

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
August 2022

Rev. Bruce Nelson, President • 221 E. Mills Drive, Lake Mills WI, 53551 • 920-253-9030 • bruce@mcnp.org • www.Moravian.org

Bruce's Babblings

Let me begin this by saying I am not writing this looking for sympathy.

Have you ever had one of those life-changing experiences? Perhaps you remember your high school graduation or your first day in a new job or a promotion at work. For those of you who are grandparents perhaps you remember the day you were married or the day your children were born or the day your children were married or the day your grandchildren were born. Or, perhaps you have journeyed through a life-changing experience that was more difficult, like the difficult end to a pregnancy or a marriage or other significant relationship that is severed or a death.

Sometimes, however, a death is not seen as something difficult. I received a phone call on July 20th that my 104 and a half year old mother had passed away. I have gone through all of the stages of grief since I received this call. For those of you who don't know what I am talking about concerning the stages of grief, I encourage you to google it or look it up.

Most of all, I am grateful. I am grateful that my mother was around for 104 plus years. I am grateful that, even though we did not always agree, she was and would always be my mother. I am grateful that she got to meet all of my children and grandchildren. I am grateful that for all but about the final 2-3 months of her life she was lucid and enjoyed visiting with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

If the truth be known, I have felt guilty that many of the friends of my age had lost their mom many years ago and mine was still around. I wished for them that they still had their mom. With every day that she was around I realized that it was a gift and that I was blessed to have her as long as I did.

Here's the other thing. Once I realized that my mother was gone and had moved on to eternal life, I immediately felt old. I realized that the older generation

was gone and that I was now the older generation. It is up to me now to pass along to my children and grandchildren what my parents have taught me. Part of that would be to pass along family traditions while another part of that would be to pass along what is important to me.

Here's the final thing. Life is a gift that we should never take for granted and that we should always appreciate.

Serving Christ with you,
Rev. Bruce J. Nelson

On behalf of the Western District Executive Board

Mt. Morris Camp News

I come to you in the midst of our busy Youth Camp season at Mt. Morris! It is an amazing blessing to see all that God is up to in the lives of our campers and the volunteer counselors. The laughter, music, and prayers are filling the camp and remind us all of the special purpose of this amazing place!

Unfortunately, we had a major mechanical issue arise at the swimming pool last week and we need your help.

One of the three very large pool filters that we have went from leaking a little bit of water - not a big problem - to spewing/spraying tons of water all over the pump house - a big problem.

After a visit from our Pool Repair Person, it was determined that a long term fix was not able to be done as the filter itself is quite old and damaged beyond repair - so it must be replaced.

We are not legally able to operate our pool without three functioning filters. Kelly (the camp maintenance guy) was able to create a temporary patch to keep the filter running, and we are monitoring it frequently to make sure it doesn't blow up.

A new filter is being shipped to our pool maintenance company and will be installed as soon as it arrives. This is a \$3,500 repair (at least) that was unexpected.

As you can imagine, we were not planning for this and with all of the other added expenses this year (inflation), our budget remains quite tight.

I am asking you to consider a gift to Mt. Morris Camp at this time to help us through this very expensive situation. Perhaps you, your family or your congregation would be able to make a donation for all or part of this repair.

How can you submit your donation? You can donate right now at our new Moravian Ministries Foundation online donation platform right [HERE](#). (Type "Pool Filter" in the notes area). Or, you can send your gift into the camp office at:

Mt Morris Camp
W6026 Blackhawk Rd
Wautoma WI 54982

Either way you choose to give, please send me an email (no need to "reply all", just send it to me) and let me know. Any extra funds will be used for post summer maintenance/repairs at the Pool and/or recent repairs to the HVAC system in Arrowhead Lodge.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!!!!
Dan Sharnhorst

You Belong is excited to introduce you to our newest

YOU BELONG



team member, Hannah Platkowski, who is now serving as our Program Assistant! Hannah shared that her favorite things about working for You Belong are working by herself, reading to children, advocating for herself, and showing other people that she is strong, independent, and capable.

Hannah has been very involved with You Belong since our first events and her favorite things have been making friends and doing activities like crafts. When we asked Hannah how she has changed since she started participating in You Belong ministries, she said, "I am more independent, I am more confident, I am more outgoing."

We are looking forward to seeing how Hannah can help You Belong grow and become even more effective. She has a vision for a better world in which "everybody has a home, everybody is safe, and everybody knows that God

loves them" and she shared that she hopes You Belong can be part of that by holding more worship services and community service projects.



