

# Resolutions and Elections Booklet



---

FOR THE HEALING OF THE WORLD

---

**2023 SYNOD**

MORAVIAN CHURCH  
NORTHERN PROVINCE

## Table of Contents

Officers and Delegates .....	1
Synod Committees .....	7
Elections.....	9
Resolutions adopted by the 2023 Provincial Synod .....	10-156
Care and Nurture of Clergy (#1) .....	10-21
Church and Society (#2) .....	22-67
Congregational Leadership (#3) .....	68-74
Emerging Ministry (#4) .....	75-79
Finance (#5).....	80-85
Governance (#6).....	86-100
Healthier Congregations (#7) .....	101-107
Lay Leadership Development (#8) .....	108-110
Missional Engagement around the World (#9).....	111-114
Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods (#10).....	115-129
Relationships with Others (#11) .....	130-146
Spiritual Formation (#12) .....	147-150
Stewardship (#13).....	151-156
Index .....	157-162

## OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

### Synod Officers

Chair	Mr. Richard E. Santee, Jr., Esq.
Vice-Chair	Ms. Melida Hodgson
Secretary	Mrs. Jill Westbrook
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Paul Peucker
Parliamentarian	The Honorable Wilma Lewis
Assistant Parliamentarian	Mr. Richard (Ricky) E. Santee

### I. Voting Delegates by Virtue of Office (see *Book of Order* ¶108.a)

- A. Ordained ministers of the Moravian Church–Northern Province serving under call, appointment, in specialized ministry, or released for other service as well as lay ministers:
1. Jamie Almquist, Madison, WI - Glenwood
  2. Jason Andersen, DeForest, WI - Christian Faith
  3. William Andrews, Upper Marlboro, MD - St. Paul's
  4. Richard Beck, Calgary, Alberta, Canada – Board of Elders Canadian District
  5. Greg Behrend, Green Bay, WI - You Belong
  6. David Bennett, Nazareth, PA - Morningstar
  7. Barbara Berg, Cambridge, WI - London
  8. Walter Bishop, Staten Island, New York - New Dorp
  9. Jeffrey Bonn, Unionville, MI - Unionville
  10. Jennika Borger, Bethlehem, PA - Moravian Theological Seminary
  11. Marian Boyle Rohloff, West Side, Green Bay, WI
  12. Mark Breland, Lititz, Lititz, PA
  13. Clennon C. Hopeton, Central, Bethlehem, PA & Bishop
  14. Jon Michael Deisher, West Salem, IL – West Salem
  15. Lynne Delbridge, Whitehall, PA - St. John's Lutheran
  16. Brian Dixon, Emmaus, PA - Emmaus
  17. Eileen Edwards, Easton, PA - Palmer
  18. Ian Edwards, Bethlehem, PA – Northern Province Provincial Service
  19. Nasel Ephraim, Philadelphia, PA - Redeemer
  20. Wellesley Ferguson, Staten Island, NY – Fellowship/Vanderbilt Ave.
  21. Garritt Fleming, Dover, PA – Covenant & First
  22. Sanette Fleming, Dover, PA – Covenant & First
  23. Lance Fox, Staten Island, NY – Castleton Hill
  24. Derek French, Nazareth, PA - Nazareth
  25. John Fritts, Bethlehem, PA – Advent
  26. Jane Gehler, Watertown, WI - Marquardt Village
  27. David Geyer, OH – Fry's Valley, Gnadenhutten, Uhrichsville First
  28. J. Christian Giesler, Bethlehem, PA - Bishop & Board of World Mission
  29. Amy Gohdes-Luhman, Waconia, MN – Waconia
  30. Stephen Gohdes, Calgary Alberta Canada – Christ Moravian
  31. Lloyd Gooden, New Philadelphia, OH – Sharon
  32. Earl Goulbourne, Springfield Gardens, NY – Grace (Queens) & Eastern District Executive Board
  33. Jodie Harney, Hellertown, PA – Mountainview
  34. Jesmina Hebbert Meade, Coopersburg, PA – MorningStar
  35. Jodi Heim, MN- St. Charles, MN – Berea & Our Savior's
  36. Desna Henry Goulbourne, New York, NY - United
  37. James Heroux, Appleton, WI – Freedom
  38. Trina Holmberg, Alberta, Canada – Anglican Ch of Canada
  39. Vicki Jens-Page, Pittsville, WI - Veedum
  40. Christine Johnson, Bethlehem, PA - College Hill
  41. Darrell Johnson, Cinnaminson, NJ – Palmyra & Eastern District Executive Board
  42. Melissa Johnson, Bethlehem, PA – Eastern District Executive Board President
  43. Michael Johnson, Brooklyn, NY – John Hus

44. Blondel Jones-Grant, Staten Island, NY – Great Kills
45. Kelly Kapp, Lebanon, PA - Lebanon
46. Andrew Kilps – Hope, IN – Hope
47. Matthew Knapp, Sturgeon Bay, WI – Sturgeon Bay
48. Sue Koenig, Easton, PA – Easton First & Director of Racial Justice & Healing
49. Kerry Krauss, Sister Bay, WI – Sister Bay/Western District Executive Board
50. James Lavoy, Edmonton, AB – Rio Terracc/Board of Elders Canadian District
51. Kurt Liebenow, Watertown, WI – Watertown
52. Aaron Linville, Edmonton, Alberta Canada - Millwoods
53. Benjamin Lippert, New Philadelphia, OH – Schoenbrunn
54. Sayward Lippincott, Lititz, PA - Lititz
55. Staci Marrese-Wheeler, Madison, WI – Common Grace
56. Mandy Mastros, Lancaster, PA – Lancaster
57. Charles McDonald, Chaska, MN - Chaska
58. Andrew Meckstroth, Breinigsville, PA – Ziegels Lutheran Church
59. Christie Melby-Gibbons, Milwaukee, WI – Tricklebee Café
60. Elizabeth Miller, Bethlehem, PA – Provincial Elders’ Conference
61. Daniel Miller, Bethlehem, PA – Edgeboro
62. Osheta Moore, Saint Paul, MN - Roots Moravian
63. T.C. Moore, Saint Paul, MN – Roots Moravian
64. Bruce Nelson, Lake Mills, WI – Western District Executive Board, President
65. Mark Newman, Nazareth, PA – Newfoundland
66. Richard Newswanger, Victoria, MN – Lake Auburn
67. Jay Petrella, Thurmont, MD – Graceham
68. Tracy Pryor, Dublin, OH – Church of the Redeemer
69. Cynthia Rader Geyer, Allentown, PA – Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
70. Eric Renner, Fargo, ND – Shepherd of the Prairie & Canaan
71. Janel Rice, Coopersburg, PA – Calvary
72. Tammie Rinker, Bethlehem, PA – West Side
73. Tracy Robinson, Bethlehem, PA – Esperanza for Bethlehem
74. Rhonda Robinson, Bethlehem, PA – Esperanza for Bethlehem
75. Dorothy Rohn-Habegger, Wisconsin Rapids, WI – Wisconsin Rapids
76. Joel Russell, Leonard, ND – Bethel & Goshen
77. Gregg Schafer, Banning, CA – Morongo
78. F. Rowan Simmons, Brampton, Ontario Canada – New Dawn
79. Rebecca Sisley, Riverside, NJ – First (Riverside)
80. David Sobek, Lake Mills, WI – Lake Mills
81. Katie Van Der Linden, Watertown, WI – Ebenezer
82. Dawn Volpe, Ephraim, WI – Ephraim
83. John Wallace, Dover, OH – First (Dover)
84. Bevon White, Silver Spring, MD – Faith
85. Linda Wisser, Bethlehem, PA – East Hills
  
- B. Bishops residing in the Northern Province (not included in A above):
86. M. Blair Couch, Allentown, PA
87. Paul A. Graf, Sturgeon Bay, WI
88. Douglas H. Kleintop, Easton, PA
89. Kay Ward, Watertown, WI
  
- C. Lay members of the Provincial Elders’ Conference and District Executive Boards:
90. Courtney Bauder, Appleton, WI – Western District Executive Board
91. Nancy Chandler – Columbus, IN – Western District Executive Board
92. Susan Dreydoppel, Nazareth, PA – Provincial Elders’ Conference
93. Cindy Fahney, Jefferson, WI – Western District Executive Board
94. Lauren Grady, West Deptford, NJ – Eastern District Executive Board
95. Bob Hawkesworth, Calgary, AB – Board of Elders Canadian District

96. David M. Jones, Edmonton, Alberta Canada – Provincial Elders’ Conference, Board of Elders Canadian District, President
97. Tammy Lavoy, Greentown, PA – Eastern District Executive Board
98. Cheryl Lovlien, Altura, MN – Western District Executive Board
99. Jackie Pasquinelli, New Philadelphia, OH – Eastern District Executive Board
100. Linda Rapp, Hellertown, PA – Eastern District Executive Board
101. Bonnie Robertson, Lanham, MD – Eastern District Executive Board
102. Brandon Salyzyn, Alberta, Canada – Board of Elders Canadian District
103. Bruce Shoger, Bonita Springs, FL – Provincial Elders’ Conference
104. Naomi Solomon, Three Bridges, NJ – Eastern District Executive Board
105. Valerie Wagner, Waconia, MN – Provincial Elders’ Conference
106. Ralph Wanamaker, Jr., Bethlehem, PA – Provincial Elders’ Conference

D. Other *ex officio* voting delegates:

107. Richard Santee, Bethlehem, PA – Chancellor/Synod Chair
108. Patricia Baldwin, Hope, IN – Provincial Women’s Board

**II. Voting Delegates by Virtue of Election (see *The Book of Order* ¶108.b)**

- A. Lay representatives selected by congregations
109. Komi Agoda-Kouss, Castleton Hill, Staten Island, NY
110. Gail Andrews, St. Paul’s, Upper Marlboro, MD
111. Seth Angel, Fry’s Valley, New Philadelphia, OH
112. Beverly Antonelli, First, Dover, OH
113. Adair Aumock, Unionville, MI
114. Diane Bainbridge, Lititz, PA
115. Jean-Anne Baker, Schoenbrunn, New Philadelphia, OH
116. Jane Berg, Lake Mills, WI
117. Cliff Bergstresser, First Moravian, York, MD
118. Debbie Bildfell, Millwoods, Edmonton, Alberta Canada
119. Jeff Binger, Veedum, Pittsville, WI
120. Lorrigan Booth, First, Dover, OH
121. Carole Bounds, Egg Harbor, NJ
122. Terri Boyd, Advent, Bethlehem, PA
123. Karen Brady, Central, Bethlehem, PA
124. D. Michael Brauner, Lebanon, Lebanon, PA
125. Randolph Bricker, Lititz, Lititz, PA
126. Steve Brockert, Lake Mills, WI
127. Wendy Brockert, Lake Mills, WI
128. Terrie Carpenter, Freedom, Appleton, WI
129. Claire Cole, Calvary, Allentown, PA
130. Gerry Downes, New Dawn, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
131. John Egerton, Advent, Bethlehem, PA
132. Jessica Espinoza, Morongo, Banning, CA
133. Winnifred Farquharson, United, New York, NY
134. Larisa Fava, Palmer, Easton, PA
135. Susan Ficzkco, First Moravian, Easton, PA
136. Cheryl Foote, Heckewelder Memorial, Gnadenhutten, OH
137. Geoffrey Forde, Grace Moravian, Queens, NY
138. Audrey Frauenfeld, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
139. Charles Ganz, Christ’s Community, Maple Grove, MN
140. Joshua Glemaker, Heckewelder Memorial, Gnadenhutten, OH
141. Tiffani Glime, Waconia, Waconia, MN
142. Keith Gohdes, Canaan, Davenport, ND
143. Philip Graf, Palmyra, Cinnaminson, NJ
144. Randy Greer, First, Uhrichsville, PA
145. Michael Henry, Emmaus, Emmaus, PA

146. Robert Hensley, Graccham, Thurmont, MD
147. Steven Heroux, Watertown, WI
148. Carol Grace Hicks, East Hills, Bethlehem, PA
149. Brenda Hoclmann, Central, Bethlehem, PA
150. Jennifer Hollenberger, London, Cambridge, WI
151. Sarah Hriniak, Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA
152. Garrie Huisenga, Chaska Moravian, Chaska, MN
153. James Jimenez, Great Kills, Staten Island, NY
154. Bernalyn Jones-Clarke, United, New York, NY
155. Hilary Josiah, Newfoundland, Newfoundland, PA
156. Andrew Kay, New Dorp, Staten Island, NY
157. Louis Kilkenny, Fellowship, Brooklyn, NY
158. Christine Kilps, Glenwood, Madison, WI
159. Sunny Kline, Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA
160. Harrison Krauss, Sister Bay, Sister Bay, WI
161. Becky Lepore, Central, Bethlehem, PA
162. Colleen Lightfoot, First, Riverside, NJ
163. Malinda Lindstrom, Goshen, Durbin, ND
164. Elmer Lytle, West Salem, West Salem, IL
165. Jane Martin, Edgeboro, Bethlehem, PA
166. Gwen May, Rio Terrace, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
167. Diane Meehan Cassel, Mountainview, Hellertown, PA
168. Victoria Minard, Church of the Redeemer, Dublin, OH
169. Lindsay Newman, Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
170. Nicholas Noell III, Palmer, Easton, PA
171. Bonnie Nuber, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin Rapids WI
172. Lori Olson-Putz, Common Grace Lakeview, Madison, WI
173. Jon Ortwein, East Hills, Bethlehem, PA
174. Thomas Pheiffer, Edgeboro, Bethlehem, PA
175. Karlie Plath, Bethel, Leonard, ND
176. Jeff Pratt, Christ, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
177. Connie Ray, Hope, Hope, Indiana
178. Lynn Reichman, Sharon, Tuscarawas, OH
179. Joan Reid, John Hus, Brooklyn, NY
180. Tory Reid, John Hus, Brooklyn, NY
181. Jan Russel, Shepherd of the Prairie, Fargo, ND
182. Bruce Sautebin, Sturgeon Bay, Sturgeon Bay, WI
183. Stacy Schaab, Egg Harbor, Egg Harbor City, NJ
184. Tracy Scott, Redeemer, Philadelphia, PA
185. Sally Scroggins, Hope, Hope, Indiana
186. Angela Sherman, Ephraim, Ephraim, WI
187. Kerrian Simpson, Faith, Washington D. C.
188. Sally Snyder Bolmer, West Side, Bethlehem, PA
189. Andrew Starr, Sturgeon Bay, Sturgeon Bay WI
190. Brian Stauffer, Emmaus, Emmaus, PA
191. Mark Stephan, Our Savior's, Altura, MN
192. Ivy Summers, West Side, Green Bay, WI
193. Bob Turgyan, Lititz, Lititz, PA
194. Ann Tyrell, Good Shepherd, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
195. Lillian Valentin, Lancaster, Lancaster, PA
196. Megan Vanderbloemen, Christian Faith, DeForest, WI
197. Theresa Vesper, Ebenezer, Watertown, WI
198. Barb Wagner, Covenant, York, PA
199. Benjamin Wallace, College Hill, Bethlehem, PA
200. Barbara Walters, Nazareth, Nazareth, PA
201. Robert Wascura, Central, Bethlehem, PA

- 202. Jill Westbrook, Sharon & Synod Secretary, Tuscarawas, OH
- 203. Beryl Williams, Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY
- 204. Liesl Wolf, Lititz, Lititz, PA
- 205. Maddalin Zimmerman, Waconia, Waconia, MN

- B. Retired ministers
- 206. Peg Chamberlin, Minneapolis, MN
- 207. Otto Dreydoppel, Nazareth, PA
- 208. Judy Ganz, Monticello, MN
- 209. Dennis Rohn, New Philadelphia, OH
- 210. Gary Straughan, Green Bay, WI
- 211. Aden Ward, Watertown, WI

**III. Voting Delegates by Virtue of Selection (see *The Book of Order* ¶108.c):**

- A. Youth delegates selected by District Boards
- 212. Jasmine Aska, Bronx, NY - Eastern District
- 213. Delaney Brummer, Rolling Stone, MN - Western District
- 214. Madison Figiel, Cinnaminson, NJ - Eastern District
- 215. Joe Foyst, Columbus, IN - Western District
- 216. Clara Pratt, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Canadian District

**IV. Ecumenical and Advisory Delegates (Non-voting):**

- 217. Sue Adams - Synod Staff
- 218. D. Wayne Burkette - Synod Chaplain
- 219. Brenda Cahill - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 220. Marie Cestone - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 221. Marie Coutts - Eastern District Staff
- 222. Tammy Curcio - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 223. Elizabeth Eaton - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 224. David Elton - Los Alamos United Church, Los Alamos, NM
- 225. Sylvie Hauscr - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 226. Johanna Heft - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 227. Sharon Hergenrother - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 228. Melida Hodgson - Synod Vice-Chair
- 229. Vince Holbrook - Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
- 230. Barbara Howard - Moravian Music Foundation
- 231. Wilma Lewis - Synod Parliamentarian
- 232. Jeff Long - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 233. Jennifer Maidrand - Washington, D.C. , Churches for Middle East Peace
- 234. Cynthia Moore-Koiko - Cranberry Township, PA - United Methodist
- 235. Jacquie Petko - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 236. Paul Peucker - Synod Assistant Secretary & Moravian Archives
- 237. Justin Rabbach - Board of World Mission
- 238. Michael Riess - Interprovincial Board of Communication
- 239. Samuel Rodman - Raleigh, NC - Episcopal Church
- 240. Neil Routh - Winston Salem, NC - Provincial Elders' Conference Southern Province, President
- 241. Ricky Santee- Bethlehem, PA - Synod Parliamentarian Assistant
- 242. Mark Santore - Moravian Church Northern Province Staff
- 243. Chris Spaugh - Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
- 244. June Sterling, Ottawa, Ontario Canada - Canadian District Treasurer
- 245. Gabriel Thomas, Tricklebee Café
- 246. Maria Tjeltveit, Allentown, PA - Episcopal Church
- 247. Rachael Trimble, You Belong
- 248. Heather Vacek, Bethlehem, PA - Moravian Theological Seminary

249. Laura Watson – Moravian Ministries Foundation in. America
250. Herman Weinlick – Ecumenical Officer



## SYNOD COMMITTEES

### Care and Nurture of Clergy

1. Dan Miller, *Chair*
2. Jane Berg, *Secretary*
3. Barbra Berg
4. Jennika Borger
5. Mark Breland
6. Marie Cestone
7. M. Blair Couch
8. Wellesley Ferguson

### Church and Society

1. Marian Bohl Rohloff, *Chair*
2. Brenda Hoelman, *Secretary*
3. Steve Brockert
4. Peg Chemberlin
5. John Egerton
6. Judy Ganz
7. Tiffani Glime
8. Amy Gohdes-Luhman

### Congregational Leadership

1. Nasel Ephraim, *Chair*
2. Adair Aumock, *Secretary*
3. William Andrews
4. Seth Angel
5. Jeffrey Bonn
6. Cheryl Foote
7. Earl Goulbourne

### Emerging Ministries

1. Christi Melby-Gibbons, *Chair*
2. Terri Boyd, *Secretary*
3. Diane Bainbridge
4. Greg Behrend
5. Lynnette Delbridge
6. Jesmina Hebbert Meade
7. Vince Holbrook

### Finance

1. Andrew Meckstroth, *Chair*
2. Jodie Hamey, *Secretary*
3. Wendy Brockert
4. Brenda Cahill
5. Geoffrey Forde
6. Lance Fox
7. Jane Gehler

### Governance

1. Nicholas Noel III, *Chair*
2. Kerrian Simpson, *Secretary*
3. David Bennett
4. C. Hopeton Clennon
5. Gerry Downes
6. Carol Grace Hicks

9. Paul Graf
10. Philip Graf
11. Colleen Lightfoot
12. Victoria Minard
13. Bruce Nelson
14. Jacquie Pctko
15. Joan Reid
16. Eric Renner

9. Bob Hawkesworth
10. Desna Henry Goulbourne
11. James Heroux
12. Sue Koenig
13. Aaron Linville
14. Diane Meehan Cassell
15. Lori Olson-Putz
16. Thomas Pheiffer

8. Jodi Heim
9. James Jimenez
10. Darrell Johnson
11. Bernalyn Jones-Clarke
12. Douglas Kleintop
13. Becky Lepore
14. Cheryl Lovlien

8. Garrie Huisenga
9. Christine Johnson
10. David Jones
11. Christine Kilps
12. Kerry Krauss
13. T.C. Moore
14. Tracy Pryor

8. Keith Gohdes
9. Michael Henry
10. Jane Martin
11. Tracy Robinson
12. Dennis Rohn
13. Bruce Shoger
14. Chris Spaugh

7. Vicki Jens Page
8. Betsy Miller
9. Jay Petrella
10. Cynthia Rader Geyer
11. Brandon Salyzyn
12. Mark Stephan

17. Bonnie Robertson
18. Beth Rohn-Habhegger
19. Stacy Schaab
20. Rebecca Sisley
21. Ralph Wanamaker Jr.

17. Neil Routh
18. Bruce Sautebin
19. Angela Sherman
20. Theresa Vesper
21. Jill Westbrook

15. David Sobek
16. Magan Vanderbloemen
17. Barb Wagner
18. John Wallace

15. Lynn Reichman
16. Tammie Rinker
17. Gabriel Thomas
18. Rachael Trimble

15. June Sterling
16. Gary Straughan
17. Aden Ward
18. Maddalin Zimmerman

13. Bob Turgyan
14. Beryl Williams

### Healthier Congregations

- |                                     |                          |                  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tammy Lavoy, <i>Chair</i>        | 8. Winnifred Farquharson | 15. Bonnie Nuber |
| 2. Jamie Almqvist, <i>Secretary</i> | 9. Audrey Frauenfeld     | 16. Karlie Plath |
| 3. Debbie Bildfell                  | 10. Charles Ganz         | 17. Jeff Pratt   |
| 4. Walter Bishop                    | 11. Randy Greer          | 18. Ivy Summers  |
| 5. Carole Bounds                    | 12. Hilary Josiah        |                  |
| 6. D. Michael Brauner               | 13. Andy Kilps           |                  |
| 7. Nancy Chandler                   | 14. Richard Newswanger   |                  |

### Lay Leadership Development

- |                                      |                    |                        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Blondel Jones-Grant, <i>Chair</i> | 8. Barbara Howard  | 15. Jackie Pasquinelli |
| 2. Karen Brady, <i>Secretary</i>     | 9. Melissa Johnson | 16. Jan Russell        |
| 3. Cliff Bergstresser                | 10. Kelly Kapp     | 17. Tracy Scott        |
| 4. Jon Michael Deisher               | 11. Kurt Liebenow  | 18. Ann Tyrell         |
| 5. John Fritts                       | 12. Elmer Lytle    | 19. Heather Vacek      |
| 6. David Geyer                       | 13. Lindsay Newman |                        |
| 7. Lloyd Gooden                      | 14. Jon Ortwein    |                        |

### Missional Engagement Around the World

- |                                     |                          |                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Andrew Starr, <i>Chair</i>       | 8. Michael Johnson       |                      |
| 2. Trina Holmberg, <i>Secretary</i> | 9. Andrew Kay            | 15. Lillian Valentin |
| 3. Komi Agoda-Kouss                 | 10. Gwen May             |                      |
| 4. Lorrigan Booth                   | 11. Clara Pratt          |                      |
| 5. Larisa Fava                      | 12. Justin Rabbach       |                      |
| 6. Madison Figiel                   | 13. Tory Reid            |                      |
| 7. Chris Giesler                    | 14. Foster Rowan Simmons |                      |

### Missional Engagement in Our Neighborhoods

- |   |                           |                         |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mandy Mastro, <i>Chair</i>             | 7. Eileen Edwards         | 14. Janel Rice          |
| 2. Katie Van Der Linden, <i>Secretary</i> | 8. Cindy Fahney           | 15. Sally Snyder Bolmer |
| 3. Jason Andersen                         | 9. Lauren Grady           | 16. Dawn Volpe          |
| 4. Patricia Baldwin                       | 10. Jennifer Hollenberger | 17. Robert Wascura      |
| 5. Randolph Bricker                       | 11. Staci Marrese-Wheeler | 18. Linda Wisser        |
| 6. Susan Dreydoppel                       | 12. Charles McDonald      |                         |
|   | 13. Linda Rapp            |                         |

### Relationship with Others

- |                                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Derek French, <i>Chair</i>      | 7. Sanette Fleming | 13. Naomi Solomon  |
| 2. Gregg Schafer, <i>Secretary</i> | 8. Joshua Glemaker | 14. Valerie Wagner |
| 3. Beverly Antonelli               | 9. Robert Hensley  |                    |
| 4. Richard Beck                    | 10. Sarah Hriniaik |                    |
| 5. Terrie Carpenter                | 11. James Lavoy    |                    |
| 6. Susan Ficzko                    | 12. Sally Scrogham |                    |

### Spiritual Formation

- |  |                     |                        |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Gohdes, <i>Chair</i>        | 7. Jessica Espinoza | 14. Sayward Lippincott |
| 2. Malinda Lindstrom, <i>Secretary</i> | 8. Steven Heroux    | 15. Osheta Moore       |
| 3. Gail Andrews                        | 9. Louis Kilkenny   | 16. Connie Ray         |
| 4. Claire Cole                         | 10. Sunny Kline     | 17. Joel Russell       |
| 5. Marie Coutts                        | 11. Matthew Knapp   | 18. Brian Stauffer     |
| 6. Brian Dixon                         | 12. Harrison Krauss | 19. Benjamin Wallace   |
|  | 13. Ben Lippert     |                        |

### Stewardship

- |                                      |                     |                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bevon White, <i>Chair</i>         | 8. Ian Edwards      | 15. Laura Watson |
| 2. Courtney Bauder, <i>Secretary</i> | 9. Garritt Fleming  | 16. Liesl Wolf   |
| 3. Jasmine Aska                      | 10. Joe Foyst       |                  |
| 4. Jean-Anne Baker                   | 11. Mark Newman     |                  |
| 5. Jeff Binger                       | 12. Rhonda Robinson |                  |
| 6. Delancy Brummer                   | 13. Barbara Walters |                  |
| 7. Otto Dreydoppel                   | 14. Kay Ward        |                  |

## ELECTIONS

### **Provincial Elders' Conference**

The Rev. David E. Bennett, Bethlehem, PA (President)  
Susan Dreydoppel, Nazareth, PA  
Ruth Ricketts  
Keith Gohdes,  
Ralph Wanamaker, Jr., Bethlehem, PA

### **Larger Life Foundation**

Wendy Brockert, Lake Mills, WI  
Gary Straughan,  
Ralph Wanamaker, Jr., Bethlehem, PA

### **Moravian Theological Seminary Trustee**

Eileen Edwards, Palmer, PA  
Judith M. Ganz  
Michael Johnson, Brooklyn, NY

### **Provincial Women's Board**

Nasel Ephraim, Philadelphia, PA  
Jan Russell

### **Unity Synod**

Jason O. Andersen,

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
2023 SYNOD  
MORAVIAN CHURCH NORTHERN PROVINCE**

Parsonage Task Force #1 (goldenrod)

**FIRST PARTIAL REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CLERGY**

RE: Parsonage Task Force

Whereas: the 2018 Provincial Synod directed the PEC to develop a parsonage task force to develop guidelines for the inspection of parsonages on a regular basis, and

Whereas: the task force created a survey sent to clergy and joint or unified board members, and

Whereas: it was noted that Covid 19 interrupted the work of the task force, and

Whereas: the task force determined that no further action was needed at this time, therefore be it

Resolved: (1) that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province offers its thanks to the parsonage task force for their work outlined in the report.

