



# PROVINCIAL TIES

November 2021



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

## PEC News November 2021

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13*

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

I bring you greetings and information about changes that have occurred within our Southern Province over the last month. As most of you know, the President of the PEC, brother David Guthrie requested and has been granted early retirement. David has served the greater church for eleven years, with distinction in this capacity. We are grateful for David’s service and pray for his rest and renewal in the coming days. Subsequently, I have accepted an appointment to serve as interim president until the 2022 Synod.

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In addition, I will continue to serve the pastorate at Clemmons Moravian Church. In light of these dual roles, the Provincial Elders Conference will be functioning a little differently in the coming months. As we begin to live into this reality, all provincial staff and members of the PEC continue to work diligently to make this transition as seamless as possible. We recognize that there will be challenges and adjustments, however the PEC is excited about having the opportunity to be creative with our leadership roles in this new framework. We covet your prayers and patience during this time.

As pastors, ministry leaders, support staff, Provincial agencies, and individual churches, we all face unprecedented times and challenges. Concern at all levels in society continues to increase at alarming rates and congregations become potential lightning rods for anxiety in this setting. Division along political, social, economic, and religious concerns permeates the headlines and almost every conversation. Deep fractures have occurred among family and friends.

As a called-out people serving the Son of the most high, we must urge all of our people and ourselves to higher ground searching for reconciliation wherever it may be found! We must reclaim the power that comes from knowing that all of us rest in the hands of God's grace. Further, the least among us must be our priority as we reflect the Love of God for our neighbors whoever and wherever they may be.

Thanks to all of our Pastors, DCE's, Provincial Staff and Agencies, Church staff and volunteers as you continue to serve with great passion and humility. May this Thanksgiving and Advent season be one of blessings for you and those you serve.

Prayerfully,

Chris

*Submitted by Rev. Christopher Thore, PEC President*

## **Moravian Ministries Foundation in America** *November 2021*

### **Embracing Stewardship webinar**

By Laura Watson

In their book *Embracing Stewardship*, Charles Lane and Grace Pomroy provide a diverse approach to their shared conviction that stewardship belongs at the heart of every individual and community of faith. Join us Tuesday, November 16 at either 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. EST to dive into the book's key perspectives and points, including specific pathways to follow to deepen people's understanding of themselves as God's stewards.

Grace Pomroy was a keynote speaker at MMFA's recent Celebrate Stewardship 2021 conference; we have received feedback from attendees who are interested in her book, so we're providing this webinar as a way to help people explore the reading and have conversation about it.

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Click below to register for a session:

[Tuesday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. EST](#)

[Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. EST](#)

## From The Provincial Financial Office

**2022 Budgets** – Please remember that 2022 Budget forms are due in to the Provincial Financial Office by December 15, 2021.

**Housing Allowance** – Ministers can treat their housing allowance as nontaxable income for federal income tax purposes to the extent that it is used to pay for housing related expenses and does not exceed the fair rental value of their home. However, the housing allowance must be specifically designated by official church (board) action **in advance** for this favorable tax treatment to apply. Please be sure that your Church Board approves this designation for 2022 before the end of 2021 and documents this approval in the Board minutes.

**Year End Contributions** – As we all scramble to make yearend contributions to the Church or other charities, please remember that in order for a contribution to be deducted in 2021, it must be “delivered” in 2021. This means that year end checks must be dated in 2021 and either physically delivered to the Church by year end or mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2021. Checks that are dated in 2021 but not mailed or delivered to the Church until 2022 should be treated as 2022 contributions. They should **not** be reflected on 2021 giving statements or deducted in 2021. The IRS now allows an above the line charitable deduction of \$300 for single filers and \$600 for married couples filing jointly for those that do not itemize tax deductions. Make sure you take advantage of this tax benefit. Consult with your tax advisor on what qualifies for this deduction.

**Important Payroll Deadlines** – Please have all 2022 wage increases or payroll adjustments to Robyn Glance by December 31, 2021.

On October 1st, the United States Postal Service’s standard for delivering mail dropped to within five days. To assure that your employees will get paid, please email all payroll vouchers and pay related documents to [payroll@mensp.org](mailto:payroll@mensp.org) no later than the 21st of the month. We can also set you up for ACH drafts of any payments due to our office. This will not only allow your payments to be timely but will also save in postage.

Please note too that payroll processing fees went up the first of this year to \$7.00 per employee and New Hire fees are \$25.00 per new or rehire. Several folks are still paying the old rate of \$6.25.

Lastly, all employees who work 20 hours or more per week are eligible to participate in our 403(b) plan. This is an easy way to save for retirement on a tax-deferred basis, and I strongly recommend participation in this plan. You can sign up to participate in the 403(b) plan any time during the year and can stop or change your contributions

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whenever you desire. However, most new participants sign up now so that their contributions will start with the first payroll of the year. Please give Robyn Glance a call at (336) 793-0093 if you have any questions.

