

# Resolution

**Subject:** Name Change and Focus of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, now the Commission on Congregational Development  
**From:** Government Committee

**WHEREAS,** The Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM) proposed a reorganization of itself in 2018 to reflect changes in their focus since being created in 2009 as well as to respond to low engagement of congregations in their RCCs and challenges of staffing their board, and

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province (2018) in Section 10: Provincial Elders' Conference lists in subsection 5 the duties of the Provincial Elders' Conference to include: i. Make necessary appointments to boards, commissions, and task forces. j. Supervise and manage the day-to-day operations of the Province. k. Oversee Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM), and Provincial Support Services Board (PSSB), and the Archives, including the appointment of professional staff, and

**WHEREAS,** COVID significantly disrupted the lives and operations of congregations, creating the needs for new ways to worship as well as suspension of programs and services, and

**WHEREAS,** Congregations' abilities to pay their Provincial shares dropped 12 percent during 2020 and another 6 percent during 2021, significantly impacting program budgets in all Provincial agencies including the Board of Cooperative Ministries, and

**WHEREAS,** BCM leadership recommended significant cost reductions, including staff reductions during 2021 budget preparation for 2022, and

**WHEREAS,** The director of BCM resigned to accept another position in summer 2021, and

**WHEREAS,** Synod 2018's Resolution 17 created a Provincial Organization Core Team to make recommendations about Provincial structure by Spring 2020 but had made no recommendations by summer 2021, and

**WHEREAS,** Resolution 17, anticipating action by the PEC before the 2022 Synod, stated "that PEC be authorized to determine whether to implement any or all recommended changes on an interim basis during the intersynodal period," and

**WHEREAS,** After much study and consideration, the Provincial Elders' Conference determined that given increased support needs of congregations and reduced available funding it would reorganize and rename as a Commission to focus on advising and coaching for pastors and congregation leaders to address specific ministry development needs, replacing BCM's educational programming focused model, assuming most of the functions of the Board of Cooperative Ministries and operating under an oversight structure led by pastors, educators and laity similar to the Province's Commission on Ministry (which oversees candidacy and ordination), the Provincial Support Services Board (which oversees the finance office) and the Archives Commission, and called The Rev. Rebecca Craver to serve as director of the Commission on Congregational Development, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that** the Constitution of the Moravian Church Southern Province be amended to reflect these changes as follows:

**Section 7, Page 2:**

The following shall be members of the Provincial Synods, provided however, that in the event one or more of the entities below shall cease to exist, then such entity shall cease to have a representative at Provincial Synods:

9. The Chair of the Commission on Congregational Development.
10. The Director of the Commission on Congregational Development.

**Section 10 Provincial Elders' Conference, Page 5**

5. It shall be the duty of the Provincial Elders' Conference to:
  - a. See that the enactments of Synod are carried out, including implementation of strategic directives of Synod and setting plans and priorities for the Commission on Congregational Development.
  - k. Oversee Commission on Congregational Development, and Provincial Support Services Board (PSSB), and the Archives, including the appointment of professional staff.

**Section 11. Commission on Congregational Development, Page 6**

1. The Commission on Congregational Development shall provide support to congregations and Regional Conferences of Churches groupings to develop and maintain a high level of health and growth.
2. The Commission on Congregational Development shall be composed of three clergy/educators, three lay members of Southern Province Moravian churches and the President of the PEC. The Chair of the Board shall be elected from among the appointed members.
3. It shall be the duty of the Commission on Congregational Development to:
  - a. Oversee the development and implementation of specific plans set by the PEC for ministry and direction.
  - b. Recommend to the PEC staffing needs for the Commission on Congregational Development, including staffing structure, as well as professional staff for call and appointment.

- c. Recommend to the PEC special commissions, committees and task forces (including recommendations for appointment).
- d. Measure and report to the PEC effectiveness and results of plan implementation and action.
- e. Manage the quadrennial review process for all provincial congregations.
- f. Promote, facilitate and assist as needed in the identification and use of gifts of ministry at the congregational level.
- g. Maintain a high level of effectiveness of the staff charged with assisting congregations, RCC groups, and leaders in general within the province seeking to foster congregation health and growth.

**Section 12. Provincial Support Services, Page 7**

- 2. The Provincial Support Services Board shall be composed of two (2) members of the Commission on Congregational Development, three (3) at-large appointments by the Provincial Elders' Conference, one of which shall be an ordained pastor serving a congregation of the Southern Province, the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference, ex officio, and one (1) additional members of the Provincial Elders' Conference.
- 4. It shall be the duty of the Provincial Support Services Board to:
  - d. Monitor the financial health for the Province providing information to the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Commission on Congregational Development.

**Section 14. Provincial Contributions, Page 9**

- 2. Every congregation is required to contribute through its annual budget an amount agreed upon between the congregation and the Provincial Elders' Conference to the following causes:
  - m. Provincial Elders' Conference, Commission on Congregational Development, Provincial Support Services, Regional Conferences of Churches, Congregations and such other ministry as the Provincial Elders' Conference shall from time to time determine.

**Section 17. Regional Conferences of Churches, Page 10**

- 2. It shall be the duty of Regional Conferences of Churches to:
  - b. Serve as a resource for input to the Commission on Congregational Development on local congregations' needs and perspectives in order to enable the CCD to provide practical and professional help.

**Section 25. Other Boards and Commissions, Page 13**

The following entities, while not separately incorporated, determine their own By Laws and operate under the oversight of a Board with members elected by the Provincial Synod, or under a Board the members of which are appointed by a Board elected by the Provincial Synod:

- 3. The Sunnyside Ministry Program Board, overseen by the Commission on Congregational Development.

*Note: This proposal changes the Constitution and requires a 2/3 majority vote.*