"Belonging is when people want to know more about me," Hannah told us. Find out more about Hannah and You Belong by following along with our work as we begin our second year of ministry in Green Bay.

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Aug. 4	Barry Lehman
Aug. 5	Susan Weinlick
Aug. 5	Charlie McDonald
Aug. 6	Christopher Samsen
Aug. 11	Mary Bielke
Aug. 14	Joy Hicks
Aug. 14	Tom Von Boeckmann
Aug. 17	Marcia Eder
Aug. 19	Val Lehman
Aug. 19	Seth Habegger
Aug. 21	Karen Kilps
Aug. 24	Aden Ward
Aug. 25	Sharon Lauderman
Aug. 26	Sam Propsom
Aug. 30	Amy Straughan

Ordination Anniversaries

Aug. 7	Jennifer Moran (11 years)
Aug. 20	Katie Van Der Linden (16 years)
Aug. 26	Kay Ward (43 years)
Aug. 24	Judy Ganz (14 years)
Aug. 28	Nancy Von Boeckmann (29 years)
Aug. 29	Reid Lauderman (12 years)

Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA
Covenant, York, PA
York First, York, PA
New Dorp, Staten Island NY
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY
Trinity, New Carrollton, MD
Our Savior's Moravian in Altura, Minnesota
Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, Minnesota
Unionville Moravian in Unionville, Michigan
Daggett Moravian Church in Daggett, Michigan
West Salem Moravian in West Salem, Illinois
Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

Prayer Concern

We invite your prayers for the family of Sr. Carita Nelson, who entered the more immediate presence of her Lord and Savior on Wednesday afternoon, July 20 in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin at the age of 104. Her life and witness had a significant impact on the Moravian Church: she had seven children including -Sister Christine Stack who had served Kellner and Rudolph Moravian Churches in rural Wisconsin Rapids -Brother Rick Nelson who served several years as a missionary in Honduras -Brother Dan Nelson who has served in the Southern Province, Canadian District, and the Labrador Province -Brother Bruce Nelson who is currently President of the Western District Executive Board.



**BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION**
of the Moravian Church • North America

Mission Camps are now happening in three of our Moravian Conference Centers, and you should consider taking part!

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Laurel Ridge has been conducting Mission Camps for over ten years in cooperation with the Board of World Mission. They offer four mission opportunities each summer, primarily for congregational youth groups to come as a unit to work on homes in this poverty-stricken area of Appalachia. Laurel Ridge makes the arrangements with homeowners, purchases the needed supplies, and provides food and lodging. All groups need to do is register their youth, show up with counselors (a few of which have some building experience) and be ready to be in mission.

Mt. Morris in Wisconsin and Camp Hope in New Jersey have recently added Mission Camps to their summer schedules as well. These camps are open to adults of all ages, and folks can register themselves. On both of these sites, the work has been focused on completing needed projects around their campuses, and they have truly appreciated having folks there to help out.

The Board of World Mission is pleased to be supporting each of these mission opportunities. If you are interested in learning more, you may contact any of these Conference Centers in preparation for next year's mission opportunities.

Board of World Mission Update Ukraine Refugees and Flooding in Honduras

The Board of World Mission takes this opportunity to thank the many congregations and individuals who have donated to our Moravian Disaster Relief Fund over these past few months. We have raised over \$300,000 (US) to assist congregations in the Czech Republic and Germany as they extend hospitality to refugees fleeing violence in Ukraine. Your donations have helped provide housing, food, and critical supplies to folks who are in crisis. It has assisted one congregation in helping relocate a primary school from Kyiv to their town. Your donations have also helped congregations in places like Herrnhut to provide language classes, meals, and assistance in finding housing.

We look forward to assisting additional schools in the Czech Republic to welcome refugees into their student bodies. We now know that some refugees are making their way to the United States and Canada. Moravian congregations in Southern Wisconsin are now connecting with Ukrainian families who were hosted by Moravians in the Czech Republic and are being settled for up to two years in the Madison, WI area. The BWM can help your congregation if it wants to get involved with hosting refugee families.

Recently we have been made aware of flooding in the La Mosquitia region of Honduras that has severely impacted the essential crops of beans and rice. Planning on sending money to help purchase emergency supplies of food and to assist in planting subsequent crops.

For further information, go to www.moravianmission.org or contact the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org.