*Submitted by Robyn Glance, Chief Financial Officer*

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## Comenius Learning Series 2021: Madness: American Protestant Responses to Mental Illness

Saturday, November 13th, 2021 | ZOOM | 9:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.



Common wisdom might assume that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the mental health of American, but studies over the past eighteen months have yielded mixed results. Though only time will tell the long-term consequences of this prolonged crisis on individual and collective well-being, mental illness will undoubtedly continue to be part of human existence, with or without global and local crises.

Rev. Dr. Heather Vacek's presentation will offer a window into American Protestant responses to mental illness over two centuries, a period during which growing social stigma and the medicalization of treatments often impeded broader attention from congregations and church leaders. With exemplary historical responses in mind, Dr. Vacek will invite attendees to reflect on the implications for Christian witness in light of the suffering that both prompts and results from mental illness.

[Register here](#)

*Submitted by Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director of Congregational Development*

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## Concerns and Celebrations

### *Pastoral Changes:*

The Rev. Dr. **Dion** and The Rev. **Eulencine Christopher** were installed as co-pastors of The South Florida Pastorate which consists of Prince of Peace (where Dion has currently been serving), New Hope, Palm Beach and the Margate Fellowship; along with Dion being installed as pastor of King of Kings. This service took place at Palm Beach Moravian. We invite your prayers for Dion, Eulencine and the congregations.

Rev. **Jeff Coppage** has accepted appointment to serve half-time as interim pastor of Union Cross Moravian Church. Jeff will deliver Sunday sermons as well as carry out

ministerial duties as needed. Please pray for Jeff and for the boards and members of the Union Cross congregation.

### *Ordination Anniversaries for November 2021*

Russell Williams.....11 years  
Stuart Zimmerman.....43 years  
Rusty Rushing.....4 years  
Jeffrey Coppage.....28 years  
Lisa Mullen.....32 years  
Illovis Gonzales.....1 year

### *Congratulations and God Bless You!*



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### **PEC News November 2021**

PEC met on October 7 and 28 with all members present. PEC spent time in prayer for the province and its members. Topics discussed included these:

**Commission on Ministry:** celebrated the installation of Joe Moore at Union Cross, Reed Lawson at Christ, and Dion and Eulencine Christopher in the South Florida Pastorate; celebrated the ordination of Adriana Craver; received reports on current and potential candidates for ordination; and agreed that PEC will present the program for the January meeting of the Moravian Ministry Association.

**Commission on Congregational Development:** reviewed the potential makeup of the Commission with Director Rebecca Craver; discussed call processes at Ardmore, First Moravian (Greensboro), Hope, and Hopewell; discussed interim service at Kernersville, Union Cross, and Mizpah; checked in with several congregations; and discussed The Table, the emerging ministry exploration in the Triangle area.

**Synod Planning and Implementation:** discussed guidance for the Synod Planning Committee moving ahead with plans for an in-person Synod with a virtual delegate gathering in February.

**Interprovincial, Unity, and Ecumenical:** discussed the federated ministries with the ELCA (The Dwelling, Covenant/Water of Life); began plans for a meeting December 1 with the Northern Provincial Elders' Conference.

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**Administration & Finance:** discussed Salemtowne board membership, matters relating to David Guthrie's retirement and Chris Thore's work as PEC President; provincial budget; the Archives search; property matters.

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Nola Knouse, Vice President, PEC*

## 2022 Moravian Daily Texts Shipping Update



INTERPROVINCIAL BOARD  
OF COMMUNICATION

Late October and early November are typically very busy times for the IBOC, as we receive and distribute thousands of copies of the *Moravian Daily Texts*. This year, things are a little different. The supply, production and transportation issues faced by many different companies for all sorts of products have also affected the *Moravian Daily Texts*.



Paper shortages and vendor backlogs have caused delays in our 2022 *Moravian Daily Texts* distribution schedule. While our paperback and large print editions are only slightly delayed and are expected to be ready to ship in the next few weeks, our printer has informed us that the hardcover and large print editions will likely not arrive at our facility until late November.

What does this mean our Daily Texts readers?

- For those customers with *only paperback, large print editions or foreign language translations* in their pre-orders, we expect to **begin shipping the week of November 8.**
- For those customers whose orders include *hardcover and/or Journal editions*, we expect to be able to begin **shipping your entire order starting November 30.**

At this point, we are confident that we will be able to ship all pre-ordered 2022 *Daily Texts* to domestic customers from our office in Bethlehem by mid-December. If you require the paperback/large print portion of your order earlier, we can arrange separate shipping at an additional cost.

We apologize for any inconvenience this shipping delay may cause, and ask for your patience and understanding as we work to bring you the *Moravian Daily Texts*.

If you have any questions about your order, please contact Jill Bruckart at [jill@mcnp.org](mailto:jill@mcnp.org).

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## Introducing Moravian Mission Coffee and new Moravian Star mugs



The IBOC has partnered with the Board of World Mission to bring a world of coffee to Moravians here in the U.S. **Moravian Mission Coffee** makes it possible for you to support Moravians around the globe just by drinking your morning cup of joe!

