

2020 Year-End Report

2020 Priorities

(particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic)

- Provide technical and ministry support to ministry leaders, both clergy & lay;
- Offer substantive online Moravian content and/or content featuring Moravians;
- Expand service to more North American Moravian congregations, with particular care for those without full-time clergy or pre-existing online worship; and
- Maximize partnerships with other entities to achieve these priorities.



2020 Highlights

Pre-Covid (because how else do you differentiate this year?)

- Leadership Focus Congregational Leadership Conference (Feb 22 at Bethania; 60+ attendees from 25 different congregations and organizations)
- VBS Open House
- Ecumenical Educator Meetings
- Living the Essentials podcast (recorded three episodes)
- Facilities Stewardship event (January 14 at Calvary; 50+ attendees from 30+ congregations/orgs)
- Admin Staff Lunch Bunch
- Laurel Ridge communications work
- First Fruits (Latinx) Ministry Team (worked with Illovis Gonzalez to organize)
- Book Drive – partnership with community non-profit Imprints Cares

Technical Support

The week of March 16th, we shifted into “how to” mode and began offering a variety of online content designed to help clergy and ministry leaders adapt to the church’s new online environment.

Online Education (Webinars)

Developed the following online workshops for clergy and other ministry leaders:

- Planning for Online Worship
- How to Host a Zoom Meeting
- Advanced Zoom Training
- Reviewing Online Resources (hymns and liturgies; licensing and copyright)
- Keeping the Faith at Home During Troubled Times
- Approaching Light: Caring for Our Souls Through Trauma
- A Vision for Our New Normal: An Easter Invitation (featuring Rev. Peg Chamberlin)
- Preparing to Regather: Building the Bridge As We Walk on It
- The Moravian Experience: Planning Your Spiritual Journey During Extraordinary Times
- Beyond Listening: Mental Health Resources for Moving Forward

Online Technical Support via Office Hours

A bi-weekly, then weekly, online meeting time for technical questions and sharing. Featured a variety of guests whose information and wisdom were especially relevant given the challenges of 2020.

Topics related to technical support:

- BCM/IBOC Agency Resources
- Creating Online Worship Content
- Public Health Updates from FaithHealth
- PEC Updates/Q&A
- Zoom Security Issues
- Making Music During COVID-19
- Online Giving & Financial Market Updates
- Livestreaming now and after COVID-19
- Creating Engaging Online Experiences
- Church Communications
- Updates from Moravian Theological Seminary
- Video Editing for Anybody
- MoravianChristmas.org Resource Overview
- Digital Tools for Remote Working & "Churching"

MoravianBCM.org

- Technical support posts/pages
 - Finding the Best Video Conferencing Platform
 - Church Live Streaming Made Super Simple
- Resources pages
 - Congregation and Pastoral Resources During Coronavirus Pandemic
 - How to Talk to Children About COVID-19
 - Being Church Online
 - Being Church During COVID-19 Pandemic (Additional Webinars)
 - COVID-19 Prayerful Resources
 - Keeping the Faith at Home During Troubled Times | Spring-Summer 2020 Resources
 - Children & Family Ministry Corner
 - Regathering Resources for Congregations
 - COVID-19 Resource Re-Cap
 - Breaking the Cycle: Anti-Racism Resources
 - Mental Health Resources: Winston- Salem, Faith Leader Resources, State & National Resources, Self-Care for Pastors During COVID-19, Mental Health Facts, Suicide Prevention Month
- Ultimate Moravian Gift Guide: 2020
- 49 Ways to Maximize YOUR Moravian Christmas



1831 MINUTES

new content
uploaded by BCM
to YouTube
during 2020



SHARES 353



viewers shared
our content with
their friends

10,362 NEW VIEWS

viewers initiated
playing a video and
watched for at least 30
seconds



HOURS 745



Time viewers
spent watching
BCM's videos

BCM – BUILD, CONNECT, MOBILIZE!

Visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Moravian Board of Cooperative Ministries" to find our channel!

Email Communications

In addition to our weekly sending of The BCM Essentials, we created and sent the following:

- Monthly Continuing Education Email
- Weekly *Loving Hearts* United Email
- Monthly College Age Devotion
- Holy Week and Easter Virtual Experiences
- Webinar Announcements
- Curriculum Updates
- Comenius Learning Series
- Children's Festival Announcements

Ministry Support

We greatly expanded the depth and breadth of resources available to Moravians and their ministry leaders on any number of topics impacting many Moravians.

