4 years before reaching the retirement age of 70 years."

Resolution 8. (COUF), Replacement of non-racist formulation.

- Whereas the worldwide Moravian Church regards all who are one in the Lord Jesus as wanted, loved and equal by God so that origin, gender, and nationality are irrelevant (cf. COUF #7) and
- Whereas in view of the mission history and current tendencies in some of our societies it is necessary to deal with the topic of racism and discrimination and
- Whereas the wording, although always intended to be positive in the above paragraphs, might have a racist effect and
- Whereas it is scientifically proven that there are no different human races
- Be it resolved that these suggested changed be considered for paragraphs 201, 214, 259 and 704 of the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF) is replaced by non-racist formulation:

#201. The Provinces of the Unitas Fratrum are found in many areas of the world and are among many peoples and of many tongues.

#214. Each Province works for the extension of the Kingdom of God in its own area and wherever possible among peoples, nations, or language groups of the majority of the members of the province concerned.

#259. To foster a common responsibility in regard to the problems of contemporary life and to further a spirit of mutual understanding and peace among the nations and peoples.

#704. If a call of the Lord is heard by any Province to carry the Gospel to people who do not belong to a nation or language group of the majority of its members, it shall be free to answer it with its own personnel and resources and shall decide upon the policies for the organisation and administration of the new churches in accordance with the Church Order of the Unity.

- Be it further resolved that Unity Synod 2023 strongly urges the Unity Board to commission a revision of COUF in order to replace words and phrases deemed patronizing, discriminatory, or otherwise insulting with words and phrases that are inclusive.
- Be it further resolved that the proposed revision be presented to Unity Synod 2030 for ratification.

Resolution 9. Unity Youth Committee (UYC) Composition, Terms of Office. (COUF)

- Whereas the Unity Youth Committee consisting of 6 members, presently is up for election every 2 or 4 years, depending on the decisions of the regions or Unity Board, and
- Whereas COUF mentions that the UYC members are elected by Unity Synod, and
- Whereas the Unity Board is acting on behalf of the Unity Synod in the inter-synodal period,
- Be it resolved that the Unity Synod 2023, amend COUF, changing the term of the service

of UYC members to 7 years in which way the term of election for the UYC Board members falls in line with the general Unity Committee structures:

The UYC will consist of the following:

2 members from the African Region, (1 from the Southern and 1 from the Eastern part of the region)

2 members from the Caribbean/Latin American Region, (1 from the Caribbean and 1 from the Latin American side, respectively),

1 member from North American Region, and

1 member from the European Region,

2 Ex-officials: Unity Youth Desk Coordinator and Unity Board Administrator.

The UYC can call on advisor/s to help with planning the Unity Youth Tours/Conferences and other activities, that they see fit. These advisor/s will have no voting rights.

Elections will be conducted at Unity Synod upon the recommendations of the Regions of the Unity, preferably through the Unity Youth Region Conferences. These names of elected candidate/s are forwarded to the Unity Board before the Unity Synod.

A UYC member needs to be between 22 and 33 years of age, when elected. UYC members can be re-elected to serve, but upon re-election, they should not be older than 33 years of age, when they start their 2nd term. This should be taken into consideration when the nomination is made of the candidate, as their service only begins the following year after the Unity Synod.

In the event of a vacancy occurring during the inter-synodal period the position will be filled with a nomination from the Unity Executive Committee.

At the first meeting of the UYC after Unity Synod, the committee will constitute itself by electing among the UYC members, a convener/chairperson and secretary, meeting procedures and a vision for the new inter-synodal period.

Resolution 10. Change of The Quorum for Unity Board Mail Vote. (COUF).

- Whereas the worldwide Unity is growing, as is the number of its Provinces, and so does the number of Unity Board members, and
- Whereas the present quorum required before a Unity Board mail vote can be considered complete (that is, nine members of the Unity Board) does not consider the growing number of Unity Board members,
- Be it resolved that the quorum for Unity Board email vote be changed from “nine members of the Unity Board” to “a simple majority”, i.e. that #352 of the COUF be amended as in the wording below:

Where necessary, the Unity Board will conduct its voting by digital communication or any other secure, efficient manner. This vote shall, in each case, reflect the opinion of the Provincial Board which each member represents. After one month from the date the communication was sent, the President is authorized to count and announce the vote. A quorum of half of the persons eligible to vote is required before a digital vote process can be considered bona fide and complete.

Alternatively, a special meeting of the Unity Board may be convened virtually to facilitate the voting process. The applicable quorum rules will be strictly applied for this virtual meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given two weeks in advance of the meeting date.

Resolution 11. The use of the term “evangelical” and any other term, in combination with the name “Moravian church”.

- Whereas naming of churches has been a major cause of disruptions and divisions
- Be it resolved that the Unity Synod 2023 urges Provincial Boards to be careful in its

consideration of naming new congregations and new forms of ministries to avoid disruptions in an effort to maintain Worldwide identity and connection to the Unitas Fratrum.

