

*Charles  
Dunn*

# Lutheran Church of the Living Word

LAURINBURG, NORTH CAROLINA 28352

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CHURCH OFFICE  
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May 3, 1968

Governor Dan K. Moore  
North Carolina State Capitol  
Raleigh, N.C. 27605

Dear Sir:

The recent slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King has precipitated considerable concern and discussion among the members of the bi-racial Scotland County Ministers' Fellowship.

Determined to dispense with fruitless rhetoric and to generate responsible and constructive action, the ministers, in a series of study sessions, have hammered out concrete recommendations for social progress, some of which we submit to you in the enclosed Resolution.

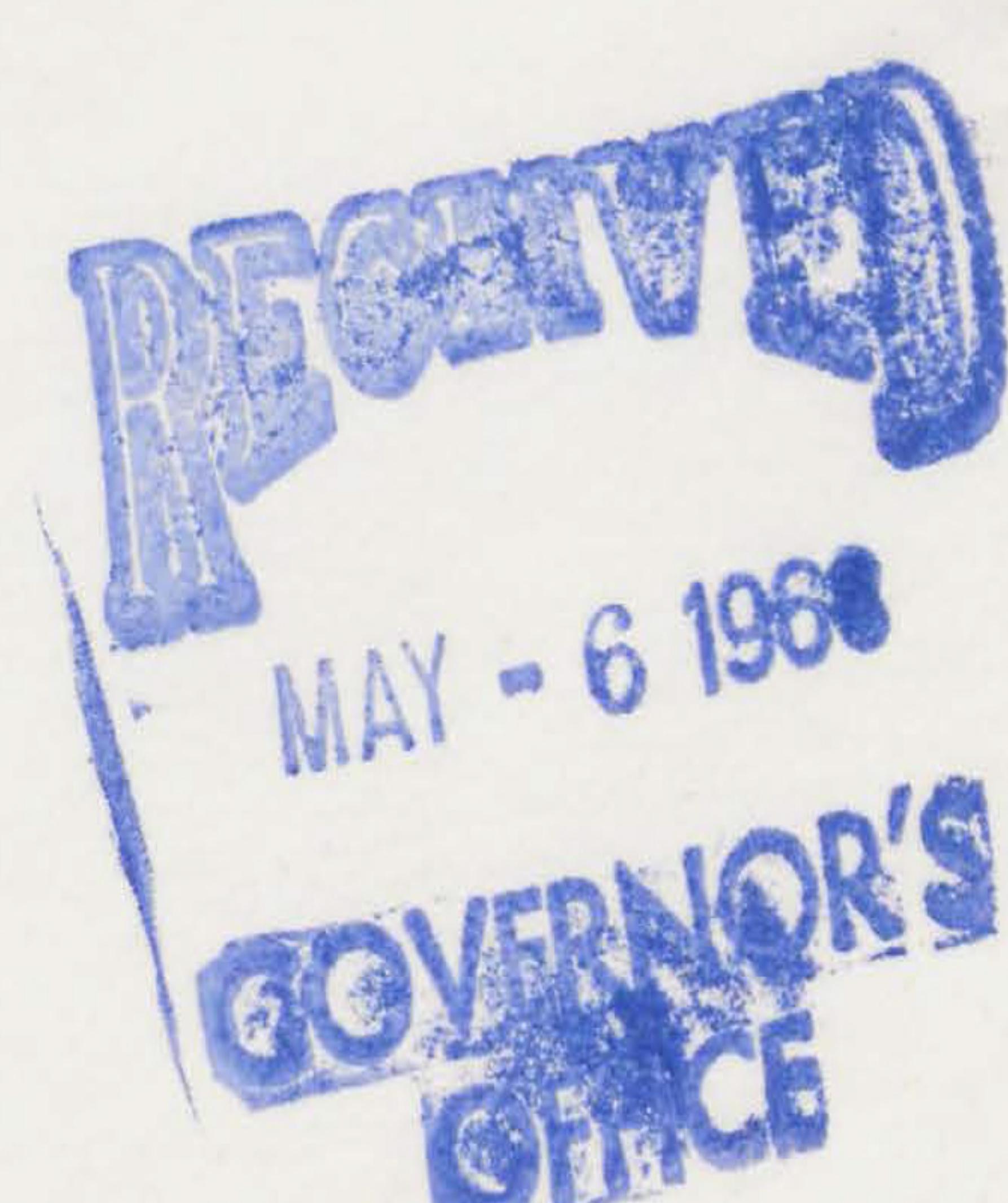
We urge your serious consideration to this enclosure and invite your studied response.

God's blessing to you in your important area of service.

Cordially,

*C. Peter Setzer*

C. Peter Setzer  
Secretary  
Scotland County Ministers' Fellowship



RESOLUTION OF THE SCOTLAND COUNTY MINISTERS' FELLOWSHIP ADDRESSED TO

GOVERNOR DAN MOORE AND OTHER ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

We recognize that Governor Dan Moore, in the recent crisis, acted decisively and responsibly and would commend him for his level-headedness in this. We also recognize that his re-appointment of Mr. David S. Coltrane at the beginning of his term of office was one of his more significant acts. We feel however that limiting Mr. Coltrane's duties to being "one who puts out fires and cools down ashes" is too limited an approach to the deep-seated racial and economic problems of our day. We feel that the approach has been negative especially in that the advisory committee has been so "blue-ribbon" that it does not really know the needs and the feelings of the group it is supposed to be giving advice about. We would call upon the governor and all other elected state officials to begin a positive approach to a program which will include a revamping of the objectives of Coltrane's office; a spreading of the membership of his advisory committee to more adequately reflect and deal with the grass-roots problems of both urban and rural sections of our state and the people; and better liaison with every department of state government that they may join with Coltrane's office in pursuing a positive approach to identifying and dealing with the various aspects of the problem.

