

PROVINCIAL TIES

February 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

2023 Watchword

The watchword for the Southern Province is Nehemiah 9:31 – “Lord, in your great mercies you did not make an end of your people.”

“Interdependence – the Challenge of Working Together” Part 2

One key expression for development and the practice of successful leadership for our Moravian forebears is “interdependence.” It has been woven deeply into the fabric of Moravian history from the development of the choir system to how settlement communities (i.e., Bethlehem and Salem) were supposed to function. It continues to be a core value for healthy congregational leadership and ministry. But in reality working interdependently with a group of people – or with a network of groups – is not our natural tendency. Most folks in our broader society prefer independence or dependence. Doing things our own way or demanding a set way for others to follow is much easier than the effort and investment it takes to develop mutual trust that is interdependent.

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Last month, I mentioned a book, The Power of Giving Power Away (Matthew Barzun, 2021). It explains this phenomenon. The storyline of Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book may be a more familiar example. It features the stories of Mowgli, who was orphaned at a young age, is raised by animals in the jungle, and learns through adventure and challenge. He starts out dependent on others for his care. As he grows older, he assumes that being fiercely independent is the source of strength and power. But he discovers that living the jungle life is a constant pendulum swing between trying to be independent and winding up dependent on others for safety and care. When he returns to live in the village, his final lesson toward development is the challenge of engaging mutual interdependence with others. Mowgli discovers this struggle is its own jungle.

A key aspect that drives our preferences related to independence or dependence versus interdependence is how we feel and think about uncertainty. Matthew Barzun contends that we opt for independence (or dependence in some cases) because we are generally uncomfortable with uncertainty. Being independent or dependent, lets us create who is "us" and who is "them." These positions give us easier responses to being anxious and uncertain and even provide the illusion of certainty and control in our attempt to create predictable outcomes and measures.

Interdependence is hard because it requires the investment of relationships. Not just the simple surface connections of knowing who to call when you need something fixed, but the deeper level of actively seeking to show up for one another and share true interest in one another's wellbeing and success. For interdependence to be successful, it requires a willingness to make room for being uncomfortable at times. To resist our nature for certainty and predictability. And to trust the process that brings us into closer cooperation and relationship with one another. It opens a new awareness of what it means to be "us together" – rather than "us" versus "them."

The PEC has asked all clergy, provincial acolytes, and Christian educators under call or appointment in the congregations and ministries of the Southern Province to gather for an important summit – February 23 and 24 at New Philadelphia Moravian Church. This includes those in specialized ministry who are eligible for call.

There are three goals for this event: 1) to share important updates for the work the 2022 Synod asked of all of us; 2) to offer a process for building together a clear vision and direction for our mutual ministry; 3) to provide space for the PEC to listen and gather feedback about building stronger relationships of mutual trust.

The event begins at 5 PM, Thursday, February 23 at New Philadelphia Moravian Church – with an opening and dinner, followed by a presentation from the PEC. Beginning at 8:30 AM, Friday, February 24 (until 5 PM) various members of the PEC will provide presentations on the theme of TRUST, each with a period of small group discussion and total group feedback. The PEC is covering the cost for travel for those traveling in from a distance, including lodging on Thursday and Friday nights for those who need it. If this includes you, please share your request for lodging and travel plans with Beverly Johnson no later than **February 7**. All attending the event need to RSVP to Beverly by this same date (bjohnson@mcsp.org).

Please join me and the PEC as we work through this summit to take important steps toward a shared vision of interdependence and cooperation – and listening for the leading of God's Spirit.

UNITY PRAYER DAY and OFFERING

Each year Moravian churches around the world celebrate the founding of the Unitas Fratrum (March 1, 1457) and receive a special "Unity Offering" for an important project or cause somewhere in the Moravian world. Sunday, March 5, 2023 is the Day of Prayer for Unity Work. Congregations are invited to pray for our worldwide church and to receive a special offering. This year, 2023, the Unity Prayer Day Offering will go to kickstart the fundraising for the Moravian Unity Disaster Relief Fund (MUDRF). This project will assist Moravian provinces seeking support for disaster relief in the event of natural or manmade disasters occurring in the area of operation of the Moravian Provinces.