Resolution 12. Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF)

- Whereas the Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF) Steering Committee has met and discussed the further development of the kind and scope of action of MUCHF,
- Be it resolved that the Steering Committee be changed to the Board of MUCHF with representatives from the four regions of the Unity: Africa, America, Caribbean & Latin America, and Europe. There will be two representatives per region of the Unity.

Elections will be conducted at Unity Synod upon the recommendations of the Regions of the Unity. These names of elected candidate/s are forwarded to the Unity Board before the Unity Synod.

Be it further resolved that the Board of MUCHF explore the implications of becoming a Unity Undertaking and report to the Unity Board at the earliest opportunity. The Unity Board is authorized to ratify the decision.

And whereas the Steering Committee has developed a detailed plan of action to function as a Board of MUCHF,

Be it resolved that the Board of MUCHF continue to follow through with their plan of action and report regularly to the Unity Executive Committee.

Resolution 13. Unity Women's Desk.

- Whereas the Unity Women's Desk (UWD) is doing very valuable work with the Unity among women, and
- Whereas the Unity Board acknowledges the value of the work of the UWD, and
- Whereas the UWD is part of the Unity and has celebrated 10 years anniversary, and
- Whereas there is a mutual desire between the Unity Board and UWD Advisory Board to strengthen the considerable and commendable work already being done by the UWD, and
- Whereas the UWD has a structure unusual to the Unity that could be understood to be a parallel structure and there is a desire to integrate the UWD with the Unity's confessional system.

Be it resolved that COUF is amended to:

Expand the advisory board to 8 members, composed of:

- o 4 regional reps nominated by Unity Board.
- o 3 representatives nominated by Advisory Board.
- o The Unity Women's Desk Coordinator
- Be it further resolved that elections for the four regional representatives will be conducted at Unity Board or at Unity Synod. The candidates should meet the eligibility requirements of the UWD programme Manual. The three reps nominated by the advisory board will be forward to the Unity Board or Unity Synod.

In the event of a vacancy occurring during the inter-synodal period, the position will be filled by nomination from the Unity Board.

- Be it further resolved that the Advisory Board have responsibility for appointing the program coordinators to be ratified by regions.
- Be it further resolved that a member of the UEC will attend an Advisory Board meeting each year and
- Be it further resolved that the UEC, UBA and Designated Advisory Board members meet

- once every two years helping to develop clear reporting structures back to Unity Board.
- Be it further resolved the Advisory Board has the authority to revise the Program Manual and NC 501 (C)(3) bylaws as long as they are completely in compliance with COUF. The bylaws will be submitted to the UBA annually for review (by 15 July) along with UWD annual report and financial statement.

Resolution 14. The Church as a Voice in National Political Contexts.

- Whereas Scripture calls us to give visible and vocal witness (Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 25:31-44) which includes addressing public matters in times of crisis, political unrest, and injustice, and whenever possible speaking as one voice to the world through the Unity Board; and
- Whereas several Provinces belong to ecumenical partnerships that readily make important public statements in times of crisis, unrest, or injustice on behalf of their partner communions – but at times these statements are not effectively disseminated through Provincial areas where the statements are relevant; and
- Whereas at other times there are public matters that impact one or more Provincial areas but where public statements may not be relevant for other Provincial areas, and the Provincial leadership of that area discerns a prophetic responsibility to speak up and give public witness, but other Provincial areas do not feel compelled to do the same; and
- Whereas when matters impact a specific Provincial area, it is more effective to have statements coming from the Provincial leadership of the area, the Unity Board should be made aware of such public statements in order to keep the Unity Board informed.
- Be it further resolved that the Unity Synod 2023 affirms our shared responsibility to be visible and vocal in the public arena in times of crisis, unrest, and injustice when a message of compassion is needed; and
- Be it further resolved, for Provinces that are partners with ecumenical bodies (i.e., World Council of Churches, or National Council of Churches, et al) that statements developed by these ecumenical bodies to address a matter of public crisis, political unrest, or injustice that the Provincial leadership place a high priority in sharing these messages to their areas as efficiently as possible while also informing the Unity Board when statements are being shared; and
- Be it further resolved that 2023 Synod encourage Provincial leadership to work with the Unity Board to form and share statements where there is a common spirit of concern to address a given crisis or matter of unrest or injustice; and finally
- Be it further resolved that witness in a given Provincial area should come through public statements at the Provincial leadership level, the 2023 Synod calls upon Provincial Leadership in each Province to be prepared to share statements of encouragement and give public witness to faith, love, and hope when public crises arise (i.e., natural disaster, war, and political unrest) to remind our members, congregations and the public that “Love never gives up; and its hope, faith, and patience never fail.” (1 Corinthians 13:7 Good News Version).