We ask that state officials make available regularly through press releases and other suitable means the current data on employment in the various departments of state government and the national guard; and that this be done by categories, i.e., professional, sub-professional, non-professional, clerical, etc., and that the number of non-white in each category of each department be clearly shown. We also ask that each department of state government make available on the same basis information on the policies and programs it has by which its employees may continue to upgrade their skills and proficiency in order to qualify for promotion.

We call on our elected representatives to confront seriously the need for a revision of our state constitution and our state statutes laws so that there shall be real equality and justice under law for all people in our state.

We urge all elected and appointive state officials to give highest priority to seeking better methods of dealing with the inequalities of education, housing and job opportunities too many of the people of our state live with every day.

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*Good Neighbor  
Council*

May 8, 1968

The Reverend C. Peter Setzer  
Lutheran Church of the Living Word  
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352

Dear Reverend Setzer:

Thank you for your letter and enclosed resolution of the Scotland County Ministers' Fellowship. I appreciate your suggestions and I am pleased to report that the State has long since moved in the direction suggested.

First, Mr. Coltrane's duties and the responsibilities of the Good Neighbor Council have been expanded during this Administration to far more than "putting out fires and cooling down ashes." I agreed with you that that was a "too limited approach" to the problems confronting North Carolina in this area. Consequently, the role of the Good Neighbor Council has been broadened and it has been made a statutory body.

More specifically, the Good Neighbor Council has staff people working to assist with the establishment of local good neighbor or human relations councils; in the development of community relations; in promoting equal employment opportunities not only in State Government, but in private businesses. Far more time and effort are spent by the staff of the Good Neighbor Council in preventing "fires" by eliminating causes than in "putting out fires."

The resolution forwarded to me also commented on current data on employment of various departments of State Government. This information is and has been made available to the public through the State Personnel Department and the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. I have personally met with the heads of major State agencies emphasizing to them that North Carolina is an equal opportunity employer. If you know of anyone seeking a job with State Government who has not received fair treatment, I would appreciate your informing me of the specifics.

I also would point out that at my suggestion a study is presently under way of the North Carolina State Constitution. The Constitution is 100 years old this year and has been amended on the average of once per year. I have emphasized that the Constitution should be reviewed and updated to better serve the people of North Carolina in this period.

Reverend C. Peter Setzer

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Finally, I have long ago complied with your request that "higher priority" be given to seeking better education, housing and job opportunities for the people of this State. This is basic to the concept of total development. More specifically, I would point out that we have provided all-time high expenditures in all areas of education--public schools, community colleges and higher education. I call your attention to the open-door policy and the opportunity in the community college system, which now has a unit within commuting distance of over 85 per cent of our people, and the \$1 million fund I requested to supplement programs at the traditionally Negro institutions of higher learning. This is over and above regular appropriations for these institutions. I have also initiated studies of higher education and the public schools to find ways of strengthening the State's programs in these areas.

Housing has been a major concern of this Administration. We have established a committee on low-income housing and added a specialist in housing to the State Planning Task Force. This specialist has worked with local governments in developing public housing programs; with private industry in the development of plans for low-income housing; and with various private, civic and church groups in developing housing programs for needy families. If your Ministers' Fellowship is interested in knowing more about or participating in any of these programs, I suggest that you write Mr. Luther C. Hedges, Housing Specialist, State Planning Task Force, Raleigh, North Carolina. I might add here that private insurance companies in North Carolina have made available, at my suggestion, about \$15 million for loans at low rates to low-income families for housing.

Job opportunities, I feel, are the key solution of many of our problems in this area. For this reason we have actively participated in the shond industrial program for the State. This, too, has proceeded at a record rate creating not only more, but better jobs for our citizens. Here again education is important and I would urge you to help prepare citizens for better job opportunities through support of stay-in-school efforts, and by working directly with disadvantaged people, particularly young people, to get them to take advantage of training and education opportunities in the community college system. The jobs are here for those who are willing to take advantage of training opportunities.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the speeches made at the Governor's Conference on Community Relations held in Raleigh in February. At that Conference we recognized opportunities in the area of community relations and the responsibilities of every segment of our society to contribute to the fulfillment of this opportunity. I particularly call your attention to the remarks made by Reverend L. Powers McLeod. My remarks at the Conference will give you additional information on some of the progfams presently under way in North Carolina.

Reverend C. Peter Setzer

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Finally, I am enclosing copies of recently announced programs to find summer employment for 100,000 high school and college students in North Carolina and a companion program to keep public school recreation and shop facilities open throughout the summer. Your support, endorsement and participation in these programs as well as all others aimed at the advancement of human betterment and dignity will be appreciated.

Again, thank you for your letter and your support of the State's effort in providing a better way of life for every man, woman and child in North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Dan Moore

Enclosures

cc: David Coltrane  
cc: Rev. Charles Meriwether  
First Methodist Church  
Lumburg, N.C.