

Governance #6 (Canary)

**First Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

RE: Provincial Elders Conference Report

Whereas, the governance committee is in receipt of the Provincial Elders Conference Report for the 2023 Synod and

Whereas, the committee has reviewed said report and;

and

Whereas, the committee thanks the members of the PEC listed on page 5 for the thorough and comprehensive review of the PEC actions for the past inter-synodal period and we encourage all delegates to review the report thoroughly in order to have a full understanding of the challenges that were faced during this time;

and

Whereas, the committee wishes to recognize the extreme difficulties that were met with grace and love in the midst of deep loss and social upheaval and racial injustice, as well as seeking to heal the wounds of the past and present;

and

Whereas, The committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the PEC for their steadfast leadership during the past inter-synodal period

Resolved: (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts the Provincial Elders Conference Report with gratitude:

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 22, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Second Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

Re: Voice and Vote for District Youth Delegates

Whereas, youth are significant members of our District congregations, and

Whereas, youth delegates to Northern Province Synod have both voice and vote at Northern Provincial Synods, and

Whereas, youth delegates to District synods have only voice but not vote, and

Whereas, the 2016 Eastern District Synod requested that an amendment to the Book of Order be proposed at the Northern Provincial Synod, allowing for youth delegates to have both voice and vote at District synods; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: (2) The 2023 Northern Provincial Synod amends the Book of Order 905 by adding the following:

Additions in **Bold**

<i>B — Voting Members by Election</i>	<i>B — Voting Members by Election or Selection</i>
<p>¶905. (a) The District Executive Board shall determine the number of lay delegates to be elected to the synod of its respective District, subject to the following principles:</p> <p>(1) Each officially recognized congregation in good standing shall be represented by at least one elected lay delegate.</p> <p>(2) Additional elected lay delegates shall be apportioned among the congregations in</p>	<p>¶905. (a) The District Executive Board shall determine the number of lay delegates to be elected to the synod of its respective District, subject to the following principles:</p> <p>(1) Each officially recognized congregation in good standing shall be represented by at least one elected lay delegate.</p> <p>(2) Additional elected lay delegates shall be apportioned among the congregations in</p>

<p>proportion to the communicant membership of the congregations.</p> <p>The number of delegates shall be based upon the congregation's most recent Annual Report.</p> <p>(b) One retired clergy residing in the District to be elected from among their own number to represent them at the District Synod. This election process should be carried out by each of the respective District Executive Boards.</p>	<p>proportion to the communicant membership of the congregations.</p> <p>The number of delegates shall be based upon the congregation's most recent Annual Report.</p> <p>(b) One retired clergy residing in the District to be elected from among their own number to represent them at the District Synod. This election process should be carried out by each of the respective District Executive Boards.</p> <p>(c) The District Executive Board shall select three youth delegates (age 15-24) holding membership in a Moravian Church of the District.</p> <p>Each respective District shall determine delegate selection.</p>
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Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 22, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Third Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

RE: Changing the name Moravian College to Moravian University

- Whereas the Articles of Incorporation of Moravian University were formally amended by action of its Board of Trustees on January 22, 2021 to change the name from Moravian College to Moravian University, and
- Whereas on May 12, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Education formally granted approval to change the name Moravian College to Moravian University, and
- Whereas there are several instances in the Book of Order that reference Moravian College, notably in Chapter V, and
- Whereas the language noted in the purpose and identity of the institution(s) has been updated, and
- Resolved (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province amend the Book of Order ¶505(a), (b), and (c) as follows, and in all other references in the Book of Order (changes noted in **bold**; deletions noted with ~~strikethrough~~)

MORAVIAN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY

Character and Purpose

- ¶505. (a) The corporation MORAVIAN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY ~~originated with~~ **evolved from** the merger in 1954 of Moravian Seminary and College for Women, founded in 1742, and Moravian College and Theological Seminary, founded in 1807. The Church looks to the corporation MORAVIAN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY for the training of candidates for the ministry at home and abroad, and of ~~young men and women~~ **individuals** for other fields of activity, thereby carrying on the spiritual mission of the Moravian Church in higher education.
- (b) In fulfillment of the aforementioned purpose, MORAVIAN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY maintains two separate academic programs — Moravian ~~College~~ **University**, a ~~liberal arts college~~ **master's comprehensive university**, and Moravian Theological Seminary, a graduate-professional school of theology.
- (c) Moravian ~~College~~, **University**, as a church-related institution, ~~stresses Christian ideals and standards of conduct, believing that in them lies the fullest promise of achieving the high goals of liberal education~~ **with historic ties to the Moravian Church, seeks to both graduate ministerial candidates who will be qualified and**

prepared via graduate study to undertake the study of theology and the practice of ministry and to equip other undergraduate and graduate students to pursue a broad range of vocational aims.