Resolution 15. Performance of the Unity Executive Committee (UEC).

- Whereas the members of the UEC are elected Regional Representatives of Unity Provinces; and
- Whereas the UEC in absence of the Unity Synod and the Unity Board, makes decisions on behalf of the Unity; and

- Be it resolved that information that goes to the UBA, to carry out actions on behalf of the UEC, the Regional Representative from where the information comes must be informed likewise.
- Be it resolved that when decisions are taken on behalf of the UEC, the Regional Representative where the decision taken will be executed, he/she must be informed of the decision.

Resolution 16. Representation at the Unity Synod (that COUF #265 remains in place until 2030).

- Whereas the original proposal points to the ideal situation, where no gender mandate for election to a leadership role is needed.
- Whereas a gender mandate can make the woman elected question her true welcome around the table. A required mandate for provinces to elect representatives based on gender may seem to fail to acknowledge the diverse talents, abilities, and spiritual callings that both men and women possess.
- Whereas emphasizing merit-based selection should promote a more inclusive environment where individuals are recognized and valued for their expertise and gifts, yet we find this does not always happen.
- Be it resolved that the mandate for gender inclusion #265(i) be given continued force.
- Be it further resolved that Unity Synod 2030 review the mandate to determine if our Unity has grown to a place where the mandate can be rescinded for the following inter-synodal period following Unity Synod 2030.
- Be it further resolved that following Unity Synod 2030, Provincial Synods advocate for the election of capable individuals based on merit and their demonstrated commitment to answering God's calling and phase out the practice of mandated gender representation with the hope that we should see a positive increase of election of women to places of leadership throughout the Provinces of our Unity.
- Be it further resolved that, Provinces should be encouraged to seek representation from individuals, who possess the necessary skills and genuine desire to serve and represent the Provinces at Unity Synod.

Resolution 17. Arrears of Assessment.

- Whereas the Finance Committee has given this matter serious consideration, and
- Whereas the Committee thanked those Provinces that were up to date with their payment, and
- Whereas the committee noted that encouragement is the preferred vehicle rather than exclusion or negation consequences. Money is a challenge and without the income it will be difficult to administer the development fund or grants other needy projects, and
- Whereas the information noted in the spreadsheet-Provincial arrears was reviewed.

The Finance Committee proposed the following:

- Be it resolved that each Province and The Unity Board Administrator agree on a payment plan towards liquidation of their arrears and that the province continue to pay current assessment to the Unity Board Administrator.
- Be it further resolved that the Unity Board Administrator provide regular invoices to each province and follow-up as necessary to obtain payments.
- Be it further resolved that each province add income generation to their business agenda and seek to improve their financial situation.

Resolution 18. Unity Fund Budget Financial Statement.

Consistency of Unity Statistics

- Whereas there are inconsistencies in the reporting of statistics on the Unity, and
- Whereas these inconsistencies tend to affect the reliability of Unity data, and
- Whereas there is a challenge in assimilating and presenting inconsistent data, and
- Whereas these challenges were highlighted in the Unity Budget 2017-2023-comments,
- Be it resolved that the Unity Board develops a format to achieve consistency of Unity data, for example:
 - a. Consistent concept of membership
 - b. Consistent counting of members (communicant and otherwise)
 - c. Consistent reporting of "Congregation" in relation to "Parish",
- Be it further resolved that this new format is circulated and explained to all Provinces, and
- Be it further resolved that all Provinces be mandated to use this new format for future reporting, and
- Be it further resolved that the Unity mandates the frequency of which Statistical Surveys are performed. Some surveys are annually and every four years.

Resolution 19. Prospective Mission Area Application: Bolivia.

- Whereas the congregations of Boliva have actively advanced the mission of our Chief Elder in their region, and
- Whereas the Moravian congregation in Bolivia has requested to become a member of the Unitas Fratrum as a Prospective Mission Area, and
- Whereas Unity Synod is charged with ratifying developmental classifications proposals (COUF #201).
- Be it resolved that Moravian congregations in Bolivia receive the designation of Prospective Mission Area, and
- Be it further resolved that the Unity Board assign a supervising administration to partner with the Moravian siblings in Bolivia.

Resolution 20. Ethical Guidelines.

Ethical Guidelines:

- Whereas the Unity at times experience situations in provinces that go from tension within the provinces to become a conflict, and
- Whereas the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) has noticed the need for a set of ethical guidelines for governance in the Moravian Church, and
- Whereas the Unity Synod has engaged in a discussion on the topic.
- Be it resolved that the Unity Synod agrees on a set of ethical guidelines for governance in the Moravian Church, and
- Be further resolved that the Unity Synod work from the text offered to the Unity Synod by UCOT:

Ethical guidelines for governance in the Moravian Church

 - o Directed at all brothers and sisters involved in church governance, whether provincial synods, Unity synods, Provincial Boards, local Church Boards, other church boards and bodies with executive responsibilities, serving the Moravian Church under the authority of the Chief Elder.
 - o All decisions of the authorities in the Moravian Church should

- i. be made, bearing in mind the wellbeing of the church of Christ in the Unity. *(GoU #1 and #2),
- ii. abide by the decisions made by the Unity Synod and the Provincial synods. (COUF #413),
- iii. be led by the effort to maintain the unity of the Moravian Church (GoU #6),
- iv. strive to settle differences with others in a Christian manner amicably, if necessary, with mediation, and, if at all possible, avoid resort to a court of law.

