

Lay Leadership Development #8 (teal)

First Partial Report  
of the Lay Leadership Development Committee

RE: Moravian University Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Moravian University; be it therefore

Resolved: (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province shall accept with gratitude the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Moravian University.

And be it further

Resolved: (2) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms the work of Moravian University and its dedication to provide educational opportunities to prepare each individual for a reflective life, fulfilling careers, and transformative leadership in a world of change.

Blondel Jones Grant, Chairperson  
Karen Brady, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Lay Leadership Development #8 (teal)

Second Partial and Final Report  
of the Lay Leadership Development Committee

RE: Lay Leadership Development- Affirmation and Support

Whereas... speaking of all believers, the scripture states “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:7); and

Whereas... the Moravian Church has historically emphasized the importance of both lay and ordained ministry; and

Whereas... the Church in North America is facing a decreasing number of ordained pastors available for congregational ministry, even as fewer and fewer congregations have the financial means to support a dedicated full-time ordained pastor; and

Whereas... increasing the role of lay leadership in congregational ministry is a response to the challenge of diminished availability of ordained clergy; be it therefore

Resolved... (3) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, affirms and encourages continued churchwide efforts to increasingly develop and empower lay leadership in congregational ministry. Examples of such efforts include:

- Ordained pastors equipping (discipling) and empowering congregational lay leaders to assume greater roles in local congregational ministry
- Increasing use of licensed lay ministers to provide congregational leadership
- Experiments with new congregational ministry models such as the Ohio Shared Ministry Congregational Partnership, pairing a single Ordained Minister with multiple congregations and expanded roles for local lay leadership
- Opportunities for further equipping laity in specific congregational ministry skill sets, such as training offered through the Moravian Theological Seminary Crossroads program, the Joint Board/Unified Board education offered by the Eastern District Director of Christian Education, and similar training initiatives

and

Whereas... initiatives focused on developing congregational lay leadership may at times require the investment of financial resources; and

Whereas... an increasing role for lay leadership in a variety of forms offers promise for the continued viability of many struggling congregations; be it therefore further

Resolved... (4) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Provincial Elders Conference to consider efforts directed toward the development and empowerment of lay leadership in all facets of congregational ministry as appropriate for the judicious use of resources available to the Province.

Blondel Jones Grant, Chairperson  
Karen Brady, Secretary  
June 23, 2023