And be it further

Resolved: (2) that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts the parsonage task force report with gratitude.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)

SECOND PARTIAL REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CLERGY

RE: Human Resources and Benefits Department.

Whereas: the Care and Nurture of Clergy Committee has received and reviewed the report from the Human Resources and Benefits Department, and

Whereas: the Human Resources and Benefits Department has diligently and faithfully overseen Human Resources and Benefits for the Moravian Church Northern Province during the inter-synodal period, therefore be it

Resolved: (3) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with gratitude the report of the Human Resources and Benefits Department regarding their work completed during the inter-synodal period.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)

THIRD PARTIAL REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CLERGY

RE: Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund

Whereas: the Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund (CEAF) was established in accordance with the resolutions taken at the 2010 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, in order to make financial assistance available to clergy of the Moravian Church, Northern Province who find themselves in emergency situations and who need assistance providing for their food, shelter, and/or safety; and

Whereas: the Care and Nurture of Clergy Committee reviewed the report from the Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund, and

Whereas: the Care and Nurture of Clergy Committee appreciates the work of the Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund Committee of the Moravian Church, Northern Province in providing emergency assistance to pastors in need, be it therefore

Resolved: (4) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accept with gratitude the report from the Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund Committee,

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)

FOURTH PARTIAL REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON CARE AND NURTURE OF CLERGY

RE: Bishops Residing In The Northern Province.

Whereas: Section 206 (a) and (b) The Moravian Book of Order states “A Bishop of the Moravian Church is consecrated to a special priestly pastoral ministry in the name of and for the whole Unity,” and

Whereas: The Northern Province currently has six bishops residing in the Northern Province, two living in Wisconsin and four living in Pennsylvania. Our bishops are The Right Reverends Paul A. Graf, C. Hopeton Clennon, Kay Ward, Douglas H. Kleintop, M. Blair Couch, and J. Christian Giesler, and

Whereas: the bishop’s report is a compilation of the bishop activities reported by each of the bishops during the inter-synodal period, therefore be it

Resolved: (5) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accept with gratitude the report of the bishops regarding their work completed during the inter-synodal period,

And be it further

Resolved: (6) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commend the bishops living in the Northern Province for their creativity, perseverance, and faithfulness in providing pastoral care to the pastors and the congregations of the Moravian Church, Northern Province.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

#1-Goldenrod

Fifth Partial Report  
of the Committee of Care and Nurture of Clergy

RE: Electing up to two Bishops at the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

Whereas: There are currently six bishops residing in the Moravian Church Northern Province and our bishops are currently functioning at a very high level; and

Whereas: The Church is facing challenges and/or crises that have never been experienced before including but not limited to the Covid 19 pandemic, clergy burnout, congregational membership decline, a divisive political climate, and a renewed call to be the prophetic voice in the community, and

Whereas: in following our mission “to equip people and congregations to be agents of God's transforming love in the world” we must pay attention to the health of our clergy and congregations; and

Whereas: our clergy and congregations rely on our bishops for their health and wellbeing which is necessary for spiritual growth, and

Whereas: The Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province ¶206(c) states: “Election of Bishop(s) shall be called at any Provincial Synod when fewer than two bishops are serving under full-time call of the Moravian Church-Northern Province.” The Book of Order does not preclude the election of bishops under other circumstances.

Therefore be it

Resolved: (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province elect up to two bishops from the Northern Province to serve in response to the call of Christ to the Moravian Unity.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023



Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)  
Sixth Partial Report  
of the Committee On Care And Nurture Of Clergy

RE: Bereavement Leave Policy for Clergy

Whereas: The Moravian Church, Northern Province (MCNP) does not currently have a bereavement policy for the clergy who serve under call or appointment; and

Whereas: there is currently a bereavement policy for lay staff of the MCNP; and

Whereas: our clergy support our members through the grief and death of their loved ones; and

Whereas: because of their willingness to follow God's call to ministry many of our clergy live a significant distance from their family making it necessary to spend several days away from their congregation to travel and be with family during the time of bereavement, therefore be it:

Resolved: (8) The 2023 Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference to develop and implement a bereavement leave policy for clergy under call or appointment,

And be it further

Resolved: (9) The Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church, Northern Province communicate this policy to clergy and congregations throughout the Northern Province when this policy is fully approved.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)

Seventh Partial Report  
of the Committee on Care and Nurture of Clergy

RE: Clergy and Congregational Care Resources

Whereas: Our clergy are facing increasingly challenging times and circumstances impacting their call to pastoral ministry and personal well-being, and

Whereas: The Moravian Church, Northern Province has compiled a list of resources for clergy and congregations (Appendix 1), and

Whereas: the availability of these resources may not be widely known; be it therefore

Resolved: (10) the Care and Nurture of Clergy Committee is grateful to the Moravian Church, Northern Province for providing these resources,

And be it further,

Resolved: (11) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province encourages clergy, joint and unified boards, congregations, and synod delegates to widely distribute the list of resources for clergy and congregations (Appendix 1),

And be it further

Resolved: (12) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province encourages clergy, joint and unified boards, congregations to explore these opportunities for rest, renewal, and personal and church growth, to ensure that our clergy and congregations will thrive,

And be it further

Resolved: (13) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church, Northern Province to make the list of resources for clergy and congregations available on the Moravian Church, Northern Province website under "Resources" and through widely available sources of communication.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 24, 2023



**The Northern Province**  
*Moravian Church in America*

## Resources to Equip Clergy to Thrive in Ministry

The Moravian Church Northern Province is committed to equipping its clergy and congregations to be agents of God's transforming love in the world. One way we do this is to invest in your thriving as brave leaders and spiritual caregivers. We understand that you are the key to the work of ministry throughout the province through our congregations and agencies. Thank you for all you do – and even more – for who you are!

### Listed below are some resources to help you thrive:

1. Spiritual Direction and/or Coaching – We encourage each pastor to meet regularly with a spiritual director and/or coach. The province will reimburse you up to \$1,000 / year for such support, upon presentation of receipts. Group spiritual direction is an option.
2. Sabbatical Funding – is an investment in your well-being and effectiveness as a leader. The province will provide funding to you for your sabbatical time and reimburse your congregation for pulpit supply / pastoral needs during your sabbatical – of 2-4 weeks. *Check with the PEC president for information.*
3. Wellness Program – As an investment into your physical health, pastors (and spouses on our health care plan) who participate in an annual Wellness Visit will receive \$500 through the HR/Benefits Department; your congregation receives an additional \$500 (some restrictions apply). *Learn more here.*
4. Continuing Education – Each pastor is expected to make lifelong learning a practice. Your congregation is expected to set aside funds for your continuing education. Please take advantage of this resource.
5. Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund – for one-time emergency expenses. *Ask HR/Benefits Manager for information.*
6. Brown Travel Fund – Through the generosity of the Brown Fund, you may apply for a grant to travel to places of Moravian history and/or the Holy Land. Grants are \$2,500 for the pastor and \$4,000 if pastor and spouse together. *Check with the PEC president for information.*
7. Clergy Caring Clusters continue to take place, via Zoom, on a weekly basis.
8. Occasional workshops and programs or other educational opportunities.

### For your congregations:

1. Resources and presenters from the Board of World Mission
2. Resources and presenters from the Moravian Ministries Foundation – stewardship and investments
3. Resources from EDEB – Director of Christian Education – Marie Coutts
4. Grants from the Larger Life Foundation (LLF) – *application deadlines: March 1 and September*

1

5. Grants from the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) – *application deadline: June 1*
6. Grants from the United Brethren's Church Extension Fund – for capital projects. *Check with EDEB president.*
7. Grants from the UBC Central Elders' Fund – for ministry needs. *Check with EDEB president.*
8. Grants from the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America for specific areas of interest. *Go to [www.mmfa.com](http://www.mmfa.com).*
9. EDEB mission grants. *Check with EDEB president.*
10. WDEB Lay Ministry grants. *Check with WDEB president.*
11. Emerging Ministries Micro Grants. *Check with the PEC president.*
12. Training for your Church Treasurer – tips on best practices – offered by the Provincial finance department
13. Lay Leadership Development – Joint Board Training
14. Moravian Education Resources – videos by leaders in the Moravian Church for your New Members Class, Joint Board educational opportunities, and adult studies.

© 2014 by the Board of Christian Education

Care and Nurture of Clergy #1 (goldenrod)  
Eighth Partial and Final Report  
of the Committee on Care and Nurture of Clergy  
Re: Deacon Supervision Program

- Whereas: The 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province Northern encouraged “the Provincial Elders’ Conference to develop a task force to examine the guidelines for, and the expectations of, the Deacon Supervision Program in order to better define and delineate the specific duties and expectations of Deacon Supervisors to better support and mentor newly ordained clergy, and
- Whereas: the Provincial Elders Conference in conjunction with the District Boards, created guidelines to the Deacon Supervision program which outlines the expectations of the Provincial Elders Conference, District Executive Board, and Supervisors, and (attach document as appendix)
- Whereas: the policy currently being used outlines responsibilities for the District Executive Board, the Provincial Elders Conference, and the supervising pastor, but not the deacon involved in the process
- Whereas: advocacy on one’s behalf may be needed for the deacon when the outlined responsibilities in the policy are not upheld
- Resolved: (14) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference to reevaluate and update the guidelines of the Deacon Supervision Program to include the responsibilities and implement methods of advocacy for deacons, and
- Whereas: it would be beneficial for the District Executive Boards to annually evaluate the effectiveness of the deacon and deacon supervisor relationship,

And be it further

- Resolved: (15) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference and District Boards to annually evaluate and assess the status of all active deacon supervisor relationships, and where beneficial, reassign a deacon with a new supervisor and/or move a deacon forward to consecration as presbyter.

Submitted by  
Dan Miller, Chairperson  
Jane Berg, Secretary  
June 24, 2023

Care and Nurture of Clergy  
Appendix to Eighth and Final Report

***THE DEACON SUPERVISION PROGRAM***

In accordance with the directives of Provincial Synod, the Provincial Elders' Conference herewith establishes the following guidelines for the Deacon Supervision Program. We recognize that there will be variations in the way they are applied, but we call for implementation of the program in such a way that the anticipated benefits will be realized.

**The District Executive Boards shall:**

1. Inform the deacon of the purpose of the program and furnish a copy of these guidelines and the relevant Synod legislation.
2. Appoint a supervisor to counsel with each newly ordained deacon. It is suggested that the Board consult with the deacon prior to making the appointment so that a beneficial match shall be assured.
3. Arrange for an introduction and interpretation of the program for the local church board, with the intent that they shall be aware of the involvement of their pastor in supervision. This could be done by District Board by letter or in person, or by the supervisor in a meeting with the Joint Board.
4. Receive from the supervisor regular reports concerning the progress of the supervision and respond appropriately.
5. Act upon the recommendation of the supervisor that a deacon appears to be ready for consecration as a Presbyterian. If the District Board agrees, they shall seek the concurrence of the local Joint Board and then forward the recommendation to the PEC for action.

\*In the case of deacons serving in positions not directly related to District Board supervision, the PEC shall assume responsibility.

**The Supervisor shall:**

1. Initiate personal contact with the deacon at least six times each year.
2. Engage the deacon in in-depth discussions which might include, but are not limited to:
  - Practical "how-to" matters, such as agenda preparation, conduct of sacraments, preparation of newsletters, etc.
  - Review of program emphasis and progress (Christian education, fellowship nurturing, stewardship, etc.)
  - Sharing of insights from reading and study programs.
  - Review of congregational record-keeping.
  - Discussion of interpersonal relationships and dynamics.
  - Interpretation of denominational programs, reports, expectations.
  - Discussion of work habits, time logging, time off, etc.
  - Spiritual formation and devotional life.

3. Send the District President a brief report (twice each year), identifying progress, areas of growth and maturity, areas of concern, and suggestions to the District Board for its relationship with the deacon. A copy of the report form is enclosed.
4. Recommend to the District board the consideration of the deacon for consecration and his/her reasons for supporting such action.

**The Provincial Elders' shall:**

1. Receive and act upon the recommendation for consecration that is presented to it by the District Boards. This action shall not be taken casually, but only when the PEC is prepared to fully support the DEB recommendation.
2. Offer consecration to the deacon, being careful to interpret it in terms of inviting the deacon to make a renewed commitment to the ministry of the Moravian Church.
3. Suggest to the deacon which bishop shall be commissioned to carry out the consecration.
4. Suggest to the bishop that the supervisor might well be included in the conduct of the service.

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

First Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: GRATITUDE TO THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCE AND THE  
MORAVIAN CHURCH NORTHERN PROVINCE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2022  
PILGRIMAGE TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING

- Whereas, The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province called upon the Provincial Elders' Conference to require all pastors, licensed lay pastors, and candidates for ordination to receive anti-racism training; and
- Whereas, The Provincial Elders' Conference, Moravian bishops residing in the Northern Province, and members of the Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team participated in a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama in January 2020, and were profoundly moved and transformed by the experience and determined that all clergy should have a similar shared experience as anti-racism training; and
- Whereas, The Provincial Elders' Conference directed the Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team to plan a pilgrimage for all pastors, licensed lay pastors, and candidates for ordination in September 2022 (after a two-year delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic); and
- Whereas, Seventy-four pastors, licensed lay pastors, and candidates for ordination attended the Pilgrimage held September 13-16, 2022 in Montgomery, Alabama and were profoundly impacted by the experience and wish to express their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Pilgrimage; and
- Whereas, The Pilgrimage was only possible with the support of the Provincial Elders' Conference, the Moravian Church Northern Province, and congregations and entities; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (1) Participants in the September 2022 Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing, listed below, express their gratitude to the Provincial Elders' Conference, the Moravian Church Northern Province, congregations, and entities, for the opportunity to participate in the Pilgrimage:

Rev. Jamie Almquist	Rev. Jane Gehler	Rev. Charlie McDonald
Rev. Jason Andersen	Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer	Rev. Andy Meckstroth
Rev. Greg Behrend	Rev. David Geyer	Rev. Christie Melby-
Rev. Barbara Berg	Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-	Gibbons
Rev. Marian Boyle Rohloff	Luhman	Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller
Rev. Mark Breland	Rev. Desna Henry	Rev. Dan Miller
Rev. Evette Campbell	Goulbourne	Rev. Bruce Nelson
Dr. Greg Carey	Rev. Earl Goulbourne	Rev. Richard Newswanger
Rev. Canon Peg Chamberlin	Rt. Rev. Paul Graf	Rev. Jay Petrella
Rev. Angelica Cieza	Rev. Jodie Harney	Rev. Scott Rainey
Rt. Rev. M. Blair Couch	Rev. Pat Honszer	Rev. Eric Renner
Rev. Rebecca Craver	Rev. Christine Johnson	Rev. Janel Rice
Rev. Carol Dague	Rev. Darrell Johnson	Mike Riess (IBOC)



Rev. Dr. Lynnette Delbridge  
Rev. Brian Dixon  
Rev. Otto Dreydoppel  
Rev. Dr. Eileen Edwards  
Rev. Nasel Ephraim  
Rev. Derek French  
Rev. Judy Ganz  
Rev. Jennika Borger

Rev. Melissa Johnson  
Rev. Dr. Michael Johnson  
Blondel Jones-Grant  
Rev. Andy Kilps  
Rt. Rev. Doug Kleintop  
Rev. Sue Koenig  
Rev. James Lavoy  
Rev. Kurt Liebenow  
Rev. Aaron Linville  
Rev. Ben Lippert  
Rev. Staci Marrese-Wheeler  
Rev. Mandy Mastros

Rev. Rhonda Robinson  
Rev. Tracy Robinson  
Rev. Beth Rohn-Habheggar  
Mikalya Sauerbrey  
Rev. Fran Saylor  
Rev. Rowan Simmons  
Rev. Aden Ward  
Rt. Rev. Kay Ward  
Rev. Maggie Wellert  
Rev. Bevon White

And be it further resolved,

RESOLVED: (2) Participants in the September 2022 Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing commit to continuing to learn and work for racial justice and healing; encourage the planning of and participation in future pilgrimages; and call upon the Provincial Elders' Conference, the Moravian Church Northern Province, congregations, and members to support and engage in the ongoing, transformative work toward racial justice and healing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

Second Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

Re: Rev. Dr. Charles Martin's<sup>i</sup> 1917 Eastern District Synod Resolution

WHEREAS, in 1917 the Rev. Dr. Charles Martin presented a memorial to the Eastern District Synod (appendum I) regarding the wrongs of slavery in our country and the indifference of the Moravian Church to the suffering of black persons, calling the Synod to:

- “express its indignation against the horror of Waco<sup>ii</sup>, the inhumanity and savagery of Memphis<sup>iii</sup>, the shamefulness, brutality, and fiendishness of the East St. Louis riots<sup>iv</sup> and the race riots of Chester, PA<sup>v</sup>;”
- “recommend to the Church in America the adoption of some constructive plans, educational, social and ecclesiastical efforts which may help to ward off those bloody racial conflicts that recurrently outrage the Christian conscience of the nation;” and
- “urge upon the Government legislation making lynching of every kind and form a Federal crime;” to assist the black person in his/ her demand for social justice; to fight against segregation; to apply whole-hearted efforts to secure the rights granted by the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Martin memorial was approved by the 1917 Eastern District Synod, and noted in the minutes, with the resolves also noted in a later section under the heading, “Racial Conflicts,” but the church did not follow up with any statements, plans, or actions; and

WHEREAS, our Holy Scriptures claim that all persons are created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and continue to call us to justice as a public expression of “love thy neighbor”, as seen among the prophets (Is 48:6, Amos 5:24, Micah 6:8) including Jesus’ own mission statement in Luke 4:18-19 that he was anointed “to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,” referencing the year of Jubilee that allowed for an economic, cultural, and environmental leveling and reset within society; and

WHEREAS, the Northern and Southern Province Synods of 1998 affirmed an Interprovincial Faith and Order “Statement on Racism and the Church” (appendum II); and the 2018 Northern Province Synod reaffirmed this decision, as an official position of the two provinces of the Moravian Church in America, which aligned our provinces with the 1957 Ground of the Unity Statement that “We oppose any discrimination in our midst because of ethnic origin, sex, or social standing, and we regard it as a commandment of the Lord to bear public witness to this and to demonstrate by word and deed that we are brothers and sisters in Christ”; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Province of the Moravian Church (MCNP) has approved legislation on multiple justice issues at our provincial synods, most recently at the 2018 MCNP Synod related to immigration, violence and responsible weapon ownership, elimination of racism, inclusion of persons of all gender identities, and awareness of violence against women and has particularly worked over the past inter-synod period to promote racial justice; and

WHEREAS, resolutions have been passed by the Synod of the Worldwide Unity regarding issues of global justice, most recently in 2016 affirming the equality of men and women in God's eyes; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirmed the historic position of the Moravian Church as stated in the Letter to the Worldwide Unity from the Unity Board dated January 15, 2018, that: "In the very core of Moravian understanding of humanity, the God-given equality of all people is fundamental;" and condemned in the strongest terms racism and discrimination in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, there continues to exist great disparity in the opportunities available for persons of color and violence against them persists, as we have seen in the senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tyree Nichols and others; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: (3) the 2023 Northern Province Synod calls the church to honor the voice and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Charles Martin and reaffirms his 1917 resolution regarding racial injustice and violence in his time and expresses regret for the failure of the church to act on this resolution following its approval by the 1917 Eastern District Synod; and be further

RESOLVED: (4) the 2023 Northern Province Synod calls on our church to continue to express its indignation at the horrors of racial injustice and violence that persist in U.S. and Canada more than 100 years after Rev. Dr. Charles Martin called on the church to take action for change; and be it further

RESOLVED: (5) the 2023 Northern Province Synod commits to applying whole-hearted efforts to challenge and end the racial injustice and violence of our day, including asking the Racial Justice Team to continue to educate our churches about racial injustice in U.S. and Canada, and how to challenge political, social, economic, and ecclesiastical systems that perpetuate a culture of racism.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

---

<sup>1</sup> Moravian Church in America, Eastern District. "Journal of the First Synod of the Eastern District of the American Province of the Moravian Church or Unitas Fratrum." 1917, pp. 59-60. Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The three "Resolved" statements are also found under the heading "Racial Conflicts," p. 67. [Thanks to Tom McCullough of the Moravian Archives for calling attention to this resolution.]

<sup>1</sup> In 1905 Sank Majors was arrested in Waco for raping a white woman; he had a white attorney who had sufficient evidence to prove his innocence, but a jury found him guilty and sentenced him to prison. An angry mob broke into the jail on August 8, 1905, hanged him from a bridge and then shot him. In 1916 Jesse Washington was accused of raping and killing a white woman. Someone had said they had seen him near where the murder occurred. After 4 minutes a jury called him guilty. An angry mob charged the courthouse, mutilated his body and nearly 15,000 people watched and cheered as he was burned alive and then dragged through the streets of Waco.

<sup>1</sup> On March 9, 1892 three black grocers in Memphis were seized from the jail and brutally lynched without trial. White grocers complained that their store was decreasing white profits and a white mob attacked the store of the black grocers. When 3 white men were wounded, the black grocers were arrested. In May 1917, Ell Persons, a black woodcutter in Memphis, accused of killing a white woman, was grabbed by a mob, chained, doused with gasoline, and set on fire, with a crowd of thousands cheering.

<sup>1</sup> From July 1 -3, 1917 a smoldering labor dispute in East St. Louis, IL, located across the river from its counterpart in Missouri, turned deadly as rampaging whites began brutally beating and killing African-Americans. The official death toll was 39 black individuals and 9 whites, but many believe that more than 100 African Americans were killed.

<sup>1</sup> Also in July, 1917 racial tensions were increasing in Chester, PA and were ignited when a white man was killed by a black man. In revenge, gangs of white men roamed the city killing any black person. As blacks began defending themselves, the violence escalated over 6 days. In the end 7 people were dead and 28 injured. Police arrested both black and white and worked to prevent any lynchings.

## ADDENDUM I

[This is a transcription of an introductory sentence followed by a resolution presented by Rev. Dr. Charles Martin to the Eastern District Synod in 1917. It was adopted by Synod.]

### Memorial.

The following memorial was presented by Bro. Martin, and adopted by Synod upon motion of Bro. M. W. Leibert:

WHEREAS: The Creator and Preserver of the world slumbers not nor sleeps, is not slack concerning His promises or rewards;

WHEREAS: He maintains a Paradise of Bliss for the Faithful who love and serve their fellowmen, even the most despised or degraded, and a Debtor's Prison where the last farthing is exacted from the man who ignores or forgets his huge indebtedness;

WHEREAS: He keeps a Record of Dereliction of Duty and Abuse of Privileges which the world becomes alarmingly conscious of at intervals like the following:

A. Belgium in the Congo. Germany in Belgium. God keeps count.

B. America fattening on Slavery with the blood of Crisps [sic] Attucks, the Negro, soaking the ground. Slavery at the throat of America exacting with the blood-drinking sword every drop of blood drawn by the Slave-driver's whip. God is not asleep.

C. European men and money finding a harbor in America destroying life and property on the side of injustice in this most horrible and detestable of wars—American men and money pouring into Europe to settle the account of justice. Votes and money for political ends—blood and money for neglect of duty and criminal policy. God sleeps not.

WHEREAS: The Moravian Church in Negro lands [is] active, glorious, having a past that is worthy. The Negro in the land of the Moravian Church finds it unconcerned, indifferent to the needs of millions of Negroes, cramped by surrounding conditions, absorbing the poisons arising

from racial sentiments. God is looking on. Zinzendorf is wondering if these are the descendants of the immortal race while the Negro is scanning the horizon to look for the fathers of the faith whom he knew in other lands as stalwart champions of social justice and human uplift. My heart stops beating and my brain becomes paralyzed when I think what it will mean for pure unadulterated Negroes to present themselves for admission to Nazareth or any of our Colleges. If I wrong the Church may God forgive me. If not then awake to righteousness, be clean and keep clear from the mind and practice of the cruel South and hypocritical North.

WHEREAS: From the inception of the Missionary activity of the Moravian Church God has declared the salvation and uplift of the Negro to be its life. It is your life, saith Jehovah.

