



Provincial Update: Pentecost 2023

The Northern Province Moravian Church in America

"They were all together in one place... and suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:1-4)

In a few weeks, many of us will be all together in one place – at Provincial Synod. It has been five years since synod has gathered physically together. I pray that the entire 'house' be filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. I pray that the house will be filled with prayer and laughter and the joy of renewed friendships. What might we do as believers filled with the Holy Spirit? How might we act as we pass legislation that bears witness to our faith and God's amazing capacity to love and transform the world? I pray that God's Holy Spirit would blow through our individual and collective hearts to take risks for God, to stretch our embrace of all people in this world, to welcome and affirm our LGBTQ siblings, Black Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color, to feed the hungry, protect the vulnerable, and tell of God's expansive love.

– Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller



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 in Bethlehem, PA June 22-25. Delegates from all congregations of the province will gather to hear about the work of the church and discern God's leading for the next three years. Synod delegates will prayerfully elect members of the Provincial Elders' Conference, including a new PEC president. Thirteen committees will discuss a variety of proposals and bring reports to the floor of synod for deliberation. Worship, fellowship, and the chance to be together in one place and share meals with one another will perhaps be among the greatest highlights. Please be in prayer for synod – the final preparations, safe travel, and the Spirit's wise leading. By now, all delegates should have access to the Dropbox with important information about synod and Reports and Proposals received to date. In the coming days, all of those materials will be assigned to the various committees in preparation for work at synod.

Society for Promoting the Gospel Grants

Each year, funds are available from the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) for congregations and agencies to apply for grants. The deadline for proposals is June 1st, 2023.

Summer Camping Ministries

Ministry leaders across the province are working to prepare for our 2023 Moravian summer camps. Registration is open for the majority of our camping ministries. Please pray for our program directors, counselors, campers, and support staff and help us ensure that all interested young people are registered for camp. Learn more at Moravian.org/Northern/Camp/.



Two Northern Province Students Complete Studies at Moravian Theological Seminary

Moravian Theological Seminary held its Commencement on Saturday, May 6th. Mikayla Sauerbrey (left) graduated with an MDiv and Jamie Almquist (right) was awarded a Certificate of Moravian Studies. President Betsy Miller was the commencement speaker and preached on "Distracted Leadership."



Mikayla Sauerbrey has always known that she was called to vocational ministry. However, she grew up in Christian communities that did not ordain women, which raised questions for her and prompted a discernment process that eventually led her to the Moravian Church. Looking ahead to ordained ministry, Mikayla is excited about the opportunity for the Church to grow into whatever new season awaits us. "The entirety of the Christian Church is in a season of transition and change, and that can seem incredibly daunting, but it is also exciting. I hope to be a pastor who can partner with congregations to foster an environment where people who doubt, who question, who reluctantly still believe, or who are tenaciously faithful can gather together and embrace being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world around us."

Jamie Almquist has always been fascinated by religion and spirituality, spending a significant portion of her life learning about how people live out their faith in practice. Without the intention of becoming a pastor, she decided to pursue an MDiv at Iliff School of Theology. Through a series of events and mentors, Jamie realized that she was indeed interested in church leadership and began to explore denominations, eventually finding a home with the Moravian Church. Jamie was ordained a Deacon on Saturday, May 20th at the Glenwood Moravian Community Church in Madison, WI, where she has been serving under appointment while completing her theological training at MTS. She has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Good Shepherd Moravian Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and will begin her ministry with the Good Shepherd congregation when the immigration process permits.

Please pray for other Northern Province students preparing for service in the Moravian Church: Jesmina Meade, James Joniec, Byrnese Craig, and others still in the discernment process. Please pray for people in your congregation who might have gifts for ministry: notice those gifts, name them aloud to the individuals, and nurture those people in their journeys of faith.

Hermann Weinlick to Retire in June 2023

After decades of service to the Moravian Church Northern Province as our Ecumenical Officer, Br. Hermann Weinlick has told the Provincial Elders' Conference of his intention to retire at the end of June 2023. Hermann has offered his gifts to the church, without compensation, to ensure that our province remains actively engaged in the important work of ecumenical relations. He has shepherded us into full communion relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has represented us on Churches Uniting in Christ and guided our relationship with the National Council of Churches. In short, Hermann has been the face and voice of ecumenism in the Moravian Church! The incoming PEC will determine how to fill this role.



