



PROVINCIAL TIES

August 2022



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Finding Renewal

August has been the month in the Moravian calendar for remembering the renewal. The renewal was more than an event that took place on Wednesday, August 13, 1727. It marks the culmination of a process that had been building for a while. And it gave birth to what arguably is the birth moment of the Moravian Church as it has come to move and have its collective being ever since. August is a month to remember and reflect on the Spirit's ongoing effort to breathe within the church new energy and life.

A fascinating element of the narratives connected to the renewal of 1727 is the manner in which the Spirit turned contention and struggle into opportunity. Zinzendorf took an active role in mediating for common ground, which included creating stated guidelines for community life that would later be adapted into parts of the Brother Agreement (now known as the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living). At the beginning of August it would appear the community was on a collision course to break apart. Until the vesper service on August 10 in Herrnhut.

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A service that normally included a brief gathering in the early evening for prayer and a few hymns, turned into an outpouring of forgiveness and hope that lasted well into the night. A certain brother stood to confess his complicity with creating the tension and rancor in the community. He admitted to speaking behind the back of another brother present, and openly asked for forgiveness. The brother who was named, stood and admitted to the same offense – of speaking behind the back of the brother who had just confessed. The community responded by singing a hymn to acknowledge the moment of mutual forgiveness. Then another member of the community stood to make a similar confession. A chain reaction of confession, forgiveness, and hymn singing went on and on for many hours. By the time it ended, there was clearly a newfound sense of God’s presence and desire for unity and hope in the community. The following day Zinzendorf and Pastor Rothe at the Lutheran church in Berthelsdorf arranged for a communion service to celebrate this new spirit of unity and set it for Wednesday, August 13. History reflects a similar sense of God’s Spirit unfolded, which has been remembered as the official moment of renewal and the pouring out of God’s Spirit on the community.

Meanwhile, the two men who were the first to admit their need for forgiveness in the vesper service, noted that they were inspired by the children of Herrnhut. Beginning in May, the children had been holding their own spiritual demonstration. Led by Elizabeth Verling, they met each morning at the community well to pray for the adults to get over their division. By August 10, they had been gathering for prayer for more than 90 days. What a public display that must have been. God used their faithful example to melt the anger and contempt that had separated the adults and to spark the forgiveness that preceded the renewal of August 13.

Each year when August arrives, the story of our renewal in 1727, inspires me. Especially the role of the Spirit to move in the hearts of many within the community to set the stage for what would come. Being open to God’s Spirit to move in each of us, and more importantly, being on the lookout for renewal to come through our mutual willingness to forgive and pursue mutual hope. I invite you to seek God’s renewing spirit in the church, your home, and your work.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, PEC

News from the PEC

August 2022

Provincial Elders met on July 21. The PEC has selected to meet twice a month moving forward – one extended meeting to cover the present business and needs of the Province, and a shorter virtual meeting to check-in and offer updates on an array of matters. This meeting was the extended meeting for July. Presentations were made by Rebecca Craver for Commission on Congregation Development, Robyn Glance on financial matters, and David Marcus for the Commission on Ordained Ministry. These updates included plans for a joint planning session later this fall for PEC, CCD, and COM; present candidates for ministry; and descriptions of the process for building the annual budget.

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An update was also given by Christy Clore and Neil Routh on the transition of Christy Clore to a temporary part-time position within the CCD. At Kernersville Moravian, plans are underway for a bridge interim to take Christy's place as the Joint Board moves forward toward calling a permanent pastor.

PEC received updates related to Mountain Laurel Fellowship, the upcoming Board of World Mission summit in Panama (September), and the certification of the 2022 Synod minutes.

PEC reviewed the travel calendar for various events and meetings (August-December) which include: Moravian Ministries Foundation interprovincial agency round table (August, Harrisonburg, VA); BWM Summit (September, Panama); Christian Churches Together (October, Indianapolis); BWM meeting (October, Bethlehem, PA); Moravian Theological Seminary Trustees (October, Bethlehem, PA); Interprovincial Ministers' Convocation (October, Adamstown, MD).