WHEREAS: These black people have given prominence and glory to the Unitas Fratrum and form the greatest portion of its membership;

WHEREAS: The Communion Prayer of Bishop Leibert for a return to the spirit of the fathers—Dober, Martin, Zeisberger—and a noble host of men who knew not men after the flesh, by color or race, but knew men in Christ and despaired of none, is not only needed but is very cheering—a clarion call to the Church of to-day. May we help God to answer it.

In the name of justice, for the glory of the past, for the unreleased spirit of heroism sleeping in the bosom of the Church, Be it

*Resolved:* First, That this Synod express its indignation against the horror of Waco, the inhumanity and savagery of Memphis, the shamefulness, brutality, and fiendishness of the East St. Louis riots and the race riots of Chester, Pa. Be it

*Resolved:* Second, That this Synod recommend to the Church in America the adoption of some constructive plans, educational, social and ecclesiastical which may help to ward off those bloody racial conflicts that recurrently outrage the Christian conscience of the nation. Be it

*Resolved:* Third, that this Church urge upon the Government legislation making lynching of every kind and form a Federal crime; that it assist the negro in his demand for social justice; his fight against segregation; his heartrending, manly efforts to secure the rights granted by the Constitution of the United States.

(Moravian Church in America, Eastern District. "Journal of the First Synod of the Eastern District of the American Province of the Moravian Church or Unitas Fratrum." 1917, pp. 59-60. Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The three "Resolved" statements are also found under the heading "Racial Conflicts," p. 67.

## ADDENDUM II

### A STATEMENT ON RACISM AND THE CHURCH

Racism has been defined as an institutionalized socioeconomic system or a pattern of behavior "which divides people into groups identified by characteristics of origin or color for the purpose of establishing and perpetuating, on the basis of those characteristics, the subordinate status and the denigration and exploitation of one group to the benefit of the other."<sup>i</sup>

The church must declare that racism is sin. The Moravian Catechism describes sin as disobedience to the known will of God.<sup>ii</sup> God's will is made known to us in Jesus' teaching that

we are to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Mark 12:29-31). Racism then is sin, because it contradicts the teaching of Jesus and violates the known will of God.

The sin of racism is also evidenced in its violation of God's call for the members of Christ's church to be reconciled to God and one another and to be engaged in a ministry of reconciliation in the world (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). Contrarily, racism separates and perpetuates divisions, thus denying the unity of the church proclaimed in Holy Scripture: "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male nor female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:27-30). Through its struggle with the issue of including outsiders, the early Christian church discovered that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34) and that Christians are called upon to do likewise (James 2:1).

The *Ground of the Unity* states, "The *Unitas Fratrum* recognizes no distinction between those who are one in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are called to testify that God in Jesus Christ brings His people out of 'every race, kindred and tongue' into one body, pardons sinners beneath the cross and brings them together. We oppose any discrimination in our midst because of race or standing, and we regard it as a commandment of the Lord to bear public witness to this and to demonstrate by word and deed that we are brothers and sisters in Christ."<sup>iii</sup> Further the *Moravian Covenant for Christian Living* teaches that Moravians oppose any discrimination based on color, gender, race, creed, or land of origin.<sup>iv</sup>

The Moravian Church, despite sound biblical teaching and clear statements of belief, has, from time to time, demonstrated the values of the surrounding world and thus has denied the very affirmation it professes. It has been affected by the very racism that is contrary to our beliefs.

As evidence, we identify:

- \* an absence of racial diversity in some areas of the workplace and the classroom;
- \* the disproportionate number of black and biracial churches that have been arson victims;
- \* the segregation apparent in our church's worship life and congregational life in general, and the tendency of congregations and Provincial Elders' Conferences to extend calls only to pastors of the same race as the congregation;
- \* the absence of widespread dialogue on the issue and the resulting congregational inaction to overcome the effects of racism in our society in housing, health care, and equitable salaries; and
- \* the inability of the majority to hear the expression of frustration, pain, and anger on the part of minority peoples or even to recognize the hostility growing out of their experiences in our society.

The church of Jesus is called to be salt and light:

- \* to set an example and show the way for a society which cries out for racial healing;
- \* to match our fine statements with worthy deeds;
- \* to confess the sinfulness of our failure to practice what we preach about discrimination;
- \* to examine our personal and corporate life and repent; and,

\* under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to turn from our racism and take a new direction in keeping with the teachings of God in Christ Jesus.

Thus the church shall practice racial inclusion in every area of its congregational and denominational life; and individual Christians and congregations shall work actively to identify and eliminate the patterns of discrimination both within the church and within society at large.

Adopted by the 1998 Synod • Reaffirmed by the 2018 Synod

<sup>i</sup> Arthur Freeman, "The Cross and Racism," paper presented to the World Faith and Order Conference, January 27, 1992, p. 1.

<sup>ii</sup> Provincial Synods of Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces, 1956. "Catechism of the Moravian Church in America for the instruction of Candidates for Confirmation and Church Membership," reprint (Bethlehem: Interprovincial Board of Publications and Communications, 1994), p.18.

<sup>iii</sup> Synod of the Unitas Fratrum 1995, The Ground of the Unity, A Doctrinal Statement, p. 6.

<sup>iv</sup> The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (Bethlehem: Interprovincial Board of Publications and Communications, 1982), Section V, p. 32.

Third Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

**RE:** Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius and Initial Steps toward Reconciliation and Healing of the Moravian Church Northern Province's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

**WHEREAS**, in scripture we are taught, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10); and

**WHEREAS**, in "A Moravian Church Statement on Racism,"<sup>1</sup> racism was declared as sinful and contrary to God's will made known to us in Jesus' teaching that we are to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Mark 12:29-31) and that, "The sin of racism is also evidenced in its violation of God's call for the members of Christ's church to be reconciled to God and one another and be engaged in a ministry of reconciliation in the world (2 Corinthians 5:16-21);" and, "Through its struggle with the issue of including outsiders, the early Christian church discovered that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34) and Christians are called to do likewise (James 2:1)"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living teaches that Moravians oppose any discrimination based on color, gender, race, creed, or land of origin;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, "The Moravian Church, despite sound biblical teaching and clear statements of belief has, from time to time, demonstrated the values of the surrounding world and thus denied the very affirmation it professes."<sup>3</sup> And both "...has been affected by the very racism that is contrary to our beliefs,"<sup>4</sup> and been complicit and perpetuated racism; and

**WHEREAS**, the Doctrine of Discovery, originating with Pope Alexander VI in 1493 as a papal bull, created a framework that supported racism, colonialism, and the annihilation of Indigenous peoples; and,

---

<sup>1</sup> A Moravian Church Statement on Racism and the Church, Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission, Moravian Church in America, 1998, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Northern Province Synod, 1982, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (Bethlehem: Interprovincial Board of Publications and Communications, 1982, Section V., p. 32

<sup>3</sup> A Moravian Church Statement on Racism and the Church, Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission, Moravian Church in America, 1998, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



**WHEREAS,** the Doctrine of Discovery was the international law used to claim land under the principle of terra nullius which stated that lands not occupied by Christians were “vacant” and therefore could be defined as “discovered” and sovereignty, dominion, title and jurisdiction claimed; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Doctrine of Discovery was the principle used by protestant Christian groups, including Moravians, to make claims to Native land in the Americas; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Moravian Church and its members have benefited over time from the Doctrine of Discovery and have been complicit in the harm done to Indigenous peoples; and,

**WHEREAS,** the legal principle of the Doctrine of Discovery is entrenched in the laws of the United States and Canada and has been used to deny the humanity of Indigenous peoples and withhold from them the privileges as citizens under the perpetual protection and pupilage of the government, and continues to have serious impact on the daily lives of contemporary Native American communities; and,

**WHEREAS,** all of the ecumenical partners with whom the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America is in full communion as well as their affiliated denominations in Canada, have already repudiated and repented of the Doctrine of Discovery (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2016), the Episcopal Church USA (2009), the United Methodist Church (2012); and the Presbyterian Church (USA) (2016), and in the case of the Episcopal Church USA passed legislation to require Doctrine of Discovery Training for those seeking ordination(2018), therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** (6) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province repudiates and renounces the Doctrine of Discovery as 1) fundamentally opposed to the will of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Moravian Church’s teachings and beliefs opposing racism and discrimination; and 2) a legal document and basis for the seizing of Native lands and abusing the human rights of Indigenous peoples; and directs the Provincial Elders’ Conference to issue a public statement of this action together with a statement of repentance for the harm done in the name of Christianity; and

**WHEREAS,** the historical consequences of the Doctrine of Discovery (physical and cultural genocide) and the resulting systemic and institutional racism continues to impact subsequent generations of Indigenous people. The legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery which includes the loss of land and culture and the institution of residential and boarding schools established to “kill the Indian in him”<sup>5</sup> has resulted in inter-generational trauma that is manifested today through a multitude of issues experienced by contemporary Indigenous peoples in the U.S. and Canada, including but not limited to, disproportionately high rates of poverty, poor living conditions,

---

<sup>5</sup> ‘Kill the Indian in him, and save the man’: R. H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans. Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center. <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/teach/kill-indian-him-and-save-man-r-h-pratt-education-native-americans>. Accessed March 5, 2023.

suicide, unemployment, high school dropouts, incarceration, health concerns, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American women on reservations face murder rates more than ten times higher than the national average (U.S. Department of Justice); and homicide is the third-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women 10 to 24 years of age and the fifth-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 24 and 34 years of age (Center for Disease Control and Prevention); and in 2016, though there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, the federal missing person database only logged 116 cases (National Crime Information Center)<sup>6</sup>; and in Canada 1,017 women and girls identified as Indigenous were murdered between 1980 and 2012—a homicide rate roughly 4.5 times higher than that of all other women in Canada<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, both the 2016 Unity Synod and the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province have passed resolutions regarding violence against women, girls, and children; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, directs the Provincial Elders' Conference and all three District Boards, as a first step in a process of reconciliation, to engage in dialogue with those harmed by the Doctrine of Discovery, to listen to their histories and stories, and to plan with Indigenous peoples how best to take authentic, informed actions toward awareness, acknowledgement, repentance, healing, and reconciliation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, (8) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Northern Province Racial Justice Team, in consultation with Indigenous communities and Moravian and ecumenical partners, to develop and provide clergy, congregations, and members of the Moravian Church Northern Province and the wider community with resources about the Doctrine of Discovery and its past and continuing consequences on the lives of Indigenous peoples; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, (9) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks each of its congregations to research their own histories and the histories of the lands they occupy and prepare a Land and Labor Acknowledgement to share with the congregation and its communities with suggested resources to be provided by the Northern Province Racial Justice Team; results of congregational research and action shall be reported to the PEC; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Northern Province Racial Justice Team to expand its representation and work to include authentic, informed actions toward awareness acknowledgement, repentance, healing, and reconciliation developed with those harmed by the

---

<sup>6</sup> Statistics from the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022) Presbyterian Resolution RGJ-02, "A Resolution on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People (MMIWG2S) – From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns"

<sup>7</sup> <https://amnesty.ca/no-more-stolen-sisters/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-facts/>

Doctrine of Discovery and the complicity of the Moravian Church in the damaging effects of colonialism in the Americas which continue to harm Indigenous individuals, peoples, and governments; and be it further

**RESOLVED, (11)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province calls on the church to recognize the May 5<sup>th</sup> in the US and Canada as National Day of Awareness & Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People, and where it is possible, in consultation with those directly impacted to provide support for Indigenous individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted by the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2007 the United Nations passed the “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” which called into question the validity of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, which for centuries served as “legal” rationale to seize land and to subjugate and dehumanize Indigenous peoples; and,

**WHEREAS,** the 2007 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples received support by the governments of the United States (2011) and Canada (2016); and one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 2015 Calls to Action is for “faith groups ... to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation”; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, (12)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders’ Conference and the church to advocate for Indigenous Peoples by addressing the systemic violations of human rights as outlined by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**RESOLVED, (13)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Northern Province Racial Justice Team to also include racial healing with First Nations people in Canada in their work; and

**WHEREAS,** The 2022 Synod of the Moravian Church Southern Province passed legislation calling for the formation of an “American Indian and Alaskan Native Peoples Reconciliation Working Group,” by the Southern Province Racial, Cultural, and Ethnic Reconciliation Team, with ecumenical partners to include the Moravian Church Northern Province and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, (14)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks the Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team to collaborate with the Southern Province Racial Cultural, and Ethnic Reconciliation Team and participate on the “American Indian and Alaskan Native Peoples Reconciliation Working Group,” to be established in accordance with legislation passed at the 2022 Southern Province Provincial Synod; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, (15) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to engage in dialogue with Moravian partners in North America, Europe, and the United Kingdom to undertake truth and reconciliation work related to a repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, acknowledging our complicity in the harmful effects of colonialism.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

**Resources:**

*The Doctrine of Christian Discovery: Lutherans and the Language of Empire*  
Tink Tinker, 03/01/2017  
<https://elca.org/JLE/Articles/1203>

*A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People*  
[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration\\_to\\_American\\_Indian\\_Alaska\\_Native.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_to_American_Indian_Alaska_Native.pdf)

*Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts, film by Anglican Church in Canada*  
<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

*Doctrine of Discovery Training Report, General Convention of the Episcopal Church,*  
[https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc\\_resolutions\\_2018/2018-D011.pdf](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc_resolutions_2018/2018-D011.pdf)

*Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report*  
December 2015  
<https://www.rcaanc-cimac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525#chp2>

*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*  
September 2007  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

The Biggest Issues Facing the Native American Community Right Now. DiversityInc Staff, DiversityInc., November 12, 2020. <https://www.diversityinc.com/the-biggest-issues-facing-the-native-american-community-right-now-2/>. Accessed March 5, 2023.

*8 Key Issues for Indigenous Peoples in Canada.* Indigenous Corporate Training, Inc. December 5, 2022.

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/8-key-issues-for-indigenous-peoples-in-canada>. Accessed March 5, 2023.

*Contemporary Native American issues in the United States*. Wikipedia.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary\\_Native\\_American\\_issues\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_Native_American_issues_in_the_United_States). Accessed March 5, 2023

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Fourth Partial Report of the Church and Society Committee

RE: MASS INCARCERATION AND LEGAL SYSTEM REFORM

Whereas, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living teaches that Moravians oppose any discrimination based on color, gender, race, creed, or land of origin;<sup>8</sup> and

Whereas, The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province reaffirmed the attached “A Statement on Racism and the Church” approved by the 1998 Synods of the Southern and Northern Provinces; and

Whereas, “Black Americans are incarcerated in (U.S.) state prisons at nearly 5 times the rate of white Americans;” and nationally one in 81 Black adults in the U.S. is serving time in state prison; and for example, Wisconsin leads the nation in Black imprisonment rates with one of every 36 Black Wisconsinites in prison; and Latinx individuals are incarcerated in state prisons at a rate that is 1.3 times the incarceration rate of whites;”<sup>9</sup> and

Whereas, The United States incarcerates its citizens at a higher rate than any other country; and

Whereas, “African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, they are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentences. African American adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely;”<sup>10</sup> therefore be it

RESOLVED, (16) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks congregations to engage in prayerful study of the local legal and criminal justice systems utilizing resources from our ecumenical partners such as, “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Criminal-Justice>; and be it further

---

<sup>8</sup> Northern Province Synod, 1982, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (Bethlehem: Interprovincial Board of Publications and Communications, 1982) Section, V, p 32.

<sup>9</sup> “The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons” by Ashley Nellis, Ph.D. October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 [www.sentencingproject.org/reports/the-color-of-justice-racila-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons-the-sentencing-project/](http://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/the-color-of-justice-racila-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons-the-sentencing-project/)

<sup>10</sup> Report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System, April 19, 2018. [www.sentencingproject.org/reports/report-to-the-united-nations-on-racial-disparities-in-the-u-s-criminal-justice-system/](http://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/report-to-the-united-nations-on-racial-disparities-in-the-u-s-criminal-justice-system/)

RESOLVED, (17) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks congregations to engage in conversations with local law enforcement departments about their practices around cultural competency, mental health training, and community policing with the results of such research being reported to the PEC and the Northern Province Racial Justice Team; and be it further

RESOLVED, (18) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks congregations to engage in advocacy efforts at local, community, and national levels for legal system reform and reinvestment into community-based programs as alternatives to incarceration such as treatment of addictions and mental illness, and restorative justice practices. These results are to be reported to the PEC and the Northern Province Racial Justice Team; and be it further

RESOLVED, (19) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites congregations to utilize resources from the Provincial Racial Justice Team to help with education and advocacy regarding mass incarceration and legal system reform.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Church and Society

Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff

Secretary, Brenda Hoelman

June 23rd, 2023

Fifth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

**RE: Antisemitism and Jewish-Christian Relations**

**WHEREAS,** Jesus, who was born, lived and died as a Jew, quoting Leviticus 19:18, commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31), and teaches in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) that all people are neighbors to us; and

**WHEREAS,** the number of antisemitic incidents in the United States<sup>11</sup> and Canada<sup>12</sup> reached all-time highs in 2022 and 2021, respectively, and these incidents of harassment, vandalism, assault, and murder, inflicted harm, injury, and death on our Jewish neighbors; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a history of antisemitism in Christianity beginning about 150 CE with interpretations of the Gospel of John in the writings of the early church fathers, and continuing through the centuries to the teaching and preaching of Protestant reformers that was later used to support the killing of millions of people during the Holocaust,<sup>13</sup> and which persists today in false allegations and ideologies in the church, and in the “great replacement theory” a conspiracy theory espoused by white supremacists; and

**WHEREAS,** Christian churches, including the Moravian Church Northern Province, may be inadvertently perpetuating antisemitism and contributing to its rise through our liturgies, hymns, early communion preparation practices, lectionary use, and worship resources, including scriptural references and other texts read without explanation of their context; the Moravian Book of Worship; “Readings for Holy Week;” and preaching and teaching in congregations; and

**WHEREAS,** Ecumenical partners of the Moravian Church Northern Province have adopted resolutions that address Jewish-Christian Relations<sup>14</sup> and antisemitism such as *the 2016 Book of Resolutions: United Methodist Guiding Principles for Christian-*

---

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2022>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/bnai-brith-report-antisemitism-canada-1.6813185>

<sup>13</sup> [shmm.org/research/about-the-mandel-center/initiatives/ethics-religion-holocaust/articles-and-resources/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries](https://shmm.org/research/about-the-mandel-center/initiatives/ethics-religion-holocaust/articles-and-resources/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries/christian-persecution-of-jews-over-the-centuries)

<sup>14</sup> <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/national-jewish-christian-dialogue/>



*Jewish Relations*<sup>15</sup> and *The Episcopal Church's Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church* (2021)<sup>16</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** The Moravian Church Northern Province has not previously addressed Jewish-Christian Relations or antisemitism in a statement from the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission or a synod resolution; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** (20) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to request the Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission to 1) study, and develop a statement regarding antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology; and develop theological and practical guiding principles on Jewish-Christian relations, with both the statement and principles to be available prior to the 2026 Moravian Church Northern Province Synod; and 2) to bring recommendations for approval to the Northern and Southern Province PEC's related changes or supplements to the Moravian Book of Worship, Readings for Holy Week, and other liturgical and educational materials produced for use by Moravian congregations; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** (21) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders of the Moravian Church Northern Province, when reading scripture in public which uses the word "Jews," to provide notes expressing how the text "had been and continues to be, used to malign Jews," and accompanying related prayers of repentance;<sup>17</sup> and/or use language that is less likely to lead to antisemitic interpretations; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** (22) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders of the Moravian Church Northern Province to consider in interpretations of scripture "what is written in the texts, what the texts meant when they were written, and what they have come to mean in relationship to antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology, and how they might be understood in ways that contribute to dismantling antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology in proclamation and teaching"<sup>18</sup>; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** (23) The Provincial Elders Conference ask the appropriate faculty at Moravian University to create and share a short guide that can help our congregations understand how scripture "[has] been and continues to be, used to malign Jews"

---

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-resolutions-united-methodist-guiding-principles-for-christian-jewish-relations>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/christian-jewish2021.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> "What should churches do about the treatment of the Jews in John," Steven Thorngate Interview with Amy-Jill Levine, June 2023, *The Christian Century*.

<sup>18</sup> Adapted from a resolution adopted at the 2021 Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, *R-1: Addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings*

and assist preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders use language that contributes to “dismantling antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology in proclamation and teaching;” and be it further

**RESOLVED:** (24) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages our congregations to build relationships with local synagogues and Jewish organizations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

#### Additional Resources

<https://ccjr.us/news/statements/ccjr-2022dec14>

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/12/15/this-advent-churches-urged-to-assess-worship-for-inadvertent-antisemitism/>

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Sixth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: ACCEPTING THE REPORT TO THE 2023 NORTHERN PROVINCE SYNOD  
from the  
RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Whereas, The Church and Society Committee reviewed the report from the Racial Justice Team and the accompanying documents; and

Whereas, The Church and Society Committee appreciates the work of the Racial Justice Team during the last intersynodal period; therefore be it

RESOLVED (25): The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with gratitude the report from the Racial Justice Team as written; and be it further

RESOLVED (26): The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the Racial Justice Team for their outstanding work and report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee of Church and Society  
Marian Boyle-Rohloff, Chair  
Brenda Hoelman, Secretary

Seventh Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

**RE: The support of humane and just treatment of individuals and families seeking refuge and asylum in the United States**

- WHEREAS, Jesus himself was a refugee (Matthew 2:13-15); and
- WHEREAS, The Old and New Testaments clearly direct us not to mistreat or oppress those seeking shelter in our lands (“foreigners living in our lands are children of God who need to be shown Christian love and compassion,” Lev. 19:33-34; Zec. 7:10; Matt. 25:35; John 13:15; “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” Gal. 3:28); and
- WHEREAS, The Renewed Moravian Church began as refugees receiving sanctuary in Herrnhut and many latter-day North American Moravians sought sanctuary in America, and
- WHEREAS, the 2016 Unity Synod voted that  
“the 43<sup>rd</sup> Unity Synod 2016 accepts the present situation of refugees in the world as a challenge to her witness of the love of Christ to all people. It encourages all provinces with their congregations and institutions to stand by the refugees who seek shelter and protection in their countries. It calls provinces and congregations to clearly speak out against hatred, racism and rejection within their societies and be advocates of those who have neither right nor voice to express their needs;” and
- WHEREAS, the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province called for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, legally or illegally; and called for steps to be taken immediately to reunite families that have been separated at the border; and
- WHEREAS, refugees are fleeing to the United States to escape persecution, torture, and murder in their homelands, and deportation of those seeking asylum often means disappearance or death upon their return; and
- WHEREAS, the growing number of individuals and families seeking refuge and asylum in the US has created a climate of fear, rejection, discrimination and hatred against foreigners – a climate that is being exploited by politicians who call for a closure of borders and incite hatred of the “other”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services' shelter system received 122,000 migrant children who were taken into US custody without their parents in the fiscal year 2021, an all-time high<sup>19</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the US Government's "Remain in Mexico" policy, implemented in January 2019 has resulted in sending more than 60,000 lawful asylum-seekers to seven cities in Mexico that are among those most dangerous areas of the border, exposing men, women and children to assaults, kidnappings, murders and extortion and seriously hampering their ability to obtain legal representation when or if they are allowed to present their case; this policy was reinstated in December 2021<sup>20</sup>, and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2023 the House of Representatives passed the Secure Border Act expanding the border work force, increasing salaries for border agents, funding security technology upgrades and restarting border wall construction; according to the National Council of Churches the legislation disregards the dignity of immigrants, expedites the deportation of children and continues to detain minors in deplorable conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church stands united in Jesus in affirmation that all were created in the image of God, and in recognition of Jesus' boundless love for all individuals and families, particularly those who, like Jesus, experienced homelessness, vulnerability, and unjust treatment by the powers of governments, both secular and religious; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the precepts of the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, "though giving our loyalty to the state of which we are citizens, we do recognize a higher loyalty to God and conscience" (IV,c); therefore be it

RESOLVED: (27) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church affirms the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of immigrants, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and declares its support for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, regardless of legal status; and be it further

RESOLVED: (28) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church joins the National Council of Churches in its call "for a comprehensive solution to our immigration challenges that respects the 'Imago Dei' in all people, keeps

---

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigration-122000-unaccompanied-migrant-children-us-shelters-2021/>

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/us-and-mexico-reach-deal-to-restart-trump-era-remain-in-mexico-program-along-border/2021/12/01/381a4190-5318-11ec-8ad5-b5c50c1fb4d9\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/us-and-mexico-reach-deal-to-restart-trump-era-remain-in-mexico-program-along-border/2021/12/01/381a4190-5318-11ec-8ad5-b5c50c1fb4d9_story.html)

our borders safe, and honors the diversity that makes our nation a great tapestry;<sup>21</sup> and be it further

RESOLVED: (29) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church encourages District organizations such as the Eastern District Church & Society Committee, the Western District Justice Team, and the Board of Elders of the Canadian District, as well as other members of our congregations, to develop educational materials for congregations to better understand the issues around immigration; and be it further

RESOLVED: (30) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church requests that the Provincial Elder's Conference advocate for humane policies at our borders, including but not limited to welcoming unaccompanied children, refusing to separate families, rejecting changes to child labor laws that endanger the lives of children, and continuing to reunite all children who have been separated from family members at the border; and be it further

RESOLVED: (31) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church goes on record as supporting those who, acting out of their faith and witness, provide sanctuary and asylum to those fleeing from persecution in their home lands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

---

<sup>21</sup> <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/common-witness/2008/immigration.php>

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Eighth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

