

Full Compilation of Partial Reports
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

Committee #9 (Bright Green)

First Partial Report
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

Re: MORAVIAN DAY OF SERVICE

Whereas, Moravians have always celebrated their faith through service and mission work locally, regionally and globally; and

Whereas, Moravians derive a sense of common unity and identify from serving together and with others; and

Whereas, we can join together in common ministries without being in the same location; and

Whereas, the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in North America passed a resolution at their 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province instituting a day of service beginning in 2019; and

Whereas, coordinated efforts of Moravians can help engage others in service and ministry and raise awareness of the Gospel message; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (1) The Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern Province in consultation with the Board of World Mission and Provincial Elders' Conference of the Southern Province shall designate a mission day (Saturday or Sunday) starting in the spring of 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED: (2) The Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern Province shall work with the Board of World Mission to create and distribute any necessary materials for an annual Moravian Day of Service to include but not be limited to service ideas and worship resources; and be it further

RESOLVED: (3) Individuals shall be invited to serve together in an annual Moravian Day of Service in congregations or regional groupings from a list of opportunities provided by the Provincial Elders' Conference in consultation with the Board of World Mission and the Southern Province of the Moravian Church or from an opportunity that a congregation identifies; and be it further

RESOLVED:

(4) Congregations and groups that participate in an annual Moravian Day of Service, established by the Provincial Elders' Conference in consultation with the Board of World Mission and the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, will be encouraged to share pictures and stories from said event so that it can be celebrated through the Interprovincial Board of Communication and the Board of World Mission.

Cindy Miller, Chairperson
Mandy Mastros, Secretary
June 21, 2018

Committee #9 (bright green)

Second Partial Report
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

Re: Gratitude for the Work of Moravian Entities in the Northern Province (Linden Hall, Moravian Academy, Moravian College, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Open Door, Moravian Archives, and the Sperling Zimmerman Home)

Whereas, the 2014-2018 inter-synodal period included struggles, joys and the opportunities to serve the Lord, Jesus Christ in many areas of our community and the world, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (5) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province receives with appreciation the reports of Linden Hall, Moravian Academy, Moravian Archives, Moravian College, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Open Door, and the Sperling Zimmerman Home and commends these faithful servants for their leadership during the past inter-synodal period, and

Whereas, education is a vital part of our Moravian history and identity, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (6) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends Linden Hall for “providing an environment [to girls] that fosters curious and independent leaders who are prepared to contribute as compassionate global citizens,” and be it further

RESOLVED: (7) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends Moravian Academy for encouraging students to be “enthusiastic problem solvers” who are “the primary authors of their own understanding” and “willing to try and try again,” and encouraging teachers to be “passionate, empathetic, accessible, and knowledgeable guides on a learning adventure,” and be it further

RESOLVED: (8) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends Moravian College for providing a “liberal arts education that prepares each individual for a reflective life, fulfilling careers, and transformative leadership in a world of change,” and be it further

RESOLVED: (9) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends Moravian Theological Seminary for its work in offering “graduate degrees and continuing education programs to prepare men and

women for effective leadership and service in congregational, counseling, teaching, and other ministries,” and

Whereas, we are in gratitude for all that retired Moravian clergy have given of themselves in service to the Moravian Church, and are called to find ways to offer them support in their retirement years; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (10) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends the Sperling Zimmerman home for providing an affordable housing option for retired clergy and clergy displaced due to parsonage renovation, and

Whereas, serving and caring for those who are vulnerable is a vital part of our Moravian history and identity; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (11) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends Moravian Open Door for “providing housing and supportive services for homeless, distressed, and underserved individuals aged 50 years and older,” and

Whereas, the storing and organization of records and artifacts from Moravian congregations and Moravian entities, allows us to stay connected with our Moravian history and identity; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (12) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends The Moravian Archives for all that it does in “preserving, processing, and making available the records of the congregations and institutions throughout the Northern Province,” and

Whereas, music is a vital part of our Moravian history and identity, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (13) The Northern Province of the Moravian Church commends the Moravian Music Foundation for all the ways that it “preserves, celebrates, and cultivates the musical life of Moravians,” and be it further

RESOLVED: (14) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations to affirm and support the ministries of Linden Hall, Moravian Academy, Moravian College, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Open Door, Moravian Archives, and the Sperling Zimmerman Home.

Cindy Miller, Chairperson

Mandy Mastros, Secretary
June 21, 2018

Committee #9 (Bright Green)

Third Partial Report
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

Re: Local Mission and Ministry Partnerships

Whereas, local mission is a vital part of our Moravian identity, as evidenced through our history; and

Whereas, ministry is better when done together, and

Whereas, the Great Commission's mandate to go into all the world compels us to engage in ministry outside the confines of our church buildings; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (15) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations to develop clusters of three or more Moravian congregations or full communion partners or Canadian counterparts with the purpose of those congregations working together to share ministry opportunities, collaborate on tasks that can be done together, and to offer encouragement, support, and ideas to one another; and be it further

RESOLVED: (16) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages clergy to locate and participate in the nearest community ministerium group with the purpose of congregations working together to share ministry opportunities, collaborate on tasks that can be done together, and to offer encouragement, support, and ideas to one another; and be it further

RESOLVED: (17) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages clergy, joint boards and/or lay leaders of congregations to reach out to the faith communities in their neighborhoods to discover the ministries and missions in which they are engaged, to share its own missions and ministries, and to identify ways in which faith communities may collaborate.