~~In the continuing development of the program of liberal education to which it is committed, Moravian College, as an educational institution of the Moravian Church in America, seeks to accomplish its twofold task: first by graduating ministerial candidates who will be qualified and prepared to undertake the study of theology, and second by providing training in a Christian atmosphere for young men and women who wish to enter other fields of activity.~~

(Paragraph (d) remains unchanged; it is included here for reference only.)

- (d) Moravian Theological Seminary offers, through an academically recognized theological curriculum, a thorough training to students who have chosen to enter the ministry of the Church at home and abroad, to afford the best possible facilities for the pursuit of theological studies under competent guidance, and to foster growth in Christian experience and in spiritual life and work.

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson

Kerrian Simpson, Secretary

June 22, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Fifth Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

RE: Book of Order Changes Chapter I – Voting Privileges at Synod

Whereas, the core agencies of the Moravian Church Northern Province, namely, the Board of World Mission, the Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Archives, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Music Foundation, and the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America provide valuable resources, programming, and services to the province, and

Whereas, The Executive leaders of the core agencies bring wisdom and insight about their work to provincial synods,

Whereas, currently, none of the executive leaders of these agencies is an ordained minister under call in the Northern Province, and thus are invited to attend provincial synods as Advisory Delegates with voice, but no vote, and

Whereas, for much of the existence of these core agencies, their executive leaders were ordained and under call in the Northern Province and thus seated at synod as voting delegates, and

Whereas, when these agencies selected lay people to provide leadership, no thought was given to their loss of vote at synods, and

Whereas, these same leaders are seated with voice and vote at the provincial synods of the Moravian Church Southern Province, and

Whereas, by their own action in amending their bylaws, Moravian Academy and Linden Hall School for Girls have removed synod-elected trustees to serve on their respective boards, and

Whereas the Officers of Synod have been identified and seated as leaders of the church and bring wisdom and insight to the deliberations of synod, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (8) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province amend the Book of Order 108 (a) 5 by deleting

The President of Moravian College, a representative of Moravian Academy, a representative of Linden Hall School for Girls, a representative of the Provincial Women’s Board, the Provincial Comptroller, and the Provincial Chancellor, provided they are members of the Moravian Church

and replacing it with:

The Executive Director of the Board of World Mission, the Executive Director of the Interprovincial Board of Communication, the Director and Archivist of the Moravian Archives of the Northern Province, the President of Moravian University, the Vice-President and Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary, the Executive Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, and the President of the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, a representative of the Provincial Women's Board, the Provincial Chancellor, the Chair of Synod, and Officers of Synod appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference (or District Executive Board, in the case of District Synods).

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Seventh Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

Re: The Moravian Archives

- Whereas, the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA, is the official repository of the records of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, and
- Whereas, the current paragraph 605 in the Book of Order does not provide an adequate framework for the work of the Moravian Archives relating to the records of the church, and
- Whereas, it needs to be ensured that recent records of the church are restricted from public access, and
- Whereas, according to a resolution by the Provincial Elders' Conference from January 29, 1998, access to records of the church is to be restricted for a period of seventy-five years, and
- Whereas, this period of seventy-five years seems unreasonably long, especially in comparison with the regulations of other denominational archives*, and
- Whereas, it is desirable to reduce the restriction period to fifty years, and
- Whereas, it needs to be ensured that the majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Moravian Archives shall be members of the Moravian Church, be it

RESOLVED (10) paragraph 605 of the Book of Order be amended to read:

THE MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

¶605. (a) The Provincial Archives were consolidated by order of the Synod of 1861 with those of the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem, were incorporated on November 6, 1975, in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as the Moravian Archives, and are permanently housed in the Archives Building at 41 West Locust Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018.