*Appendix: refer to Section 1 Part 1: #1 and #2 of the Unity Grounds of COUF.

Resolution 21. Pilot Project for Contextual Theology.

- Whereas Resolution 54 of US2016 initiated a process by which to develop contextual theological programs, and
- Whereas various complications prevented the implementation of US2016 Resolution 54, and
- Whereas the Unity does not yet have Moravian Contextual theology in several provinces around the Unity, and
- Whereas there are few opportunities to learn and do research on contextual theologies in the Unity,
- Be it resolved that the Unity Committee on Theology shall establish a committee to review the advice and objectives of US2016 Resolution 54 in order to develop a Unity initiative that would establish contextual theological programs throughout the Unitas Fratrum.

Resolution 22. Editorial committee for Our Moravian Treasures.

- Whereas the present edition of the book (Our Moravian Treasures) is deemed good, and is being widely used in educating Moravians around the world in the Moravian tradition and identity, and
- Whereas the book is offering descriptions of many of the historical and contemporary treasures and traditions of the Moravian Church, relevant to the Worldwide Unity, and
- Whereas the book is not fully describing the width of traditions, treasures and practices used in the Worldwide Moravian Church, and
- Whereas it is important to reflect traditions and treasures having developed in the 19th and 20th century in parts of the Unity situated in a multitude of provinces around the world.
- Be it resolved that a group of Moravians is tasked with making a new additional book, under the theme "Our Hidden Moravian Treasures", taking into consideration the above-mentioned concerns, and
- Be it further resolved that the Unity Board coordinates a group of Moravians from across the Unity, and
- Be it further resolved that each Province is asked to find a person, who can contribute to the new book, and
- Be it further resolved that UCOT establishes an editorial committee, with representatives from all four regions tasked with collecting articles and other forms of responses already described and on new subjects, being free to include sisters and brothers.

Resolution 23. Unitas Fratrum Apologetic Efforts for its Complicity in the Institution of Slavery.

- Whereas the Body of Christ is not just a body that exists at any one time; it exists across history and we therefore share the shame and the sinfulness of our predecessors, and part of what we can do, with them and for them in the Body of Christ, is prayerful

- acknowledgment of the failure that is part of us, not just of some distant “them”; (The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Prof. Rowan Williams), and
- Whereas the Unitas Fratrum does seek to “Oppose any discrimination in our midst because of ethnic origin, sex, or any social standing, and we regard it as a commandment of the Lord to bear public witness to the world and to demonstrate by word and deed that we are [siblings] in Christ” (COUF #7), and
 - Whereas the Moravian Church and its members were directly involved in the ownership of enslaved people and was complicit in the commodification of hatefully discriminate subservience throughout the Unity; and
 - Whereas the Unitas Fratrum has yet to apologize for this complicity in sustaining and profiting from the system of slavery.
 - Be it resolved that the Unity Synod of the Unitas Fratrum does now sincerely, and with the deepest regret, apologize to all past and every present descendant of enslaved people for our church’s complicity in sustaining and murderously profiteering from all violence and every system of slavery in which our members and organizations participated; and
 - Whereas no measure of any language could begin to replace the desolation to humanity in the enterprise of human bodies, of mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends and family, or any relation or community, and
 - Whereas the generational equity of slavery and the value that enslaved persons’ labour through the violent desecration of humanity and imago dei can be quantifiably extrapolated in the modern Unitas Fratrum.
 - Be it resolved that the Unity affirms its commitment to racial reconciliation, standing against modern forms of slavery and the elimination of every form of exploitation, and
 - Be it further resolved that the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) and any other agency shall research, identify, and report the modern tangible and financial benefits of slavery in each of the Unity regions to US2030, and
 - Be it further resolved that each Regional Representative on the Unity Executive Committee shall identify, to be recorded within the Unity Board President’s report each Unity Synod, at least two initiatives based in their regions which actively seek to fulfil antiracists reparations, and
 - Be it finally resolved that the first Sunday in February be designated an annual prayer day on which all Moravian ministries and Unity Provinces are encouraged to consider how their communities have been affected by slavery and to donate.

Resolution 24. Unity Mission Agreement.