**The 8th Bethlehem Conference
on Moravian History & Music**

THE WALTER VIVIAN MOSES LECTURE IN MORAVIAN STUDIES
Christina Petterson

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY KEYNOTE LECTURE
Winelle Kirton-Roberts

CONFERENCE CONCERT
Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum in Concert

August 17–19, 2023

HYBRID FORMAT: ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

8th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music

Registration is open for the 8th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music, to be held August 17–19. This conference explores Moravian history and music from the fifteenth to twenty-first centuries in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Register to attend in person or virtually: MoravianConferences.org.

Academy of Ecumenism

Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), an ecumenical organization to which the Moravian Church Northern Province belongs, is investing in the next generation of ecumenical leaders by forming an Academy of Ecumenism. Each member denomination was invited to send two young leaders (age 25–34) to this academy – a ten-month course of online classes and in-person retreat – to equip these individuals with the understanding and importance of ecumenical relationships. Br. Charlie McDonald and Sr. Mikayla Sauerbrey have been accepted to this program. Br. Hermann Weinlick will be their mentor. The program begins in the fall of 2023.

Full Communion Sacred Ground

All are invited to join a film- and reading-based dialogue on race and faith on Monday afternoons or evenings throughout the fall and winter. Full Communion Sacred Ground is designed by the Episcopal Church and facilitated by Episcopalians, Moravians, Lutherans and other clergy and lay people. Please join us for a preview session on June 26th or August 7th from 7–8pm ET on Zoom. Contact the Rev. Maria Tjeltveit to register: sacredground.beth@gmail.com.



Dialogue sessions will be held every other Monday Aug. 28–Nov. 20, 2023 and Jan. 8–Feb. 12, 2024 at 1–3pm ET or 7–8:30pm ET

Annual Reports

The Annual Reports for 2022 have been received in the provincial office with thanks for the hard work that went into their preparation. The Report for each congregation is being reviewed by at least one member of the PEC, one member of the corresponding District Board, your District President, and the PEC president. Each reader is offering comments that will be collated and shared with congregational leadership by your district president. It is our hope that the specific feedback your congregation receives will encourage you, offer you food for thought, and respond to any specific questions or issues you raised.

Moravian Young Adult Convo

There is just over a month until this year's Young Adult Convo. More than 50 young adults from the Northern, Southern, Jamaican, and Albanian Provinces of the Moravian Church are preparing to attend a spiritual pilgrimage to the Czech Republic and Germany, following in the "Brazen and Blazin'" footsteps of the early Moravians. They will build community with Moravian

brothers and sisters from other provinces, dive into Moravian history, grow in faith, and visit Nová Paka, where a Moravian congregation is caring for Ukrainian refugees. Please pray for the 2023 Young Adult Moravian Convo and the 38 Northern Province young adults who will be participating. Pray especially that the group comes together in a spirit of unity, that their travel is safe and without incident, and that they might bless all they come in contact with as they celebrate our Moravian heritage.



Clergy Complete *Safe Gatherings* Ethics Training

The Provincial Elders' Conference is pleased to report that all pastors serving under call or appointment, along with seminarians and licensed lay pastors have completed a Clergy Ethics Training administered by *Safe Gatherings*. This online education is designed to safeguard everyone in our congregations, agencies, camps, and other settings. The PEC expected all servants to complete this between January and May. This requirement will be repeated in the months prior to each Provincial Synod, so that clergy and other servants remain up-to-date on expectations about their behavior and new ways to stay alert for possible problems in their ministry settings. The province funded the cost of this important training.

Bishop Vashti McKenzie Named President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches

During its annual spring meeting, held in Washington, D.C., May 15-16, the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) announced that Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie has been elected to serve as President and General Secretary of the ecumenical organization. Bishop McKenzie has served in the position as interim since April 1, 2022, and immersed herself in the work of the organization without delay, initiating and supporting many efforts including the NCC's Health and Wellness Taskforce, a Voter Empowerment action plan campaign, and a Policy Roundtable for NCC's communions and partners to be in dialogue with policy experts on critical issues that strengthen its impact on public policy. Bishop McKenzie served as the 117th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was the first female elected to episcopal office in the AME Church's two centuries of operation.