Cindy Miller,
Chairperson
Mandy Mastros,
Secretary
June 22, 2018

Committee #9 (bright green)

Fourth Partial Report
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

RE: Ministries of Hospitality in our Church Buildings

Whereas, Moravians have a relational theology that is central to our denominational identity, and

Whereas, scripture tells us “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2, NRSV) and Jesus stated that we should “love our neighbor as ourselves,” (Matthew 22: 39, NRSV) and

Whereas, many neighborhood organizations — scouting groups, neighborhood associations, support groups, civic arts groups, youth or family enrichment groups, etc. — need affordable space to gather, and

Whereas, church buildings are often seen as safe, community spaces for use by local ministries and non-profits, and

Whereas, many of our churches are “building rich” and it takes considerable financial investment to maintain buildings, and additional maintenance costs are often a stewardship challenge for congregations opening their buildings to more community groups, and

Whereas, opening our buildings to more neighborhood groups can offer the opportunity to build stronger relationships and create spiritual space for congregations to share their faith with their community, and

Whereas, maintenance costs are often specifically not funded by outside grants that would allow churches to open the ministries of their community space; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (18) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations, as part of their Christian discipleship, to seek ways to show hospitality to neighbors by opening their buildings as spaces for ministries and community partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED: (19) The Provincial Elders’ Conference and District Boards shall consider the development and provision of granting opportunities,

by either expanding existing or introducing new grants, for congregations to specifically defray building/custodial maintenance costs in order to cultivate ministries of hospitality and welcome neighborhood groups into our church buildings; and be it further

RESOLVED:

(20) At the 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province the Provincial Elders Conference of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church will report on the results of any grants which may have been issued for the purpose of cultivating ministries of hospitality in our church buildings.

Cindy Miller, Chairperson
Mandy Mastros, Secretary
June 22, 2018

Committee #9 (Bright green)

Fifth Partial and Final Report
Committee on Local Mission Engagement

RE: The Importance of Community Ministries

Whereas, being in community is a vital part of what it means to be Moravian, and

Whereas, Jesus instructs us in Luke 14:12-14, When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous; and

Whereas, there is a divine mutuality in mission where the individuals offering hospitality or support are often as deeply blessed and changed by the experience as the one receiving it. “The place God calls [us] to is the place where [our] deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” -Frederick Buechner, and

Whereas, there are many needs in our local neighborhoods and an almost infinite number of opportunities for partnership; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (21) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations to explore congregational passions and resources, identify needs in their communities that are not being adequately addressed, and work alone or alongside community partners to develop ministries to help address those needs, and

Whereas, many needs of our communities point to widespread and systemic issues rooted in history, stereotypes, laws, and policies, leaving many in our neighborhoods feeling voiceless, and

Whereas, we are called to advocate for the oppressed; “Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor.” Proverbs 31:8-9; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (22) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges congregations to actively learn the social issues present in the community through conversations with individuals, neighborhood non-profits, and other faith communities, explore the sources of those issues, and prayerfully discern ways to advocate as a congregation for those impacted by those issues, and

Whereas, the 2018 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church's Committee on Local Ministry Engagement was moved by all of the exciting ministries that are already happening across the Province including but not limited to: back to school programs, passport fairs, food ministries, Lenten service series with non-profit agencies, blessing bags and boxes, Be-the-Church Mission Sundays, emergency shelters, laundry ministries, community centers, tutoring programs, babysitting for children of parents participating in Narcotics Anonymous meetings, adult day care centers, hosting 4H groups, scouting groups, preschools and Montessori schools, clothing ministries, maintenance and repair ministries, 12 step program meetings, agricultural ministries, and church sponsored social workers; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (23) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends and thanks all congregations and emerging ministries who have been willing to take risks and step outside their comfort zones to embrace communities by engaging in local ministry with and for their neighborhood, and

Whereas, the sharing of successful ministries can provide encouragement and ideas to others looking to engage in new local ministry endeavors, and

Whereas, we are called to refrain from putting our lights under bushels; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (24) the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations and emerging ministries to share good news and best practices of fruitful local ministries on social media, on websites, in local ministerium groups, with district boards, with the Interprovincial Board of Communication for sharing and publication, and with anyone else who may benefit from hearing what others have accomplished.

Cindy Miller, Chairperson
Mandy Mastros,
Secretary
June 23, 2018