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2002 Eastern Synod Legislation, Partial Report #5

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Moravian Church in America, Northern Province

2002 Eastern Synod Legislation, Partial Report #5

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Committee #1

FIFTH AND FINAL PARTIAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

RE: Bioethics

Whereas, there has been significantly more research into ever expanding areas of biomedical research not previously addressed in the Resolutions of the Provincial Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church of 1986 entitled “Medical Ethics” such as stem cell research and the use of genetically engineered biological agents in warfare; and

Whereas, this 1986 document could not address the then unknown and unforeseen benefits as well as the bioethical concerns that these additional areas raise, such as the creation of human embryos for the sole purpose of harvesting stem cells and genetic cloning; and

Whereas, there is the potential that any medical therapies resulting from such highly technical and expensive research may not be available to all people because of their inability to pay for such therapies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED (20) This 2002 Northern Provincial Synod affirms the resolutions of the Provincial Synod of the Northern Province of 1986 entitled “Medical Ethics”; and be it further

RESOLVED (21) This 2002 Northern Provincial Synod shall direct the PEC to create a multidisciplinary Bioethics Taskforce, made up of various professional disciplines to develop informational material for distribution to all congregations at the 2004 District Synods in order to:

- a) educate and inform all members regarding bioethical issues
- b) ensure participation in a process leading to the development by this Bioethics Taskforce of specific guidelines for the experimentation and clinical use of new and emerging technologies; and be it further

RESOLVED (22) The guidelines submitted by the Bioethics Taskforce shall address the issue of the equitable distribution of the benefits of biotechnology; and be it further

RESOLVED (23) The Bioethics Taskforce shall present these guidelines to the 2006 Provincial Synod of the Northern Province for approval and publication; and be it further

RESOLVED (24) The Provincial Elders' Conference, Northern Province shall request that this Bioethics Taskforce continue monitoring the impact of biomedical experimentation and the applications of the discoveries resulting from such work.

June 17, 2002