

Full Compilation of Partial Reports
Committee on Spiritual Formation

Committee # 12 (Tan)

First Partial Report
Committee on Spiritual Formation

Re: REPORT TO THE 2018 SYNOD OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH NORTHERN PROVINCE
FROM THE THE INTERPROVINCIAL FAITH AND ORDER COMMISSION

Whereas, the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission's purpose is to review issues of faith and order which arise from synods, Provincial Elders' meetings or come to the Commission out of interest from the members. The Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission is an advisory group to the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern and Southern Province; and

Whereas, the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission has faithfully submitted the report of its work over the last intersynodal period, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (1) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Northern Province receives with gratitude the report of the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission regarding their work completed in the intersynodal period.

Nigel Powell, Chairperson
Jodi Schumacher, Secretary
June 21, 2018

Committee #12 (tan)

Second Partial Report
Committee on Spiritual Formation

RE: Resolution #3 from the Moravian Church Southern Province

Whereas, the Northern Provincial Elders' Conference has received for consideration Resolution #3 (Interprovincial Collaboration – see document attached) from the Southern Province 2018 Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (2) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province adopts Resolution #3 (Interprovincial Collaboration) from the Moravian Church Southern Province.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rev. Nigel Powell, chair
Jodi Schumacher, secretary

2018 Synod
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province

Resolution# 3 (Proposal 16)

Subject: Interprovincial Collaboration
From: Partnership Committee
Topic Partnership
Area:

WHEREAS, both the Southern and Northern Provinces of the Moravian Church in North America are provinces of the Unitas Fratrum and adhere to the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF), which governs the polity of the provinces; and

WHEREAS, the Southern and Northern Provinces of the Moravian Church in North America profess the same faith as expressed in the *Ground of the Unity* and the Liturgy for Easter Morning; and

WHEREAS, the Southern and Northern Provinces of the Moravian Church in North America share a theological seminary (Moravian Theological Seminary), the Book of Worship, the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, and a denominational magazine (*The Moravian*); and

WHEREAS, the Southern and Northern Provinces currently share several interprovincial ministries, including the Board of World Mission (BWM), the Moravian Music Foundation (MMF), The Interprovincial Board of Communication (IBOC); the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) and the Interprovincial Faith & Order Commission (F&O) and the Interprovincial Women's Board, and

WHEREAS, both the Southern and Northern Provinces of the Moravian Church in North

America have administrations and ministries specific to their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, effective collaboration and resource sharing among diverse teams results in more innovation, better relationships, creative problem solving, and improved efficiency and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, we have already experienced the benefits of provincial and interprovincial agency collaboration, such as college ministry initiatives, youth and young adult convos, *Sing to the Lord a New Song* songbook, *Simply Moravian* resources, *Living Branches* Moravian curriculum, FIT First mission events, women's conferences, learning opportunities and more; therefore be it resolved that the Synod of 2018 endorse the expansion of intentional collaboration with the Northern Province and interprovincial agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That agency heads and representatives from both PECs and all provincial and interprovincial agencies meet together for a multi-day summit" within the next year to develop collaborative initiatives between the provinces. This should include any additional entities whose presence would be beneficial to this process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this group report on its activities at any upcoming synod or intersynodal gatherings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be provided to the Northern Province Provincial Elders' Conference for consideration at the 2018 Northern Province Synod.

*Each entity involved should cover travel and meeting costs for their representative(s) using budgeted or designated funds. If this proves a hardship for individual groups, each PEC shall consider how best to cover such costs.

*The BCM, IBOC, and BWM will form a small team to plan this event.

Committee #12 (tan)

Third Partial Report
Committee on Spiritual Formation

RE: Resolution #22 from the Moravian Church Southern Province

Whereas, there are differing understandings as to what the Essentials of Faith are for the church, and

Whereas, it would be beneficial for the church to establish a concensus on what these Essentials are, and

Whereas, the Northern Provincial Elders' Conference has received for consideration Resolution #22 (Affirming the Essentials – see document attached) from the Southern Province 2018 Synod, and

Whereas, the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission is currently developing a catechism that teaches the Essentials of faith as “God creates, God redeems, and God sustains; and we respond with Faith, Love, and Hope;” therefore be it

RESOLVED: (3) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms the important work of identifying the Essentials of Faith of the Moravian Church by the Moravian Church Southern Province; and be it further

RESOLVED: (4) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to examine the content of the Southern Province Resolution #22 for possible adoption at the next Northern Provincial Synod.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rev. Nigel Powell, chair
Jodi Schumacher, secretary