Coffee purchases help the Board of World Mission contribute to specific needs and ministries through Mission Grants. Support your coffee farmer, too — our partners at Lutheran World Relief are committed to paying their farmers a living wage to help lift their families out of poverty.

This delicious medium roast Mt. Elgon, Uganda Community Blend is available in 12 oz. bags of whole bean or ground coffee for \$11.95.

And to go along with that great coffee are our brand-new **Moravian Star café mugs!** These 18 oz., 6" tall ceramic café mugs feature a contemporary Moravian Star motif, imprinted on both sides. Mugs are russet-colored with a black interior and are dishwasher and microwave safe.

Visit [store.moravian.org](http://store.moravian.org) to learn more and to order!

### Resources for Advent and Christmas

With Advent right around the corner, remember that there is an array of resources available to help Moravian congregations celebrate the season!

Congregations and individuals have access to Moravian-focused hymns, liturgies, images, activities and much more through [www.moravianchristmas.org](http://www.moravianchristmas.org). This site is filled with downloadable material for use in online or in-person worship, seasonal promotions, family activities, etc., all with a Moravian flair.

This website continues the work begun last year during the first “Covid Christmas.” We hope that keeping these digital resources available will help congregations plan and celebrate services whether in-person or online. Additional material will be added in coming weeks.

Visit [www.moravianchristmas.org](http://www.moravianchristmas.org) today!

*Submitted by Mike Riess, Executive Director and Editor, IBOC*

## *For Your November Calendar*

3 - PEC Board Meeting  
18 – PEC Board Meeting  
25-26 Thanksgiving, PEC Office Closed

## **Moravian Music Foundation News** *November 2021*

The Board of Trustees of the **Moravian Music Foundation** announces the upcoming retirement, in August 2022, of two exceptional leaders within our organization:

**Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse, Director**  
**Gwyneth Michel, Assistant Director**

The Board expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of Nola and Gwyn, who have served 30 years and 15 years, respectively. MMF and the Moravian Church have been blessed by the work they have done, and will continue to do, and by the direction they have set for the Foundation.

For a more comprehensive overview of their amazing accomplishments, please visit our website, [moravianmusic.org/celebrating-excellence](http://moravianmusic.org/celebrating-excellence)

Through Nola's and Gwyn's leadership and your support, the Foundation has continued to preserve, share, and celebrate our unique Moravian musical culture, which has always been integral to our faith and worship. Leadership is core to the essence and success of unique organizations, like the Foundation, and strong leaders like Nola and Gwyn ensure its scope and reach. MMF will continue to celebrate 65 years of history of the Foundation throughout 2021; and, in 2022, MMF will be offering opportunities for all to express their appreciation for Nola and Gwyn and to learn about new projects and initiatives. [www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org)

*Submitted by Erik Salzwedel, Business Manager, MMF*

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## *For Your Address Book*

### **New Addresses:**

**Rev. Jeff Carter**  
807 Devon Court  
Winston-Salem 27104

**Revs. Joe and Kelly Moore**  
2521 Amesbury Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

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**Rev. Chaz Snider**

150 Peters Creek Parkway, Apt 417  
Winston-Salem NC 27101

**Rev. John G. Rights** new e-mail address: [johngrights@gmail.com](mailto:johngrights@gmail.com)

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## Nominations for Synod Elections

Provincial synod is obviously a very important time in the life of our church. Of the many significant decisions that are made by the delegates, electing gifted leadership in our province for the next four years ranks near the top. From June 1st - 4th, voting will take place to fill 39 positions.

The Nominations Committee has set aside a two-month window (**October 18 to December 20**) for receiving the names of church members who might be especially qualified to be placed on the synod ballot. Anyone may submit their own name or another person's name by using one of the Nomination forms on the Southern Province website (or requesting a form from their church office). Forms may be mailed to the PEC office or submitted on the website using survey monkey.

Elections will include the following:

- 3 laypersons and 3 clergy to serve on PEC (the PEC president is chosen differently, by ecclesiastical ballot without nomination)
- 12 board members of the Mission Society
- 2 board members for Moravian Theological Seminary
- 4 board members for Salemtowne
- 2 board members for the Board of World Mission
- 10 board members for the Provincial Women's Board
- 2 delegates for Unity Synod in 2023 (at least 1 must be female as determined at the last Unity Synod)

The responsibilities and expectations for these positions can be found on the Southern Province website ([www.mcsp.org](http://www.mcsp.org)) by following the "Nominations Information" link under "Synod 2022."

All are invited and encouraged to help the Nominations Committee assemble a strong ballot by submitting the best names possible before DECEMBER 20. Please direct any questions to committee co-chairs, Donna Hurt ([donnahurt348@gmail.com](mailto:donnahurt348@gmail.com)) or Jeff Jones ([moravian\\_dude@yahoo.com](mailto:moravian_dude@yahoo.com)).

*Submitted by Donna Hurt, co-chair, Synod Nominations Committee*

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