



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, the Episcopal Church historically has been committed to the visible unity of the Church as expressed in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and,

WHEREAS, as part of the Episcopal Church's aim of fostering unity among the separated branches of the Christian Church, for the sake of cooperation and mission in the world, over the years, dialogues have developed as a major component for fostering unity, and

WHEREAS, General Convention this year will be asked to receive and act upon proposals from the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations concerning several ongoing initiatives including full communion with the Moravian Church as well as an agreement with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, encourage both the adoption of these proposals by General Convention action and the implementation of each proposal at the local parish level through parish study and inter-church cooperation.

Sponsored by: The Rev. Canon Joseph Y. Seville, Ecumenical officer and the Diocesan Ecumenical Committee

Background Information

The Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations has submitted a proposal for full communion with the Moravian Church to the 2009 General Convention. The General Convention is being asked to give an up-or-down vote (without amendment) to the document "Finding Our Delight in the Lord: A Proposal for Full Communion." If adopted, this would commit the Episcopal Church to a full communion relationship with the Moravian Church. The proposed agreement with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. is an attempt to sum up the round of dialogue from 2002-2007 and to identify future topics that will need to be addressed. This agreement commits the Episcopal Church to approving a second round of dialogue and to look at ways to share mission and ministry with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The agreement is different from the proposed agreement with the Moravian Church in that it is not the same as full communion. Further, the agreement does not include reconciliation of ordained ministries or a process for sharing in the historic episcopate, elements which are required for the Episcopal Church to enter into full communion. The full texts of these agreements may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/ecumenism.