**Re: “A Call to Faithful Action of the Moravian Church Northern Province toward an End to Gun Violence”**

- Whereas,** a vicious and growing trend of gun violence and mass shootings have reached epidemic proportions over the last decade in the United States<sup>22</sup>; and
- Whereas,** as of June 23, 2023 the United States has already experienced over 300 mass shootings; and
- Whereas,** gun violence is both a leading cause of premature death in the U.S. and a leading cause of death for children and teens; and gun violence has killed more than 38,000 people and caused nearly 85,000 injuries each year since 2018, according to the American Public Health Association<sup>23</sup> and;
- Whereas,** our Christian faith teaches us that we should seek peace (*Matthew 5:9*) and pursue it; and Jesus said that he came that we might have abundant life (*John 10:10*) and the pervasiveness of gun violence is the antithesis of the life God intends for us and commands us to live (*Exodus 20:13*); and
- Whereas,** the rampant violence in our communities in the United States requires a faith response that not only strives to end the violence, but also transforms communities and lifts up a standard of love, peace, and justice; and
- Whereas,** thoughts and prayers are not enough, and sending them to victims and their families without taking action to end gun violence corrupts our responsibility as Christians, citizens, and neighbors; and
- Whereas,** the prevention of gun violence is not about partisanship or politics. It is about keeping people alive and protecting human rights; and
- Whereas,** it is past time for urgent, decisive, and deliberate action to end this threat to our way of life and vision; and
- Whereas,** our holy Scriptures teach that our prayers should lead us to action (*1 John 3:18*); and

---

<sup>22</sup> CNN (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/24/us/mass-shootings-fast-facts>)

<sup>23</sup> American Public Health Association (<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/gun-violence>)

**Whereas,** “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”<sup>24</sup> Therefore be it

**RESOLVED (32)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, affirms the call of The National Council of Churches of Christ USA and its member communions for an end to gun violence,<sup>25</sup> and calls upon Moravians across the Northern Province, as a people of faith, to:

- 1) “...use all of the resources available to us to put an end to widespread gun violence and mass shootings in our communities;”
- 2) “...work within our congregations and communities to create safe spaces for those who experience violence and provide care for victims/survivors of gun violence and mass shootings;”
- 3) “...be attentive and offer a public witness, and care, to those in our communities who are susceptible to being perpetrators of gun violence, showing them grace and mercy, and attempting to put them in contact with resources that may help them choose a different path;”
- 4) “...make concerted efforts to connect with other groups, both religious and secular, to find solutions to end gun violence and mass shootings in our communities;” and be it further

**RESOLVED (33)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province calls upon Moravians across the Northern Province, as a people of faith, to recognize that it is inconsistent with our faith to perpetuate false narratives related to the Second Amendment of the US Constitution that spread misinformation to convince the public that calls for an end to gun violence are meant to restrict all gun use; and be it further

**RESOLVED (34)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders’ Conference to encourage congregations and members of the Northern Province to not only affirm the right for United States citizens to keep and bear arms but to also be advocates for responsible fire-arm legislation at the national, state, and local levels of government. These include, but are not limited to:

- Mandating universal background checks for all gun sales.
- Extending waiting periods for all fire-arm sales and require firearm safety training.
- Establishing the minimum age of 21 to purchase a firearm.
- Prohibiting sales of military style assault weapons and banning high-capacity magazines and all weapons and modifications that enable multiple rounds to be fired each time the trigger is pulled.

and be it further

---

<sup>24</sup> The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

<sup>25</sup> NCC Resolution on Mass Shootings [<https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/common-witness-ncc/ncc-resolution-on-rampant-gun-violence-and-mass-shootings/>] / minimally adapted



**RESOLVED (35)** This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province laments the lack of legislative action to prevent further loss of life from gun violence and encourages US residents in the Moravian Church Northern Province to hold public officials accountable for their inability to enact meaningful legislation; and be it further

**RESOLVED (36)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to make resources available to the congregations of the Northern Province to raise awareness, educate and promote advocacy of measures that aim to eliminate gun violence and mass shootings. One example is the June 2023 edition of *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine devoted exclusively to gun violence and entitled, "Gun violence – How people of faith can stop this uniquely American epidemic"; and be it further

**RESOLVED (37)** The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks Moravians from the Canadian District to support their Moravian siblings in the United States with prayer, encouragement, and action, in efforts to end gun violence as followers of the Prince of Peace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

Ninth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: Affirming and Building the Work of Justice

Whereas in March 15-22, 2023, Moravian bishops representing many Unity provinces gathered in Doorn, Netherlands, for the 2023 Unity Bishops' Conference. The topic of their gathering was, "Learn to do good, seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17). From their work together, they shared a pastoral letter calling for justice with all congregations of the Moravian Unity<sup>26</sup>, excerpts of which include:

*"We have listened to reports which describe structural injustices, corruption and malfunctioning of whole societies. Wars are raging, more weapons are made and used. Violence against and oppression of women and children continues. Modern slavery is still going on and even increasing. Self-inflicted climate change is destroying God's creation and the habitat of all living. The poor, who have caused the least of this, suffer the most and their opportunity for a dignified life is reduced. Tens of thousands of people are refugees as a consequence.*

*"we say clearly: All this is against God's will.*

*"We would like to encourage you to speak up against such injustices and destruction, and to look out for opportunities that lead towards the restoration of God's creation and towards functioning societies. In this way we can begin or continue a pilgrimage of grace towards healing. Therefore, be it*

RESOLVED (38) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, in light of the many injustices and destructive forces currently facing the world and creation, expresses its gratitude to the Unity Bishops who gathered in Doorn, Netherlands, in March 2023, for their pastoral letter<sup>27</sup> with its call to justice and affirmation of justice work, and encouragement to "speak up

---

<sup>26</sup> A copy of the 2023 Pastoral Letter from Unity Bishops meeting in Doorn, Netherlands, March 15-22, 2023 is attached to this proposal.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

against injustices and destruction and to look out for opportunities that lead toward restoration of God's creation and toward functioning societies," and be it further

RESOLVED (39) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms that God calls us as individuals, congregations, and as a province to work for justice for the healing of the world, and encourages congregations to look for opportunities to seek and to do justice in its purpose, worship, community, spiritual formation, stewardship, leadership, mission, and service ministries; and

Whereas, The Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province in Paragraph 202 (f) 3, entitled *Peace, Justice and the Care of Creation, The Ordained Minister in Relation to the Community and World in The Standards and Responsibilities for Ordained Ministers of the Moravian Church*, states:

*"Ordained ministers work for peace and justice, recognizing the complex interrelation of these issues. They appreciate the gift of God's creation and promote its preservation as a sacred trust. They uphold the dignity of all people, recognizing that they are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). They are open to God's call to be advocates for the poor, the oppressed, and the outcast. They seek reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Ordained ministers are called to be witnesses for Christ and by word and deed communicate the Good News of God's love to all."* Therefore be it

RESOLVED (40) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages all ordained (and licensed lay) ministers with their congregations and entities to discern ways in which they may deepen their relationship to the community and the world; become aware and knowledgeable of, and prepared to address justice concerns in their communities, explore congregational passions and resources around mission and justice, identify needs in their communities that are not being adequately addressed, work alongside community and ecumenical partners to develop ministries to help address those needs, and engage in training on justice building; and

RESOLVED (41) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges congregations to explore the charity and mission work they undertake and educate themselves on the causes and systemic issues rooted in history, stereotypes, laws, and policies

that cause the work to be continually needed, and prayerfully discern ways to advocate as a congregation for those impacted by those issues to bring about social transformation; and

Whereas the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living reminds us of the following:  
*Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society, we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship... among which are intelligent and well-informed voting, a willingness to assume public office, guiding the decisions of government by the expression of our opinions, and supporting good government by our personal efforts, and*

Whereas One of the places we are called to “speak up against injustices and destruction,” is in the public square, and our ecumenical partners have information on advocacy and current advocacy issues such as The United Methodist Church’s <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action>; the ELCA Advocacy Action Center; and the Episcopal Church’s <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/advocacy-resources/>; and in Canada, congregations may visit [angelican.ca](http://angelican.ca), [elcic.ca](http://elcic.ca), [cpj.ca](http://cpj.ca); and

Whereas Ordained and licensed ministers, and congregational leaders and members would benefit from an explanatory statement regarding Church and State matters for distribution to congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED (42) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites its congregations and members to explore the advocacy resources and consider action items available from our ecumenical partners by visiting United Methodist Church’s <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action>; the ELCA Advocacy Action Center; and the Episcopal Church’s <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/advocacy-resources/>; and in Canada, congregations may visit [angelican.ca](http://angelican.ca), [elcic.ca](http://elcic.ca), [cpj.ca](http://cpj.ca), and be in further

RESOLVED (43) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province requests the Provincial Elders’ Conference to identify or direct the preparation of a statement on Church and State issues, advocacy, and related information and distribute these documents to congregations; and

Whereas A number of Moravian congregations and emerging ministries across the Northern Province, including congregations in the Western District, are engaging in extensive justice work, and their stories would be helpful for others to hear; therefore be it

RESOLVED (44) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregations and emerging ministries to share their experiences and best practices of justice and organizing work and local restorative and healing ministries on social media and websites; with other Moravian congregations and with the Interprovincial Board of Communication for sharing and publication; with local ministerium and community groups; and with their wider communities, and be it further

RESOLVED (45) This 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province 2023 commends the ways in which the Provincial Elders Conference and other leaders, and provincial and interprovincial agencies and entities, have led and supported the work for justice, and encourages the Provincial Elders Conference to continue to give sustained attention to the work of justice and advocacy to which God calls us, moving justice and advocacy work forward with intention and action, through its own commitment to the work of justice; the collaboration with and support of collaboration between Provincial and District Teams and Committees engaged in justice work and advocacy; and the ongoing support and encouragement for congregations and their ministers, leaders, and members to engage in justice work and advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 23, 2023

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Tenth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: Commitment to the Work of Racial Justice and Healing

Whereas, The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province (“MCNP”), recognizing that “institutional and systemic racism continues to devastate the lives of people of color,” and acknowledging our past failure to “work diligently to develop programs and efforts which move in the direction of the elimination of institutional racism, and the fostering of diversity in churches in the Northern Province,”<sup>28</sup> passed legislation directing that specific steps be taken to dismantle and eliminate institutional, systemic, and personal racism;<sup>29</sup> and

Whereas, In response to the 2018 Synod’s call for specific steps to be taken by the Provincial Elders’ Conference (“PEC”) to eliminate racism, the PEC in early 2019, after hearing stories of the extensive harm and injury experienced by clergy of color due to racism, and recognizing the church’s implicit and complicit role in this harm, the PEC in April 2019, formed the Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team; and

Whereas, In September 2020, the PEC and the Racial Justice Team created an initial “Action Plan Toward Racial Justice and Healing”<sup>30</sup> for the MCNP to prioritize, guide, and “...claim the work of racial justice and healing as integral to our identity;” and in February 2021 the PEC created a one-quarter time position of Director of Racial Justice and Healing, and called the Rev. Sue Koenig to serve in that role to assist with managing and supporting the work of the Racial Justice Team; and with planning for its ongoing work of racial justice and healing; and

Whereas, Since its inception the MCNP Racial Justice Team has worked faithfully to take initial steps in leading and equipping the MCNP in this work, in accordance with the mandate of the 2018 Synod of the MCNP, the commissioning of the PEC, and the goals of the 2020 MCNP Action Plan Toward Racial Justice and Healing<sup>31</sup>; therefore be it

RESOLVED (46) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province (“MCNP”) expresses its deep gratitude to The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, the Provincial Elders’ Conference, the MCNP Racial Justice Team, and The Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch for their work toward racial justice and healing in the MCNP; and to all who

---

<sup>28</sup> Resolution on Racial Reconciliation, 2006 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province

<sup>29</sup> Fourth Partial Report of the 2018 Synod Church and Society Committee, 16, 17, 19 and 20.

<sup>30</sup> The MCNP Action Plan Toward Racial Justice and Healing is attached to this proposal.

<sup>31</sup> Please see the attached Report to the 2023 Synod from the MCNP Racial Justice Team, 2019-2023 for details.

participated in or assisted with the learning and advocacy opportunities sponsored by the PEC and the MCNP Racial Justice Team and those with whom they collaborated; with the recognition that this work is essential to our faith in, and faithful witness to, Jesus Christ and critical to the life and well-being of the church, communities, individuals, and society, and to which we are wholeheartedly committed; and be it further

RESOLVED (47) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province recognizes the work of racial justice and healing as lifelong work and designates the 2018 Synod resolutions of the Fourth Partial Report of the 2018 Synod Church and Society Committee, 16, 17, 19 and 20,<sup>32</sup>and be it further

RESOLVED (48) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province (“MCNP”) commends the PEC for the steps taken in response to the 2018 Synod legislation regarding the dismantling and elimination of racism in all its forms, its formation and support of the MCNP Racial Justice Team, and the creation of the position of Director of Racial Justice and Healing; and affirms and directs the standing continuation and funding of the MCNP Racial Justice Team and the position of Director of Racial Justice and Healing, and expansion of both as needed, so that they may continue and extend the work of racial justice and healing in the MCNP with support and representation from the PEC and the support and ongoing prayers of the MCNP; and

Whereas, In September 2022, the PEC in an initial fulfillment of the 2018 mandate “to require all pastors, licensed lay pastors and candidates for ordination to receive anti-racism training,” planned with the MCNP Racial Justice Team a “Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice and Healing” to Montgomery, Alabama ; therefore be it

RESOLVED (49) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the PEC for planning the September 2022 “Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice and Healing” to Montgomery, Alabama as a means of initially fulfilling the 2018 Synod mandate “to require all pastors, licensed ministers and candidates for ordination to receive anti-racism training;” and directs the PEC to provide for ongoing anti-racism, advocacy, organizing, and related trainings and experiences for clergy, lay pastors, and candidates for ordination, including considering adding these requirements to those needed for ordination or licensing, and recommending to Moravian Theological Seminary the development of opportunities for fulfilling these requirements; and be in further

RESOLVED (50) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, following the 2018 Synod, offers its “support, encouragement, and prayers to clergy as they proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for all people, name and denounce the sin of racism, and lead congregations in efforts to understand, dismantle, and eliminate racism.,” commends those who are taking steps in their congregations; and directs the Provincial Elders’ Conference and the MCNP Racial Justice Team to identify

---

<sup>32</sup> Fourth Partial Report of the 2018 Synod Church and Society Committee, 16, 17, 19 and 20.

persons skilled in specialized justice work conflict coaching as a resource for clergy and licensed lay pastors leading congregations in the work of racial justice and healing [and include this coaching in other coaching funding that may be provided by the MCNP and/or provide scholarships for this specialized coaching]; and

Whereas, The PEC and the MCNP Racial Justice Team have collaborated in the work of racial justice and healing with the Moravian Church Southern Province, ecumenical partners, and others; therefore, be it

RESOLVED (51) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the Provincial Elders' Conference and the MCNP Racial Justice Team in their efforts to collaborate with the Moravian Church Southern Province, ecumenical partners, and other organizations engaged in the work of racial justice and healing and encourages the continuation and expansion of these collaborative efforts, as well as continuing collaboration among Districts within the Province; and

Whereas, The Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch's historical research and scholarship on Moravians and slavery, and his related presentations, have broken the hearts of those who have heard the truth about the Moravian Church's history of complicit and implicit participation in the enslavement of human beings; and his work is crucial to the work of the MCNP Racial Justice Team, the MCNP, and the world-wide Moravian Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED (52) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to support the ongoing research, scholarship, and preparation of resources of the Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch related to Moravians, slavery, and racism through assistance with securing eligible grants and sources of funding; and

Whereas, While the work toward racial justice and healing of the past four years represents a faithful and authentic beginning in the MCNP's work to dismantle and eliminate institutional, systemic, and personal racism, and there has been much courageous, painful, and hopeful participation on the part of many people across the Province, there is still much listening, learning, and dialogue, and extensive, long-term work needed; there is a "fierce urgency" to the work we must do now in light of generational harms and continuing racial inequities, disparities, and violence; there is much awareness and repentance and work to do on justice and healing for harms to Indigenous peoples; and there is great need to heal the wounds and repair relationships with siblings in Christ and others as we repent, pray, and work for God's beloved community; therefore be it

RESOLVED (53) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends congregations and members who have established racial justice teams or committees and/or who are actively working in their communities and lives for racial justice and healing; and encourages the consideration of establishing relationships with local organizing groups or larger groups such as Gamaliel, Poor People's Campaign, and others to further the work of racial justice and healing and justice advocacy; and be it further



RESOLVED (54) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province covenants to continue the work of racial justice and healing *until the one who began this good work among us brings it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ* (Phil. 1:6.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marion Boyle  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman

With Concurrence of the Finance Committee

Eleventh Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: Combatting White Supremacy

Whereas, Jesus' teachings exemplified servant leadership (Matthew 20:25) and challenged those who dominated others; and in Acts 10:34 it says, "God shows no partiality between people: in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God; and

Whereas, white supremacy is the belief that white people are superior to those of all other races and should therefore dominate society, typically to the exclusion or detriment of other ethnic and racial groups; and

Whereas, white supremacy is an historically based institutionally perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of continents, nations and peoples of color by white peoples and nations of the European continent for the purpose of maintaining and defending systems of wealth and power and privilege;<sup>33</sup> and

Whereas, scholar Frances Lee Ansley clarifies that "By 'white supremacy' I do not mean to allude only to the self-conscious racism of white supremacist hate groups. I refer instead to a political, economic and cultural system in which whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources, conscious and unconscious ideas of white superiority and entitlement are widespread, and relations of white dominance and non-white subordination are daily reenacted across a broad array of institutions and social settings";<sup>34</sup> and

Whereas, the Anti-Defamation League Center on Extremism (ADL) tracked a significant increase in white supremacist propaganda efforts, which included the distribution of racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ+ fliers, stickers, banners, graffiti and posters, as well as laser projections in recent years (data shows a 38% increase in incidents from the previous year, with a total of 6,751 cases reported in 2022, compared with 4,876 in 2021—the highest number of white supremacist propaganda incidents ADL has ever recorded); and

---

<sup>33</sup> [https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/06/What\\_Is\\_White\\_Supremacy\\_Martinez.pdf](https://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/06/What_Is_White_Supremacy_Martinez.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/10/the-language-of-white-supremacy/542148/>

Whereas, the PBS News Hour reported on June 10, 2022 that “White Supremacists are riling up thousands on Social Media” and reported that white nationalists and supremacists, on social media accounts often run by young men, are building thriving, macho communities across social media platforms like Instagram, Telegram and TikTok, evading detection with coded hashtags and innuendo.” PBS also reported “that their snarky memes and trendy videos are riling up thousands of followers on divisive issues, including abortion, guns, immigration and LGBTQ rights,” and

Whereas, The Covenant for Christian Living states, “We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God. Together with the universal Christian Church, we have a concern for this world, opening our heart and hand to our neighbors with the message of the love of God, and being ever ready to minister of our substance to their necessities (Matthew 25:40)” (Part V, Paragraph A), and

Whereas, many of our Ecumenical Partners have adopted statements and policies that speak against the injustices and destructive outcomes spawned by white supremacy (e.g. the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America resolution entitled “Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric,” as referenced below), therefore be it

RESOLVED (55) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province adopt the following resolution (adapted from the Social Policy Resolution CA 19.04.18 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) to resolve and proclaim that:

- White supremacy is racism and we condemn it;
- The love of God is for all people, without exception, and we proclaim it;
- The justice and mercy of God are for all people, without exception, and we proclaim this;
- Our religious and political leaders have a moral responsibility to condemn racist rhetoric and to speak with respect for the innate dignity of all persons, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or faith tradition and we call our leaders to honor this responsibility; and
- Language that refers to people of color or immigrants with words like “invasion” or “infestation” or “white replacement” is racist and we condemn it;
- We are called by Jesus to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions. With them, we demand and will advocate for a more just, loving, and peaceful world where the gifts of all people are appreciated, and the lives of all people are treasured; and
- We call all congregations of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America to engage in communal study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be

better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God; and ask that the Racial Justice Team of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America suggest resources to congregations for pursuing this study.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 24, 2023

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Twelfth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

Re: *Christians Against Christian Nationalism*

Whereas, God created humankind in God's image (Genesis 1:27); and

Whereas, God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God (Acts 10:34b-35); and

Whereas, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39); and

Whereas, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living states, "We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest and conscientious, as becomes children of God. Together with the universal Christian Church, we have a concern for this world, opening our heart and hand to our neighbors with the message of the love of God, and being ever ready to minister of our substance to their necessities,"<sup>35</sup> and

Whereas, The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living further states, "Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society, we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship, among which are intelligent and well-informed voting, a willingness to assume public office, guiding the decisions of government by the expression of our opinions, and supporting good government by our personal efforts;" and "Though giving our loyalty to the state of which we are citizens, we do recognize a higher loyalty to God and conscience (Acts 5:29)."<sup>36</sup> and

Whereas, The Episcopal Church, an ecumenical partner of the Moravian Church Northern Province, has defined "Christian nationalism" as "... a commitment to combining Christian and American identities tied in with white supremacist ideologies...;" and that, "This ideology demands that Christianity be granted special treatment by the state while suggesting that the United States is an inherently Christian nation. This is yet another hurtful ideology and one that draws in Christianity, a religion which we ...know as a movement of compassion, empathy, welcoming, and

---

<sup>35</sup> MMCL @2018 The Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in North America.

V. A. p. 29, *Love Toward All*

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, IV. B, p. 26 and C, p. 27

forgiveness, to overlay it with hurtful rhetoric, racial subjugation, and, too often, violence. The direct violence, intimidation, and distortion of scripture associated with “Christian nationalism” does not reflect the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, and the Episcopal Church has remained committed to condemning the ideology.”<sup>37</sup> and

Whereas, Christian Nationalism is a distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ as evidenced in scripture, and the core and fundamental Moravian understanding of humanity, and the God-given equality of all people; and

Whereas, *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* was launched in 2019 and has issued a Statement<sup>38</sup> expressing concern that Christian Nationalism is a persistent threat both to our religious communities and our democracy; and

Whereas, *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* is supported by ecumenical partners of the Moravian Church Northern Province including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church, and has been signed by heads of both denominations, i.e., The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, and The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in an Oct. 26, 2022 seminar at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., “reiterated the Episcopal Church’s position that white Christian nationalism is a gross perversion of Christianity, and that Christians must refute such ideologies.”<sup>39</sup> and

Whereas, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry have made their own statements as part of *Christians Against Christian Nationalism*.<sup>40 41</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/eppn-series-on-deradicalization-introduction/>

<sup>38</sup> See Addendum

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/10/27/white-christian-nationalism-is-not-christianity-presiding-bishop-says-during-panel-discussion/>

<sup>40</sup> “Christian nationalism identifies a human government with God’s will and seeks privilege for Christians from the state. Lutherans teach that government should be held accountable to God but not ever identified with God’s will. The ELCA is committed to strengthening public space as a just place for all regardless of religion or worldview and will defend the full participation of all in our religiously diverse society. This common statement is an important witness on these matters.” <https://www.christiansagainatchristiannationalism.org/endorsers>

<sup>41</sup> “As followers of Jesus, his command to love our neighbors means neighbors of every type, of every faith, not just our own. Through our baptism and in our democracy, we are called to a way of love that creates a community in which the dignity of every human being is recognized and respected, and where all can have an equal say in the governing of our civic life. The violence, intimidation and distortion of scripture associated with “Christian nationalism” does not reflect the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, and so I stand with fellow leaders in the

including, “The ELCA is committed to strengthening public space as a just place for all regardless of religion or worldview and will defend the full participation of all in our religiously diverse society;” and, “The violence, intimidation and distortion of scripture associated with “Christian nationalism” does not reflect the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, and so I stand with fellow leaders in the Christian community and call for a better way;” and

Whereas, according to a recent survey<sup>42</sup> conducted and compiled by Public Religion Research Institute (“PRRI”), “a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to conducting independent research at the intersection of religion, culture, and public

---

Christian community and call for a better way.”

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/endorsers>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.prrri.org/research/a-christian-nation-understanding-the-threat-of-christian-nationalism-to-american-democracy-and-culture/>

policy," Christian Nationalism is associated with racism<sup>43</sup>, antisemitism<sup>44</sup>, and violence;<sup>45 46</sup> and

Whereas, in light of the rising threat and potential violence related to Christian Nationalism,<sup>47</sup> and its distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ, members of the Moravian Church would benefit from resources to study and discuss Christian Nationalism in order to address this grave and urgent concern; therefore be it

---

<sup>43</sup> For example, the PRRI survey reports, "A majority of Americans (53%) believe that "generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for many Black Americans to work their way out of the lower class," compared to 45% who disagree. However, 66% of Christian nationalism sympathizers and 70% of adherents reject this idea. Disagreement rises to more than three-quarters among white Christian nationalism sympathizers and adherents (77% and 83%, respectively).

Around four in ten Americans (41%) agree that discrimination against white Americans is as big of a problem as discrimination against Black Americans and other minorities, compared to 58% who disagree. Approximately two-thirds of Christian nationalism sympathizers (66%) and more than three-quarters of Christian nationalism adherents (77%) agree with this statement. Among Christian nationalism sympathizers and adherents who are white, agreement with this sentiment rises to 73% and 85%, respectively.

<sup>44</sup> For example, the PRRI survey reports "fourteen percent of Americans say that the statement "Jewish people hold too many positions of power" somewhat or completely describes the United States today, while 82% say it describes the U.S. a little or not at all, including 67% who say it does not describe the country at all. The share who believe this antisemitic stereotype rises to 19% among Christian nationalism sympathizers and 23% among Christian nationalism adherents."

<sup>45</sup> The PRRI Survey concluded, "These results give us confidence in the accuracy of the Christian nationalism scale we have developed here, where we show 9% of Americans qualifying as Christian nationalism adherents and an additional 19% qualifying as Christian nationalism sympathizers. If anything, the list experiment — which shows that nearly one in five Americans assert not only that the United States is a white Christian nation but also that they are willing to fight to preserve it — would suggest that the 9% estimate of Christian nationalism adherents may be conservative."

