

Resolution

Subject: Allow the Moravian Archives Southern Province to conduct an Endowment Campaign in the Intersynodal Period of 2022-2026
From: Finance Committee

WHEREAS, every Moravian province is required to maintain an Archives, which not only collects and preserves its own records but also provides certain records to the Unity Archives; and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Archives Southern Province, first mentioned in Church records in 1762, stores an estimated one million pages of documents dating from 1753, including more than 15,000 pages in manuscript German. Those records catalog not just the Church and religious life, but also reflect the total community in which the Church took root in Piedmont North Carolina, including the records of industrial, commercial, civic, ecclesiastical, educational, medical and musical institutions. Records preserved include personal diaries and correspondence, ethnographic materials, prints, broadsides, photographs, and maps. And the Archives maintains a research library of 1,600 titles, many from the eighteenth century; and

WHEREAS, every Moravian Church in the Southern Province deposits key records on an annual basis in the Archives, preserving the record and history of each member congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Moravian Archives Southern Province has been funded in equal amounts by the Province and Salem Congregation; and

WHEREAS, the ability of congregations to pay their Provincial shares dropped 12 percent during 2020 and another 6 percent during 2021, significantly impacting program budgets in all Provincial agencies but especially the Archives since Salem Congregation's funding under the matching provision also dropped; and

WHEREAS, in response to its financial challenges, the Archives Commission requested and received permission from the Provincial Support Services Board and Provincial Elders' Conference to designate an Archives Sunday annually on the last Sunday of April to solicit new gifts to support the Archives; and

WHEREAS, because of COVID cancellations of services in 2020 and 2021 on that Sunday also cancelled the Archives Sunday appeal; and

WHEREAS, because the Archives' reserves and endowment were inadequate to manage under the budget cuts for more than two more years, the Archives in January 2021 reduced its staff by one of its two positions to prolong its existing funds; and

WHEREAS, costs of utilities and materials to run the Archives have increased while income decreased; and

WHEREAS, the Archives Commission in 2021 had an assessment of its operations and collection done, which details significant work to bring it to current archival standards and digitize its collection; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Elders' Conference formed a search committee to identify a degreed archivist with the skills to accomplish the goals of the assessment, which in addition to operational costs will include the need to hire part-time staff; and

WHEREAS, the Provincial Elders' Conference and Archives Commission as stewards of the Provinces' Archives have the duty to ensure its long-term viability; and

WHEREAS, Synod approval is required for a capital campaign and waiting another four years would set the Archives that much further behind meeting financial stability; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Archives Commission and Provincial Elders' Conference be allowed to research, plan and conduct a capital campaign of up to \$1,500,000 to fund immediate improvements and create an endowment to ensure the sustainability of the Moravian Archives Southern Province for generations to come; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Archives Commission and Provincial Elders' Conference provide a detailed report to the Synod of 2026 on the outcome of their efforts.