



# The Episcopal Church

February 6, 2011 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

## Episcopal-Moravian Celebration

On February 10, a special service will be held at the Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to inaugurate the full communion between the Episcopal Church; the Moravian Church, Northern Province; and the Moravian Church, Southern Province. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will be the presider, joined by the heads of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America.



What does it mean to be in “full communion” with another church? According to *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church* (Church Publishing, 2000), “full communion” refers to “the mutual recognition of the members and ministry of two or more churches and the common recognition of the validity of the sacraments of the churches. Churches so related remain canonically distinct and need not assent to all the doctrines, customs, and practices of each other.” So, being in full communion with another church is not a merger; it allows churches to develop some interdependence while remaining autonomous. A model for this relationship can be found in the Bible (I Cor. 10:16) in the notion of *koinonia*, meaning “to share, to have something in common, or to act together.”

The Episcopal Church is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of its full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the ELCA has been in full communion with the Moravians since 1999.

## Presiding Bishop's Letter to President Obama

On January 16, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori wrote a letter to President Barack Obama to “share the views of the Episcopal Church on the prospective resolution of the UN Security Council resolution concerning ongoing settlement building by the Israeli government.”

“First and foremost,” she wrote, “we support the administration's efforts to broker direct negotiations between the state of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Like you, we believe there is no substitute for bilateral negotiations toward a two-state solution that respects the sovereignty and security of Israel and creates a viable and independent state for the Palestinian people. Only direct negotiations and shared commitment can produce a viable and sustainable peace for the two parties. For this reason, it is imperative that the United States take bold and decisive action to reinvigorate the stalled peace process. ... Resolutions by the Security Council are not an alternative to a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians. The presenting issues of borders, security, refugees, and the status of Jerusalem cannot be resolved absent direct negotiations. For this reason, the appropriate response of the United States government to the present efforts in the Security Council is to work urgently to reignite a negotiations process that can produce immediate and sustainable steps toward a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.”



To read the Presiding Bishop's letter in full, please scan the QR code on the left with your smart phone, or go to [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425\\_126599\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_126599_ENG_HTML.htm)

## This Week in the Episcopal Church

**February 6:** On this day, the Episcopal Church remembers the 26 Christian martyrs who were crucified in Nagasaki in 1597.