<sup>46</sup> "The survey also examines "...how Christian nationalist views intersect with white identity, anti-Black sentiment, support of patriarchy, antisemitism, anti-Muslim sentiments, anti-immigrant attitudes, authoritarianism, and support for violence."

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.prri.org/research/a-christian-nation-understanding-the-threat-of-christian-nationalism-to-american-democracy-and-culture/>



RESOLVED (56) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province rejects Christian Nationalism, which supports racism and white supremacy, and encourages the Provincial Elders' Conference to prayerfully consider joining our ecumenical partners in endorsing the Statement of *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* and issuing its own statement rejecting Christian Nationalism and calling for a better way; and be it further

RESOLVED (57) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province recommends curriculum, webinars, discussion guides, and other resources on Christian Nationalism available from *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* (<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/resources>) for use by congregations and members; and encourages the reading and signing of the Statement prepared by *Christians Against Christian Nationalism*; and be it further

RESOLVED (58) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Northern Province Racial Justice Team to monitor educational resources and advocacy opportunities available from *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* and other ecumenical sources, and update congregations and members as resources and advocacy opportunities become available.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 24, 2023

#### **ADDENDUM**

##### **Statement from Christians Against Christian Nationalism**

As Christians, our faith teaches us everyone is created in God's image and commands us to love one another. As Americans, we value our system of government and the good that can be accomplished in our constitutional democracy. Today, we are concerned about a persistent threat to both our religious communities and our democracy — Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.

As Christians, we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.

- One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.
- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/statement>

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Thirteenth Partial Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: A Call for LGBTQIA+ Justice and Healing

Whereas, the 2018 Northern Province Synod, in an effort to be more accepting and affirming of the children of God, passed a resolution on Human Sexuality/Gender Identities which:

- affirms the dignity and rights of persons of all gender identities;
- reaffirms its open welcome to all people by specifically recognizing that persons of all gender identities are also under God's care;
- recognizes that persons of all gender identities can be members of our church because they are children of God and seek to know God's grace which is freely given to all people who have faith in God;
- supports and affirms persons of all gender identities allowing them to celebrate their lives as individuals, couples, and families within the bounds of the church and under the grace which our Creator imparts to all persons;
- encourages the church shall continue to enter into dialogue in a loving manner with persons of all gender identities in order to understand their lives and their spiritual walk; and encourages pastors and church leaders to engage in training and education related to the understanding of and care for persons of all gender identities." (R&E 2018, pp. 17-18, R. 21-26); and

Whereas, many LGBTQIA+ persons in the Moravian Church have been harmed by past and current church policy and behavior; and therefore be it

RESOLVED (59) The 2023 Synod of the MCNP acknowledges behavior that has caused harm to the spiritual growth and emotional lives of LGBTQIA+ persons; and therefore be it

RESOLVED (60) The 2023 Synod of the MCNP requests the Provincial Elders Conference of the MCNP to explore and discover how past and current policies and behaviors have harmed and may continue to harm LGBTQIA+ church members, clergy and candidates for ordination and initiate a process for acknowledgement, healing, and to affirmatively seek reconciliation with those siblings who have left the church; and be it further

RESOLVED (61) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) to encourage all Northern Province Churches to follow a process of becoming open and affirming of all Human Sexuality and Gender identities via the process, reconciling in Christ (RIC), provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America (ELCA).

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rolhoff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 24, 2023

Church and Society (#2 Bright Lemon)

Fourteenth Partial and Final Report  
of the Church and Society Committee

RE: A CALL FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

Whereas, Jesus had compassion for all people and his ministry included "healing every disease and every sickness" (Matthew 9:35); and

Whereas, In May 2023, the US Department of Health and Human Services issued a report stating that the US "is facing an unprecedented mental health crisis. [and] The crisis isn't just affecting adults, it is devastating young people, and people from every background are impacted."<sup>48</sup> and

Whereas, In March 2023, the Canadian Mental Health Association reported that, "Recent research indicates Canadians' mental health is worsening due to rising cost of living. Canadians affected by inflation are experiencing: higher self-rated anxiety (33%) and depression (32%), higher rates of recent diagnosis of a mood disorder since the pandemic (14%), and higher suicidal ideation (31%);<sup>49</sup> and

Whereas, Dr. Vivek Murthy, the U.S. Surgeon General, released an advisory declaring loneliness a new public health epidemic in the United States, with significant negative impact on physical and mental health;<sup>50</sup> and

Whereas, the church of Jesus is called to offer the healing power of God's love to those suffering from mental health concerns, loneliness, and isolation; therefore be it

RESOLVED (62) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges its members and congregations to take steps to address the current mental health crisis, loneliness, and isolation including, becoming knowledgeable about mental illness and helpful ways to respond; offering support and encouragement to those experiencing mental health concerns and crises and their families; and advocating for adequate and accessible mental health care.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Church and Society  
Chair, Marian Boyle Rohloff  
Secretary, Brenda Hoelman  
June 24, 2023

---

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/03/fact-sheet-celebrating-mental-health-awareness-month-2023.html>

<sup>49</sup> <https://cmha.ca/news/budget-2023-out-of-touch-with-mental-health-crisis/>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/03/new-surgeon-general-advisory-raises-alarm-about-devastating-impact-epidemic-loneliness-isolation-united-states.html>

FIRST PARTIAL REPORT  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Re: Identity, Purpose, and Organization (IPO)

Whereas, The 2010 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province called for a study of the structure of the province, as indicated by the following resolutions:

*RESOLVED: (11) During the inter-synod period of 2010 to 2014 a study commission of twelve (12) persons across all parts of the Moravian Church – Northern Province shall be established by the Provincial Elders' Conference to engage the congregations of the Moravian Church – Northern Province in discussion about how the current Provincial structure does or does not meet Provincial needs and to gather recommendations about suggested changes to the Provincial structure; and be it further*

*RESOLVED: (12) The Study Commission on the Provincial structure shall have membership appointed by each District Board (four members from the Eastern District, four members from the Western District, two members from the Canadian District) and two members at large appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference; and be it further*

*RESOLVED: (13) The Study Commission on the Provincial structure shall report their collective findings and make recommendations based upon their study to the Provincial Elders' Conference no later than June 2013; and be it further*

*RESOLVED: (14) The Provincial Elders' Conference will prepare a recommendation for the 2014 Provincial Synod for consideration at that time, and*

Whereas, the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province authorized the Provincial Elders' Conference to develop, and fund from existing project support funds, a process of regional Holy Conversations across the province and the purpose of these Conversations was to engage congregations in listening to the

leading of the Holy Spirit as participants consider the IPO Report and the work of the 2014 Synod IPO Committee. (Fifth and final report of the Identity, Purpose, and Organization), and

Whereas, the Provincial Elders' Conference was able to complete those regional conversations across the province and utilize the feedback to inform work toward proposing a new model of governance which sought to:

- provide a regionally based provincial governance model, accommodating district governance for "need specific" congregational support
- nurture provincial collaboration through a governance structure that ensures *we are one province – not three separate districts - implementing one vision.*
- create greater collaboration on the appropriate placement of clergy in the call process by ensuring a dialogue between district boards regarding current human resources and specific congregational needs
- better leverage provincial and district resources for the common good of the entire province.
- broaden and enhance lay-based ministry in support of work done at a district level.
- reduce cost to congregations, and

Whereas, The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, after examination of the proposed reorganization model, directed the PEC and District Executive Boards to continue to examine the need for reorganization, specifically focusing on how reorganization will serve to meet congregational and missional needs across the province, using as its main resource congregational and regional conversations with local church leaders and members; following as closely as possible to the following timeline:

- Congregational and regional conversations to obtain feedback during 2019, led by district representatives, to provide corresponding recommendations for consideration at the regularly scheduled 2020 District Synods with these recommendations provided to all congregations in the Northern Province by December 2019 for review in advance of synods.
- The PEC and District Boards review with prayerful consideration the feedback and directives from the District Synods to develop legislation for consideration at the 2022 Provincial Synod, such draft legislation to be provided to all congregations in the Northern Province by December 2021 for review in advance of synods; and

Whereas, the District Boards, in consultation with the Provincial Elders' Conference, completed these congregational conversations, gathering feedback from all participating congregations for the purpose of better understanding how reorganization would serve to meet congregational and missional needs across the province, and

Whereas, the Western District Executive Board, the Board of Elders of the Canadian District, the Eastern District Executive Board, and the Provincial Elders' conference met together to prayerfully review and study the results of these congregational listening sessions, and

Whereas, this province-wide congregational feedback revealed that reorganization was not considered a high priority or even necessary at this time, but rather that ministry environment challenges such as provincial and district communication, lay ministry development, congregational care, and nurturing a culture of experimentation and possibilities were matters that congregations felt were opportunities for the Provincial Elders' Conference and the District Boards to attend to, and

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic forced District Synods to be held virtually; because of the remote format of synod, no group discussions were held to discuss next steps for the IPO initiative, and

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic prevented all congregations from considering the recommendations of District Synods during 2021, and

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic created unplanned opportunities to explore new ways of gathering, communicating, and collaborating across the province and inter-provincially, leading to

- Province-wide clergy caring clusters
- Province-wide educational opportunities on a variety of topics, such as racial justice
- Interprovincial opportunities to participate in educational events sponsored by the Moravian Church Southern Province
- New ways of worshipping through various media, such as Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube.



- Cost-saving methods of meetings of various boards and agencies via Zoom that brought people together in effective settings from across the province, and

Whereas many of the responses to Covid taught the church ways to gather, meet, educate, and communicate more effectively and at a lower cost, thus achieving some of the initial goals set forth by the 2010 initial call for restructure, therefore be it

Resolved (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province offers gratitude and thanksgiving to the many people involved in the several iterations of the Task Force on Identity, Purpose, and Organization for their creative and steadfast efforts from 2010-2023, and be it further

Resolved (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to continue enhancing provincial and district communication, developing ordained and lay leadership, caring for congregations, nurturing a culture of experimentation and innovation, and providing additional opportunities to share ideas, resources, and experiences, and be it further

Resolved (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to continue exploring ways to best serve God's mission.

Nasel Ephraim, Chairperson  
Adair Aumock, Secretary  
June 22, 2023

Congregational Leadership #3 (Orchid)

Second Partial Report  
of the Committee on Congregational Leadership

RE: Pastoral Leadership for our congregations

- Whereas, There are financial constraints in many congregations, and
- Whereas, There is a shortage of ordained Moravian clergy available for call or appointment, and
- Whereas, The Provincial Elders' Conference, the District Executive Boards, and congregational lay leaders, in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit, have creatively sought and implemented new ways to provide pastoral leadership for our congregations, and
- Whereas, Various models for pastoral ministry are presently being used in our congregations either under call or by appointment such as, but not limited to:
- Moravian pastors serving a Moravian congregation and a congregation of one of our ecumenical partners
  - Pastors of an ecumenical partner serving a congregation of their denomination as well as a Moravian congregation
  - Bi-vocational pastors serving congregations part-time while holding a secular job
  - Retired Moravian clergy serving part-time
  - A full-time Moravian pastor serving multiple congregations with assistance from lay leaders of those congregations
  - A Moravian clergy couple serving two Moravian congregations, each serving part-time in each congregation
  - Licensed Lay Pastors
  - Candidates for the ordained ministry serving congregations part-time while attending seminary
  - Other innovative solutions determined on a case-by-case basis to meet congregational needs, and
- Whereas, Congregations are ably served by lay members for extended periods of time in the absence of a pastor serving under call or by appointment, and
- Whereas, Many of our congregations are experiencing different models of pastoral ministry from what they have had in the past, and

- Whereas, Negotiating the details of these new models of ministry involve the Provincial Elders' Conference, the District Executive Boards, members of the provincial and district staff, and congregational leaders, therefore be it
- Resolved (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses our gratitude to the members of the Provincial Elders' Conference and the District Executive Boards for their resourcefulness in seeking new and creative approaches to providing pastoral leadership for congregations of the Northern Province, and be it further
- Resolved (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses appreciation to the members of congregations for their acceptance of new models of pastoral leadership, and be it further
- Resolved (6) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses appreciation to the members of the provincial and district staff involved in assisting the Provincial Elders' Conference and the District Executive Boards in implementing these new models of pastoral leadership, and be it further
- Resolved (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites the Provincial Elders' Conference, the District Executive Boards, members of the provincial and district staff, and congregational leaders, to continue discerning the Holy Spirit's leading in supporting and sustaining this ongoing work.

*Nasir Uddin, Chairperson*

*Adhik Anand, Secretary*

*June 23, 2023*

Congregational Leadership #3 (Orchid)

Third & Final Partial Report  
of the Committee on Congregational Leadership

RE: Moravian Theological Seminary Report

Whereas, We have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Moravian Theological Seminary, therefore be it

Resolved (8) 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 Theological Seminary, and be it further

Resolved (9) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms and commends the work of Moravian Theological Seminary to “offer graduate and continuing education programs that equip persons with the knowledge, skills, and being to engage in vocations in ministry, chaplaincy, spiritual direction and other settings.” (MTS Mission Statement)

*Nancy Eppstein, Chairperson*

*Adrian Amosok, Secretary*

*June 23, 2023*

Emerging Ministry #4 (Gray)

First Partial Report  
of the Emerging Ministry

RE: The Emerging Ministry Committee Report

- Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from the Emerging Ministry Committee, and
- Whereas, the Emerging Ministry Committee developed and implemented models of sustainability that help build a foundation for emerging ministries to build longevity and a path for sharing Christ's love in new ways, and
- Whereas, new emerging ministries such as You Belong and Essentials Café have provided a new expression of the Moravian Church that has created new ways to love their communities, 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 the Emerging Ministry Committee, and be it further
- Resolved: (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to express our thanks to Ben Ingebretson for his leadership, and be it further
- Resolved: (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to express our thanks to the Emerging Ministry Committee members for their work and commitment to generating and supporting new emerging ministries and faith community develop.

Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons, Chair  
Terri Boyd, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Emerging Ministry #4 (Gray)

Second Partial Report  
of the Emerging Ministries

Re: Position of Coordinator of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities

Whereas, the position of Director of Church Planting and Emerging Ministries of the Moravian Church Northern Province has been vacant since April 1, 2023, and

Whereas, the work of developing Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities is important to the Moravian Church Northern Province, and

Whereas, the Moravian Church is seeking to be contextually responsive and relevant, and

Whereas, the education, development of systems, and leadership offered by the Director of Church Planting and Emerging Ministries has been important to the cultivation of new, creative, and sustainable models of ministries in the Moravian Church Northern Province, and

Whereas, the person in this role will coordinate between the Emerging Ministries Committee and those seeking to develop Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to ensure the continuation of the Emerging Ministries Committee during the next intersynodal period; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference to replace the position of Director of Church Planting and Emerging Ministries with that of Coordinator of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED: (6) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders' Conference, in accord with the Emerging Ministries Committee, to hire a qualified candidate for the position of Coordinator of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities who collaborates with the Emerging Ministries Committee, discerns the Spirit's work, is contextually responsive and relevant, and is able to bring the Moravian ethos into the development of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities. This position would have an annual compensation of up to \$50,000 commensurate with experience and education for the intersynodal period.

Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons, Chair  
Terri Boyd, Secretary  
June 23, 2023  
In concurrence with the Finance Committee

Emerging Ministry #4 (Gray)

Third Partial Report  
of the Emerging Ministries

RE: Try Emerging Ministries Program

Whereas: The Western District of the Moravian Church, Northern Province has utilized a Try Ministry Program to offer meaningful internship experiences for people considering pastoral ministry, enabling participants to discern whether or not they have a call to ordained ministry, and

Whereas: The Interprovincial Board of World Mission has utilized interns to expose people to the wider work of the Board, and

Whereas: The work of Emerging Ministries is a flourishing aspect of our local and Provincial witness to the gospel of Christ, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, through the Emerging Ministries Committee, develop a program to connect interested people with existing Emerging Ministries for short-term, paid internships enabling participants to discern whether or not they have a call to Emerging Ministries work; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED: (8) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province shall request Provincial Elders Conference to fund these internships from the source they determine in the amount of at least \$9,000 per year and more if needed, possibly relying on the District Boards for additional funding; and be it further

RESOLVED: (9) The Emerging Ministries Committee will report annually to the PEC during the intersynodal period concerning candidates and their experiences.

Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons, Chair  
Terri Boyd, Secretary  
June 23, 2023  
In concurrence with the Finance Committee



Emerging Ministry #4 (Gray)

Fourth Partial and Final Report  
of the Emerging Ministries

RE: New Expressions of Faith Annual Assessment Center Events

Whereas, the Moravian Church Northern Province is committed to developing Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities, and

Whereas, lay and clergy leaders across the province have received a call to develop Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities, the Spirit birthing creative and impactful ideas, and

Whereas, a Coordinator of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities has been charged with developing leaders for such ministries, be it therefore

RESOLVED: (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages The Emerging Ministry Committee to host one Assessment Center event in 2025 or 2026 to discern the calling of the potential leaders and assess the readiness and feasibility of ministry proposals. The funding for this event and funding sources will be determined by the Provincial Elders Conference, and be it further

RESOLVED: (11) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the Emerging Ministries Committee, in accord with the Coordinator of Emerging Ministries and New Faith Communities, to utilize the Assessment Center's recommendations regarding the potential leaders' calling and readiness, and the viability of their ministry proposals.

Rev. Christie Melby-Gibbons, Chair

Terri Boyd, Secretary

June 23, 2023

In concurrence with the Finance Committee

Finance Committee #5 (green)

FIRST PARTIAL REPORT  
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Re: Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province – Widows' Society

Whereas, the Finance Committee reviewed the report from the Widows' Society  
Whereas, the committee appreciates the work of the Widows' Society of the Moravian  
Church, Northern Province; be it therefore

RESOLVED (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with  
gratitude the report from the Widows' Society as it is written; and be it further

RESOLVED: (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the  
Widows' Society for their faithful and diligent service and rejoices in their  
excellent efforts of being good stewards of the fund.

Andy Meckstroth, Chair

Jodie Harney, Secretary

6/22/2023

Finance Committee #5 (green)

SECOND PARTIAL REPORT  
FINANCE

Re: Appendix B and Appendix C of the Provincial Elders' Report

Whereas, the finance committee has reviewed Appendix B and Appendix C of the Provincial Elders' Conference Report for the intersynodal period of 2018-2022, therefore be it

RESOLVED (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with gratitude Appendix B and Appendix C of the Provincial Elders' Conference Report for the intersynodal period of 2018-2022.

Andy Meckstroth, Chair  
Jodie Harney, Secretary  
6/23/2023

Finance Committee #5 (Green)

THIRD PARTIAL REPORT  
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Re: Continuation of Northern Province Finance Committee

Whereas, The work of the Northern Province Finance Committee (NPFC) was deemed invaluable by the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) because it has greatly reduced the amount of time spent discussing financial matters during their meetings and allowed them to be better stewards of their time concerning ministerial issues; and

Whereas, the NPFC revision of the financial section of the annual report simplified the completion of the report by the appropriate individuals; and

Whereas, the information that the NPFC shared with the Finance Committee of the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province through pre-synod mailings as well as during the first committee meeting offered clarity and transparency that enabled better understanding among the committee members; be it therefore

RESOLVED: (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms and appreciates the extensive and detailed work of the Northern Province Finance Committee during the previous intersynodal period; and be it further

RESOLVED: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province strongly suggests that the Northern Province Finance Committee shall continue as an advisory group to the Provincial Elders' Conference through the next intersynodal period; and be it further

RESOLVED: (6) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province request the Northern Province Financial Committee review the common ministries commitment method and consider new methods for funding our ministries and province.

Andrew Meckstroth, Chair

Jodie Harney, Secretary

6/24/23

FOURTH PARTIAL REPORT  
FINANCE

Re: Expressing Gratitude for the Sheep We Sometimes Forget

Whereas, from the time of Christ our ancestors of faith have benefited greatly from those who have been wise and faithful stewards of the resources given by God, and

Whereas, the Moravian Church has had many saints who have served the church through their frugal management, diligent oversight and compassionate meticulousness, and

Whereas, the Moravian Church, Northern Province has been blessed by the service of many staff members who labor behind the scenes, and

Whereas, the Moravian Church, Northern Province has been blessed by the service of dedicated servants who labor in the vineyard of our financial resources; be it therefore

RESOLVED: (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province recognizes with deep and abiding gratitude the committed and grace-filled service of Johanna Heft, Provincial Elders' Conference Administrative Assistant, who diligently and cheerfully keeps us all informed and organized with a spirit of love and service; and be it further

RESOLVED: (8) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province recognizes with deep and abiding gratitude the committed service of Brenda Cahill, Provincial Controller, Tammy Curcio, Assistant Controller and June Sterling, Canadian Treasurer, whose commitment to accurate, complete and transparent financial reporting is essential to the functioning of the Moravian Church Northern Province; and be it further

RESOLVED: (9) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province recognizes with deep and abiding gratitude the committed service of Jacquie Petko and Marie Cestone for the care with which they assist ordained servants through their management of the benefits provided by the church; and be it further

RESOLVED: (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province recognizes with deep and abiding gratitude the committed service of Sharon Hergenrother, Eastern District Administrative Assistant, Karen Buchholz, Western District Administrative Assistant and Andrea Stremich, Canadian District Administrative Assistant for their faithful service to the church which vastly surpasses their respective District portfolio; and be it further

RESOLVED: (11) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province shall show its appreciation for the commitment, dedication and loving service to the Moravian Church that Johanna Heft, Brenda Cahill, Tammy Curcio, June Sterling, Jacqui Petko, Marie Cestone, Sharon Hergenrother, Karen Buchholz, and Andrea Stremich provide in a tangible and loud manner.

RESOLVED: (12) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province shall show its appreciation for the commitment, dedication and loving service to the Moravian Church that Mark Santore, IT manager, and Jeffrey Long, Project Manager, provide in a tangible and loud manner.