Actions included the election of Christy Clore as the Vice President of the PEC, and Andi Williams as the Secretary of the PEC. Action was also taken to enter into the minutes authority for Routh, Clore, and Williams to sign official documents on behalf of the PEC.

PEC concluded the meeting with discussion about responding to the Supreme Court of the United States decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade in June. Effort is underway to make available the Statement on Abortion by the 1995 and 1998 Synods, as well as the previous work of the Board of Christian Education to provide study materials and information on the issues related to abortion. Neil Routh continues to be in a hand off transition with Chris Thore, and will officially take office on August 5.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, PEC

Just say 'no' to stewardship campaigns and other tips

By Laura Watson

As fall rapidly approaches, many communities of faith are making plans for "a stewardship campaign" (CRINGE!). If you're one of them, here are four important areas to consider before you go any further:

Current trends

- Be aware of inflation's impact on everyone. If the current rate holds, giving will need to increase by 9% for you to maintain your current level of ministry. You may think, "We'll have to cut back," but ministry funding is about impacting people's lives through Jesus, so the question to answer is, "How can we grow giving rather than reduce spending?"



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- Consider people's values, money motivations (does money mean freedom, security, power, and/or love?), and experiences (generationally, within the church, in the world), as well as the theology of stewardship taught in your church (hopefully that includes that our identity as God's stewards is grounded in trust, gratitude, generosity, and love). All these things impact a person's decision to give God their time, talent, treasure, and more.

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Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Changes:

Sister **Christy Clore** has recently accepted a call to provincial service as the Interim Faith Formation Coordinator. Christy will be working closely for a period of six to twelve months with Sister Rebecca Craver, Executive Director, Commission for Congregational Development.

Christy concluded her interim work at Kernersville Moravian at the end of July and will begin this new work in September. Please keep Christy, Kernersville Moravian, and the Congregational Development team in your prayers as these transitions begin to take place.

Brother **Robert Peterson** will be the Transitional Interim Pastor for Grace Moravian Church beginning August 7. He will remain in place as the Joint Board officially enters a call process to secure a permanent pastor for the future.

Brother **Neil Routh** officially begins his role as President of the PEC on August 5. His family is presently in a process to establish permanent residence in Winston-Salem after living in the parsonage of Grace Moravian Church since 2016.

Retirement:

Sister **Nola Knouse**, Director of the Moravian Music Foundation since 1992, will retire at the end of this month. Nola was ordained a deacon in the Moravian Church on September 27, 2009 and consecrated a presbyter March 1, 2015. We express deep appreciation to Nola for her faithful and dedicated service to the Moravian Music Foundation and wish her many blessings in retirement. Please plan to join us in celebrating her retirement on Sunday, August 7, 2022, Home Moravian Church, Fellowship Hall, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm, (floating).

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Ordination Anniversaries for August 2022

Worth Green.....45 years
Donald Griffin..... 39 years
Suzanne Miller.....14 years
Tracy Pryor.....23 years
James Salzwedel.....61 years
Arkon Stewart.....32 years
Sandra Thigpen.....30 years
Scott Venable.....43 years
Frank Barker.....59 years
Andrew Craver.....4 years
Scott Rainey..... 1 year

Congratulations and God Bless You!

For Your August Calendar

- 4 Virtual PEC Meeting
- 18 PEC Meeting, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Cedarhyrst Conference Room
- 21 Children’s Festival, New Philadelphia, 2-4
- 23-27 Bishops’ Conference, Bethlehem, PA



Daughters in the Kingdom *Faith . Grace . Feet*

The 2022 Spiritual Life Retreat, "Daughters of the Kingdom (Faith. Grace. Feet)" will be Friday September 16 – Sunday September 18, 2022 with Retreat Facilitator: Sister Traci Fisher (daughter of Hope Moravian in Winston-Salem, NC) at Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center.

The Spiritual Life Retreat is an opportunity for *all* women in the Province to gather for spiritual renewal and fellowship.

To register, please contact the PWB office at 336.722.4911 or pwbmcsp@gmail.com

Submitted by Cindy Lamb

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