



PROVINCIAL TIES May 2022



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Archives Commission Announcement

The Provincial Elders Conference announces a restructuring of the Archives Commission to provide a stronger link to the Province, strengthen its funding efforts and align with the structures of the Province's Commission on Ministry, Commission on Congregational Development and Provincial Support Services Board. Members of the restructured Archives Commission will include the PEC president (to whom the archivist reports), two church representatives (ministers/educators), a PEC representative, a Salem Congregation representative, two laity and the chair of a new Friends of the Moravian Archives organization. The Friends will proactively identify ways to expand sources of financial support and increase donor participation. In addition, a Board of Advisors comprised of peer archivists and individuals with specific skills important to the Archives will be created to meet twice a year to provide professional consultation.

The search for a new archivist was reopened in February with a goal of filling the position this spring. The new Commission will be appointed in the coming weeks.

Next grant cycle begins June 1

By Vince Holbrook

All your gifts on the Moravian Day of Giving to the Moravian Field of Interest Funds have replenished those grant-making accounts. Our next grant cycle begins June 1 with a July 15 application deadline. Grants will be awarded on August 13. The following funds will be making grants:

- Hunger & Thirst
- Clothing
- Prison Ministry
- Healing & Health Housing
- Environmental Stewardship
- Racial Awareness, Equity, & Reconciliation



Be thinking about how your Moravian congregation, fellowship, emerging ministry, or agency could benefit from grant funding for ministry. Look for more details about how to apply in the June newsletter or visit MMFA's **Grant Central Station** <https://mmfa.info/grant/>

Concerns and Celebrations

Illness:

Please continue to remember Sister **Betty Helms** in prayer. Betty was diagnosed in March with a cancerous mass on her tonsil and had surgery on April 4.

Please continue to pray for Sister **Ginny Tobiassen** as she continues to heal from surgery to repair several fractures.

Pastoral:

Sister Heather Hartung Vacek, under call to the Southern Province and serving as Vice-President and Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary, was consecrated a Presbyter on Sunday, April 24, at 3 pm in the Saal of Moravian Theological Seminary with Bishop M. Blair Couch as consecrating bishop. Heather was ordained a Deacon on July 15, 2012. Please keep Heather and her loved ones in prayer in the weeks to come.

Ordination Anniversaries for May 2022

Matthew Allen.....24 years
Craig Atwood.....35 years
Ted Burcaw.....36 years
William Campbell.....60 years
Daniel Crews.....52 years

Lehoma Goode.....32 years
William Gramley.....60 years
Samuel Gray.....36 years
David Merritt.....40 years
Jon Peterson.....42 years
Robert Sawyer.....55 years
Richard Sides47 years
Carl Southerland.....46 years
Chaz Snider.....5 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, sisters and brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Within a few weeks our Province will be engaged in the opportunity of drawing together to convene the MCSP Synod of 2022. It is a privilege and gift to be able to gather in community in this way while being made partners in the work of Christ in this world. Further, God has allowed us to participate in building his kingdom here on earth in all of our messiness and insecurities.

The past four years in our Province have certainly proved challenging in this regard. The isolation that COVID ushered into our collective lives has altered not only the way that we worship and gather but also how we interrelate with each other at the most basic level. Social concerns and partisan politics have stretched the very fiber of our interconnected life together.

Conversations that once were vehicles of understanding have turned toxic, to the degree that there are unintended consequences just for discussing some of life's most pressing issues with each other. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and others tempt us to drown in our own vanities and personal crusades rather than the reconciling work of Christ.

This coupled with the reality that, like other major denominations around the world, our demographic has gotten older and the younger generations have thus far kept their distance from organized Christianity suggesting that we are quickly approaching a significant point in our history.

Nonetheless, the question is how will we approach such a challenging time?

Jesus prayed for unity among his disciples and followers not for the reason that it was easy to achieve, but because of the very nature of the difficulty inherent in attempting such a task. He knew that how the people of God dealt with their own relationships, issues and communities would either lead people to God or lead them away.

So, while we will have every opportunity to give into the dysfunction and sin of self during this time, we too will have the unbelievable gift of rising above it all for the cause of Christ among us.

Please join me over the next few weeks praying for God's complete presence in our communal lives as together we forge the future of our church and continue to live into this great privilege of life together.

Chris

Moravian Music Foundation News May 2022



Moravian Music Sunday MAY 15, 2022

Let MMF do the planning for one service this year.

[Materials](#) have been posted and are available on the [website](#)!

All you need to plan worship is [here](#).

Our theme this year is the 300th Anniversary of Herrnhut!

