



Provincial Update: January 2023

The Northern Province Moravian Church in America

The magi followed the star and were overwhelmed with joy to see the child...they worshipped him and offered gifts. (Matthew 2) The season of Epiphany offers us the opportunity to notice God showing up in our world. Often called 'God-sightings,' we can attune our eyes of faith to look for and notice God at work in our lives. Perhaps even more importantly, we can notice God at work in the lives of those around us, particularly those with whom we might have differing perspectives on a variety of topics. Where have you seen God at work in your life? Where have you seen God at work in the life of someone around you?

Betsy Miller



FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD

2023 SYNOD

MORAVIAN CHURCH
NORTHERN PROVINCE

2023 Provincial Synod Updates

The 2023 Provincial Synod will be held June 22-25 on the campus of Moravian University in Bethlehem, PA. The theme is "For the Healing of the World." Registration forms were sent out on January 3rd. Once your congregation elects its delegate(s), fill out the form, select your first, second, and third choices for committees, and send it, along with full payment to the Provincial Office at 1021 Center St. Bethlehem, PA 18018. Registrations will not be considered complete and committee selections will not be honored until payment is remitted.

Pre-Synod Meetings will be held entirely on Zoom. There will be just one pre-synod meeting, offered at four different times: March 14 at 2pm ET & 8pm ET and March 15 at 12pm ET & 7pm ET. All delegates are expected to participate in one of these meetings. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25

This week reminds us that we all belong under the umbrella and embrace of Jesus Christ. No matter our denominational affiliation, we join with Jesus in praying that we may all be one. (John 17) As part of our observation of this week, the Rev. Andrew Heil, on the pastoral staff at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC, will offer a presentation on the work of the World Council of Churches. On Monday,

January 23 at 12pm ET / 11am CT / 10am MT / 9am PT, Andrew will offer personal reflections on the work of ecumenism and share from his experience attending the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany. Andrew was the representative of both the Southern and Northern Provinces. The session will be recorded for later viewing. More information can be found at [Moravian.org/Northern/Engage](https://www.moravian.org/Northern/Engage).

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85994339504?pwd=OHpKcGhjOEZMQmRRCRklkZWttM3M1dz09>



MMFA Moravian Day of Giving is February 21st

The third annual Day of Giving provides individuals opportunities to support their local congregations, agencies, and the Northern Province. Go to [MMFA.com](https://www.mmfa.com) to learn more and stay tuned for giving challenges.

Episcopal-Moravian Webinar Series – Past Reckoning: Exploring the Racial History of the Moravian and Episcopal Churches

This webinar series, on Wednesday nights, January 25th, February 1st, and February 8th at 7pm-8:30pm ET, will look at the history of the two Churches, from colonial times to the Civil War, from Reconstruction to Jim Crow, and Civil Rights to today. Connections will be made between our past and present to encourage the anti-racism work in which we are engaging now. Each webinar includes a pre-recorded segment focusing on the specific historic topic, followed by discussion between the working group and two panelists that expands the focus and connects it to the present. There will also be time for Q & A with the webinar participants. For more information, contact Sue Koenig (suekoenig@mcnp.org). Zoom link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VMBE-wMoSp6DroQO9-1MjQ



January 25th: Evangelizing Enslaved People: Good News or Control?

February 1st: The Silent Protest Parade: Responses to Racial Violence and Black Leadership in the Church

February 8th: The Church and the City: Integration, Segregation, and White Flight

Annual Reports due February 28th

Each year, congregations have the privilege and responsibility to reflect on their ministry and witness for the prior year. Annual Reports, completed by pastors, Joint (Unified) Boards, Treasurers, and staff, provide valuable information about witness, education, worship, finances, and attendance that helps the districts and province provide relevant resources. New this year: pastors have been placed in peer groups to discuss their respective Annual Reports and their leadership role in congregations.

Essentials Café Open House

The emerging Moravian ministry on the west side of Bethlehem, PA invites those in the area to an Open House on Saturday, January 21, from 12-2 pm, at 418 Third Ave. This ministry is supported by several Bethlehem congregations and is located in the former parsonage of the West Side Moravian Church. Much like Tricklebee Café in Milwaukee, it is a pay-what-you-can café designed to offer a ministry of hospitality and nourishing food to everyone in the neighborhood. Those not in the area may support Essentials Café through the MMFA Giving Portal: <https://www.mmfa.com/giving-portal/>



March 1st is the Unity Prayer Day Offering

This year, Moravians across the world will join together to support a new worldwide effort to develop a Moravian Unity Disaster Relief Fund. Established at the 2016 Unity Synod (and delayed in rollout due to Covid), this offering is designed to kickstart the fundraising efforts for this important fund. The purpose is to be able to respond quickly to disasters around the Unity with funds that are available for speedy disbursement. The goal to start is \$500,000. Please submit gifts through your local congregation, directly to the Northern Province, or through the MMFA Giving Portal: <https://www.mmfa.com/giving-portal/>

Common Ministries

The Province has prepared some resources to help you explain the Common Ministries Commitments we all share. There is a print brochure attached to this mailing. A five-minute video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATkNRhu5rmk>) shares more about how your financial support blesses the ministries of the province.

Racial Justice Resources

The Racial Justice Team is preparing worship resources for Black History Month. Stay tuned for more information. Recordings of the Advent Racial Justice series *A New Way of Being* are available at <https://www.moravian.org/northern/2023/01/09/2022-advent-series-a-new-way-of-being/> and may serve as a resource for February education opportunities or at any time.

The IRS Mileage rate for 2023 is \$0.655 per mile.