

Report to the Synod of 2022
From: Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church

Mission, Purpose and Values

The Mission of Sunnyside Ministry is to follow Christ by providing hope through service, education and empowerment to those in need within our community. Following Christ by Empowering Others. (October 13, 2001, Rev. March 3, 2017)

The Purpose of Sunnyside Ministry, a crisis intervention agency of the Moravian Church in America Southern Province, is to serve the people in Southern Forsyth County and Northern Davidson County by offering them assistance necessitated by financial and personal crisis. Sunnyside Ministry also provides hope to people in poverty by providing education and empowerment opportunities. (March 3, 2017)

Sunnyside Ministry has three overarching responsibilities in its intentional service and mission to those in need in our community. First, Sunnyside must do everything possible to help those asking for assistance. Second, provide hope for a better future to those in need through education and empowerment. Third, Sunnyside must be the best steward of the resources donated for that assistance. Searching for and finding reasons to help is sometimes more difficult than finding reasons not to help. In the name of Christ, may our actions bless this earth with peace. (Rev. March 3, 2017)

Responsibilities

There were no responsibilities assigned

Summary of Activities

The activities of Sunnyside Ministry, much like those of the entire church and world can be divided into two distinct periods: Pre-pandemic and Pandemic.

In 2019, we were seeing slow, but consistent decreases in requests for assistance. Into early 2020, the demand for our financial literacy program reached an all-time high. We were optimistic that Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church was becoming a place of empowerment, while still helping our neighbors in crisis.

Then, on March 16, 2020 we entered an entirely new and different phase of our operations. When everyone else closed and started to stay at home, we put on our masks and gloves, washed our hands a lot and most importantly, Sunnyside Ministry remained open. With God's help, we have not had to close because of COVID-19.

Since the Pandemic began, we have distributed more than 1 million pounds of food and paid over \$1 million dollars in past due rent and utilities. Doing all of this with the echo of our forbearers in our hearts saying: "For if all faithful Christians were united in love, and each one

did study to bear the other's burden, the commandment of Christ would be fulfilled," Unity Statutes of 1464.

During this period, Congregations have gone the extra step with food drives and assistance. Konnoak Hills, Friedberg, Home, Calvary, Messiah, Advent, Christ, Olivet, Friedland and many others have hosted Food Drives, many of those "drive -thru" allowing for COVID-19 protocols. During the period, we have strengthened ties with Congregations outside of the Moravian Church, support has come from Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, and numerous non-denominational churches. These brothers and sisters in Christ have seen through Sunnyside Ministry, that the heart of the Moravian Church is rooted in missions.

We have also collaborated with various Foundations, Corporations and with the City of Winston-Salem to assist in serving our neighbors. These gifts, sometimes more than \$100,000, allow us to be a ministry that provides hope and help to our neighbors.

During the inter-synodal period, we have seen the number of individual donors to Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church increase in numbers. These gifts account for a large portion of the funds we need to assist our neighbors. These gifts are a reminder of the words from Titus 3:14 "But our people should also learn to devote themselves to doing good in order to meet pressing needs so they aren't unproductive." During the first year of the pandemic, these gifts were the most tangible way for people to help.

We have also been able to make substantial improvements to our facilities during this period. Improvements that increase our ability to serve, and provide for a safe environment. We invested more than \$90,000 in improvements. They include updated technology and computers, an emergency generator, replacement of old decking (which had become unsafe), updated security system and improved exterior lighting. Much of this work came from special grants and gifts.

Future Direction and Opportunities

Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church is the place where Moravians have put our faith into action for 44 years. A place where we have answered the call of Matthew 25, saying Lord, we have seen you people who are hungry or in need of clothing and housing and served them. This is, and will remain for some time, the direction of Sunnyside Ministry.

We are also planning on increasing our educational opportunities. These classes improve the lives of our neighbors.

The Sunnyside Ministry board is investigating the pros and cons of incorporation as a 501 (c)(3), much as the Board of World Mission, Moravian Music Foundation and Salem Congregation have already done. Sunnyside Ministry would remain an Agency of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province and this would not represent a separation from the Moravian Church but rather serve as a mechanism to make it easier to raise and receive funding outside of the church.