(b) The Moravian Archives is the repository for the records of the congregations, boards, and institutions of the Moravian Church-Northern Province. The Moravian Archives acquires, preserves, and makes accessible the records of the Moravian Church, Northern Province. In addition, it collects and maintains a library of books relating to the history of the Moravian Church in the United States of America and elsewhere; and it collects and maintains other historical collections, such as collections of paintings, drawings and prints, objects, and photographs.

(c) Records of the church are defined as all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, registers, reports, pamphlets, letters, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, electronic data records, artifacts, or any other

documentary materials regardless of physical form or characteristics, created, received, or gathered by the church, its ministers, employees, congregations, boards, and institutions in pursuance of church business.

(d) Congregations, boards, and institutions of the Moravian Church-Northern Province shall transfer their non-current records to the Moravian Archives. The Moravian Archives may arrange and organize, describe, digitize, reproduce, deaccession, publish, and make these records accessible to the public, unless a restriction on the use of the records has been imposed at the time of transfer.

(e) Records of the church transferred to the Moravian Archives and younger than 50 years from the date of their creation are closed and can only be accessed with written permission given by the entity that created the record or, in case the entity is no longer in existence, by the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

(f) The care and management of the Archives is committed to an incorporated Board of Directors of whom the majority shall be members of the Moravian Church. The endowment funds, the annual budget, the employment of the Archivist and other staff, the development of archival policies, the care and maintenance of the Archives Building, and all other responsibilities for the Archives are committed to the Board of Directors.

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023

*The Episcopal Church has a restriction period of 30 years; the PC USA 50 years (congregational level)/20 years (denominational level); the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany, 30 years.

Current par. 605 of the Book of Order:

THE MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

- ¶605. (a) The Moravian Archives were consolidated by order of the Synod of 1861 with those of the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem and are permanently housed in the Archives Building at 41 West Locust Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018.
- (b) The care and management of the Archives is committed to an incorporated Board of Directors of up to twelve members, up to four of whom are appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference, up to four of whom are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc., and up to four of whom are appointed by the Board of Directors itself. The first eight must be Moravians.
- (c) The endowment funds, the annual budget, the employment of staff, and all other responsibilities for the Archives are committed to the Board of Directors.

**Eighth Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

Re: Ratio of lay to clergy delegates at Provincial Synods

Whereas: The Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province ¶108(b)1 regarding the election of lay delegates to provincial synods, states:

“By Election:

One or more lay persons selected by each congregation on a ratio of one person for each 250 confirmed communicant members or fraction thereof. The number of delegates shall be based on the congregation’s most recent Annual Report.” and

Whereas: The number of congregations with greater than 250 communicant members has declined in past decades, thus reducing the number of congregations that send more than one lay delegate to synod; and

Whereas: The number of clergy serving in specialized ministry relative to those serving in congregational settings has increased over the decades, thus increasing the number of clergy attending provincial synod; and

Whereas: It has long been a core value of the Moravian Church that the number of lay people at synod be greater than the number of clergy at synod – the priesthood of believers; and

Whereas: The Book of Order ¶905(a) states:

The District Executive Board shall determine the number of lay delegates to be elected to the synod of its respective District, subject to the following principles:

(1) Each officially recognized congregation in good standing shall be represented by at least one elected lay delegate.

(2) Additional elected lay delegates shall be apportioned among the congregations in proportion to the communicant membership of the congregations.

thus giving District Executive Boards the authority to assure that lay people outnumber clergy at District Synods; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (11) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province request the Provincial Elders’ Conference to analyze the statistics and membership of the congregations relative to the number of clergy serving in the province and bring a proposal to a subsequent Provincial Synod for consideration such that the number of lay people outnumber the clergy at any given provincial synod.