US citizens can send checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. You may also donate online at <http://moravianmission.org/give/> and click on the green "Give" button at the top of the page. Please indicate that your gift is for "MDR."

Canadians can send checks to: Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8. Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to treasurer@moravian.ca. In the comments section, please mark this donation as "MDR" and include your name and address to receive a tax receipt.

Interprovincial Ministers' Convocation

Approximately every seven years Northern and Southern Province clergy, active and retired, gather for the Interprovincial Ministers' Convocation (IPMC) for a time of learning, fellowship, and renewal for their ongoing service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

With the support and approval of both PECs, this year the IPMC will be held October 18-21, 2022 at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, Maryland. The presenter is the Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, professor of homiletics and dean of Duke University Chapel. A grant from the Lilly Foundation's Thriving in Ministry initiative covers most transportation costs, meals, and lodging, with only a minimal registration fee of \$250 per person.

We strongly urge congregations to support their pastors' presence at the Convocation. How? By encouraging attendance, assisting with expenses, and coordinating lay-led worship on the Sunday following the Convocation. This support is not only for the sake of our pastors, but more especially for the sake of the mission of the Moravian Church and its call to ongoing service in the world.

These are challenging times, including the pandemic, gun violence, blatant and violent manifestations of discrimination and racism, and so much more. The difficulties are great for everyone, and especially for pastors, who must cope not only with the same challenges, but also care for the challenges facing members of their congregations and communities. As a result, recent national research shows that mainline clergy are experiencing high levels of exhaustion and stress—mental, emotional, and spiritual. Research also shows that gatherings for renewal and shared fellowship are crucial for the well-being of pastors and their work on behalf of the gospel. In Jesus' own ministry, after the 12 returned from their mission of sharing the good news, Jesus called them away to time apart (Mark 6:30-32). In the same way we call our pastors, active and retired, to this important time in the life of the church.

Pastors attending the Northern Province Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing in mid-September are urged to attend the Convocation as well. These are very different events, with different purposes: both are important and necessary. The Pilgrimage will require significant physical, emotional, and spiritual investment—hard and important work. The Interprovincial Convocation provides the “get away” to which Jesus calls his disciples and which is also important and necessary. In fact, doing both—the hard work of the Pilgrimage followed by Jesus' calling to get

away for a while—can provide clergy with the spaciousness and support for processing the Pilgrimage and emerging more rested and renewed for the work ahead.

Please support the attendance of your pastoral leader to this crucial Interprovincial Ministers' Convocation October 18-21, 2022.

*With hope in the promises of God,
Elizabeth Miller, David Jones,
Melissa Johnson, Bruce Nelson*



MORAVIAN YOUNG ADULT CONVO

BRAZEN AND BLAZIN'...

BEING BOHEMIAN IN 2023

July 3 – 11, 2023

**A Spiritual Pilgrimage following
in the steps of the early Moravians.**

The past was wide open, and the future still is...
Young Adults ages 18 to 25ish from the Northern and Southern Provinces are invited to be bold in faith, following in the Brazen and Blazin' steps of the early Moravians at Young Adult Convo 2023. Travel, July 3 - 11, 2023, to the Czech Republic to experience Bohemian life in Prague – the home the original Bethlehem Chapel, then on to Husinec – the birthplace of Jan Hus, and Tabor – where the Hussite movement began. Engage in mission outreach with Czech Young Adults in Kunvald – the birthplace of our church, worship at Chalice Rocks, walk the Moravian path of spiritual renewal in Herrnhut, sing your favorite Moravian hymns in Dresden and so much more.

Join this unique Moravian spiritual journey. Make Moravian History a catalyst for Moravian Ministry today and in the future as you gather in large and small groups, tour important Moravian historical sites, engage in mission outreach, meet young adult Moravian from all over the world to cultivate community.

Brazen and Blazin' Young Adult Convo 2023 will take place beginning July 3rd and concluding July 11th. The per person cost is \$2,650.00 (USD) and includes your flight from designated regional locations in the US and Canada, Housing beginning, July 4th through July 10th,

Most Meals (two meals will be on your own), In Country Travel and Transit (Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany), Program, Mission Outreach, Convo T-shirt and Flight Insurance. A valid passport, one with an expiration date more than six months from the date of travel, is required.

Online registration opens July 15, 2022 at <https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2023-young-adult-convo/>. Most information may be found at this location. Please note, at this time there is limited registration availability for Young Adult Convo 2023.