Online Ministry Support via Office Hours. Some of these sessions addressed topics re: ministry

- Global Mission Updates
- Mission Project Ideas
- Coping in a Time of Heightened Anxiety
- Congregational Updates
- Tips for Outdoor Worship
- Walking with Children in the Time of Coronavirus
- Administrative Staff Check-In
- Laurel Ridge Updates
- Member Outreach Ideas
- Creativity in Crisis: Conversation on Future Church
- MoravianExperience.org Resource Exploration
- Community Conversation: The Church's Response to Racism
- Curriculum Sales/Virtual Faith Formation
- Reaching Older Adults During Physical Distancing
- 10 Questions to Ask Now
- Tips for Effective Digital Children's Ministry
- All about Bishops
- Leading Effectively in Volatile Times
- House Churches and Other Small Group Expressions
- COVID-19 and Mental Health
- Clergy Support
- What the Heck is Ecumenism?
- Moravians & Citizenship/Voting
- Plans for a Cozy COVID Christmas
- Educational Advocacy: What We Can Do
- COVID, Winter, & Homelessness

The Moravian Experience

This online collection of resources and materials is designed to help Moravians continue their spiritual formation online. Found at www.themoravianexperience.org, The Moravian Experiences is organized into areas such as spiritual growth, community, mission, Moravian doctrine, Moravian history and spiritual disciplines. You'll find publications, videos, doctrinal statements, historical studies, individual and group activities and more—all to assist Moravians in staying connected to their faith. With help from Michael Terry and Tim Byerly, we revived and adapted portions of the Gemeinschaft curriculum and the Living Faith small group experience for online use. The resources can be used both by individuals on their own journey or in community as a small group experience.

BCM Connect Groups. Over 125 Moravians and their friends from all over North America participated in our online small group experiences, beginning in July. Much of this content will be available via YouTube in the coming months.

- *The Color of Compromise* Book Study (Rev. Dr. Neil Routh)
- What are We Learning? Voices from the Pandemic (Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber)
- What's My Type? Exploring the Enneagram for Spiritual Growth (Ruth Burcaw)
- Okay White People, What's Next? (Tina Spach)
- Living Faith Small Groups (Rev. Steve Craver)
- Faithful Sojourning in Uncertain Times (Revs. David Guthrie & Rusty Rushing)
- My Neighbor Is Not for Sale (Dana Myers)
- A Study of the Lord's Prayer (Rev. Dr. Neil Routh)
- *Life Together in a World Apart* Book Study (Rev. Chaz Snider)
- *Leaders Make the Future:* Book Study & Discussion (Ruth Burcaw)
- Stewardship: A Four-Part Harmony (Laura Watson/Rev. Rick Sides)

Curriculum Sales Re-Design

2020 was a difficult year for all and especially for Christian educators and publishers of religious and faith formation materials. Beth worked diligently throughout the year to ensure that our Moravian and non-Moravian curriculum customers had access to the kinds of resources best suited to their faith communities during the pandemic. About 20 customers purchased from BCM's scaled-back curricula options and many others learned about converting to a more virtual or hybrid environment. Look for more to come on faith formation innovations in 2021.

The Aging Well Team

While the team had to cancel both scheduled events in 2020, they worked hard to re-organize (Marsha Grubbs took over for the departing Joy Cole as co-convenor with Pam Prevatte), maintain their Facebook page, and send encouraging information for church communications.

The Children & Family Ministry Task Force

Forced to regroup mid-Spring, this committed group spent hours transforming the in-person Children's Festival into a whimsical series of pre-recorded videos, which proved to be our most-watched playlist of the year. The 11-video series, which has received over 1000 views since it debuted in mid-August, featured an inviting setting with engaging hosts, stories, images from past festivals, and included craft activities, movement, Godly Play, and even puppets!!

College Age Moravians

We continued to send monthly email devotionals to our distribution list of nearly 400 college age Moravians. We surveyed students at "shutdown" to solicit ways we could offer support. We also recruited college age "tech support disciples" to help as congregations moved online.

The Mental Health Resource Team

This dedicated group continued their important work this year: hosting an MMA meeting in January, revamping their web pages with helpful, relevant resources, hosting a webinar and office hours.

Regional Youth Council

Prior to the COVID disruption, our RYC planned and promoted a Spring Youth Concert featuring Second

Valley to collect food for Sunnyside, though it was ultimately cancelled. RYC then held virtual meetings, elected a new exec committee, and discussed plans for senior high, including virtual options for 2021. RYC adult advisers hosted two drive-by "meetings" in front of the Church Street offices. In May, they distributed shirts and cheer, while Zach Dease prayed for youth and John G. Rights played camp songs. For the December meeting, they'll collect donations for City with Dwellings.

Direct Congregational Engagement

We provided one-on-one consulting, technical or ministry support to:

- Fairview
- Peace
- Bethania
- New Philadelphia
- Rural Hall
- Hopewell
- Friedberg
- Home
- Rolling Hills
- First (GA)
- Grace
- Kernersville
- Fulp
- Raleigh
- St. Philips
- Unity
- Trinity
- Konnoak Hills
- Mizpah
- Friedland
- Calvary
- Fries Memorial
- Hope
- Florida District RCC

We also provided assistance to a few MCNP pastors, ecumenical partners, and staff from PEC, Mission Society, IBOC, Come & Worship, Sunnyside, Estamos Unidos, Anthony's Plot, Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry, and the Archives.