- Whereas the Unity Mission Conference 2017 in Cape Town, put together a Unity Mission Agreement (UMA), and
- Whereas this document is important for the Moravian Church in expressing our understanding of mission in the 21st century, and
- Whereas it is important that this document is understood as one of the important markers of Moravian identity and
- Whereas UMA will be helping the Moravian Church to articulate its calling to mission,
- Be it resolved that the Unity Mission Agreement be included in COUF as a document of importance to the worldwide Unity.
- Be it further resolved that the UMA is translated into Spanish, Swahili, German a.o. languages.

Resolution 25. Haiti.

- Whereas the committee acknowledges that we have not received a dedicated report from Haiti but has thoroughly examined the section within Jamaica's report. The concerning socio-political and economic conditions in Haiti, as outlined in the report, undoubtedly has a grave impact on the church. In light of these circumstances,
- Be it resolved: The committee proposed that Haiti be respectfully requested to provide the Unity Board with a comprehensive report highlighting the current status of the Moravian Church in Haiti, including whether there is still an active Moravian Church presence, the challenges it faces, and its ongoing activities.
- Be it further resolved that the Unity Board convenes a meeting with the Supervising Provinces and representatives from Haiti to examine the challenges and offer advice on the way forward.

Resolution 26. D. R. Congo Unity Province concerning Angola.

- Whereas the Faith, Order, and Ecumenical Relations committee has reviewed the report, and
- Whereas, at this stage, there is not sufficient information available to make a well-informed decision regarding the creation of the mission area in the district of Lualaba in Kolwezi. We commend them for expressing this vision, and we eagerly hope to see it fulfilled in the future, and
- Whereas the committee noted the reference to Unity Synod 2016 on Angola in the report. However, no official resolution was taken on the topic, and
- Whereas Angola is still being considered as a prospective mission area but is being supervised by the Unity Board,
- Be it resolved that the Unity Board is asked to make a definitive decision on who would be supervising Angola, should it become a mission area.

Resolution 27. Unity Budget expenditures.

	USD p.a. 2024-2030	
Unity Office	10000	70000
Unity Staff	37000	259000
Unity Synod	44000	308000
Unity Fund	22000	154000
Star Mountain	40000	280000
Unity Archives	95000	665000
UMDF	110000	770000
UCOT	10000	70000
Unity Women	15000	105000
Unity Youth	15000	105000
UYT 2025 and 2028	20000	140000
MUCHF	1000	7000
MUDRF	1000	7000
Mission Conference	10000	70000
Archivist Committee	1000	7000
	431000	3017000

**Resolution 28. Unity Mission and Development Fund budget, expenditures and income.
Annual budget 2024-2030**

Albania	5000
Angola	3000
Bangladesh	3000
Belize	3000
Bolivia	2000
Brazil	1000
Burundi	4000
Central South Tanzania	4000
Congo Eastern	3000
Cuba	3000
Garifuna, Honduras	7000
French Guyana	1000
Haiti	7000
Iringa, Tanzania	3000
Kenya	4000
Latvia	0
Mozambique	2000
Myanmar	4000
Ruvuma Njombe	3000
Peru	5000
Rwanda	4000
Sierra Leone	1000
South Asia	14000
Star Mountain Rehab. Ctr	30000
Uganda	4000
Zanzibar	3000
Zimbabwe	1000
South Central Tanzania	3000
Total Mission Areas/Prov.	127000
UB Discretionary	40000
Projects by UMDB	28500
Guyana Radio project	1500
New Mission areas	16000
Total expenditure annually	213000

Income

Available from Unity	110000
Income from investment/Interest	24000
Available from MCF	14000
Expected income from Mission Agencies:	
BDM	15000
HMH	15000
ZZG	10000
BMB	5000

NABWM	15000
Mission 21	5000
Total income annually	213000

Resolution 29. Unity Budget Income
Income budget Unity Fund 2024-
2030

Province	%	USD p.a.
Alaska	2	8620
America North	20,6	88786
America South	13,5	58185
Britain	10,5	45255
Burundi	0,5	2155
Congo UP	0,5	2155
Costa Rica	0,5	2155
Cuba	0,5	2155
Czech UP	1,5	6465
Czech MP	0,7	3017
Eastern West Indies	3,2	13792
European Continental	18,4	79304
Guyana	1	4300
Honduras UP	1	4300
Honduras MP	0,5	2155
Jamaica	2,4	10775
Labrador	1	4300
Malawi	0,2	862
Nicaragua	1,5	6465
South Africa	4,5	19395
Suriname	3	12930
Tanzania Eastern	1,4	6034
Tanzania L. Tanganyika	0,5	2155
Tanzania Mbozi	1	4300
Tanzania Northern	0,5	2155
Tanzania Rukwa	1,5	6465
Tanzania Southern	2,5	10775
Tanzania South Western	2	8620
Tanzania Western	2,1	9051
Tanzania Iringa	0,1	430
Tanzania Ruvuma Nj.	0,1	430
Zambia	0,4	1720
South Asia	0,4	1720
Total	100	431381

Resolution 30. United International Moravian Ministry.