2018 Synod
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province

Resolution #22 (Proposal 11)

**Subject: Affirming the
Essentials From:**

Spiritual

Growth

Topic Area: Community

WHEREAS, the Ancient Unity understood the Essentials to be: The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, creates, redeems, and makes us holy; and we respond in Faith, Love, and Hope; and,

WHEREAS, the wisdom of the Scriptures, the faithful example of the Ancient Unity, and the life and witness of the Renewed Church provide a way to understand our Moravian experience today;

RESOLVED, That the Moravian Church in North America, Southern Province affirms the ancient Moravian understanding that the Essentials are: God creates, God redeems, and God makes us holy; and we respond in Faith, Love, and Hope; and,

RESOLVED, That Moravians in the twenty-first century are grounded in the living experience of faith in Christ, active love for others, and joyful hope; and,

RESOLVED, That this living relationship with Christ is born and nurtured in faith communities, in relationship with and in service to one another and the world; and,

RESOLVED, That the Moravian Church in North America, Southern Province prayerfully and thoughtfully live out the Essentials as they continue to lead us into Faith, Love, and Hope; and,

RESOLVED, That the Provincial Elders Conferences of the Moravian Church in North America (Northern and Southern provinces) be encouraged to prepare resources that enable us to study, further understand, and live out the Essentials of the Moravian Church; and,

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be given to the PEC of the Northern Province for potential inclusion in their synod in 2018.

Committee #12 (tan)

Fourth Partial Report
Committee on Spiritual Formation

RE: Spiritual Companionship Groups in Local Congregations

- Whereas, the 18th Century Moravian Church utilized a Choir System to meet the spiritual needs of individuals in small group settings, and
- Whereas, the Moravian Church Northern Province is seeking relevant ways to serve the needs of its members through spiritual growth experiences, and
- Whereas, local members have expressed a discomfort with sharing their faith with others, and
- Whereas, in the world there is a growing awareness of Spiritual Direction as a meaningful way to explore spiritual depth and discernment of God's will, and
- Whereas, the Moravian Church Northern Province has taken steps beyond traditional Christian Education to encourage an introspective life through:
- Articles in The Moravian
 - Financial support for clergy and seminary students to obtain personal spiritual direction
 - Establishment of the Spiritual Formation Task Force by the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Provincial to establish spiritual companionship groups in at least one church of each of its districts, and
- Whereas, Spiritual Companionship Groups offer an expression of mindful reflection on God's movement in our daily lives similar to that of the 18th century choir system of the Moravian church, and
- Whereas, continued introduction of Spiritual Companionship Groups and contemplative experiences is needed to help laity and clergy understand and implement this practice in their ministry and life, and
- Whereas, the training and support for facilitators of Spiritual Companionship Groups will be necessary; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: (5) the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province thanks the Spiritual Formation Task Force for completing the mandate given to them at the 2014 Synod, and be it further

RESOLVED: (6) the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church shall name a qualified individual (trained in spiritual direction, with supervisory skills) to work with congregations to establish spiritual companioning groups, and be it further

RESOLVED: (7) the designated individual who oversees this spiritual companioning group ministry shall report to the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church at intervals as determined by the PEC, and

Whereas, the goal of spiritual companioning groups is to be a self-sufficient lay ministry, and

Whereas, spiritual companioning groups are encouraged to identify a Spiritual Director in their location to act as a supervisor of the facilitator of the group, and

Whereas, a local spiritual director would be a valuable resource to serve as a supervisor of group facilitators, and

Whereas, trained spiritual directors from the Moravian denomination are not available in all three districts, and

Whereas, Moravians interested in receiving spiritual direction training may not find it feasible to secure this training from Moravian Theological Seminary nor have the financial resources to secure such training from other programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (8) the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church shall seek scholarship resources for the training of laity and clergy in the field of spiritual direction.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rev. Nigel Powell, chair
Jodi Schumacher, secretary

Committee #12 (tan)

Fifth Partial Report
Committee on Spiritual Formation

RE: Report to the Synod of 2018 from the Spiritual Formation Task Force

Whereas, the Spiritual Formation Task Force has successfully satisfied the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province's mandate as indicated in the report presented to the 2018 Moravian Church Northern Provincial Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (9) The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province receives with gratitude the report of the Spiritual Formation Task Force regarding their work completed in the intersynodal period; and be it further

RESOLVED: (10) The Spiritual Formation Task Force, having completed its mandate, is now released of its duties with the blessings of the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rev. Nigel Powell, chair
Jodi Schumacher, secretary