Partnerships

2020 provided a unique setting for us to join with other agencies and organizations to offer relevant, helpful content in light of the many obstacles to gathering in-person. Church is not a building and it's not a province either! Here are a few of the projects we collaborated on this year:

- Online Sunday Morning Worship (Moravian Church Without Walls, IBOC)
- Holy Week Reading Services (MCWW, IBOC)
- Trivia Nights (Archives, Moravian Music Foundation)
- Advent Reading Services (MCWW, IBOC, MMF)
- MoravianChristmas.org – creation and curation of resources (many partners)
- MMA Cup of Covenant | Interprovincial Ministers Convocation (provided virtual space & hosted)
- Healthier Congregations Task Force (MCNP)
- Workshops with The Justice Connection (Peg Chamberlin non-profit): Festival of Homiletics: AfterParty; Preparing for Justice Work; and *See No Stranger* Book Study
- Northern Province Racial Justice Team, Waconia Moravian Church: Road to Racial Justice Training; and Building A Culture of Anti-Racism

Other Ministry Initiatives & Work

- **#BeMoravianStars Campaign:** In an effort to spread a little light during some very dark times, BCM sought nominations to honor Moravians making a difference in their community. Twenty individuals or organizations were recognized in 2020. We "starred" their yards in honor of their love for their neighbors, and featured their good deeds on our social media channels and website.
- **Sheila's Retirement Reception:** BCM staff (particularly Hanna and Heather) planned and executed a drive-thru reception celebrating the retirement of Sheila Beaman, after 30+ years of service to the Board of World Mission & Mission Society.
- Created **A Plan for Regathering:** *A Guide for Church Boards* to support congregations in their efforts to regather in-person responsibly.

- **Spotlight Blog:** Fifteen different contributors offered 50+ articles that challenged and inspired us.
- Bill Needs' **Coffee with Moravian Ancestors** interview" series – 14 articles with illustrations.
- **Realm:** We moved from ACS On Demand to the cloud-based church management database software Realm, which you'll hear more about in 2021.
- **Comenius Learning Series:** The Rev. Chaz Snider presented *A Wounded Faith: Zinzendorf's Theology in the 21st Century* in a completely new asynchronous format (pre-recorded videos, two live Zoom sessions, and a sermon). Over 30 Moravians from three provinces participated.
- **Easter Morning Liturgy Series:** The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood presented this 10-video series on the Moravian Easter Morning Liturgy, providing much to ponder during the 2020 Lenten season.
- **God's Perfect Color coloring book** based on a poem by Dana Myers and with illustrations by Andrew David Cox. Look for more on this exciting project in conjunction with the 2021 Children's Festival!
- **Writing Your Own Spiritual Autobiography Series:** We appreciate Kay Windsor offering her writing expertise in this 4-part series, available on The Moravian Experience.

Staff Notes: Some of the specific projects our staff worked on in addition to what's outlined above:

- **Austin:** content, content, content. Uploaded over 60 new videos to YouTube. Provided tech support.
- **Beth:** curriculum changes, curriculum video overview, virtual faith formation, customer service re: faith formation options, children and family ministry task force, Children's Festival, congregational liaisons, MMA retreat planning team; APCE.
- **Heather:** congregational check-ins/phone calls, financial management for BCM and its ministry partners, Realm data cleanup and training, hospitality.
- **Hanna:** MoravianLovefeast.org and MoravianCurriculum.org redesign; technical support; Laurel Ridge communications support, increased communications and technical hosting of online events; creative adaption for RYC and college age Moravians.
- **Ruth:** 2018 Synod Resolution 18 Team, 2022 Synod Planning Team, 2022 Synod Program Team, Interprovincial Digital Ministry Team, Winter Journey presenter, budget planning, etc.

BCM Information

Mission: *The Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM) engages and supports congregations and RCCs in their ministries as **together we grow** in faith, love and hope, following Jesus in serving the world.*

Why do we exist? We exist to help Moravians live the essentials: a sound faith in God, a present love for Jesus, and a Spirit-led, sure, and certain hope for the future. **What do we do?** We serve Moravians and their congregations as they make disciples, build community, and mobilize people to action – in other words, spiritual growth, community, mission.

Our Charge: The Board of Cooperative Ministries:

- Oversees the development/implementation of specific plans set by the PEC for ministry/direction;
- Recommends to the PEC staffing needs, including staffing structure, as well as professional staff for call and appointment;
- Recommends to the PEC special commissions, committees and task forces (including recommendations for appointment);
- Measures and reports to the PEC effectiveness and results of plan implementation and action.
- Promotes, facilitates and assists as needed in the identification and use of gifts of ministry at the congregational level.
- Maintains a high level of effectiveness of the staff charged with assisting congregations, RCC groups, and leaders in general within the province seeking to foster congregation health and growth. (from the *Book of Order*, Section 9.)