

Resolution

Subject: Recruitment and Training of Qualified Ministers for The Moravian Church of America Southern Province
From: Vocation & Calling Committee

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Moravian Church in America Southern Province (Section 5. Page 62), the Provincial Elders' Conference has the duty to determine the need for pastoral service in the congregations and to call pastors to meet this need; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Elders' Conference has the responsibility to take an active role in seeking, evaluating and supporting candidates for ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 a minimum of ten congregations were being served by interim ministers, supply pastors, or lay leaders; and

WHEREAS, by 2030 a large number of the existing pastors will reach full retirement age and will add further to the shortfall of available ministers to meet the needs of our congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Synod ask the Provincial Elders' Conference, our ministers, and congregations to prioritize the recruitment and training of qualified ministers to serve in The Moravian Church of America, Southern Province by communicating opportunities for education and funding for all prospective candidates including aspiring youth and young adults, and adult members who now feel ready to answer a call to ordained ministry, and be it

RESOLVED, that PEC identify a goal of recruiting ministers equal to the number of potential vacancies that may occur by 2030 based on the age of our current ministers and begin recruiting and training these ministers (roughly 4 to 5 new students every year) through Moravian Theological Seminary to meet this need; and be it

RESOLVED, that methods, possibly including direct conversations that notice, name, and nurture potential candidates, recruitment events at various levels within provincial structures (e.g. Senior High Camp, confirmation retreats, college-age retreats, youth groups) and outside of the provincial structures, descriptive and informative online platforms outlining the candidacy process and potential funding opportunities for seminary education, print media conveying the same information, and varied vocational mentors or counselors, be utilized to meet these goals.