- Whereas the entity United International Moravian Ministry is influencing several

- Moravian Church Provinces by inviting Moravian Ministers and Moravian Church members to join the UIMM, and
- Whereas this at times is done without the Moravian Church ministers and members not being aware of the organization and nature of UIMM, and
 - Whereas UIMM is using the name “Moravian” without being part of or having any affiliation with the Worldwide Moravian Church, Unitas Fratrum, and
 - Whereas the UIMM is using the word” Moravian”, claiming to be having roots in the Moravian Church and tradition, and
 - Whereas the theological and organizational profile of UIMM is not in accordance with the Moravian theological discourse, tradition and ecclesiological understanding and
 - Whereas UIMM is claiming to have been excluded by the Moravian Church at the Unity Synod 2016, while the Moravian Unity maintains the understanding that UIMM had excluded itself through actions and words preceding the Unity Synod 2016, and
 - Whereas the actions of UAMM, later renamed UIMM has been hurtful to the Alaska Moravian Unity Province,
 - Be it resolved that the Unity Synod 2023 declare that since UIMM for several years, through its actions in Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) Unity Provinces and Mission Provinces has distanced itself from the Moravian Church theology, organization, tradition and code of conduct, and
 - Be it further resolved that any minister of the Moravian Church being associated with or being member of UIMM be called to order by the Provincial Board of his/her Moravian Province, and
 - Be it further resolved that, if after a process of listening and advising the person in question, it is established that the said minister of the Moravian Church does not repent and discontinue his/her association and/or membership of UIMM, his/her credentials shall be removed, and
 - Be it further resolved that the Unity Office is informed about the matter and what the outcome of the process is.

Resolution 31. Tanzania East, finances.

- Whereas it is Unity’s practice of sending a Unity Delegation to areas of concern in the Unity, and
- Whereas Tanzania East is experiencing financial challenges,
- The committee proposes a delegation be commissioned to visit, evaluate, and encourage the implementation of income generating strategies and best practices in relation to financial management towards financial sustainability.

Resolution 32. Tanzania Southern Province.

- Whereas it is Unity’s practice of sending a Unity Delegation to areas of concern in the Unity, and
- Whereas Tanzania Southern Province is experiencing financial challenges,
- The committee proposes a delegation be commissioned to visit, evaluate, and encourage the implementation of income generating strategies and best practices in relation to financial management toward financial sustainability.

Resolution 33. Zambia Unity financial situation and Mbala and Nakonde area.

- Whereas it is Unity’s practice of sending a Unity Delegation to areas of concern in the

Unity, and

- Whereas Zambia is experiencing financial challenges,
- The committee proposes a delegation be commissioned to visit, evaluate, and encourage the implementation of income generating strategies and best practices in relation to financial management towards financial sustainability.

Proposal: Acceptance of Mbala and Nakonde becoming a Mission area

- Whereas the Province has recommended that Mbala and Nakonde become a Mission Area, and
- Whereas the committee affirms the work that is being carried out.
- The committee proposes that once the requirements outlined in COUF 201.3 (regarding the stages of development of provinces) are met, that the Unity grant the request.
- The committee further proposes that the Unity alongside the Supervising Province closely monitor and motivate the area to meet the requirements.

Resolution 34. Meeting with supervising provinces of the Haiti Mission. Unity Delegation to Jamaica.

- Whereas there are ongoing challenges facing the Jamaica and Cayman Islands Province in managing the Moravian Mission in Haiti.
- The committee proposes that the Unity Board convenes a meeting with the Supervising Provinces and representation from Haiti to examine the challenges and offer advice on the way forward.

Proposal: Unity Delegation to Jamaica

- Whereas it is Unity's practice of sending a Unity Delegation to areas of concern in the Unity, and
- Whereas Jamaica is experiencing financial challenges,
- The committee proposes a delegation be commissioned to visit, evaluate and encourage the implementation of income generating strategies and best practices in relation to financial management to ensure financial sustainability of the province.

Resolution 35. Cuba, financial situation.

- Whereas it is Unity's practice of sending a Unity Delegation to areas of concern in the Unity, and
- Whereas Cuba is experiencing financial challenges,
- The committee proposes a delegation be commissioned to visit, evaluate and encourage the implementation of income generating strategies and best practices in relation to financial management to ensure financial sustainability of the province.

Resolution 36. Brazil as a Prospective Mission Area.

