

Report to Board of Cooperative Ministries Stakeholders

(Leadership Team & RCC
Liaisons, Working/Ministry
Group Conveners, Affiliated
Ministry Reps, and Staff)



April 3, 2020 (via email)

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ! What a wild new world we are living in these days and I certainly hope and pray that each of you are hanging in there. I wanted to provide you all with a BCM update so you know what we are doing right now and can be ambassadors for us with your various now-online faith communities. Don't hesitate to send folks to our website, which grows and changes sometimes hourly! Visit MoravianBCM.org. Scroll all the way down for personal updates on staff, but here's a snapshot of what we've been into lately.

Even before reducing our office hours (and subsequently closing the physical office altogether) beginning March 16, BCM has been really busy helping to facilitate the Moravian Church's move online. Our goals have been to:

- **Serve all Moravian congregations** in North America, with particular care for those which do not have full-time clergy or pre-existing online worship;
- **Provide technical support** to ministry leaders, both clergy & lay; and
- **Offer** substantive online **Moravian content** and/or content featuring Moravians where possible.

To that end, we've:

- Identified existing livestream and online worship opportunities and worked with IBOC to get those published.
- Created an interprovincial digital ministry team (reps from IBOC, Moravian Church Without Walls-MCWW, BCM) to coordinate online worship throughout North America (particularly for those Moravians whose churches are not able to livestream or meet virtually). Our own David Guthrie will lead the [interprovincial service for Palm Sunday](#).
- Collaborated with IBOC and MCWW to host [Virtual Holy Week Services](#), which begin next Monday and will feature dramatic readings of the Holy Week story with over 25 Moravian readers from the U.S. and Canada. Join us and you'll hear a few of your BCM colleagues!



- Developed the following webinars for clergy and other ministry leaders:
 - Planning for Online Worship ([webinar recording](#))
 - How to Host a Zoom Meeting
 - Advanced Zoom Training ([view all our Zoom content](#))
 - Reviewing Online Resources (Mike Riess reviewed the various hymns and liturgies now available on Moravian.org and addresses a variety of questions on licensing and copyright.)
- Established [Virtual office hours](#) (T, Th 1pm-2pm ET): We're using this time to answer technical questions and feature a variety of guests whose information and wisdom might be particularly relevant now. Folks can drop in and out as it's a more informal conversation.
- Enhanced the Weekly E-News, focusing on technical support and Moravian content. Look for a special Easter edition of the E-news coming out on Palm Sunday that will curate a variety of Holy Week and Easter experiences that folks can enjoy online.
- Been trouble-shooting: we've done lots of one-on-one technical support over email and the phone with clergy and other ministry leaders as they work to transition to some kind of online ministry.

We're also transitioning into more content-based work as the demand for technical support levels off.

- **Keeping the Faith at Home – Family Resources Webinar:** Beth, along with three other Moravian educators, provided some great resources via webinar on April 2. That recording will be available soon, but you can find the resources discussed here: <https://www.moravian.org/bcm/2020/03/24/keeping-the-faith-at-home-during-troubled-times/>.
- **The Moravian Experience:** We are working to create a self-guided experience for folks who want to do some faith formation work on their own during this time. Michael Terry has been graciously providing us with some adaptable material from the Gemeinschaft curriculum. Craig Atwood is providing a series of prerecorded video lessons on the Easter Sunday Morning liturgy, and hopefully, the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, and Ground of the Unity. Kay Windsor is leading a 4-part series on Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography, and we're gathering resources from our existing crop of great Moravian content to augment this material.
- **Group Option for Moravian Experience:** Tim Byerly, who wrote the original guide for Living Faith, a small group experience based on the prayer bands of the 18th-century Moravians, is working to revise this resource for online groups.

We're continuing to develop additional webinars (working on one about grief and loss for after Easter and more resources for children and mental health options), exploring a virtual Singstunde and prayer opportunities, looking at ways to help congregations continue to reach out to their communities, and hope to survey clergy and educators soon about other



ways BCM can provide support and content that really matters for them right now. We're also developing and sharing contingency plans for our curriculum customers. We are open to any ideas you have about how we can be of the most help to our brothers and sisters during this extraordinary moment in time.

Quick staff personal updates: Heather and EmmaGrace are hanging out at home with Otis (their Labrador retriever). EmmaGrace is immersed in her studies online as a senior at Mt. Tabor High School. Heather heads into the office (very briefly) once or twice a week to manage mail and any financial work. She's touching base with other Moravian admin staff and helping transcribe the Gemeinschaft materials. **Beth** is working primarily from home on curriculum orders/plans and children & family ministry work. She spends most evenings with her daughter Amanda and is trying to stay active by taking several walks each day. This is a very difficult time for Beth to be alone, since as you know her husband, Randy, died on Ash Wednesday. She continues to covet your prayers, though is enjoying some online fellowship opportunities with the folks at Come & Worship. **Austin** is enrolled in graduate school at UNC-Greensboro and remains busy as all his classes have been moved online. We very much appreciate the extra time he is putting in to edit the various videos we're producing very quickly these days! **Hanna and baby Ford** have moved in with her parents, as Hanna's husband, David, is a firefighter with a high level of exposure to the coronavirus. Hanna and I have gotten very good at using a variety of online tools, beginning each day with a Slack video call to determine that day's virtual adventures. I (**Ruth**) am at home, working busily from my basement office while my husband, Chris, works upstairs in our spare bedroom. We wave to each other at lunch. My son Jake is still working at Salem Lake, but it appears non-essential city employees will be furloughed next week. My daughter Jessie is teaching her beloved second graders online from her apartment in Winston-Salem. The last really fun thing I did was [a socially-distanced Facebook Live concert](#) with my friends and son (we have a little band called Reserved Parking). We're now going to wait until the stay at home restrictions are eased before performing again. What are you doing during this unusual time? Please reply and share with us and I will be glad to share with all.

We miss seeing you in person! Please stay safe, well, and most of all, stay home!

~Ruth



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