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Ninth Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

RE: Financial Appendices of the Provincial Elders Conference Report

Whereas, the governance committee is in receipt of Appendices A, B, and C of the Provincial Conference Report for the 2023 Synod, and

Whereas, the committee has reviewed said appendices and;

Whereas, the committee thanks the members of the PEC for the thorough and comprehensive review of the Status of Ministers in Service to the Church during the inter-synodal period (Appendix A); the Financial Operating Statement Summary (Appendix B); and The Defined Benefit Pension Fund (Appendix C), and we encourage all delegates to review the appendices thoroughly in order to have a full understanding of the challenges that were faced during this time, and

Whereas, The committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the members and staff of the Province for their steadfast faithfulness during the past inter-synodal period.

RESOLVED: (12) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts the Provincial Elders Conference Report Appendices with gratitude:

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023

Governance #6 (Canary)

**Tenth Partial Report
of the Governance Committee**

Re: Thank You for Leading the Church Through the Covid-19 Pandemic

Whereas, the Covid-19 Pandemic, a global health crisis, was a series of generationally-defining events that impacted how we live, gather, and worship, and

Whereas, our congregations and their members were unprepared for COVID-19 in January 2020; and

Whereas, during the pandemic our congregations, members, and ministries navigated previously unimaginable change with grace, and

Whereas, the challenge of navigating the pandemic continued and morphed for several years; and

Whereas, conflicting information, guidance, opinions, and perspectives required extraordinary levels of discernment; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (13) that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, formally expresses its gratitude to the Provincial Elders Conference, District Boards, Clergy, Congregational Leaders and Volunteers, for leading our congregations and ministries through the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, (14) that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, commends the leadership of our denomination and ministries for their discernment and implementation of decisions to care for their communities well in a time of crisis, and be it finally

RESOLVED, (15) that we thank the Chief Elder for never abandoning us during the pandemic.

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023

**Eleventh Partial and Final Report
of the Governance Committee**

Re: Moravian Academy and Linden Hall School for Girls – Change to Book of Order on Membership of Trustees

Whereas, In July 2020 Moravian Academy began the process of merging with The Swain School, a similar private educational institution also located in the Lehigh Valley. As part of the process, they consolidated their bylaws, naming a transitional board to operate during the merger, with board changes finalized as the merger was finalized; and

Whereas, Article XII of the bylaws of Moravian Academy states that any changes must be approved by the Provincial Elders’ Conference; and

Whereas, Prior to 2020, membership on the Moravian Academy Board of Trustees included, among others, three members elected by the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, two members appointed by Bethlehem Area Moravians, and one member appointed by the Provincial Elders’ Conference. During the transition, some board member positions were phased out with attrition, to create “a smaller, more agile Board,” as a letter to the PEC phrased it. Bylaw changes recommended by the Board of Trustees of Moravian Academy were approved by action of the Provincial Elders’ Conference on October 20, 2020, providing connection to the Moravian Church through the appointment of three board members by the Provincial Elders’ Conference for a three-year term. Such a change in the bylaws means that the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province no longer elects members to serve on the Board of Trustees of Moravian Academy. and,

Whereas, Article IX of the Bylaws of The Linden Hall School for Girls in Lititz, Pennsylvania states that the “bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees...Record of any such action shall be forwarded promptly to the Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Moravian Church in America Northern Province; and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of Linden Hall School for Girls requested permission of the Provincial Elders’ Conference to change their bylaws to reduce the number of representatives from the Moravian Church, and

Whereas, On February 14, 2023 the Provincial Elders’ Conference approved changing the Bylaws from:

By action of the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, the Trustees shall include one person to be elected by the Synod, one representative of the Provincial Elders' Conference appointed in the year of the Synod of 1994 and in the year of each succeeding Synod, and three persons to be named by the Joint Boards of Elders and Trustees of the Lititz Moravian Congregation.

To:

By action of the Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Trustees shall include one person to be appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference and one member to be appointed from the Lititz Moravian Church. And

Whereas, the 2018 Book of Order ¶511 states, "The Moravian Academy and Linden Hall School for Girls have separate Boards of Trustees. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall designate from among its number members of the Board of Trustees of each of these institutions of the Province, in accordance with the Charter of each institution," therefore be it

RESOLVED: (16) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province change Book of Order ¶511 to read, "The Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint three members to serve on the Board of Trustees of Moravian Academy and one member to serve on the Board of Trustees of Linden Hall School for Girls, in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of each institution."

Nicholas Noel, Chairperson
Kerrian Simpson, Secretary
June 23, 2023