

Report to the Synod of 2022

From: The Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission

The Interprovincial Faith and Order (F&O) Commission is made up of appointed members, 7 from the Northern Province and 5 from the Southern Province. There are both lay and clergy on the Commission and an attempt is made to have a bishop from each Province sit on the Commission. For the first two years of the intersynodal period, the Commission met twice a year once in the South and once in the North. This was an intentional change in order to complete the new Moravian Church Catechism which had been commissioned by the Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Northern and Southern Provinces. Even before the Covid 19 restrictions, the Commission was having extra zoom meetings in order to expedite the completion of the Catechism. From March 2020 until the present, all meetings have been virtual. We have not met since the summer of 2021.

The F&O Commission's purpose is to review issues of faith and order which arise from synods, Provincial Elder Meetings or come to the Commission out of interest from the members. The F&O Commission is an advisory group to the PECs of the Northern and Southern Province. All material must be approved by the PECs before it can be made public.

During the intersynodal period the Commission has: Heard reports on our ecumenical engagements from the Presidents of the Southern and Northern Provinces; met with Beth Hayes from the South and Marie Coutts from the North to consider resources to supplement the catechism; considered the possibility of crafting a document on human sexuality.

The major work of the F&O Commission over the past four years has been work on a new catechism for the Moravian Church in the Southern and Northern Provinces. We are pleased to report that the Catechism has been published and is available through the Interprovincial Board of Communication. Many thanks to Mike Reiss for all his work.

I give thanks to all the members of the Commission over the past four years. Our secretary, Betsy Bombick did an amazing job of keeping the edits to the Catechism on track and current.