

# The Provincial Elders' Conference

*Serving as a member of the Provincial Elders' Conference is a position of trust which requires a significant investment of time, energy, faith, and character. We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us; both in the process of selecting nominees and in the election of those chosen by Synod. Through this process, the Spirit calls those who are to serve and brings them into this role.*

Members typically spend a minimum of between 20 and 30 hours each month fulfilling the PEC's responsibilities. Currently, this includes two in-person (or video conference) meetings each month and engagement in other meetings (with Boards of congregations, pastors, etc.). Members are also appointed to and take an active part on other boards, commissions, or committees of the Province. They may travel outside the Province for periodic interprovincial and ecumenical meetings. PEC members must balance their personal perspectives with the need to be Elders for the entire Province and to deliver the common priorities established by Synod.

## **Qualities expected of members**

Working together as a Conference, members should possess: strong communication skills, conflict resolution skills, the ability to engage in discernment and to make difficult decisions, knowledge of the Moravian church, including its polity, and doctrine. Experience in the law, human resources, finance, or management is a plus, but not required for consideration. An active worship and prayer life and a supportive family and home congregation enrich and provide a needed foundation for the service of PEC members.

## **PEC Responsibilities**

*(From the Constitution, arranged in categories)*

The Provincial Elder' Conference shall provide priority-based leadership of all church ministries and administer the polity of the province.

### **Vision and Direction**

- See that the enactments of Synod are carried out, including implementation of strategic directives of Synod, and setting plans and priorities for the Board of Cooperative Ministries. Manage, report, and communicate progress and successes from Synod directives.
- Oversee new church development and pass upon the admission of new congregations.
- Manage, report, and communicate progress and successes from Synod directives.

### **Relationships**

- Oversee candidacy and clergy development.
- Approve ordination of Deacons and consecration of Presbyters.
- Administer the call process and appointment procedures including calling and superintending the ministers of the Province.
- Supervise the congregations of the Province, encourage them in their work and service and hold Quadrennial Reviews with each congregation.
- Determine the formation and structure of the Regional Conferences of Churches.
- Provide Conflict Management support as needed.
- Communicate with the Bishops' Conference.
- Oversee Unity and ecumenical relationships.

### **Administration and Finance**

- Set and monitor guidelines for compensation and benefits of clergy.
- Make necessary appointments to boards, commissions, and task forces.

- Supervise and manage the day-to-day operations of the Province.
- Oversee Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM), Provincial Support Services Board (PSSB), and the Archives, including the appointment of professional staff.
- Oversee planning and preparation for Synod, including: fixing the date and place of the meeting of Synod, calling special Synods, acting as the standing committee of credentials at all Synods, and appointing the officers, committees, and committee chairpersons prior to the convening of Synod.
- Approve the Provincial Budget.
- Allocate available financial resources of the province based on Synod priorities.
- Act on requests from congregations for relief from provincial share allocations.
- Act on requests from congregations to obtain loans for buildings, property, renovations, and equipment.
- Upon review by the Provincial Support Services Board, act on requests for any fundraising solicitations of the congregations or their members by other congregations, boards, agencies, or individuals.
- Exercise joint responsibility, with the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, and members of the corporation of the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America.

### **Meetings and Representation:**

- The PEC currently conducts its **regular business** meetings twice a month (typically the second and fourth Thursday, from 2 to 7 p.m., with dinner provided). This may change based on the personal schedules and availability of members. Prior PECs have had one meeting per month, and another meeting time reserved to be used as needed.
- In addition to these PEC meetings, members are expected to participate in the following **meetings with congregations and church boards**. These responsibilities are distributed among the 7 members of the PEC. These are typically evening meetings during the week:
  - Quadrennial Reviews. PEC conducts 16 of these each year with church boards.
  - Call process meetings. These may also include Sunday meetings, usually following worship. If everything goes as planned, there are a minimum of 4 meetings of PEC members with either the congregation or the church board(s) during each call process.
  - Consultations with church boards as needed. Frequently, these meetings involve managing conflict or addressing congregational health and vitality.
  - Representing the PEC at the ordination and installation of pastors (Sundays).
  - Representing the PEC at provincial events and activities (Provincial Stewardship Presentations, Moravian Ministry Association, Provincial conferences, etc.).
  - Representing the PEC at ecumenical events (meetings or worship services with our full-communion partners, periodically hosting such meetings, etc.).
- PEC members serve on **various boards, committees, or commissions, by virtue of office**. These responsibilities are divided among the members. Some of these positions also mean that the PEC member takes an active role in one or more sub-committees of these groups.
  - Provincial Support Services Board, monthly (PEC President, 1 additional PEC member).
  - Board of Cooperative Ministries, by-monthly (PEC President, 1 additional PEC member).  
Note: This additional member from PEC is among the 12 appointed by PEC to serve on the BCM.
  - Archives Commission, monthly (1 PEC member).
  - Laurel Ridge Board of Directors, by-monthly (1 PEC member).
  - Moravian Ministries Foundation in America, semi-annually (1 PEC member).
  - Moravian Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, semi-annually (PEC President, 1 additional member of PEC).
  - Board of World Mission (1 PEC member)
  - Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, semi-annually. This alternates every two years with the Northern Province.

- Christian Churches Together in the USA. (PEC President, or other member)
- The PEC meets on an annual basis with the Northern Province PEC. This 2–3-day meeting is hosted by the Southern Province PEC in odd-numbered years.

**Length of term:** four years (*through the Synod of 2026*) with the possibility of re-election to a second term.