

Report to the Synod of 2022 From the Moravian Music Foundation

MISSION, PURPOSE, AND VALUES

The Moravian Music Foundation is an interprovincial agency of the church, and is also a separately-incorporated 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The Southern Province provides some support to MMF through the provincial share from the congregations, totaling \$3,840 each year of this intersynodal period, or approximately 0.6% of the 2021 operating budget of the Foundation. MMF is responsible for raising the remaining funds to support its operations including all the services provided to congregations, which will be the focus of this report.

Since the fall of 1994 the Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) has recognized as its mission *to preserve, share, and celebrate Moravian musical culture*. In the fall of 2021 the Board of Trustees adopted new vision and mission statements as follows:

Vision: *The Moravian Music Foundation preserves, shares, and celebrates historic and newly composed music, sacred and secular, to support the pivotal role music plays in lives and in worship throughout the world.*

Mission: *The Moravian Music Foundation provides opportunities and resources to inspire, engage, and educate all who are touched by the power of music.*

This mission is fulfilled through many activities and services provided to the congregations, individuals, and agencies of the Moravian Church and beyond.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Preservation: Through contracts, the Moravian Music Foundation has custody of the historic music collections owned by the Moravian Church in America, both provinces.
2. Sharing: This includes interpreting the past and present Moravian musical life and heritage, and also assisting congregations and organizations with their music and worship needs.
3. Celebrating: MMF is responsible for quadrennial Moravian Music Festivals; providing resources for Moravian Music Sunday each year; and offering other workshops, concerts, and events exploring and celebrating music in Moravian life and worship.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

1. Preservation: MMF has been converting the catalog to online records, accessible worldwide, for a number of years, and we anticipate this project being completed in less than 3 years. MMF has raised a great deal of money and used a portion of several bequests to fund the work.

MMF has received and cataloged the collected hymns of E. Artis Wright Weber (1921-2020).

2. Sharing: since the 2018 Synod, MMF has published 23 anthems in the Moravian Star Anthem Series. These include 4 arrangements of well-loved Moravian anthems in lower keys and arranged for smaller choirs, and 10 by living Moravian composers. Print costs have been supported by donations in honor of individuals, congregations, or occasions. MMF is working to make our printed music available through commercial retailers as well as directly from MMF.

MMF has also issued three compact disk recordings: *Harmonious to Dwell, Moravian Lower Brass plays favorite hymns*; *Sing Hallelujah! Moravian Music for Organ*; and *Joy of the Road*, music for piano and violin by Charles Vardell. Anticipated for completion and release later in 2022 is *What Good News: Moravian Christmas Music*. These and other Moravian music recordings are becoming available for streaming and digital download.

Throughout the pandemic MMF has been working with the Interprovincial Board of Communication to record and make available hymns and liturgies from the *Moravian Book of Worship* for online worship.

MMF has provided advice to both Provincial Elders' Conferences and many congregations and leaders, regarding music-making during the pandemic. Director Nola Knouse's 3 videos (on YouTube) concerning music and COVID-19 have received more than 17,000 views, reaching audiences far beyond the American Moravian church; at least one of these has been translated into Spanish (thank you, Angelica Regalado!).

MMF provides copyright advice and information to congregations, pastors, and musicians, and has had one-on-one contact in response to requests, over the past 4 years, with most of the North American congregations.

3. Celebrating: MMF sponsors quadrennial Moravian Music Festivals. The 26th Festival, originally scheduled for Bethlehem in July 2021, was "re-tooled" into two parts because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Part I, all-virtual, took place in July 2021, with a great many hours of recorded content, live and recorded lectures, seminars, and workshops, and social times available to Festival registrants; and nightly worship and concerts, both live and pre-recorded, accessible online to anyone. Many were involved from several different provinces of the Unity, including South Africa, European Continent, Eastern West Indies, Peru, and Tanzania.

MMF also hosts Moravian Music on the Mountain, a music weekend at Laurel Ridge, each year. The 2021 and 2022 events were cancelled because of the pandemic, but we anticipate returning to this in 2023.

MMF recognizes the faithful service of church musicians (both musical leaders and participants) in several ways. The *James V. Salzwedel Award for Excellence in Church Music* is presented to musicians who have demonstrated their musical faithfulness in congregational life. Since the 2018 synod the award has been presented to the following Southern Province musicians: Nancy Sawtelle (Friedland), James Basta (Unity), William A. Hall (Bethania, Mayodan, Fairview, King), Keith Weatherman (Hope), and Elaine Sizemore (Moravia).

MMF also presents *50 year service pins* to individuals (leaders and others) who have been active participants in church music for at least 50 years. This has been a wonderful way to recognize the faithful service of those who make music in the church.

MMF welcomes opportunities to present awards or 50-year pins in congregations.

FUTURE DIRECTION AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Challenges:

The Moravian Music Foundation is in a time of leadership transition. Nola Reed Knouse will retire at the end of August 2022 after thirty years at MMF (28 as Director). Gwyneth Michel will also retire at the same time after fifteen years as Assistant Director (Northern Province office). The Board of Trustees is engaged in a search for a new Executive Director, with the hope that the new person will be in place by mid-July to have a six-week overlap with Sister Knouse. An interim, two-day-a-week, Assistant Director will serve in the Bethlehem Office until year-end, with the new Executive Director engaged in the search to replace that position.

MMF faces significant challenges, especially in the realm of financial sustainability. We recognize the financial challenges our provinces and congregations grapple with, yet we are troubled by the low percentage of our budget supported by the provinces in relation to the amount of time and energy we devote to providing services specifically for the Moravian Church.

MMF sees the need for increased diversity on the Board of Trustees – ethnic, racial, age, orientation, and so on. Only in bringing to the table persons who represent the rich diversity of the Moravian Church will we be able to provide helpful services and resources.

2. Opportunities:

In the summer of 2022 MMF will hold Part II of the 26th Moravian Music Festival in Bethlehem (COVID-19 permitting). Some scholarship money is available. In addition, programs for children and youth are offered, with no tuition charge for those under 18 years of age.

MMF is looking towards whatever will be the next “big, hairy, audacious goal” in our work of preserving, sharing, and celebrating – we have a track record now of achieving big accomplishments by setting an ambitious goal and dedicating our energies in that direction. The board of trustees and staff would welcome suggestions from Moravians as to what that goal (or goals) should be, so that MMF can continue to be relevant and helpful to the Moravian Church.

We rejoice that technology has made it so that the person who lives in Longwood, Florida, has as much access to our offerings as does the person who lives in Winston-Salem.

Nola Reed Knouse, Director