



# PROVINCIAL TIES

January 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

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## **“Interdependence – the Challenge of Working Together” Part I**

In his book, The Power of Giving Power Away (2021), Matthew Barzun describes a strategy for leadership that was critical for the successful establishment of the United States in the early decades. He refers to it as “constellation” leadership, which depends deeply on the mutual willingness of those involved or impacted to work together interdependently for vital goals and outcomes. His writing covers how the founding leaders of our nation used this strategy to keep the original states linked for mutual support.

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Barzun goes on to make a strong case for how pyramid strategies of leadership are far more familiar to western cultures whether they are top-down leadership or inverted to be bottom-up leadership, this traditional style breeds independence or dependence. Often referred to as “silos”, it results in competing for energy and resources as well as groups with their own goals and priorities that are often disconnected from other groups. The genius of “constellation” leadership is that it fosters the mutual dreaming, resourcing, and support needed for communities to thrive often resulting in far more energy, hope, and mutual fulfillment.

Barzun is clear, however, that working together interdependently is much harder than working through independently or dependently and hinges on the commitment to being an “us together” rather than “you” or “me.” It requires being more okay with being uncomfortable from the effort it takes to support trust and meaningful connection with all who seek to be involved.

When I consider the amazing ministries that have flourished in many of our congregations despite the challenges of the pandemic in the last three years, they include lots of examples of outreach and mission to members and neighbors that epitomize working interdependently. From the Thrift Shop at Union Cross to the monthly community meal hosted at Grace; from the amazing crisis response of the Board of World Mission in the Ukraine to the wonderful work of the Unity Women’s Desk; from the many volunteers that keep the efforts of Sunnyside Ministry and the Dwelling shining as beacons of light to so many experiencing housing and food insecurity. Energy and resources flow more effectively when we are linked interdependently around common points of ministry.

In February, the PEC is seeking to gather the clergy, Christian educators, and provincial acolytes who serve under call or appointment as leaders in this province for the purpose of engaging this vision of “constellation” leadership. At the core is the spiritual wisdom found in 1 John 4:9-12 – the Agape Love of God that remains the centrifuge of all we are able to do in the name of Jesus for others and ourselves.

I invite you to look for the places in your life where interdependence has made a positive difference. Whether it is being part of a ministry team, engaging in outreach and mission within the church or in the community, or building goals and dreams within your family or friend network. Pay attention to how energy flows in these spaces. What would happen if working interdependently became a primary strategy in your life. It may be confusing and frustrating at first because it doesn’t work well without the presence of mutual respect and desire to nurture relationship. However, I believe it is the way to ignite our communities and relationships with the Agape Love of God - to live more fully into what 1 John 4:12 means by the effort of God to complete God’s good work within each of us. (Part II next month)

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

## ***Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity***



On Monday January 23 at 12:00pm (Eastern Time), Rev. Andrew Heil, of Winston-Salem, NC, will offer personal reflections on the work of ecumenism and share from his experience attending the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany.

*Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CCD*

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## **News from the PEC**

***January 2023***

The PEC met for a retreat (Nov 29-Dec 1) at Laurel Ridge to develop our operational structure for how the PEC, Commission on Congregational Development, and Commission on Ministry will partner in this Synodal period, especially for responding to the resolutions of the 2022 Synod. This was a beginning with ongoing work to be done. Our next step will be to share the vision and direction through a summit event for all who are under call or appointment as clergy, Directors of Christian Education, and Provincial Acolytes in February. Stay tuned for more details.

The PEC met on Dec 15. The meeting included reviewing the financial status of provincial support from congregations and the progress of the 2022 budget. The overall picture is positive. We received an update from CCD about their work to develop a new Lilly Grant to support spiritual formation ministry to families and caregivers. A calendar for quadrennial reviews of congregations for this spring is presently in development.

The PEC discussed their present engagements with several congregations including Calvary, Admore, Come and Worship, Raleigh, Grace, Union Cross, Kernersville, and Moravia. Routh and Clore shared about their experience with the Florida-Georgia District staff retreat (Dec 2-4 at 1st Georgia Moravian Church in Stone Mountain, GA). This included the clergy and provincial Acolytes and their spouses.

We also discussed moving forward with the specific resolutions from the 2022 Synod that call for further vision building and congregationally engagement that are connected to Resolution 8 ("4 Key Areas of Growth") and Resolution 9

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("Renewing and Reimagining Faith Communities"). The next step is working with the Provincial Core Organization Team from the last Synod period to continue this work that originated in their project (2019-2022).

The PEC held the first of a new series of the monthly Moravian Ministry Association (MMA) on Dec 8 at Trinity (10:30 AM - 12:00 PM) in partnership with the MMA planning team. A virtual link was provided for those unable to be present in person. 43 clergy, DCEs and Provincial Acolytes participated in person with attending online virtually. Routh shared a brief devotional based on 1 John 4:9-12 and the call to engage unconditional love as leadership community for the province. Clore guided a process of inviting everyone into a small group discussion to further engage the topic. The session concluded with an update from the PEC and an opportunity for those present to direct questions to the PEC.

