

The Moravian Church

I. CARING FOR CREATION

From *The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living*.

We deem it a sacred responsibility and genuine opportunity to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our financial resources. We view all of life as a sacred trust to be used wisely. Paragraph 10.

Remembering the admonition of Scripture to be temperate in all things (I Cor. 9:25), we shall endeavor to look upon our bodies as temples of God's spirit (I Cor. 6:19). We must also remember to respect the welfare of others who may be affected by our actions (Rom 14:20, 21). We are aware of the problems that can be caused by the intemperate use of . . . things [including consumption of resources]. We consider it the responsibility of every Christian to decide most carefully how they can be used in good conscience. We regard intemperance in any area of living as being inconsistent with the Christian life. Paragraph 30.

From *Confessing Our Unity in Christ*, "The Ground of the Unity."

Serving the World. Jesus Christ maintains in love and faithfulness His commitment to this fallen world. Therefore we must remain concerned for this world. We may not withdraw from it through indifference, pride or fear. Together with the universal Christian Church, the Unitas Fratrum [Moravian Church] challenges all with the message of the love of God, striving to promote the peace of the world and seeking to attain what is best for all people [including caring for resources that are here for all of the people of the planet, not just for the developed Western world, and for the preservation of the environment]. P. 33.

From the liturgies of the *Moravian book of Worship*.

We believe in the one God who has created the land and sea and heavens and all that is in them; who established a world that was good; who gives to us the task of watchful and responsible care over it; who is certainty and truth. P. 16.

We pray for those who because of greed or selfishness exploit the gifts of the earth, that they may learn to be careful stewards of your creation. P. 29.

We pray for all who by their commitment and involvement are working to preserve our planet, that you would multiply their efforts. P. 29.

Gracious God, thank you for the goodness of creation—for the variety, the beauty, and the delicate complexity of life, your creation! Forgive us for the times we have not appreciated or cared for all you have given to us. Open our eyes; restore our hearts; and bring us back into relationship with you, the earth, and all of life. P. 43

Christ, the Creative Word, by whom all things were made, lead us into good stewardship of creation that we and our children may preserve and enjoy the world entrusted to us. P. 57.

In the awareness that we are one with all your human creation, we pray about the issues that confront us all: For our planet and the environment in which we live. P. 116.

All-knowing Creator, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, we praise you for the wisdom, power, and love displayed in the natural universe and in humanity, whom you have placed within it to care for it and nurture it. P. 128

For our misuse of science and technology, leading to the oppression of people and the abuse of creation, we ask your forgiveness. P. 129.

Let our lives resound with the wonder and beauty of all that God has been creating from the beginning. As caretakers of creation, may we learn anew to enjoy the land, preserve the water, respect all living creatures, and meditate upon the grandeur of open sky and sea. Teach us, God of creation, to walk the earth with gratitude and wisdom. P. 156.

For the creation itself and the nourishment we receive from its resources; for the seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain, oceans and forests; for the wondrous way in which we are woven into the environment, we give you thanks, Creator God. P. 157.

Help us, Creator God, to share the resources of this world as good and faithful stewards. Show us how to tend the land, water, and air and to prevent their pollution and destruction. Teach us the discipline of conserving and of replacing what we have used. Deliver us from exploitation. Keep us from idolizing money and material possessions. And make us compassionate in our concern for the needs of others. Amen.
P. 163.

Commission on Church and Society
Southern Province, Moravian Church in America

9/20/03

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Adopted 11/25/03 by the Provincial Elders Conference, Southern Province, Moravian Church in America

II. OUR STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Whereas, we live in an environment with diminishing resources, and

Whereas, environmental concerns are of the utmost importance to the continued existence of life
on this planet, and

Whereas, individuals in communities can take an active role in protecting the environment, and

Whereas, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living states in paragraph #29:

Being aware that our witness is made both by what we do and what we avoid doing, we will endeavor to let our manner of life “be worthy of the gospel of Christ,” (Phil.1:27) “not being conformed to this world.” (Rom. 12:2) But in our yearning for the redemption of the whole creation, we will seek to meet the needs of the world in self-giving love, and as true yokefellows of Jesus Christ, willingly share in the fellowship of His sufferings, walking in His strength, by whom all things are given us that pertain to life and godliness. (II Peter 1:3); therefore be it

RESOLVED: The 1990 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, directs the Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Northern Province to strongly urge each Moravian congregation:

- a. to inform their members about environmental concerns,
- b. to participate in community conservation projects,
- c. to implement and/or participate in environmental education programs and conservation practices (such as: recycling, use of recycled products, proper disposal of toxic household waste, use of cloth diapers, car pooling, etc.),
- d. to encourage members to make changes in their lifestyle toward simplicity, moderation, and self-control concerning consumption of products made for non-renewable resources.

JNP, 1990, p. 39, R. 13

See: "Our Stewardship of Creation." in *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* (Moravian Church) 2009. Published by order of the Unity Synod held at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, England, 28th July – 7 August, 2009, par. 887.