- Whereas the congregations of Brazil have actively advanced the mission of our Chief Elder in their region, and
- Whereas the Moravian congregation in Brazil has requested to become a member of the Unitas Fratrum as a Prospective Mission Area, and
- Whereas Unity Synod is charged with ratifying developmental classifications proposals (COUF #201).
- Be it resolved that Moravian congregations in Brazil receive the designation of Prospective Mission Area, and

- Be it further resolved that the Unity Board assign a supervising administration to partner with the Moravian siblings in Brazil, and
- Be it further resolved that the individual leading the group, or the “designated pastor” be theologically trained and exposed to Moravian practices and customs.

Resolution 37. Acceptance of Archivist Conference Statement.

The Archivist Conference Statement will be incorporated in COUF.

Resolution 38. Priorities MCF Financial Support 2024-2030

- Whereas the Unity Synod 2016 (COUF #834) resolved the priorities of financial support of MCF to the Unity, read:

The Moravian Church Foundation is urged to give financial support in the following order of priority:

1.
 - a. theological training within the world-wide Unity;
 - b. the Moravian Church Foundation offer financial support to seminaries that provide theological training, whether on site or via Distance Learning, for Moravian students who come from provinces that would receive MCF funding, even if those seminaries are located in provinces that do not normally receive MCF funding. (2016)
2. Unity undertakings, including but not limited to: the Moravian Rehabilitation Centre, Star Mountain, new Ramallah; the Unity Archives, in Herrnhut; and the Unity Mission Development Fund;
3. the Moravian Church in Suriname for economic, educational and social work. NOTE: This priority will remain unchanged until the Commission on Kersten Shares renders its report and recommendations to the Unity Board 2018 and the Unity Board reaches a decision;
4. grants for projects which play a significant role in the welfare of the requesting Province. Priority shall be given to projects which support mission, evangelism, justice, peace and the care of creation. For such grants, the MCF will work in cooperation with the Unity Mission and Development Board. Grants will only be given to start projects, not to cover operating costs;
5. grants may be given in emergency cases. For such help the Executive Committee of the Unity Board may act as an advisor if necessary;
6. other requests may be considered at the discretion of the Unity Board; and
 - Whereas the COUF #834 further directs that “The Unity Board should revise the list of priorities and prepare a recommendation for each Unity Synod,” and
 - Whereas Unity Synod 2016 resolved that priority 3 will remain unchanged until the Commission on Kersten Shares renders its report and recommendations to the Unity Board 2018 and the Unity Board reaches a decision,
 - Be it resolved that Unity Synod 2023 retains the priorities as resolved by Unity Synod 2016, and
 - Be it further resolved that Unity Board in consultation with MCF is tasked with reviewing and possibly changing the priorities if deemed necessary after the transfer of Kersten & Co shares.

Resolution 39. Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation Board (MUCHF) elected.

Name	Area
Revocatus Meza,	TEKU African
Walter Linnert,	South Africa African

Martha Hartley	MCNP American
Jeffrey Long	MCNP American
Samone Patterson	Jamaica Caribbean/Latin American
-Andrew Parris	EWI Caribbean/Latin American
David Johnston	British European
Weland Menzel,	ECP European
Jørgen Bøytler,	UBA Unity

Resolution 40. Unity Youth Committee elected.

Name	Area
Chrislin Edson	South Africa
Yohana Kalinga	Tanzania Mbozi
Angelica Regalado	American South
Orelbis Pierce Horta	Jamaica
Julie Smith	Caribbean/Latin America
Phil Batelle	British Province
Jorgen Bøytler	Ex officio
Jirina Kaletova	UYDC

Resolution 41. Practical Creation Care.

- Whereas climate change is a reality of life in our time, and we are called in Genesis 1:28-31 to maintain the dominion of God's Creation, and
- Whereas many Unity Province's reports identify agricultural initiatives through which funds may be raised for congregations and other ministries within the Moravian Church, and
- Whereas Unity Synod reports do not currently require any ministries to address climate change at all, and
- Whereas Unity Synod has the responsibility to encourage the Unitas Fratrum to enact practical methods by which ministries "Care for the Earth by following sustainable practice[s] in their lifestyles (COUF #887)."
- Be it therefore resolved that all Unitas Fratrum ministries shall identify challenges, shortcomings, and successes related to Creation Care as part of their Unity Synod reports. Examples of categories and specific initiatives that ministries are encouraged to participate in include:
 1. Recycling/Sustainable Practices: practical steps taken such as the consumption of locally produced goods and food, reducing waste, recycling plastic, conserving water, the reduction of the use of fossil fuels, and utilizing eco-friendly materials, save energy by turning off lights and electronics when they are not in use, using energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs.
 2. Education and Advocacy: educate congregations and communities about environmental issues, including organizing seminars, workshops, outreach programmes, and the biblical values underpinning.
 3. Community Engagement: involvement in local environmental initiatives and demonstrations, including partnerships with environmental organizations and participation in community clean-up.
 4. Liturgical Integration: incorporating environmental themes and prayers into worship services and liturgical calendar, emphasizing the spiritual importance of environmental

care.