The PEC endorsed Rachel Butts (DCE at King Moravian) for receiving full certification status. She joins Evie Blum (DCE at New Philadelphia Moravian) in being recognized at the upcoming national Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) conference.

The PEC also endorsed the request of the Historic Bethabara Park Board and its Director (Frank Brown) in their application for a grant from the National Park Service for extensive renovation of the Gemein House.

The PEC and CCD will be working together to appoint a team to begin the process of securing a more specific vision and direction for Resolution 31 from the 2022 Synod. This resolution calls for the creation of a new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry with a goal of beginning a search for candidates in the 2nd quarter as the 2023 Provincial budget support begins to make such a hire possible.

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

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## Imagine the possibilities!

By Vince Holbrook

Think of all the good your congregation could do with \$10,000! The 2023 Moravian Day of Giving will provide \$10,000 (unrestricted) to one U.S. Moravian congregation or fellowship with the highest level of participation.



The congregation with the second highest level of participation will receive \$5,000.00 and the third highest level of participation will receive \$2,500.00. Help your congregation do more good by promoting high participation on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 to your congregation on the [Moravian Giving Portal](#).

[Click here for more details](#)

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[Click here to get ready-to-go bulletin insert artwork for February 12 or 19.](#)

[Click here for other ready-to-go resources, including scripts, PowerPoint presentation, Social Media or Newsletter posts, logos and artwork.](#)



## Concerns and Celebrations

### Pastoral Changes:

We join with the congregation of Moravia Moravian Church in celebrating the ministry of the Rt. Rev. **Carol Foltz** as pastor. Sister Carol officially retired December 31, 2022.

The congregation celebrated her ministry and her 45 years of pastoral service in the Southern Province during worship on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

### *Ordination Anniversaries for January 2023*

Ray Burke.....	46
James Doss.....	48
Truman Dunn.....	49
R. Burke Johnson.....	56
Roy Ledbetter.....	49
Russell May.....	17
Virginia Tobiassen.....	10
Evette Campbell.....	3

### *Congratulations and God Bless You!*



# CCD Update

*January 2023*

## **APCE Share: Faith Formation Resource Roundtable**

**When:** Thursday, February 9, 2023, 11am-1pm, BYOL (Bring your own lunch)

**Where:** To be determined, but there will be a hybrid option.

Zoom Link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358026811>, Meeting ID: 863 5802 6811)

**Who:** All educators and clergy who are working on faith formation or curious about trends in faith formation.

**What:** An opportunity to hear from those who attended the [annual Association of Partners in Christian Education](#) about faith formation resources, strategies and other helpful information. This is also a time for those who attended to connect after the event.

## **MMA Follow Up**

On January 5, 2023, the Moravian Ministries Association met and spent some time in conversation about goals and plans. We are grateful for the gifts and experience that is present among the leaders in our province. Your ability to share and support each other in ministry is tremendous! Please continue to reach out to one another and to us for ideas, tools, or other resources to support your ministry goals in your congregation.

If you were unable to join us and would like to plug in here are the topics and groups:

**Board Structure/Organization:** Dana Myers, Fran Saylor, Rusty Rushing, David Berrier, Russ May, Nola Knouse, Neil Routh, Eulencine Christopher, Betty Helms

**Church Growth:** Worth Green, Tim Sapp, Tony Hayworth and Bob Peterson

**Faith Formation:** Andrew Craver, Christy Clore, Donna Hurt, Evie Blum, John Jackman, Deb Aboudara, Reed Lawson

**Community Engagement:** Suzanne Miller, Ginny Tobiassen, Rachael Butts, Scott Rainey, Chris Spaugh

**Board/church goal setting:** Margaret Norris, Steve Craver, Betty Helms and Doug Rights

**General Discernment:** Zach Dease, Andrew Heil, Wayne Burkette, Chaz Snider, Noah Smith, Madi White, Matthew Allen, John D. Rights, John G. Rights, Dion Christopher, Keith Kapp, Chuck Harmon, Jim Newsome, Dan Nelson, Robyn Glance

*Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CC*

## Save the Date – Provincial Leadership Summit

### *February 23 & 24*

The PEC is calling upon all leadership under call or appointment (i.e., active clergy, Christian Educators, and Provincial Acolytes) to attend a special leadership summit to be held Feb 23 and 24, 2023. As soon as the location is confirmed we will share that information with you. This event will begin with a dinner and special presentation from the PEC on their vision for the next four years. Friday will include a full day (9 AM – 4 PM) of presentations and small group discussions to facilitate more understanding and trust building for partnering together for the mutual ministry of the province. Expensing for transportation and lodging will be provided for those traveling from outside the immediate area. Dinner on Thursday night and lunch on Friday will be included as part of the event.

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### For Your January Calendar

5 - PEC Virtual Meeting, Cedarhyrst  
16 - PEC Offices Closed for MLK, Jr. Day  
19 - PEC Meeting, Cedarhyrst  
20-22 - Winter Camp, Middle and Senior High Camps

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### For Your Address Book

Lane Sapp - new email address: [lsapp@mcsp.org](mailto:lsapp@mcsp.org)

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