



Provincial Update: March 2023

The Northern Province

Moravian Church in America



FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD

2023 SYNOD

MORAVIAN CHURCH
NORTHERN PROVINCE

Provincial Synod – June 22–25, 2023

The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province will be held on the campus of Moravian University June 22–25, 2023. Registration begins on Thursday morning, or on Wednesday evening for those traveling from a distance. All delegates should now be registered for this important legislative gathering. There will be one pre-synod meeting offered to orient delegates to the purpose and process of synod. This one-hour webinar will be held online, via Zoom, at four different times:

- Tuesday, March 14 at 2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12noon MT / 11am PT
- Tuesday, March 14 at 8pm ET / 7pm CT / 6pm MT / 5pm PT
- Wednesday, March 15 at 12noon ET / 11am CT / 10am MT / 9AM PT
- Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT

The content will be the same; pick the time that works best for your schedule. Delegates will be sent the Zoom link for the webinar.

Roots Congregation Votes to Become a Moravian Church

After more than a year of exploration and prayerful discernment, along with extensive conversations with the Western District Executive Board and Provincial Elders' Conference, a congregation worshipping in St. Paul, MN has formally voted to become the Roots Moravian Church. Led by the pastoral team of T.C. and Osheta Moore, this congregation, which had been affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Church, was searching for a denominational home that would be in line with their expansive welcome of all persons. They found such a home with the Moravian Church Northern Province and have spent a year learning about our life and witness, our history, practices, and polity. T.C. and Osheta have met (via Zoom) with the WDEB and PEC, and have asked thoughtful, respectful questions to help in their discernment. They have been warmly and enthusiastically received by all they have met. Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller shared that it has been "a delight to walk with T.C., Osheta, and the congregation in their discernment process. Their curiosity and interest in joining with us is bringing fresh energy and excitement to who God is calling us to be." Both Sr. Betsy Miller and Br. Bruce Nelson have worshiped with the congregation and answered members' questions in preparation for the Town Hall vote that unanimously approved becoming a Moravian congregation. "Roots is community of 'misfits'—people who have felt left out, pushed aside, too much, or not enough in other Christian spaces," T.C. and Osheta shared. "Though we come from a wide variety of different backgrounds and have diverse identities, we're united in our love for God, one another, and our neighbors in the Twin Cities. We're overjoyed to join the Moravian family of churches because it feels like a home filled with both meaningful traditions and space for our misfit-ness. Let's follow the victorious Lamb together!"



We invite your prayers for Roots Moravian Church as they finalize their Charter and Bylaws and as T.C., ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church, and his wife Osheta, on their pastoral staff, complete the credentialing process to be received onto the Roster of the Moravian Church.



Church Planting Departure

After three years as our Director of Church Planting and Emerging Ministries, Ben Ingebretson has submitted his letter of resignation, effective March 31, 2023. With deep appreciation for the many ways Ben has equipped us to plant new congregations, the Provincial Elders' Conference accepted his resignation. At their February meeting, the Emerging Ministries Committee offered extensive words of gratitude to Ben for how he has 'shifted the needle' of what it means to plant new congregations in the 21st century. Under Ben's guidance, Br. Greg Behrend has launched You Belong, the province has developed a step-down model of funding new and emerging ministries, and processes of accountability have been put in place. The Emerging Ministries Committee, under the leadership of Br. Barry Frey, will continue with their work of supporting our emerging ministries.

Safe Gatherings

The Provincial Elders' Conference is firmly committed to the safety and well-being of all persons associated with the Moravian Church Northern Province. In order to more fully live into that commitment, the PEC expects all active clergy, under call or appointment, all licensed lay pastors, and candidates for ordination to complete a Clergy Ethics Course from Safe Gatherings by May 1, 2023 and in the year before each subsequent Provincial Synod. A letter was sent to all clergy in early January. As of February 28, 36 clergy have completed the online course and have received their certificate of completion. Please encourage your pastor to complete this important work in fulfillment of our shared commitment to caring for all people.