5. Youth Involvement: engaging youth in environmental education and action, ensuring that younger generations are equipped to carry forward the mission of environmental stewardship.
6. Agrarian Initiatives: Planting trees which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provide oxygen. Fruit trees also help with food security. Development of community gardens as carbon sinks and to eliminate food deserts.
6. Be it finally resolved that all Unity Provinces and Synods begin and report upon initiatives which address one or more of the recommendations in the above categories.”

Resolution 42. Nicaragua “Letter drawn up by UBA to promote unity in Nicaragua.”

The letter was accepted by the Synod.

Resolution 43. Unity Mission Conference.

- Whereas the Unity Synod 2023 commends the planning committee of the Unity Mission Conference 2024 for the groundwork that has been invested so far, and
- Whereas the Unity Synod 2023 endorses the initiative of having such a conference in the Moravian Church, and
- Whereas the Unity Synod 2023 encourages the committee to continue the work as we seek to strengthen and expand the mission work within our regions.
- Be it resolved that the Unity Synod 2023 state as follows:

Considering the challenges shared in the report, the Ministry Committee poses the following recommendations:

- Lower the number of delegates required to attend the conference from each province, so as to better manage the financing of the event.
- If numbers exceed the required amount, have persons finance their way if desirous to attend.
- With regards to the theme of the conference, which has not yet been decided on, the committee recommends that there be an inclusion of the concept of the Church having a ‘public’ voice in society. This would be geared toward the church visibly and audibly weighing in on matters that affect the general society, as well as the Church itself.
- Be intentional about delegation, follow-up and reporting on implementations and progress of initiatives/goals shared at conference. To achieve this, the committee recommends that the planning committee develops a standard means by which each province can be accountable to the conference on what is expected to be done during the period.

Resolution 44. Potential Engagement of Mission Boards, Unity Mission Development Board and Provinces of the Unitas Fratrum with churches of the Evangelical Movement.

- Whereas “The Unitas Fratrum cherishes its unity as a valuable treasure entrusted to it by the Lord. It stands for the oneness of all mankind given by the reconciliation through Jesus Christ.” (COUF page 13), and
- Whereas “The ecumenical movement is of “the Moravian Church’s “very lifeblood.” (COUF page 13), and
- Whereas “All Provinces are urged to fuller involvement with other churches on all levels of Councils of Churches and Federations of Churches whilst not sacrificing relationships with other Provinces of the Unity as a whole.” (COUF page 141), and
- Whereas “a fully united universal Church can only be an eschatological reality” (COUF

page 141) it is also recognized that working together with other churches can - in certain settings - create divisions or is not possible for several reasons, and that the local situations and terminologies can vary tremendously,

- Be it resolved that wherever ecumenical relations seem to do more harm than good the call goes to the local committees and leadership to pray and discern which course to take. If the local leadership cannot come to a conclusion, suitable councillors can be called upon.

Reports given to and accepted by the Unity Synod 2023¹.

Report No.	Report from
-	Unity Board President
--	Unity Board Administrator
1	Moravian Church Foundation
2	America Northern Unity Province
3	Eastern West Indies Unity Province
4	Tanzania Mbozi Unity Province
5	Tanzania Western Unity Province
6	European Continental Unity Province
7	Honduras Unity Province
8	Malawi Unity Province
9	Peru Mission Area
10	Czech Mission Province
11	Iringa Mission Area
12	Uganda Mission Area
13	Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT)
14	Suriname Unity Province
15	Tanzania Rukwa Unity Province
16	Burundi Mission Province
17	Unity Youth Committee (UYC)
18	South Africa Unity Province
19	Alaska Unity Province
20	Costa Rica Unity Province
21	French Guyana Mission Area
22	Haiti Mission Area
23	British Unity Province
24	Zanzibar Mission Area
25	D.R. Congo Unity Province
26	Unity Archives, Unity Undertaking.
27	Guyana Unity Province
28	America South Unity Province
29	Nicaragua Unity Province
30	Honduras Mission Province

¹ Except the Unity Board Presidents report (available as (US2023.3.1.)) and the Unity Board Administrators report (available as (US2023.3.2)) all reports are found in the Minutes of the Unity Synod 2023.

31	Eastern Congo Mission Area
32	Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB)
33	Tanzania East Unity Province
34	Tanzania South Province Unity Province
35	Zambia Unity Province
36	Jamaica Unity Province
37	Tanzania South Central Mission Area
38	Rwanda Mission Area
39	Cuba Mission Province
40	Brazil Prospective Mission Area
41	Bishops Conference Pastoral Letter
42	Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Unity Undertaking
43	Tanzania North Unity Province
44	Kenya Mission Area
45	Unity Women's (UWD) Budget 2023
46	Czech Unity Province
47	South West Tanzania Unity Province
48	Lake Tanganyika Tanzania Unity Province.
49	Sierra Leone Mission Area