To follow activities planned for the celebrations in Herrnhut, Germany, click [here](#). MMF will post [updates](#)



300 Jahre | 1722-2022
Herrnhut

A large promotional graphic for the Moravian Music Festival. It features a collage of images: a choir, a band, and children. The text includes "Jesus Still Lead On..." at the top, "26th MORAVIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL" in large blue letters, and "JULY 26-30, 2022 * BETHLEHEM, PA" below. A green box contains "Register Now!" and "moravianmusicfestival.org". On the right, it says "Children & Youth Programs and the ACTS musical" with an ACTS logo and a photo of children. A list of activities includes Chorus, Concert Band, Handbells, Steel Pan, Trombone Choir, New Worship Ensemble, and Chamber Music and smaller ensembles.

Live, and in person, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

REGISTER NOW AT

www.moravianmusicfestival.org

Submitted by Erik J Salzwedel

From: Provincial Elders Conference, Moravian Church Southern Province
To: Moravian Pastors and Church Leadership
Date: April 24th, 2022

As many of you are aware, after the 2018 Synod and related to the passing of Resolutions 13 & 14, a time of ongoing conversation developed within our Province. In the months that followed a group formed in opposition specifically to the passage of resolution 14 called the “Concerned Moravians”. The PEC met with the leadership of the Concerned Moravians soon afterwards with hope of possible reconciliation. Those early meetings proved unsuccessful in that objective.

Since then, the “Concerned Moravians” have continued to gather and have at times used Moravian Churches/facilities to host their meetings. They have self-incorporated as a 501(c) (3) organization and while they appear to primarily consist of Moravian members, they are not connected to the MCSP in any official capacity, and should not be interpreted as being an endorsement or approval by the MCSP or the PEC.

As previously stated, while the “Concerned Moravians” consist of individual Moravians that hold membership in Moravian churches, many of their actions and statements regarding resolution 14 do not represent the collective voice of the Moravian Church Southern Province, most recently expressed by the decisions of the 2018 Synod. Some of their public statements and some of their documents posted on the CM website have seemingly taken a decidedly political partisan tone (e.g. "A Call to Action") which can only serve to deepen and solidify divisions within our Province.

Most recently the Concerned Moravians have announced the Lt. Governor of North Carolina, Mark Robinson, as their guest speaker in May of this year. To this end the Provincial Elders Conference is deeply saddened and concerned about the possible perception of Mr. Robinson being associated with the Moravian Church based on past statements that he has made about the LGBTQ Community as well as Jewish and Muslim faith as reported by local media outlets.

Here are two important statements from Resolutions 13 and 14:

“any person, group, congregation, agency and entity within the Southern Province retains the right to make opinions related to LGBTQ+ issues known, without fear of reprimand, provided such opinions live up to our covenant: “We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone.” (MCCL, V. Our Witness in the World, A. Love Toward All, par. 29).”

“we have learned and experienced that our unity in Christ is far greater than our differing views and understanding about homosexuality and the church, and that we can be welcoming, respectful and loving toward one another in our differences;”

We recognize that the past several years have been challenging with the onslaught of Covid 19, the isolation we have experienced in our congregations, partisan politics as well as greater polarization of differences in our communities. However, while the Moravian Church celebrates its diversity as one of its greatest strengths we must do so with respect and honor for all individuals.

Therefore, the Provincial Elders Conference, in consultation and support of our Bishops Conference, wanted to make you aware of this event so that you and your church boards can be informed. Again, the Provincial Elders Conference does not condone or support this most recent development and reiterates that anyone can choose

to disagree about issues facing faith and life, but how we disagree, how we talk to each other shall define who we are.

If you or your church are contacted by the news media regarding this event please refer them to the PEC President. Prayerfully, Provincial Elders Conference.

Background Checks for Camp and Keeping Up to Date for Safe Sanctuary Policies

On Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 12pm-2pm, you can come by Cedarhyrst (459 S. Church Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101) to get drug tests done that are needed to serve at Laurel Ridge for Summer Camp and background checks to keep your Safe Sanctuary status up to date in your local congregation. Clergy are now required to get the updated drug tests and background checks every year to serve at camp due to the accreditation. If you have new Sunday School teachers or other leaders that work with children please share this information with them.

Please RSVP to Kathy Osborne (kosborne@mcsp.org) by May 11, 2022 so we can have adequate supplies and forms ready.

Submitted by Rebecca Craver

For Your Address Book

Elroy Christopher new home address:
120 Knight Way
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Published monthly by
The Provincial Elders' Conference, Southern Province

Staff: Christopher Thore, President
David Marcus, Assistant to the President
Beverly Johnson, Executive Assistant
459 S. Church Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

336.725.5811, fax -336.723.1029
www.mcsp.org