Andy Meckstroth, Chair  
Jodie Harney, Secretary  
6/24/23

Moravian Church Northern Province  
2024 Mission and Ministries Budget

Account #	B	C		E	F	N	AD	AE	AG
		2024 Budget (\$)	2023 Budget (\$)						
1									
2									
3									
4	4100-04	Income	1,346,614	1,382,833	1,350,943	1,404,611		1,406,725	
5		Common Ministries Commitment							Income from Northern Province congregations
6	4002-04	"Faith Gifts" from Congregations (6)	-	-		5,000		1,000	Income from "faith gifts" received from congregations based on the vision goal casted by the PEC (6)
7	4002-04	Restricted Fund Income / Ministerial Education	80,000	72,500	81,049	82,760		76,940	Income from restricted funds held with MCNP
8	4004-04	Unity (Palestine) Income from SPG	325	300	329	336		313	Income from restricted funds held with MCNP
9	4201-04	Larger Life Foundation Income / Administration	2,100	2,100	2,222	2,180		2,200	Income from restricted fund held with SPG
10	4203-04	Larger Life Foundation Income / Ministerial Education	55,000	51,000	54,894	52,480		53,053	distribution received from Larger Life Foundation
11	4343-04	Congregational Development Fund / Healthy Congregations (1)	43,000	41,000	43,915	41,984		42,442	distribution received from Larger Life Foundation
12	4344-04	Congregational Development Fund / Leadership Development (1)	25,000	15,000	22,480	4,806		3,694	transfer from Congregational Development Fund for Healthy Congregations expense on a 1-1 basis (1)
13	4354-04+	Congregational Development Fund / Spiritual Direction and Coaching (1)	15,000	15,000	-	2,718		-	transfer from Congregational Development Fund for Leadership Development expense on a 1-1 basis (1)
14	4345-04	Congregational Development Fund / Program (Bishop / Deacon / Stewardship / Youth Ministry Leadership) (1)	35,000	35,000	15,530	15,140		14,930	transfer from Congregational Development Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Spiritual Formation (3rd report) (1)
15	4347-04+	TI - Minnie Uhde/Undesignated Bequests - Spiritual Companionship Facilitator (4)	5,500	15,000	9,750	9,750		5,105	transfer from Congregational Development Fund for these program expenses on a 1-1 basis (1)
16	4354-04+	TI - CDF - Parsonage Task Force (1)	-	500	-	-		3,450	2018 Synod 4th Rpt Com on Spiritual Formation - Minnie Uhde (4)
17	4354-04+	TI - CDF - Training Scholarship/PT Clergy (1)	-	7,500	-	-		-	2018 Synod 3rd Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - CDF (1)
18	4347-04+	TI - Minnie Uhde - Scholarship for Lay Ministry (4)	-	15,000	-	-		-	2018 Synod 4th Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - CDF (1)
19	4347-04+	TI - Minnie Uhde - Lay Leadership Team (4)	-	8,400	-	-		-	2018 Synod 5th Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - Minnie Uhde Fund (4)
20	4354-04+	TI - CDF - Interprovincial Music Commission (1)	-	3,000	-	-		-	2018 Synod 3rd Rpt Com on Lay Leadership - Minnie Uhde Fund (4)
21	4353-04+	Undesignated Bequests Fund / Deacon Supervision Task Force (3)	-	4,000	-	-		-	2018 Synod 5th Rpt Com on IPO - CDF (1)
22	4353-04+	Undesignated Bequests Fund / Healthier Congregations Task Force (3)	-	2,500	-	-		-	transfer from Undesignated Bequests Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Finance (8th report) (3)
23		Transfer in from CDF	140,709	100,175	96,774	47,471		99,865	transfer from Undesignated Bequests Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Healthy Congregations (4th report) (3)

Up to 4% less the other line items from Synod mandates for programs, and EMTF, and leverage other needs (Value 1/1/19 \$11,326,958.90)/Value 1/1/20 \$11,204,085.13) 2022: Value 1/1/21 \$11,670,779.40 2023: Value 1/1/22 \$12,131,602.27 2024: Value 1/1/23 \$8,997,424.81

Moreavian Church Northern Province  
2024 Mission and Ministries Budget

Account #	A		B		C		E		F		N		AD		AE		AG		
		2024 Budget (\$)		2023 Budget (\$)	2022 Actual (\$)	2021 Actual (\$)	2020 Actual (\$)												Description
1																			
2																			
24	4351-04	Transfer-in - Adkins/Fulton/Hutchins Reserve (5)	147,510	179,888	134,081	47,471	99,955												Transfer up to 5.25% from Adkins/Fulton/Hutchins Estate Fund per PEC 5/20/17 (5) 3.6% 2019: 4% 2020: (Value 1/1/19 \$2,413,971.25) 5.25% (Value 1/1/20 \$2,849,926.12) 5.25% (Value 1/1/21 \$3,011,340.63) 5.25% (Value 1/1/21 \$3,011,340.63) 5.25% (Value 1/1/23 \$2,899,720.36) 5.25%.
25		Transfer In from Tithe Fund for Racial Justice Staff	52,184																
26		Tithe Fund to fund catholicism		5,000															New for 2023 and only 2023
27	4720-04	Administration Service Fees - Pension / SPG / EDEB / WDEB / BOC / Brown Fund / LLF	121,596	115,596	106,352	115,750	115,596												Income from administration services charged to other entities: <b>2023 Increase from Widows Society</b>
28	4551-04	Student Loan Interest		733	733	977	977												Income received from student loans
29	4200-04	Donations / Contributions	2,600	2,600	9,705	12,097	23,168												Income received - general / designated budget support
30	4700-04	Miscellaneous Income	5,500	5,500	6,573	5,971	135,247												Income from Brown Estate and any undesignated misc non-recurring income (2020 PPP Loan)
31		Total Income	2,085,638	2,087,392	1,943,833	1,855,988	2,084,751												
32		Expenses																	
33		Personnel																	
34																			
35	6700-04	Staff Salaries (2)	670,267	685,281	645,038	660,536	626,165												2023 & 2024: 3% for eligible employees 2022: 2.5% 2021: 2% increase plus overlap of District Presidents 2018-2020: 3% Increase for eligible employees
36	6730-04	Staff Benefits	210,226	209,141	210,958	204,695	196,028												2023-2020: \$15,200 2019: \$15,100 for healthcare assessment
37	6720-04	Personage Expense (PEC President)					7,553												Includes utilities, property taxes, general maintenance, insurance
38	6750-04	Continuing Education - elected leadership	6,000	6,000	903	163	738												2018: (Moved Spiritual Direction to 6451-04) continuing education PEC, ED, WD, CD presidents (\$1,500/each)
39	6751-04	Continuing Education - lay staff	2,000	2,000															NEW ITEM IN 2017
40		Total Personnel	888,493	882,422	856,899	865,394	830,484												
41		PEC																	
42		Travel																	
43	6660-04	Travel	60,000	40,000	32,221	13,578	6,880												lodging and travel for other than Board meetings
44	6625-04	PEC Board Meetings	30,000	20,000	17,698	4,275	1,619												2017: lodging and travel for 6 face-to-face meetings (though not determined as of 7/8/16); conference calls; 2016: 6 face-to-face meetings; 2015: 5 face-to-face meetings
45		Total Provincial Elders' Conference	90,000	60,000	49,919	17,853	8,498												
46		Operating																	
47	6330-04	Audit Expense	12,000	11,500	9,850	9,500	9,150												
48	6333-04	Insurance	9,000	9,000	6,394	3,768	4,656												
49	6334-04	Professional Fees	25,000	20,000	13,033	12,967	5,634												primarily legal fees (pay double for transition)
50	6690-04	Provincial & District Office Rent	20,680	20,680	20,680	20,680	20,680												only Province and Eastern District 2020: 5% increase
51	6675-04	Provincial & District Office Expense	6,500	6,500	3,156	3,571	4,981												



Moravian Church Northern Province  
2024 Mission and Ministries Budget

A	B	C	E	F	N	AD	AE	AG
Account #		2024 Budget (\$)		2023 Budget (\$)	2022 Actual (\$)	2021 Actual (\$)	2020 Actual (\$)	Description
1								
2								
53	Provincial & District Postage	8,000		8,000	7,411	5,165	7,209	
54	Provincial & District Telephone Expense	9,500		9,500	8,117	7,288	7,234	
55	Computer Expense	15,000		15,000	10,877	11,090	10,718	Adjusted in 2018 for new IT Consultant 6/2018
56	Administrative / Miscellaneous Expense	35,000		25,000	44,248	20,981	21,424	Administrative / Payroll Fees / Bank Fees / Miscellaneous / Property Management - 2020: 6% increase in payroll fees & CAD Exchange / 2019 - Books Shop Taxes
57	Total Operating	140,880		125,180	123,726	95,011	91,687	
58								
59	Program							
60	Ministerial Education	150,000		115,000	92,347	55,083	53,351	tuition, supervised ministry, healthcare, career assessments
61	Moravian Theological Seminary	125,000		133,947	133,947	133,947	133,947	2021-2016: reduced 5% vs 2020 2019 & 2018: no change vs 2017 & 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
62	Board of World Mission	225,576		251,152	251,152	251,152	251,152	2018: no change vs 2017 & 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
63	Board of Communications	95,000		97,670	97,670	97,670	97,670	2018: no change vs 2017 & 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
64	Moravian Archives	35,000		39,068	39,068	39,068	39,068	2018: no change vs 2017 & 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
65	Moravian Music Foundation	14,000		16,743	16,740	16,743	16,743	2018: no change vs 2017 & 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
66	Provincial Women's Board	3,000		4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2018: Reduced to \$2,000 based on financials provided 2017: no change vs 2016; 2016: reduced 5% vs 2015; 2015: no change vs 2014
67	Sperling-Zimmerman Home	250		250	250	250	250	New for 2018
68	Unity Commitment	84,460		84,460	84,460	84,460	84,460	support for Unity Board; 2024 amount will be determined in Aug, 2023 by Unity Synod;
69	Ecumenical Agencies & Expenses	7,445		8,550	5,711	5,759	5,509	contributions to ecumenical organizations, travel to ecumenical meetings, cost of bi-lateral meetings (no new relationships for 2017); 2018: organizational contributions reduced 5% vs 2015; 2024 a 12.92% reduction
70	Ordination Review Committee	6,000		3,000	3,097	1,556	2,582	travel and meetings costs; 2 meetings
71	Ministers' Moving	55,000		55,000	17,672	68,333	19,309	moving costs for clergy
72	Immigration Fees	20,000		20,000	1,806	10,367	20,530	immigration costs for clergy moves
73	Bishops' Expense / Travel (1)	8,000		8,000	8,503	4,483	3,450	2021 Interprovincial Bishops meeting held in Eastern District. We hosted in 2015. It is now every 2 years instead of every 4. Room & Board for our 6 bishops and MCSP. Travel for only our Bishops (4 in ED & 2 in WD.) Funded by Congregational Development Fund (1)
74	Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund (CEAF)	-		-	-	15,000	-	disbursed by CEAF Advisory Board
75	Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund Meetings	50		50	-	-	50	conference calls

Moravian Church Northern Province  
2024 Mission and Ministries Budget

1 2	A Account #	B	C		E	F 2023 Budget (\$)	N 2022 Actual (\$)	AD 2021 Actual (\$)	AE 2020 Actual (\$)	AG Description
			2024 Budget (\$)							
76	6650-04	Healthier Congregations (1)	25,000			15,000	22,480	4,806	3,694	funded by Congregational Development Fund (1); includes conflict management and redevelopment activities; <b>Starting 6/22 includes Call dialogue costs</b>
77	6651-04	Leadership Development (1)	15,000			15,000	-	2,718		funded by Congregational Development Fund (1); nurture, growth and education for clergy and lay leaders
78	6451-04	Spiritual Direction and Coaching (1)	35,000			35,000	15,530	15,140	14,930	funded by Congregational Development Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Spiritual Formation (3rd report) (1) (equates to approx 70% of eligible clergy fully participating)
79	6405-04	Spiritual Companionship Facilitator (4)	5,500			15,000	9,750	9,750	5,105	2018 Synod 4th Rpt Com on Spiritual Formation - Minnie Uhde (4) - Began Sept 2020
80	6397-04	Parsonage Task Force (1)				500				2018 Synod 3rd Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - CDF (1)
81	6403-04	Training Scholarship/PT Clergy (1)				7,500				2018 Synod 4th Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - CDF (1)
82	6395-04	Scholarship for Lay Ministry (4)				15,000				2018 Synod 5th Rpt Com on Congregational Leadership - Minnie Uhde Fund (4)
83	6440-04	Lay Leadership Team (4)				8,400	135			2018 Synod 3rd Rpt Com on Lay Leadership - Minnie Uhde Fund (4)
84	6326-04	Interprovincial Music Commission (1)				3,000				2018 Synod 5th Rpt Com on IPO - CDF (1)
85	6450-04	Deacon Supervision Task Force (3)				4,000				funded by Undesignated Bequests Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Finance (8th report); 2018 Synod - Congregation 7th Rpt (3)
86	6443-04	Healthy Congregations Task Force (3)				2,500				funded by Undesignated Bequests Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Finance (8th report); 2018 Synod - Congregation 7th Rpt (3)
87	6393-04	Faith & Order Commission	3,000			3,000				funded by Undesignated Bequests Fund on a 1-1 basis for: 2014 Synod - Finance (8th report); 2018 Synod - Congregation 7th Rpt (3)
88	6447-04	Racial Program Initiative	52,184			12,000	66,971	16,445	21,279	Administrative costs of getting event together - Other costs (staff, etc) are paid through other funding sources and not listed here; 2023 added \$3,500 for Frank Crouch grant
89	6442-04	Finance Committee	2,000			2,000			753	travel & meeting costs; 2 meetings
90	6317-04	Catechism supplement				5,000				per request- from Tithe fund 2023 only
91		Total Program	966,465			979,790	873,289	836,730	777,842	
92										
93		Future Planning								
94	6689-04	Office Equipment Reserve Addition				15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	
95	6682-04	Outplacement Reserve Addition				-	-	-	-	Cap \$85k set by PEC 202
96		Transfer to Parsonage Reserve - sale of property							335,240	
97	6647-04	Church Center Preservation - 2020 Replace lights and phone system				20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
98	6340-04	Provincial Synod Reserve Addition				5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
99		Total Future Planning	-			40,000	40,000	41,000	376,240	

Moravian Church Northern Province  
2024 Mission and Ministries Budget

A	B	C	E	F	N	AO	AE	AG
Account #		2024 Budget (\$)	2023 Budget (\$)	2022 Actual (\$)	2021 Actual (\$)	2020 Actual (\$)		Description
1								
2								
100								
101	Total Expenses	2,085,638	2,087,392	1,943,833	1,855,988	2,084,751		
102								
103								
104								
105	Total Income	2,085,638	2,087,392	1,943,833	1,855,988	2,084,751		
106								
107	Total Expenses	2,085,638	2,087,392	1,943,833	1,855,988	2,084,751		
108								
109	Net Income / (Loss)	-	-	(0)	0	0		
110								
111	Accompanying Footnotes to 2024 Budget							
112	Moravian Church-Northern Province							
113								
114	Footnote (1)							Both budget and actual - transfer from Congregational Development Fund (income) will
115								
116	Footnote (2)							For 2024: Includes the positions of:
117								Elected Staff
118								Provincial Elders' Conference President, Eastern District President
119								Western District President, Canadian District President (part-time stipend: 0.25 FTE)
120								Hired Staff
121								Provincial Elders' Conference Administrative Assistant
122								Eastern District Administrative Assistant
123								Western District Administrative Assistant (part-time contracted labor)
124								Canadian District Administrative Assistant (part-time stipend)
125								Provincial Controller
126								Assistant to Provincial Controller
127								IT/Communications Manager
128								
129	Footnote (3)							Both budget and actual - transfer from Project Support Funds (income) will match expense
130								
131	Footnote (4)							Both budget and actual - transfer from Restricted Funds (income) will match expense
132								
133	Footnote (5)							PEC decided to keep level funding of all agencies except PWB and to take up to 5.25% from Adkins/Fulton/Hutchins Estate on 5/20/17
134								



Finance Committee #5 (green)

FIFTH PARTIAL AND FINAL REPORT  
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Re: THE 2024 BUDGET

Whereas, healing the world and supporting our common ministries requires financial support and commitment, and

Whereas, the Finance Committee for the 2023 Northern Province Synod worked faithfully and diligently to financially support the ministries of the congregation, and

Whereas, the 2024 Budget as presented reflects our core values and the common mission and ministries of the Moravian Church Northern Province, be it therefore

RESOLVED: (13) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province adopts the 2024 budget as presented.

Andy Meckstroth, Chair

Jodie Harney, Secretary

6/24/23

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 proportion to the communicant membership of the congregations.</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 proportion to the</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>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) <b>The District Executive Board shall select three youth delegates (age 15-24) holding membership in a Moravian Church of the District.</b></p> <p><b>Each respective District shall determine delegate selection.</b></p>
---	---

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



**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

**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

**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

**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

Governance #6 (Canary) – Final Report

**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

Healthier Congregations #7 Pink

First Partial Report  
of the Healthier Congregations #7

RE: Thanksgiving for the Healthier Congregations Task Force

- Whereas: The Second Partial Report of the 2018 Healthier Congregations Committee proposed to continue the support of the Healthier Congregations Task Force (HCTF), and to appoint members to expand and continue that work. At the time, members included Rebecca Craver, Laura Gordon, Kerry Krauss, Amy Linville, and Rebecca Sisley; and
- Whereas: Since the 2018 provincial synod, the Healthier Congregations Task Force worked diligently to provide resources for congregations and leaders to develop process to assess and improve congregational health, including online resources, a method of using the questions on Annual Reports as focal points for monthly board meetings, and the development of a robust website dedicated to healthier congregations; and
- Whereas: The Healthier Congregations Task Force was impacted by several factors outside its control: a new (and welcome) focus on racial justice and healing, the Covid-19 pandemic, and changes in the membership of the Task Force. The Healthier Congregations Task Force requested to be relieved of their charge and entrust the work of congregational health to the districts and province, stating: “congregations and their leaders need what we have offered. We believe the foundation of congregational life is congregational health.” Yet the current members of the HCTF feel that the make-up and direction of the Task Force are not sustainable. Therefore be it
- Resolved: (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province extend its deep gratitude to the members of the Healthier Congregations Task Force and their good work fostering improved congregational health.

Tammy Lavoy, Chairperson  
Jamie Almquist, Secretary  
June 2, 2022

Healthier Congregations #7 Pink

Second Partial Report  
of the Healthier Congregations #7

RE: Moravian Archives

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from the Moravian Archives; and

Whereas, despite the unprecedented events of this inter synodal period, we have been impressed by the work the Moravian Archives has accomplished, including and especially the important work of digitizing several collections; be it

Resolved: (2) 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 Archives,

And be it further

Resolved: (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and friends of the Moravian Archives for their continued work preserving our Moravian history.

Tammy Lavoy, Chairperson  
Jamie Almquist, Secretary  
June 19, 2023

**Healthier Congregations #7 Pink**

**Third Partial Report  
of the Healthier Congregations #7**

**Re: Training for Gender Inclusion**

- Whereas: Holy Scripture reveals that all humankind is made in the image of God, blessed by God, and declared “good” by God (Genesis 1:26-31); and
- Whereas: The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province affirmed that persons of all gender identities shall be supported and affirmed by being allowed to celebrate their lives as individuals, couples, and families within the bounds of the church (R&E 2018, pg. 17-18, R. 21-26); and
- Whereas: The 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province encouraged pastors and church leaders to engage in training and education related to the understanding and care for persons of all gender identities (R&E 2018, pg. 17-18, R. 21-26); and
- Whereas: The mission statement of the Northern Province (as found on the Moravian Church Northern Province website) states: “The Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America equips people and congregations to be agents of God’s transforming love in the world. No matter who you are or how you identify, you are embraced and affirmed by God’s expansive love;” and
- Whereas: An understanding of gender identities and issues as they relate to matters of faith and church life may still be confusing for many; and
- Whereas: Trainings on matters of gender identity such as those led by the Bradbury Sullivan Center ([www.bradburysullivancenter.org/education](http://www.bradburysullivancenter.org/education)) are available and have been utilized by some church leaders; therefore be it
- Resolved: (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the Provincial Elders Conference to research the topic of gender identity and faith life, and to discover or create training material that will be required by all Northern Province clergy, and strongly encouraged for all other tiers of church leadership;  
and be it further
- Resolved: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Provincial Elders Conference to task appropriate committees or staff to make the Northern Province’s mission statement more widely known by both our congregations and the general public.

Tammy Lavoy, Chairperson  
Jamie Almquist, Secretary  
June 22, 2023

Healthier Congregations #7 Pink

Fourth Partial Report  
of the Healthier Congregations #7

Re: Prioritizing Accessibility in our Congregations and Church Buildings

- Whereas, The inclusion and empowerment of individuals living with disabilities within our congregations and communities is important to more fully living out the love with which Christ calls us to live, and
- Whereas, ministry should not just be to people with disabilities, but with or alongside people who have disabilities, and
- Whereas, many people living with disabilities struggle to feel welcomed and accepted into places of worship and overall faith communities, and
- Whereas, Universal Access refers to creating environments, programs, and services that respond to the needs of the widest population range possible, enabling persons with varying abilities and ages to access the physical environment on an equitable basis, and
- Whereas, some of our congregations struggle to create cultures that are empowering and uplifting to individuals and families touched by disability, and
- Whereas, many of our current church buildings create physical barriers for individuals living with disabilities, and
- Whereas, being truly inclusive goes beyond physical spaces, and other aspects such as sensory modifications, intellectual needs, and alternative communications must be considered, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: (6) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the Provincial Elders Conference to research the topic of all barriers to full accessibility including but not limited to physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, learning, developmental, or sensory limitations; and be it further
- RESOLVED: (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the Provincial Elders Conference to distribute current best practice materials related to full accessibility, that goes beyond our physical spaces, recognizing that those with lived experience are often our best resources. Examples of best practice materials include those developed and made available by You Belong, a recognized Emerging Ministry, through its website, <https://www.youbelongwi.org/>; and be it further



RESOLVED: (8) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages all congregations within the Moravian Church Northern Province to examine their facilities and overall operation, being mindful of all barriers to full accessibility, and to develop a plan leading toward ever-improving accessibility, and be it further

RESOLVED: (9)The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province charges the PEC to commit to a policy whereby accessibility best practices will be implemented at all events and gatherings they plan, support, or endorse, and that activities which do not comply with accessibility best practices through reasonable accommodations will not be permitted, and materials which do not comply with accessibility best practices through reasonable accommodations will not be used at those events and gatherings.

And be it further

RESOLVED: (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the PEC to form a task force to:

1. Provide information and guidelines regarding accessibility best practices to those facilitating events and gatherings the PEC plans, supports, or endorses.
2. ensure compliance with accessibility best practices through reasonable accommodations at events and gatherings the PEC plans, supports, or endorses.

Tammy Lavoy, Chairperson  
Jamie Almquist, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Healthier Congregations #7 Pink

Fifth Partial and Final Report  
of the Committee on Healthier Congregations

Re: Strengthening Youth Impact

- Whereas, Youth are significant members of our District congregations, and;
- Whereas, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity” 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV) and;
- Whereas, The youth of the Moravian church believe their voices make a significant impact on the church, and;
- Whereas, The youth of the Moravian Church seek to have their insights and vision acknowledged, and;
- Whereas, There are more than six youth and young adult Northern Provincial Synod delegates in attendance today, and;
- Whereas, There is currently no designated Provincial or District Youth and Young Adult minister and or ministries,

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: (9) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges The Provincial Elders Conference to establish a Provincial Youth Council composed of one youth and/or young adult representative from each of the Northern Province Districts, two youth and/or young adult representatives at large, and two adult mentors, one of which being an ordained or licensed lay pastor, selected in conjunction with the PEC, and;

Whereas, The youth and young adults in attendance at the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province have felt welcomed and valued, yet experience passive reception to their input, vision, and spiritual insights,

Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED: (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the PEC, the District Boards, and local congregations to cultivate a stronger committed relationship between the youth and the people called to be the mentors, leaders, and role models of our church. This relationship will thrive through communication, conversation, and idea development in communion with one another, youth participation in**

**local church boards, committees and ministries, and in participation with the Provincial Youth Council, and;**

Whereas, Adults, seek to do anything to protect our youth: to encourage their growth and strengthen their future, and we are called to strengthen the youth leadership, participation, and longevity within our communities, congregations, districts, and province, and;

Whereas, The youth and young adults' desire to be at the forefront of change and growth in the Moravian Church,

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: (11) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the PEC to consult with the Provincial Youth Council on a regular basis and if possible at an annual in-person meeting or video conference.

Tammy Lavoy, Chairperson  
Jamie Almquist, Secretary  
June 24, 2023

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

Missional Engagement Around the World #9 Orange

First Partial Report  
of the Committee on Missional Engagement Around the World

RE: Resolution regarding the election of Northern Province representatives to the Board of World Mission Board of Directors

Whereas, the Board of World Mission (BWM) looks to fulfill its role as the mission agency of the Northern Province while living out its purpose of being faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, and

Whereas, BWM bylaws state that “Six (6) Directors shall be chosen by the Northern Province in a manner determined by its Synod.”, and

Whereas, the current manner of selection of the six (6) representatives to the BWM Board of Directors from the Northern Province is as follows –

- a. 1 Representative is a Northern Province PEC member selected by the PEC
- b. 1 Representative is a Canadian District Representative selected by the Canadian District Synod
- c. 2 Representatives are Eastern District Representatives selected by the Eastern District Synod
- d. 2 Representatives are Western District Representatives selected by the Western District Synod, and

Whereas, the process of selection for these six directors has not been evaluated at a Provincial Synod since 1990 when the current model was put in place, and

Whereas, a change in the selection process for two of the six directors could allow for the continuation of geographical representation across the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts, while also allowing for flexibility to meet other board member criteria, and

Whereas, an adapted process would provide greater board continuity with appointments happening in non-Synod years to prevent scenarios where a majority or all BWM representatives rotate off the BWM board of directors at the same time, therefore be it

Resolved: (1) The 2023 Synod of the Northern Province shall adapt the process by which its six (6) board members are selected to the following:

- a. 1 Representative is a Northern Province PEC member selected by the PEC
- b. 1 Representative is a Canadian District Representative selected by the Canadian District Synod
- c. 1 Representative are Eastern District Representative selected by the Eastern District Synod

- d. 1 Representative are Western District Representative selected by the Western District Synod
- e. 2 Representatives shall be Northern Province At Large Representatives appointed by the PEC

Andrew Starr, Chairperson  
Trina Holmberg, Secretary  
June 22, 2023



Mission Engagement Around the World, #9 (Orange)

Second Partial Report  
Of the Mission Engagement Around the World

Re. Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province from the Board of World Mission in North America

Whereas, the committee on Mission Engagement around the World reviewed the report from the Board of World Mission in North America and,

Whereas, the committee appreciates the work of the BWM, and is thankful for its intentional work to build relationships – with particular gratitude for the “Conferencia de Recursos Moravos” (Moravian Resource Conference) held in Panama in 2022 which offered an energizing opportunity for all of BWM’s Spanish-speaking Moravian global partners to connect and share resources while providing an example of the immense potential and possibility of communal ministry and mission; therefore be it

Resolved: (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with gratitude the report from the Board of World Mission in North America as written, and be it further

Resolved: (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the Board of World Mission in North America for their faithful service in fulfilling their purpose statement to build relationships through mission outreach and mission engagement to be faithful to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Andrew Starr, Chairperson

Trina Holmberg, Secretary

June 23, 2023

Mission Engagement Around the World, #9 (Orange)

Third & Final Partial Report  
Of the Mission Engagement Around the World

Re. Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province from the Society for Promoting the Gospel

Whereas, the committee on Mission Engagement around the World reviewed the report from the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) and,

Whereas, since 1745 the SPG has responded to the call in Matthew 28:16-20 to make disciples of all nations and,

Whereas, the committee appreciates the work of the SPG, and is thankful for its intentional work to build relationships; therefore be it

Resolved: (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts with gratitude the report from the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) as written,

And be it further

Resolved: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG) for their faithful service in “providing support for the Mission Enterprises of the Moravian Church, Northern Province.”

Andrew Starr, Chairperson

Trina Holmberg, Secretary

June 23, 2023

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (bright red)

First Partial Report  
of the Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

RE: Moravian Open Door

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Moravian Open Door, Inc.

Whereas, the inter synodal period has been through unprecedented times, we have been amazed by the continued work and resilience of this vital ministry

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 Open Door, Inc.

And be it further

Resolved: (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to express our thanks to staff, volunteers and board members of Moravian Open Door, noting particularly the difficulties of the pandemic and the challenges that arose with the property.

And be it further

Resolved: (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province congratulates M Moravian Open Door on over 35 years of ministry.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary

June 22, 2023

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (bright red)

Second Partial Report  
of the Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

RE: Provincial Women's Board

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from the Provincial Women's Board

Whereas, the Provincial Women's Board has faithfully served the spiritual needs of women across the Northern Province in the intersynodal period

Resolved: (4) 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 the Provincial Women's Board

And be it further

Resolved: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to affirm and encourage the Provincial Women's Board in their endeavor to "think outside the box to reach ALL Moravian women and their needs in today's world."

