

### **Introduction of Gemeinschaft for the Congregation:**

Gemeinschaft is a 40-week program in which participants seek to grow in God's grace through a combination of *individual* and *shared* disciplines. Individual members of each Gemeinschaft Group covenant with God, with members of their home congregations, and with one another to engage in a daily regimen of *scripture reading, reflection, writing, and prayer*. As they *listen* for God's Word to them, they will seek *a place of sanctuary and a time of quiet* that they might be *alone* before God; but once each week, they will gather as a group to share with one another the *experiences and insights* that have come to them as each has sought to make him or herself more aware of God's presence in our world. Part of these weekly meeting will be devoted to sharing by individuals, and part to a disciplined study of our Moravian resources for Christian Growth, including the *Covenant for Christian Living*, and many of our *Moravian Liturgies and Hymns*.

Some participants may need to lay down certain other responsibilities in our congregation in order to give themselves more fully to this time of personal recreation and renewal. Let us not be disappointed if this is so. Let us not be like Martha, who was jealous of her sister Mary when she elected to sit for a time at the feet of Jesus, while Martha was left alone to serve his table. It was Jesus who said:

*"Martha, Martha you are anxious and troubled about many things; there is one thing needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, and it will not be taken from her."*

### **Introduction of Participants:**

The Following persons have pledged themselves to the discipline of the Gemeinschaft Program. I now invite (include names) to stand before this congregation, as we pledge our support of their commitment, and ask God for his blessing upon them.

### **Minister to Gemeinschaft Participants**

Do you now wish to publicly state your intention to listen for God's Word and to seek God's will for your life in the discipline of *scripture reading, reflection, writing, and prayer*?

*We do.*

Will you now pledge to one another your mutual support, as you undertake to meet together over the course of 40 weeks? Will you gather with open hearts and open minds, and keep the confidences, and encourage the growth of your fellow participants?

*We will.*

### **Minister to the Congregation:**

Will you the congregation of New Philadelphia Moravian Church pledge your support of the persons who stand before you now? Will you under gird them with your prayers, encourage them in their disciplines, and, in as much as it lies within your power, free them from the usual tasks of our congregation's life in order to facilitate this time of reflection and personal challenge? And will you yourselves consider a similar discipline that all of us may continue to grow-up into Him Who Is the Head, that is, Christ Jesus?

*We will.*

### **Minister to All:**

So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace!  
In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

**All:**

*Amen!*