Just say 'no' to stewardship campaigns and other tips

By Laura Watson

As fall rapidly approaches, many communities of faith are making plans for “a stewardship campaign” (CRINGE!). If you’re one of them, here are four important areas to consider before you go any further:

Current trends

- Be aware of inflation’s impact on everyone. If the current rate holds, giving will need to increase by 9% for you to maintain your current level of ministry. You may think, “We’ll have to cut back,” but ministry funding is about impacting people’s lives through Jesus, so the question to answer is, “How can we grow giving rather than reduce spending?”
- Consider people’s values, money motivations (does money mean freedom, security, power, and/or love?), and experiences (generationally, within the church, in the world), as well as the theology of stewardship taught in your church (hopefully that includes that

our identity as God’s stewards is grounded in trust, gratitude, generosity, and love). All these things impact a person’s decision to give God their time, talent, treasure, and more.

- Be clear on how money is being spent this year: what ministry it is accomplishing, how expenses are different from last year’s, and how the church’s use of money lines up with its mission. Begin casting a vision for 2023: “Here’s how God is calling us and how our collective stewardship will help us answer that call in the year ahead.”
- Finally, how much do you know about people’s giving habits? Identifying trends will help as you make decisions about inviting generosity. If you ask people to make a financial commitment, how many do so each year? Do you have people who used to make a commitment and have stopped, but who still give? How many people never give money but are active in the life of the church? Look at the last five years and see how the numbers can guide your steps for 2022-2023.

Financial invitation

- Please, please, please don’t use the words “stewardship campaign.” “Campaign” comes from a word that means “field” or “open country,” but in today’s world, we often think of politics or military actions when we hear it. Moreover, “stewardship campaign” minimizes the discipleship and faithfulness of stewardship. The goal of most campaigns is to win; the “goal” of our lives as stewards is for God’s work to be done in us and through us. Stewardship should be a year-round part of your ministry.
- Also, if you still have a “Stewardship Sunday,” stop immediately. This practice reinforces unhealthy mindsets and habits around living generously, implying that stewardship is only when we give money to the church once a year (the church wanting something from us rather than God wanting something FOR us) and not what we do with all that God has entrusted to us ALL THE TIME. We wake up. We are stewards. We go about our day. As stewards. We go to bed. Still stewards. We were created in God’s image to be generous. Whether we choose to be is up to us, but those choices are made all the time, not just on one Sunday when our communities of faith hope we will give money.
- If you are going to ask people to make a financial commitment to your church for 2023, it’s an invitation. And as you consider extending this invitation, first make sure you’re clear about why you’re doing it. Why does your church ask for commitments? What does it mean, not just for the church, but also for the individual, as a follower of

Christ? Also, do people know who sees their commitments, what they should do if they can't fulfill them, how they can make payments, etc? Clarity is essential.

- If your church doesn't invite people to make financial commitments, consider doing so just for a month. You're already budgeting without knowing how much money will be given, so taking this step won't impact that process. It **will** impact the congregation as people trust God to provide and make a promise on how much they intend to give. I've heard a lot of church leaders say, "We're ok financially without asking people to make a commitment." That may be true; just make sure you then have other practices that encourage people to grow in their understanding of financial stewardship.

- If you need a human resource, MMFA has that too! I'd be happy to connect with you, hear what's going on in your ministry setting, and see how we can partner with you on stewardship. Give me a call (336-725-2589) or [email me](#)

Conversation

Most people know "what the church does," but do they understand why it matters? Sharing stories of impact and lives changed is a critical step as you form and nurture faithful and generous stewards. Consider using the following questions as conversation starters for small groups, Sunday School class discussions, or for interviews conducted during worship or recorded as videos to share ALL YEAR LONG.

Answer these questions yourself and begin to experience the joy that comes from reflecting on your own identity as God's steward!

- What motivates your giving spirit?
- What ministry is most hopeful or exciting to you? Why?
- "I feel most alive when I use my gift of _____ to _____."
- I give _____ (time, talent, or treasure) to this church/ministry because _____."
- What headline or article about our community of faith would you like to read at the end of 2023? Why?
- If money were no object, what service to our neighborhood/neighbors would you hope to begin? Why?
- What does our collective stewardship accomplish? What have we given why does it matter?

Resources

- You aren't on this stewardship journey alone! Your Moravian Ministries Foundation offers a variety of resources, such as a [planning template](#), [thematic ideas](#) for framing stewardship conversations and invitations, recurring giving promotion materials, and much more. They are all available [here](#).