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary

June 22, 2023

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (bright red)

Third Partial Report  
of the Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

RE: Sperling-Zimmerman Memorial Home

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from the Sperling-Zimmerman Memorial Home

Resolved: (6) 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 the Sperling-Zimmerman Memorial Home

And be it further

Resolved: (7) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to affirm the work of the board of the Sperling-Zimmerman Memorial Home and their dedication to provide affordable housing to retired Moravian clergy.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson  
Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary  
June 22, 2023

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (bright red)

Fourth Partial Report

Of the Committee on Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

RE: Local and Global Medical “Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World”

Whereas, as followers of Christ, we are called to care for the sick in Matthew 25 and in Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV) we are reminded ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’, which is in keeping with the concept of jubilee from Leviticus 25; and

Whereas, 1 in 4 people in America owe medical debt that cannot be immediately paid and more than half the personal bankruptcies in the U.S. are due to medical debt; and

Whereas, the recent work of Moravian congregations such as Trinity Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. (which recently raised \$15,000 and thus erased over \$3 million in medical debt for people living in the Triad area of North Carolina) has demonstrated a tangible way for Moravians to answer our biblical call to care for the sick, while providing a positive example and witness to the world; and

Whereas, the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras, a Moravian ministry that has offered life-saving care for over 75 years, also holds debt from patients without access to insurance or other means to repay the debt incurred for the treatment they received, such that assistance in payment of these debts would help expand the medical services the Ahuas Clinic can provide to care for patients in the remote La Mosquitia region of Honduras; and

Whereas, working with an organization dedicated to medical debt relief like RIP Medical Debt can allow funds raised to purchase debt obligations for pennies on the dollar, potentially alleviating millions of dollars of medical

debt of families most in need in U.S. counties where a Moravian church or ministry is present; and

Whereas, there are many individuals and multiple congregations that have expressed interest in participating in a similar campaign to the one undertaken by Trinity Moravian Church (Winston-Salem, N.C.) but who may not have the financial capacity to meet the minimum requirement of RIP Medical Debt of raising \$10,000 on their own; and

Whereas, the Moravian Board of World Mission (BWM), Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA), Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC) and Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development (CCD) have recognized the power, potential, and importance of collaboration to help multiply the impact of ministries originated at the congregational level; and

Whereas, collaboration of these agencies has resulted in the creation of the “Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World”, an opportunity for all who wish to participate collectively in the elimination of burdensome medical debt locally and globally by giving financially toward the goal of raising \$50,000 in 50 days (June 25, 2023 to August 13, 2023); and

Whereas, 75% of each gift will support the elimination of medical debt in the U.S., accomplished via a partnership with the organization RIP Medical Debt where each \$1 could eliminate up to 100x that amount in U.S. medical debt (for families earning less than 4x the federal poverty level or whose debt is greater than 5% of their annual income) in counties where a Moravian ministry is present, while also supporting the critical background work being done by RIP Medical Debt to identify and purchase medical debt to make this effort possible; and

Whereas, 25% of each gift will support the elimination of debt held by patients served at the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras, with each donation helping to relieve families of this burden, while also supporting the lifesaving work of the clinic to expand services it otherwise could not provide without this funding; and

Whereas, MMFA will handle the collection of donations on its Moravian Giving Portal at [mmfa.com/debt-jubilee-project](http://mmfa.com/debt-jubilee-project) while working collaboratively with BWM, IBOC, and CCD to promote this opportunity and report on the amount of money raised, quantity of debt erased, and number of families positively impacted; and therefore be it

RESOLVED (8): the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church, Northern Province affirms the collaborative work of Moravian Board of World Mission (BWM), Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA), Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC) and Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development (CCD), to create a tangible goal and collective opportunity for Moravians to work together to address the burden of medical debt for families in the U.S. and Honduras via the “Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World”, which has the goal of raising \$50,000 in 50 days, June 25, 2023 through August 13, 2023;

And be it further

RESOLVED (9): Through the sharing of information and resources about the positive impact of the “Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World” meeting its goal to raise \$50,000 in 50 days ending on August 13, 2023, the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province will use this challenge to witness and live out of the words of the Synod theme (“For the Healing of the World”) in tangible service and ministry.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary

June 23, 2023

In concurrence with the Committee on Stewardship (#13) and  
the Committee on Missional Engagement Around the World (#9)



Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (Bright Red)

Fifth Partial Report

Of the Committee on Missional Engagement in Our Neighborhoods

Re: For the Care and Healing of God's Creation

Whereas, the first command in scripture is for humanity to be fruitful and replenish God's creation (Genesis 1:28), establishing care for creation as a primary concern for humankind, particularly for the people of God; and

Whereas, Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that his purpose for coming was that we might have life and have it abundantly; and

Whereas, our 2023 Synod theme, "For the Healing of the World," is a call for Moravians of the Northern Province to affirm the sanctity of the natural world and to love our neighbors as ourselves by seeking both the well-being of creation's great web of life and the well-being of the human community; and

Whereas, the 1990 and 2014 Northern Provincial Synods passed resolutions stating that "the Priority Initiative for Stewardship shall be: We will claim and affirm our stewardship of creation and all God has given us as an essential part of our discipleship with Jesus Christ" and instructed Northern Province boards, agencies, clergy, and the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) to provide educational materials around care for the environment and around changing personal consumption habits; and

Whereas, the land, air, water, and energy from which God's miracle of life on earth has sprung, continue to be polluted, depleted and harmed from misuse; and,

Whereas, tangible, accountable actions are urgently required to reduce and reverse the damages being inflicted on God's creation; and

Whereas, it is important to act with compassion and courage, and to recognize that ecological degradation, pollution, catastrophic storm events, wildfires and drought create harm, loss and grief, as well as recognizing that peoples' sense of loss and grief prevents them from changing behaviors that lessen environmental harms; and

Whereas, addressing the concern for creation as a collaborative effort increases our ability to leverage assets; and

Whereas, many of our congregations are already bearing witness to the stewardship of creation through organic efforts to be responsible for the environment in our care; and therefore be it

RESOLVED: (10) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages congregational leaders and leaders of Moravian entities to prayerfully consider and collaborate within our congregations and

communities what we are each willing to change individually and collectively to decrease harm to God's creation,

And be it further

- RESOLVED: (11) The Provincial Elders' Conference shall create a task force from across the Province to address aspects of the care of creation which may include but not be limited to:
- A. The dissemination of information and resources regarding the impact of pollution, catastrophic storm events, wildfires, and drought.
  - B. The distribution of information defining an energy, water, and materials procurement baseline and best practices for preparing, interpreting, and implementing improvement goals to this baseline.
  - C. The creation of and/or sharing of existing resources for worship, spiritual formation, prayer, grief, and lamentation.
  - D. Explore and share any relevant grant opportunities for professional energy and/or environmental audits, and environmentally conscious property improvements including but not limited to: rooftop solar, geothermal, air source heat pumps, and insulations.
  - E. To collect, celebrate and disseminate information about what different congregations and entities have tried and found successful in relations to care of creation.
  - F. Work with ecumenical partners to access resources, best practices and possible partnerships

And be it further

- RESOLVED: (12) The Provincial Elders' Conference shall ensure a report be provided to the 2026 Northern Province Synod that shares what has been done during the intersynodal period regarding efforts to care for God's creation;

And be it further

- RESOLVED: (13) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province asks the Provincial Elders' Conference to explore the possibility of divesting its Provincial assets from fossil fuels.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary

June 23, 2023

In concurrence with the Finance Committee (#5)

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhood #10 (bright red)

Sixth Partial Report  
Of the Committee on Missional Engagement in Our Neighborhoods

Re: Provincial Women’s Board Restructuring

Whereas, the Provincial Women’s Board is an integral Ministry in the Northern Province of the Moravian Church; and,

Whereas, the Provincial Women’s Board consists of women from across the Northern Province; and,

Whereas, the Provincial Women’s Board, according to the Book of Order, is made up of representatives from the Eastern, Western and Mid-States Regions; and,

Whereas, the Mid-States region at a meeting on August 20th, 2022, has officially been dissolved due to demographics including age, declining health, and other opportunities for spiritual development among women; and,

Whereas, if there are any congregation(s) from the Mid-States Region desirous of continuing to be involved in the Moravian Women, NP; they may be a part of the Western or Eastern Region as geographically feasible;

Therefore, be it

Resolved (13) the Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province Paragraph 801 shall be changed

FROM:

The Provincial Women’s Board shall be divided into geographical regions — the Eastern Region, the Middle States Region, and the Western Region.

TO:

The Provincial Women’s Board shall be divided into two geographical regions — the Eastern Region and the Western Region.

And be it

Resolved (14): the Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province Paragraph 802 be changed

FROM:

The Provincial Women’s Board shall consist of the following:

- (a) Three members, one each from the Eastern, Mid-States, and Western Regions, who shall be elected by Provincial Synod to serve for the intersynodal period.
- (b) Three members shall be presidents of the Regional Women's Boards, each of whom shall be elected by her Region in accordance with the method of election defined by its bylaws.
- (c) Three members at-large shall be elected by the Provincial Women's Board, to serve for the same number of years as the intersynodal period.
- (d) The employed Administrator.

TO:

The Provincial Women's Board shall consist of the following:

- a) Two members, one each from the Eastern and Western Regions, who shall be elected by the Provincial Synod to serve in the intersynodal period and,
- b) Two members shall be presidents of the Regional Women's Boards, each of whom shall be elected by her Region in accordance with the method of election defined by its bylaws, and
- c) Three members at large shall be elected by the Provincial Women's Board, one from the Eastern Region, one from the Western Region and one from either region, to serve the same number of years as the intersynodal period.
- d) A non-voting employed Administrator, if needed.

AND;

Whereas, no member from the district Executive Board Northern Province, nor the Executive Director of the Board of World Missions has functioned in the role of advisor to the Provincial Women's Board as stated in paragraph 802(e) of the Book of Order; therefore be it

Resolved (15): Paragraph 802(e) of the Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province, which reads, "The advisory members of the Board shall be the Presidents of the District Executive Boards of the Northern Province and the Executive Director of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America," shall be struck from the Book of Order;

And

Whereas, the previous language used in paragraph 803, implied limitations to the ministry of women, with the phrasing "women's work," therefore be it

Resolved (16): Paragraph 803 of the Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province be changed

FROM:

The Provincial Women's Board shall encourage the organization and strengthening of the Moravian Women in the Regions and shall aid these organizations in their educational program. Program materials and service projects shall be coordinated where appropriate with other Provincial Boards. *It shall represent the women of the Northern Province in denominational activities and cooperate in matters of mutual interest with organizations for women's work in other Provinces of the Moravian Church, both at home and abroad.* It shall, under the approval of the Provincial Elders 'Conference, represent the women of the Northern Province in interdenominational activities, and it shall in all instances be responsible to the Provincial Elders 'Conference.

TO:

The Provincial Women's Board shall encourage the organization and strengthening of the Moravian Women in the Regions and shall aid these organizations in their educational program. Program materials and service projects shall be coordinated where appropriate with other Provincial Boards. *It shall represent the women of the Northern Province in denominational activities and cooperate in matters of mutual interest with Provincial Women's Boards or their equivalent in other provinces of the Moravian Church.* It shall, under the approval of the Provincial Elders 'Conference, represent the women of the Northern Province in interdenominational activities, and it shall in all instances be responsible to the Provincial Elders 'Conference.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson  
Katie Van Der Linden, secretary  
June 23, 2023

With concurrence of the Governance Committee

Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (bright red)

Seventh Partial Report  
of the Committee on Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

RE: Hospitality over Hostility

Whereas, the recent elections in the United States and Canada have caused many of our church members and communities to be divided; and

Whereas, the Moravian faith tradition is rooted in relationships, embracing our dedication to “in all things love” as paramount over doctrines and disciplines that have a variety of understandings and interpretations that we encourage in the Moravian Church; and,

Whereas, we are aware of the growing political discord in North America and in other regions around our world, leading to stressors within our community affecting physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health; and

Whereas, discussions around politics, religion and other passionate issues are often avoided due to a lack of training in how to approach these subjects with compassion, understanding and grace; and

Whereas, we realize that this discord and tension will continue and most likely worsen due to increasingly polarized political environments, especially given the United States presidential election of 2024; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (17) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages all Moravian congregations and faith communities to be proactive in building bridges and showing hospitality, understanding that differences of opinions are encouraged and welcomed in our faith understanding and modeling respectful dialogue and love for all.

And be it further

RESOLVED: (18) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites pastors and lay members to find educational opportunities and trainings to further develop skills in dialogue and hospitality, which could include but are not limited to *Braver Angels, Center for Courage and Renewal, and Living Room Conversations*

And be it further

RESOLVED: (19) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages all congregations and entities to create brave spaces for persons to have sensitive conversations without judgment; and

Whereas, the Moravian Church tradition of a “Saal,” understood as a community or gathering space meant for a variety of activities including worship, meals, celebrations and discussions, encouraged dialogue and hospitality to church members and the broader community; therefore be it

RESOLVED: (20) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the creative use our Moravian buildings and spaces to greet our neighbors, show hospitality, be open to non-traditional uses and support partnerships with others to reclaim our heritage of the Saal and be good stewards of the buildings and spaces entrusted to our care.

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, Secretary

June 23, 2023

## Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods #10 (Bright Red)

### Eighth Partial and Final Report

From the Committee on Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods

Re: Discovering God Through Acts of Kindness in Our Neighborhoods and Congregations

Ephesians 4:32 tells us to be kind to one another. We find it important to share the stories of what our churches are doing in our neighborhoods...many congregations in the Northern Province are doing this in their local communities in a variety of ways:

The Lancaster Moravian Congregation partners with the Islamic Community Center of Lancaster in ministry and mission. They also do monthly prayer walks praying for and interacting with those who live, work and play in their community with an invitation to other churches and individuals to walk with them.

The Lititz Moravian Congregation is showing God's Love in a practical way through doing kind things by paying to do people's laundry, visiting new friends in the community, handing out water bottles and paying for public parking spaces.

The East Hills Moravian Church sets up a table on the front lawn to celebrate with the students and families from the neighboring school. This includes Halloween goody bags, Hello Holidays during Advent, and ice pops and children's books on the last day of school.

Watertown and Ebenezer Moravian Church serve a free meal every Monday night to address the issue of loneliness among those that don't always have another person to eat with.

Ephraim Moravian Church participates in their local Fyrball festival by serving free Sugar Cake and offering opportunities for a tour of the church.

The Lake Mills Moravian Church has a plant sale in which community members connect with congregation members talking about favorite flowers and personal experiences with gardening. They then pass the extra plants on to the London Moravian Church so they can do the same.

The Calvary Moravian Church, coming out of the pandemic, has set up monthly summer gatherings called "Cool Treats, Summer Nights" with live music, an ice cream truck, lawn games and children's activities for low-cost gatherings intentionally geared to their neighborhood. Other seasonal gatherings in the fall, Christmas, and Easter have also striven to gather their neighbors together in community, through music and other activities. Their Reading Room shares free books to children of all ages at such events, as well as their local elementary schools in reading programs.

The primary intention of these efforts is to make acquaintances that often lead to opportunities for relationship building. These ministries also emphasize 'being with' rather than 'doing for' other individuals.



We encourage Moravian congregations and entities to explore and experiment with these or other acts of kindness to engage individuals in their own neighborhoods.

In the work of synod, “for the healing the world,” we, the members of the Committee for Missional Engagement in our Neighborhoods covenant to share their successful efforts with nearby Moravian congregations and ecumenical partners.

We also covenant to provide a year’s worth of stories to the Interprovincial Board of Communication (IBOC) for publication in the Moravian Magazine and other outlets as deemed useful by the IBOC. We ask and encourage other Moravian congregations and entities to provide similar stories.

We believe this work will benefit the Moravian Church Northern Province by way of:

- encouragement, and solidarity. We are not alone, though we are far apart.
- idea-sharing in ministry. What works across the province may work in your congregation too!
- showing the world that Moravians live their faith.
- relationship-building – getting to know our neighbors better (the neighborhood directly outside the doors of the church building)

Mandy Mastros, Chairperson

Katie Van Der Linden, secretary

June 23, 2023

The First Partial Report  
of the Committee on Relationships with Others

RE: Gratitude for the witness and fellowship of the United Church of Los Alamos, NM

Whereas The United Church of Los Alamos, NM grew out of the desire to create a multi-denominational congregation of diverse Christians to continue worshipping together after World War II affiliating themselves with the American Baptist Church, Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, Moravian Church in North America, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed Church in America, and United Church of Christ; and

Whereas The United Church of Los Alamos, NM has faithfully supported the ministries of the Northern Province and the Board of World Mission through financial contributions since their founding in 1947; and

Whereas Members of The United Church of Los Alamos, NM have served in Honduras under the supervision of the Board of World Mission; therefore be it

Resolved (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses its sincere appreciation to the United Church of Los Alamos, NM for their faithful giving and steadfast partnership in mission over these past 75 years; and be it further

Resolved (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province recognizes the United Church of Los Alamos, NM as an ecumenical partner congregation, serving within the boundaries of the Northern Province, and to be listed in the annual Directory and Statistics and website of the Moravian Church in North America under Fellowships; and be it further

Resolved (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Moravian Board of World Mission to continue to nurture our partnership with the United Church of Los Alamos, NM through consultations, information sharing, and mutual Christian love.

Committee Chair: Derek French  
Secretary: Gregg Schafer  
06/22/2023

SECOND PARTIAL REPORT  
of the Committee on Relationships with Others

Re: Full Communion Relationship between the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Anglican Church of Canada.

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church in America (Northern and Southern Provinces) are in Full Communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church, and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church are in multi-lateral full communion with their Canadian counterparts, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Anglican Church of Canada, and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church Northern Province has congregations in Canada, in both the Canadian and Eastern Districts, that do not benefit from this full communion relationship between Lutherans, Anglicans (Episcopalians), and Moravians, and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada entered full communion in 2001 by jointly affirming the Waterloo Declaration, which defined Full Communion as:

*"Full communion is understood as a relationship between two distinct churches or communions in which each maintains its own autonomy while recognizing the catholicity and apostolicity of the other, and believing the other to hold the essentials of the Christian faith. In such a relationship, communicant members of each church would be able freely to communicate at the altar of the other, and there would be freedom of ordained ministers to officiate sacramentally in either church. Specifically, in our context, we understand this to include transferability of members; mutual recognition and interchangeability of ministries; freedom to use each other's liturgies; freedom to participate in each other's ordinations and installations of clergy, including bishops; and structures for consultation to express, strengthen, and enable our common life, witness, and service, to the glory of God and the salvation of the world."*, and

WHEREAS, the theological framework by which Moravians, Anglicans (Episcopalians), and Lutherans has been thoroughly named and practiced by existing Full

Communion Relationships between Moravians, Anglicans, and Lutherans in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and

WHEREAS, significant opportunities exist and are being cultivated to live more fully into a Full Communion Relationship between Moravians, Anglicans, and Lutherans in Canada, be it

RESOLVED (4), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, joins with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada, in affirming the Waterloo Declaration of 2001, and be it further

RESOLVED (5), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, hereby recognizes the full authenticity of the ordained ministries of bishops and pastors presently existing within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, acknowledging its pastors as priests in the Church of God and its bishops as bishops and chief pastors exercising a ministry of episcopate over the jurisdictional areas of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in which they preside<sup>1</sup>, and be it further

RESOLVED (6), that 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, hereby recognizes the full authenticity of the ordained ministries of bishops, priests, and deacons presently existing within the Anglican Church of Canada, acknowledging its priests as pastors in the Church of God and its bishops as bishops and chief pastors exercising a ministry of episcopate over the jurisdictional areas of the Anglican Church of Canada in which they preside, and be it further

RESOLVED (7), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, affirms the expressions of episcopal ministry as a sign of continuity and unity in apostolic faith characteristic of The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, understanding that the bishops of both churches are ordained for life service of the Gospel in the pastoral ministry of the historic episcopate, although tenure in office may be terminated by retirement, resignation or conclusion of term, subject to the constitutional provisions of the respective churches, and be it further

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: the text of Resolved 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are excerpted from *The Waterloo Declaration of 2001*, found at [https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/102184/waterloo\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/102184/waterloo_declaration.pdf)

RESOLVED (8), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, declares a full communion relationship between the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada, and be it further,

RESOLVED (9), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, affirms the commitments of the Waterloo Declaration of 2001, namely:

1. to welcome persons ordained in either of our churches to the office of bishop, priest/pastor or deacon to serve, by invitation and in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be in force, in that ministry in the receiving church without re-ordination;
2. to invite one another's bishops to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of bishops as a sign of the unity and continuity of the Church, and to invite pastors and priests to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of pastors or priests in each other's churches;
3. to consult with one another regarding developments in our understanding of the ministry of all the baptized, including the ordained ministry;
4. to establish appropriate forms of collegial and conciliar consultation on significant matters of faith and order, mission and service;
5. to encourage regular consultation and collaboration among members of our churches at all levels, to promote the formulation and adoption of covenants for common work in mission and ministry, and to facilitate learning and exchange of ideas and information on theological, pastoral, and mission matters;
6. to participate in a Joint Commission to nurture our growth in communion, to coordinate the implementation of this Declaration, and report to the decision making bodies of both our churches;
7. to hold joint meetings of national, regional and local decision-making bodies wherever practicable, and
8. to continue to work together for the full visible unity of the whole Church of God, and be it further

RESOLVED (10), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, encourages the Provincial Elders' Conference to delegate the implementation of the Full Communion Relationship between the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Anglican Church in Canada, to the Board of Elders of the Canadian District, and be it,

RESOLVED (11), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, invites the Moravian Church Labrador Province to consider affirming the Waterloo Declaration, entering into a full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Anglican Church in Canada, and be it further

RESOLVED (12), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, invites the Moravian Church Southern Province to consider affirming the Waterloo Declaration, entering into a full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Anglican Church in Canada, and be it further

RESOLVED (13), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, amends the Book of Order of the Moravian Church Northern Province, paragraph 402(d) to include the following statements:

“The Moravian Church Northern Province is in full communion with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada under the committed terms of the Waterloo Declaration of 2001”, and

“The Moravian Church Northern Province is in full communion with The Anglican Church of Canada under the committed terms of the Waterloo Declaration of 2001”, and be it further

RESOLVED (14), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, affirms the churches beyond borders framework of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Episcopal Church and will join with them upon invitation.

RESOLVED (15), that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses its sincere gratitude to ecumenical leaders from the Moravian Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Anglican Church of Canada, for continuing the important ecumenical work of healing and reconciliation.

With Concurrence:  
Governance  
Healthier Congregations

Derek French, Chair  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
23 June 2023

## Called to Full Communion (The Waterloo Declaration)

as approved by the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Waterloo, Ontario, 2001.

### Introduction

1. In John 17:20-21, our Lord prayed that Christians might all be one so that the world might believe in Christ through the witness of our unity. The 20th century has given rise to an increase of movements which seek to give visible expression to this prayer. Christians have begun to see the fulfillment of Jesus' words as they unite in action to address the needs of local and global communities. The churches themselves have entered into partnerships at every level, from the neighbourhood to the world, through councils of churches, theological dialogues, and covenants which have fostered greater understanding in the search for common witness and visible unity. All these steps have moved us towards a healing of ancient divisions, including those which occurred during the 16th century in Europe.
2. Lutherans and Anglicans are graced in that we can respond to this prayer for unity without having experienced formal separation from one another. We share a common heritage as catholic churches of the Reformation. Despite our previous geographic, linguistic and cultural differences, in recent years we have discovered in one another a shared faith and spirituality. This discovery has called us into a search for more visible unity in mission and ministry.
3. On the international scene, the Lutheran World Federation and the Anglican Consultative Council have participated in a number of formal discussions since 1970. These conversations were encouraged by the international multilateral consensus document Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (Faith and Order, WCC, 1982). In 1987 an international Lutheran Anglican consultation on episcopate was held in Niagara. From this gathering some specific recommendations were directed to the churches for their discussion. Consideration of these recommendations led in northern Europe to The Porvoo Common Statement (1993), and in the United States to the Concordat of Agreement (1997).
4. In 1983 Canadian Lutherans and Anglicans met to discuss the implications for the churches in Canada of the ongoing dialogue between Lutherans and Episcopalians in the United States. From this meeting emerged the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Dialogue (CLAD), whose first series of meetings led to the publication of its Report and Recommendations, (April 1986). This report gave impetus to the desire of the two churches to produce an agreement which could provide a basis for the sharing of the eucharist between our churches.
5. A second series of discussions (CLAD II) resulted in the agreement Interim Sharing of the Eucharist, which was approved in 1989 by the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. In that agreement, we
  1. agreed to live in a relationship of interim eucharistic sharing;
  2. acknowledged one another as churches in which the Gospel is preached and taught;

3. committed ourselves to share a common life in mission and service, to pray for and with one another, and to share resources.
6. The experience of six years of interim eucharistic sharing led the two churches in 1995 to take further steps towards full communion. The National Convention and the General Synod renewed the Interim Eucharistic Sharing Agreement until 2001 and further agreed
  1. to request all neighbouring congregations to undertake joint projects and celebrate the eucharist together annually;
  2. to receive one another's lay members, when moving from one church to the other with the same status (baptized/communicant/confirmed) which they held in their first church;
  3. to foster the development and implementation of agreements which permit an ordained minister (priest or pastor) to serve the people of both churches, including presiding at the sacraments of the Church, wherever, and according to whichever rite, the local bishop of each church deems appropriate ;
  4. to develop structures with the purpose of evaluating and improving the bishop's ministry through collegial and periodic review;
  5. to call for our two churches to move towards full communion by 2001.
7. Our two churches are using the following definition of Full Communion.

"Full communion is understood as a relationship between two distinct churches or communions in which each maintains its own autonomy while recognizing the catholicity and apostolicity of the other, and believing the other to hold the essentials of the Christian faith. In such a relationship, communicant members of each church would be able freely to communicate at the altar of the other, and there would be freedom of ordained ministers to officiate sacramentally in either church. Specifically, in our context, we understand this to include transferability of members; mutual recognition and interchangeability of ministries; freedom to use each other's liturgies; freedom to participate in each other's ordinations and installations of clergy, including bishops; and structures for consultation to express, strengthen, and enable our common life, witness, and service, to the glory of God and the salvation of the world."

8. In 1997, the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Council of General Synod each agreed that they were prepared to view the historic episcopate in the context of apostolicity articulated in Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (paras. 29, 34-38, 51-53), The Niagara Report (paras. 53, 94), and The Porvoo Common Statement (paras. 34-57).
9. In that same year, the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada agreed that it was "prepared to take the constitutional steps necessary to understand the installation of bishops as ordination".
10. In a spirit of thanksgiving for what God has already accomplished in us, and with confidence and hope for what God has prepared for the whole Church, we believe we can now act in visible witness to the unity which is ours in Jesus Christ. We are taking the next step in our common pilgrimage of faith in the belief that it will be of service to a greater unity.



Therefore, we, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada make the following acknowledgements, affirmations, declarations and commitments:

#### A. Acknowledgements

1. We acknowledge that in each church "the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel" (Augsburg Confession VII), that in each church "the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments ... duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same." (Article XIX of The Thirty-Nine Articles), although "we recognize that the Church stands in constant need of reform and renewal" (The Niagara Report, para 67).
2. We acknowledge that both our churches share in the common confession of the apostolic faith. (Report and Recommendations, CLAD I, 1986)
3. We acknowledge that personal, collegial and communal oversight (episcopate) is embodied and exercised in both churches in a variety of forms, in continuity of apostolic life, mission and ministry. (The Porvoo Common Statement, 1993)
4. We acknowledge that one another's ordained ministries are given by God as instruments of divine grace and as possessing not only the inward call of the Spirit, but also Christ's commission through his body, the Church (An Appeal to all Christian People, Lambeth Conference, 1920); and that these ministries are the gifts of God's Spirit to equip the people of God for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).
5. We acknowledge that the episcopal office is valued and maintained in both our churches as a visible sign expressing and serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission and ministry. (The Porvoo Common Statement, 1993)

#### B. Affirmations

In the light of the above acknowledgements, we make the following affirmations:

1. The Anglican Church of Canada hereby recognizes the full authenticity of the ordained ministries of bishops and pastors presently existing within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, acknowledging its pastors as priests in the Church of God and its bishops as bishops and chief pastors exercising a ministry of episcopate over the jurisdictional areas of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in which they preside.
2. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada hereby recognizes the full authenticity of the ordained ministries of bishops, priests, and deacons presently existing within the Anglican Church of Canada, acknowledging its priests as pastors in the Church of God and its bishops as bishops and chief pastors exercising a ministry of episcopate over the jurisdictional areas of the Anglican Church of Canada in which they preside.
3. The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada affirm each other's expression of episcopal ministry as a sign of

continuity and unity in apostolic faith. We thus understand that the bishops of both churches are ordained for life service of the Gospel in the pastoral ministry of the historic episcopate, although tenure in office may be terminated by retirement, resignation or conclusion of term, subject to the constitutional provisions of the respective churches.

### **C. Declaration of Full Communion**

We declare the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada to be in full communion.

### **D. Commitments**

As churches in full communion, we now commit ourselves:

1. to welcome persons ordained in either of our churches to the office of bishop, priest/pastor or deacon to serve, by invitation and in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be in force, in that ministry in the receiving church without re-ordination;
2. to invite one another's bishops to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of bishops as a sign of the unity and continuity of the Church, and to invite pastors and priests to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of pastors or priests in each other's churches;
3. to consult with one another regarding developments in our understanding of the ministry of all the baptized, including the ordained ministry;
4. to work towards a common understanding of diaconal ministry;
5. to establish appropriate forms of collegial and conciliar consultation on significant matters of faith and order, mission and service;
6. to encourage regular consultation and collaboration among members of our churches at all levels, to promote the formulation and adoption of covenants for common work in mission and ministry, and to facilitate learning and exchange of ideas and information on theological, pastoral, and mission matters;
7. to establish a Joint Commission to nurture our growth in communion, to coordinate the implementation of this Declaration, and report to the decision-making bodies of both our churches;
8. to hold joint meetings of national, regional and local decision-making bodies wherever practicable, and
9. to continue to work together for the full visible unity of the whole Church of God.

### **Conclusion**

We rejoice in our Declaration as an expression of the visible unity of our churches in the one Body of Christ. We are ready to be co-workers with God in whatever tasks of mission serve the Gospel. We give glory to God for the gift of unity already ours in Christ, and we pray for the fuller realization of this gift in the entire Church.

Signed by the National Bishop of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada

Wording in sections A.2, 3, 4, 5; and C.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 is derived from The Porvoo Common Statement (October, 1992) © David Tustin and Tore Furberg. Published in 1993 by Church House Publishing for the Council for Christian Unity of the General Synod of the Church of England.

Wording in section B is derived from Concordat of Agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, rev. January 1997, published for study by the Office of Ecumenical Relations of the Episcopal Church.

Relationships with Others #11 (bright blue)

Third Partial Report  
of the Committee on Relationships with Others

RE: Receipt of the *Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Linden Hall School for Girls*

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the *Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province from Linden Hall School for Girls*; and

Whereas, Linden Hall School for Girls is committed to excellence of education in a diverse community focusing on scholarly achievement, character development, cultural awareness, and physical wellness; and

Whereas, Linden Hall School for Girls continues to look towards the future with new initiatives; be it therefore

Resolved: (16) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province accepts, with thanks and appreciation, the report from Linden Hall School for Girls; and be it further

Resolved: (17) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province commends Linden Hall School for Girls for their excellent work in serving and educating the future leaders of our world.

Derek French, Chair  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Relationships with Others #11 Bright Blue

Fourth Partial Report  
For the Committee on Relationships with Others

Re: Expanding and Developing the Moravian Church Northern Province's Relationship with Churches for Middle East Peace ("CMEP")

Whereas, Churches for Middle East Peace ("CMEP") is a coalition of over 30 national Church communions and organizations working to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote just, lasting and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East, and to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East;<sup>1</sup> and

Whereas, The Moravian Church Northern and Southern Provinces have been a joint associate member of CMEP, with representation on the Board of Directors, "as a way of providing information for members to be advocates for peace, justice, and security for all people in the region of Israel and Palestine"<sup>2</sup> since 2006 (the year of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moravian mission work in Palestine),<sup>3</sup> and

Whereas, Opportunities exist for the Moravian Church to further expand and develop its long-standing relationship with CMEP; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: (18) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms its relationship with Churches for Middle East Peace ("CMEP") and expresses appreciation for CMEP's work to actively promote just, lasting, and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East, and to mobilize U.S. Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East; and be it further

RESOLVED: (19) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province affirms the expansion and further development of its long-standing relationship with Churches for Middle East Peace ("CMEP") by increasing provincial communications of updates, advocacy opportunities, and resources from CMEP through Provincial Updates and social media, and other appropriate means; and by encouraging congregations to:

- o Learn more about CMEP and encourage individuals to learn more about CMEP (cmep.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> CMEP.org

<sup>2</sup> Social Statements of the Moravian Church Northern Province (2018), page 85

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/thismonth/10\\_06%20Star%20Mountain.pdf](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/thismonth/10_06%20Star%20Mountain.pdf)

- Utilize educational and spiritual resources developed by CMEP including their Holy Land Curriculum, virtual webinars, and CMEP Journeys (virtual cooking classes, tours, etc.)
- Identify and partner with ecumenical partners and interfaith groups participating with CMEP
- Host a speaking event or lead a study group through a five-week study on Israel and Palestine
- Arrange a trip to the Holy Land organized by CMEP
- Explore becoming an official Church Partner with CMEP; and

Whereas, In recent months there has been an escalation of tensions, conflict, and violence in Palestine and Israel resulting in deaths and injuries to people of all ages including children; the destruction of property; the loss of homes and livelihoods; and the restriction of worship and attacks against churches and mosques in Jerusalem, especially during Easter, Ramadan, and Passover; and

Whereas, The Moravian Church has had a presence in ministry and mission in the region of Palestine and Israel for approximately 140 years and operates the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center located near Ramallah,<sup>4</sup> therefore be it

---

RESOLVED: (20) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province expresses its deep concern regarding the recent escalation of tensions in the Middle East, and calls upon all congregations in the Moravian Church Northern Province to pray for, and through education and action, advocate for, a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; for equality, human rights, security, and justice for all people; for the safety and well-being of those at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center; and for the work of Churches for Middle East Peace.

Derek French, Chairperson  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
06/23/2023

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.moravian.org/mission/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2021/04/SMRC-FINAL-REPORT-2020.pdf>

FIFTH PARTIAL REPORT  
of the Committee on Relationships with Others

Re: Call Process Enhancements to Welcome Full Communion Clergy

- WHEREAS, The Moravian Church Northern Province has retained a legacy call process by which clergy are called to parish leadership, and
- WHEREAS, As a relational church, and building upon our practice of ecumenism, we value the nature of our call process and wish to enhance it, and
- WHEREAS, the nature of our call process tends to limit the possibility of calling full-communication partner clergy, and
- WHEREAS, we encourage clergy and congregational leaders to undertake ongoing discernment for their future ministry, and
- WHEREAS, our Church's value of threefold pastoral leadership discernment, involving the parish, pastor, and district boards, can be maintained in an enhancement of our call process, be it therefore
- RESOLVED: (21) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference or their designee to post pastoral vacancies with accompanying congregational profiles on the
-

Moravian Church Northern Province website, and to accept expressions of interest from Moravian clergy and full communion partner clergy, with solicited expressions of interest directed to those entrusted to carry out the call process (e.g. District Boards); and be it further

RESOLVED: (22) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites those entrusted to carry out the call process, (e.g. District Boards) to consider presenting candidates for call or appointment from both the pool of expressions of interest along with any candidates discerned separately by District and Joint or Unified Boards.

Concurrence  
Care and Nurture of Clergy  
Healthier Congregations

Derek French, Chair  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
23 June 2023



Relationships with Others, #11 - Bright Blue

SIXTH PARTIAL REPORT  
of the Committee on Relationships with Others

Re: Beginning a Dialogue with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church Northern Province has engaged with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME) in the work of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church Northern Province is committed to the work of Racial Justice and Healing, and has never sought a full communion relationship with an historically black denomination, and

WHEREAS, partnering with an historically black denomination can be a meaningful commitment in our work toward understanding and responding to the issues of racism in our society, be it therefore

RESOLVED: (23) that the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference or their designee to initiate a dialogue toward a Full Communion Relationship with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Derek French, Chair  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
23 June 2023

Relationships with Others, #11 Bright Blue

The Seventh and Final Partial Report  
Of the Committee for Relationships with Others

RE: Receipt of the *Report to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church from the Interprovincial Board of Communication*

Whereas: the Interprovincial Board of Communications (IBOC) makes visible the life and ministry of the Moravian Church and helps spread information on the same through publication of *The Moravian* magazine and [www.moravian.org](http://www.moravian.org), and

Whereas: the IBOC supports the spiritual life of Moravians and others through publication of the *Moravian Daily Texts* as a folio, application, and email, and

Whereas: IBOC raises awareness and facilitates special ministry initiatives; therefore be it

Resolved: (24) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Provinces receives the report of the IBOC to the synod and expresses its appreciation to the staff and volunteers enumerated below with a round of audible applause.

“We are grateful for the service of our current Northern Province directors, including the Rev. Dan Miller, Katrina Lehman, Amy Gardin Linville, Valerie Wagner and Rev. Lynnette Delbridge. Staff includes Mike Riess, executive director; Sue Kiefner, communications assistant; and Jill Bruckart, business and customer relations assistant.”

Derek French, Chairperson  
Gregg Schafer, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

First Partial Report  
of the Committee on Spiritual Formation

RE: Spiritual Companionship

WHEREAS, the 18th Century Moravian Church utilized a Choir System to meet the spiritual needs of individuals in small group settings, and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church Northern Province has continued to seek relevant ways to serve the needs of its members through spiritual growth experiences, and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Church Northern Province over the last decade has taken steps beyond traditional Christian education to encourage an introspective life through:

- Articles in The Moravian Magazine
- Financial support for clergy and seminary students to obtain personal spiritual direction
- The work of the Spiritual Formation Task Force during the intersynodal period, between the 2014 and 2018 Synods of the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Christian Education Spiritual Life Ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern District, and other individuals, pastors, and spiritual directors, all of whom provided the support and training of others for the formation of Spiritual Companionship Groups in multiple Moravian congregations
- The work of Marcella Kraybill-Greggo, who was appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province as directed by the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province to continue establishing Spiritual Companionship Groups within Moravian congregations, therefore be it

RESOLVED: (1) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province thanks the Spiritual Formation Task Force appointed at the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Christian Education Spiritual Life Ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern District, the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province, Marcella Kraybill-Greggo, and many other individuals passionate about spiritual formation for their faithful

work to create, train, and sustain Spiritual Companionship Groups in Moravian congregations, and

WHEREAS, Spiritual Companionship Groups have provided meaningful experiences for laity and clergy in Moravian congregations, and

WHEREAS, continued introduction of Spiritual Companionship Groups is needed to help laity and clergy understand and implement this practice in their ministry

and

RESOLVED: (2) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) of the Moravian Church Northern Province to continue supporting Spiritual Companionship Groups as directed by the 2018 Northern Provincial synod. The PEC shall provide the needed financial resources of \$15,000 for the formation of new Spiritual Companionship Groups and the continuation of existing Spiritual Companionship Groups within Moravian congregations for the intersynodal period.

Steve Gohdes, Chairperson  
Malinda Lindstrom, Secretary  
June 23, 2023

Submitted in concurrence with the Finance Committee

The Second Partial and Final Report  
of the Committee on Spiritual Formation

(RE): Returning the Holy Spirit as Mother as a Church Festival and Celebration.

Whereas: The Holy Spirit as Mother was an important church festival practiced by the Moravian Church in the 18th Century. Dr. Craig Atwood said, “The Mutterfest, (the celebration of the Holy Spirit as the Mother of the Church) dates to December 19, 1756. It was celebrated in the congregations in Europe and in Bethlehem that year. The last recorded celebration of the Mutterfest was 1774.”<sup>1</sup> and

Whereas: The Holy Spirit as mother is a unique and treasured part of our history. This celebration along with many other Moravian traditions fell out of practice due to an attempt to align with mainline Protestant denominational practices of the time and

Whereas: The Holy Spirit as Mother is a concept that remains Biblically grounded in Scripture. “And I will [a] pray the Father, and he shall give you another [b] Comforter, that he may be with you forever.” [John 14:16 ASV] “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” [Isaiah 66:13 NIV] and

Whereas: Zinzendorf’s presentation of the Holy Spirit as Mother<sup>2</sup> was not about giving Gender to God, but keeping our theology in simple and easily relatable terms. This festival would not replace the Moravian view of the Holy Trinity, but it would be another valuable lens to enhance our understanding and

Whereas: Expanding our view of God beyond just masculine terminology allows all children of God to see themselves in the divine and

Whereas: The Church & Society Committee’s report on Violence against women that was approved at the 2018 synod said: “Whereas the predominantly male language used for God can be challenging, limiting, and painful for women who have been victims of violence. Therefore be it resolved: clergy and congregations are encouraged to invite individuals to expand the images they use for God beyond those that are solely male.” Therefore be it

RESOLVED: (3) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province invites congregations of the Moravian Church Northern Province to designate one Sunday a year where they find a special way to honor the traditional Moravian

celebration of the Holy Spirit as Mother. This could be done with a lovefeast, a liturgy, a Sunday school teaching, or many other ways. Therefore be it

RESOLVED: (4) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province enthusiastically encourages expansive language about God in worship and educational context. Genesis 1:27 says, “God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them (Common English Bible)” And therefore be it further

RESOLVED: (5) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province and Moravian Theological Seminary to provide resources and educational opportunities surrounding female empowerment in the Moravian Church.

1 Craig Atwood. “Community of the Cross: Moravian Piety in Colonial Bethlehem.” Penn State University Press. 2012.

2 <http://zinzendorf.com/pages/index.php%3Fid=holy-spirit-as-mother>

Committee Chair: Steve Gohdes

Secretary: Malinda Lindstrom

June 23, 2023

Stewardship (#13 bright green)

First Partial Report  
of The Stewardship Committee

Re: Change in Larger Life Foundation Bylaws

Whereas, pursuant to Article 5 of the Bylaws, the Board of Trustees of the Larger Life Foundation [the "Board"] is comprised of seven lay members elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of said Article 5; and

Whereas, the Larger Life Foundation Trustees, after significant discussion, have determined that it would be advantageous in identifying candidates willing to serve on the Board, to permit a member of the Moravian clergy to so serve; and

Whereas, the Provincial Elders' Conference has approved the proposed change to the Bylaws as set forth below;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED (1) :The introductory paragraph set forth in Article 5 of the Bylaws of the Larger Life Foundation

shall be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"The Corporation shall be administered by a Board of Trustees which shall consist of seven members of the MCNP, of which six members shall be lay members and of which one member shall be either a member of the clergy within the MCNP or a lay member of the MCNP. The members shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, as follows:" ; and be it further

RESOLVED (2): Paragraph 719 of the Book of Order of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, which pertains to the Larger Life Foundation, shall be amended as shown below, having passed legal review by the Northern Province Chancellor:

	<b>Current / Existing Book of Order</b>	<b>Amended Book of Order</b>
¶719	<p>The Larger Life Foundation is administered by a Board of Trustees of seven lay members of the Moravian Church-Northern Province, elected by the Provincial Synod. Members of the Provincial Elders' Conference are advisory members of the Larger Life Foundation Board of Trustees.</p>	<p>The Larger Life Foundation is administered by a Board of Trustees of seven members of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, of which six members shall be lay members of the Moravian Church, Northern Province with the seventh being a lay member or a member of the clergy, or a licensed or appointed lay pastor of the Moravian Church, Northern Province.</p>

Submitted by

Chairperson,  
Bevon White

Secretary,

Courtney Bauder

June 23, 2023



Stewardship (#13 bright green)

Second Partial Report  
of the Stewardship Committee

RE: Larger Life Foundation, Eastern District Executive Board, Board of Elders Canadian District, Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, Western District Executive Board

Whereas, we have received and reviewed the Larger Life Foundation Report, the Eastern District Executive Board Report, Board of Elders Canadian District Report, Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, Western District Executive Board to the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province

Whereas, the inter synodal period has been through unprecedented times, we have been amazed by the continued work and resilience of these vital ministries

Resolved: (3) 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 the Larger Life Foundation.

Resolved: (4) 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 the Eastern District Executive Board

Resolved: (5) 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 the Board of Elders Canadian District

Resolved: (6) 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 the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America

Resolved: (7) 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 the Western District Executive Board

And be it further

Resolved: (8) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province wishes to express our thanks to staff, volunteers and board members of Larger Life Foundation Eastern District Executive Board, Board of Elders Canadian District, Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, Western District Executive

Board

the for their continued leadership, stewardship, and faithfulness, noting particularly  
difficulties and unexpected challenges of the pandemic

Chairperson, Bevon White  
Secretary, Courtney Bauder  
June 23, 2023  
Stewardship Committee (#13 bright green)

Third Partial and Final Report

of the Stewardship Committee

Re: Radically Reconceptualizing Stewardship in the Moravian Church, Northern Province

Whereas, 1 Peter 4:10 proclaims, “each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”

Whereas, we have a sacred responsibility and genuine opportunity to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us

Whereas, many of our churches are facing decline: in membership, participation, and financial contributions and we are distressed by the challenges we face and are concerned for the future

Whereas, we as a faith community recognize that we need to be intentional about how we respond to a broken and hurting world

Whereas, it is imperative that we take steps to radically reconceptualize stewardship, therefore be it

Resolved

(9) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directs the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) to build connections across ministries to exchange ideas and best practices regarding healthy stewardship initiatives,

and be it further resolved,

(10) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province charges the PEC to direct congregations and members to utilize the many resources available in our Province to form and nurture generous and faithful stewards. Such resources include but are not limited to: The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) and The Moravian Giving Portal,

and be it further resolved,

(11) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province urges the PEC to explore environmentally sustainable methods of energy usage with congregations to save on cost and environmental impact while modeling responsible environmental stewardship in the use of our buildings and other resources

and be it further resolved,

(12) the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province charges the PEC to direct congregations to engage in intentional conversations with youth, young adults, and community members to discover their spiritual wants and needs and then invest both financially and spiritually in ministries and experiences that meet those wants and needs.

Chairperson: Bevon White  
Secretary: Courtney Bauder  
June 24, 2023

#### Resources

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is an interprovincial agency of the Moravian Church in America, offers services that help communities of faith build generosity through gift planning, resource exploration, stewardship coaching, and more. MMFA also partners with a faith-based financial management course, Freed Up Financial Living, that helps individuals have a healthier relationship with money. Visit [mmfa.com](http://mmfa.com) to learn more about their services.

The Moravian Giving Portal is a function of MMFA, allows all Moravian worshiping communities, agencies, and ministries to receive online donations without paying any fees. Donors can set up recurring gifts or make a one-time gift. MMFA covers all fees associated with online gifts.

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee #</b>	<b>Partial Report #</b>
Accessibility Prioritizing	Healthier Congregations	7	4
Acts of Kindness	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	8
Antisemitism and Jewish-Christian Relations	Church and Society	2	5
Bereavement Leave Policy for Clergy	Care and Nurture	1	6
Bishop Election 2023 Synod	Care and Nurture	1	5
Bishops' Report	Care and Nurture	1	4
Board of Elders Canadian District Report	Stewardship	13	2
Book of Order Change - Moravian Archives	Governance	6	7
Book of Order Change - Voting Privileges at Synod	Governance	6	5
Book of Order Change- Linden Hall Moravian Academy	Governance	6	11
Budget 2024	Finance	5	5
Board of World Mission Report	Missional Engagement World	9	2
Board of World Mission Representation	Missional Engagement World	9	1

Topics	Committee Name	Committee #	Partial Report #
Call Process Enhancements	Relationships with Others	11	5
Care and Healing of God's Creation	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	5
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	Relationships with Others	11	6
Christians against Christian Nationalism	Church and Society	2	12
Churches for Middle East Peace	Relationships with Others	11	4
Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund	Care and Nurture	1	3
Deacon Supervision Program	Care and Nurture	1	8
Debt Jubilee Project	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	4
Eastern District Executive Board Report	Stewardship	13	2
Emerging Ministries Program	Emerging Ministries	4	3
Emerging Ministry Committee Report	Emerging Ministries	4	1
Emerging Ministry Coordinator	Emerging Ministries	4	2

Topics	Committee Name	Committee #	Partial Report #
Finance Committee NP Continuation	Finance	5	3
Full Communion - Evangelical Lutheran Ch of Canada & Anglican Ch of Canada	Relationships with Others	11	2
Gender Inclusion Training	Healthier Congregations	7	3
Gratitude for Sheep	Finance	5	4
Gun Violence (End)	Church and Society	2	8
Healthier Congregations Task Force	Healthier Congregations	7	1
Holy Spirit as Mother (Returning)	Spiritual Formation	12	2
Hospitality over Hostility	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	7
Human Resources and Benefits Report	Care and Nurture	1	2
Interprovincial Board of Communication Report	Relationships with Others	11	7
Identity, Purpose and Organization	Congregational Leadership	3	1
Justice (Affirming and Building the Work of)	Church and Society	2	9
Larger Life Bylaw Change	Stewardship	13	1
Larger Life Report	Stewardship	13	2

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee #</b>	<b>Partial Report #</b>
Lay Leadership Development	Lay Leadership	8	2
Leadership Thanks During Covid-19	Governance	6	10
LGBTQIA (Call for Justice and Healing)	Church and Society	2	13
Linden Hall Report	Relationships with Others	11	3
Los Alamos (The United Church of) Gratitude	Relationships with Others	11	1
Martin 1917 ED Synod Resolution	Church and Society	2	2
Mass Incarceration and Legal Reform	Church and Society	2	4
Mental Health Awareness	Church and Society	2	14
Moravian Open Door Report	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	1
Moravian Archives Report	Healthier Congregations	7	2
Moravian College Name Change	Governance	6	3
Moravian Ministries Foundation	Stewardship	13	2
Moravian Theological Seminary Report	Congregational Leadership	3	3
Moravian University Report	Lay Leadership	8	1



<b>Topics</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee #</b>	<b>Partial Report #</b>
New Expressions of Faith	Emerging Ministries	4	4
Parsonage Task Force	Care and Nurture	1	1
Pastoral Leadership	Congregational Leadership	3	2
Provincial Elders' Conference Report	Governance	6	1
Provincial Elders' Report Appendices	Governance	6	9
Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice and Healing	Church and Society	2	1
Provincial Elders' Report Appendix B & C	Finance	5	2
Provincial Women's Board Report	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	2
Provincial Women's Board Restructuring	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	6
Racial Justice and Healing (Commitment to Work of)	Church and Society	2	10
Racial Justice Team Report	Church and Society	2	6
Ratio of Lay to Clergy Delegates	Governance	6	8
Refuge and Asylum in US	Church and Society	2	7

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee #</b>	<b>Partial Report #</b>
Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery	Church and Society	2	3
Resources Clergy and Congregational Care	Care and Nurture	1	7
Sperling-Zimmerman Report	Missional Engagement Neighborhoods	10	3
Society for Promoting the Gospel Report	Missional Engagement World	9	3
Spiritual Companionship	Spiritual Formation	12	1
Stewardship (Radically Reconceptualizing)	Stewardship	13	3
Western District Executive Board Report	Stewardship	13	2
White Supremacy (Combatting)	Church and Society	2	11
Widow's Society Report	Finance	5	1
Youth Impact (Strengthening)	Healthier Congregations	7	5
Youth- Voice and Vote	Governance	6	2