After gathering contributions, congregations may send one check to the Provincial Finance Office clearly indicating that it is for the Unity Offering.

Save the Date – Provincial Leadership Summit **February 23 & 24,** **New Philadelphia Moravian Church**

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 at New Philadelphia Moravian Church.

This event will begin 5 PM, Thursday, February 23 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 – 5 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.

Please RSVP to Beverly Johnson, bjohnson@mcsp.org, no later than February 7 if you are able to attend.

For those traveling outside of the area needing lodging, you will need to RSVP to Beverly by February 7 so a room can be held for you.

If you will need transportation to and from the Greensboro Airport, you will need to send to Beverly your flight itinerary so a shuttle can be arranged for you.

Day of Prayer Services for 2023

February 22, 11:00 A.M.- Home Moravian Ash Wednesday, Speaker: Rev. Sandra Thigpen, special music, Alex Helsabeck. Coffee Fellowship at 10 A.M. in Fellowship Hall. The service will be available in person and live-streamed on the Home Church Web page. Click on Live broadcasts to access the service.

<https://www.homemoravian.org/index.php/live-broadcasts/>

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February 26, 2:00 P.M. - Christ Moravian, Speaker: Bobby Kimbrough, Forsyth County Sheriff. Lovefeast. Nursery provided.

March 1, 11:00 A.M. - Trinity Moravian, Speaker: Rev. Russell Williams. Lunch will be served after the service.

March 8, 11:00 A.M. - Ardmore Moravian, Speaker: Rev. Scott Venable. Refreshments will be served at 10:00 A.M. The service will be in person and online:
www.FACEBOOK.com/ArdmoreMoravian/videos

March 15, 11:00 A.M. - Calvary Moravian, Speaker: Rev. Madi White. Coffee served at 10:00 P.M. This service will be in person only.

March 22, 11:00 A.M. - Fairview Moravian, Speaker: Rev. Jeff Carter. The service will be in person and include communion. The service will be available on YouTube and Facebook.

March 29, 11:00 A.M. - Konnoak Hills Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Ginny Tobiassen. Lovefeast. The service will be in person and online:
<http://www.khmoravian.org/> Select "YouTube Chanel" at the top of the page.

Submitted by Cindy Lamb



Bishops Graf and Rights on the Moravian Day of Giving (February 21)

By Vince Holbrook

If you want to better understand the importance and value of the [Moravian Day of Giving](#), just listen to these recorded messages from The Rt. Rev. Paul Graf and The Rt. Rev. Graham Rights. They are our sponsoring bishops for the third annual Moravian Day of Giving. It's the one day we ask your help to replenish grant-making [field of interest funds](#) by giving above and beyond your tithe or pledge. The Moravian Ministries Foundation in

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America puts incentives in place for gifts to both congregations and grant-making funds, so your gifts go further on this day than any other. Special thanks to Austin Craver ([Commission on Congregational Development](#)), Sylvie Hauser ([Board of World Mission](#)), and Mike Riess ([Interprovincial Board of Communication](#)) for producing these videos.

[Watch Bishop Graf Video Now](#)

[Watch Bishop Rights Video Now](#)

News from the PEC

February 2023

The PEC met on January 5 and 19. Our present work has included approving the financial audit of the provincial finances, conducting call meetings with three congregations, and planning the upcoming Leadership Summit (Feb 23 & 24 at New Philadelphia Moravian Church). Visiting congregations as part of worship included visits to Calvary, The Table, Clemmons, and Union Cross. Plans are underway for additional visits as part of Wednesday night Lenten programs at Mizpah and Rural Hall.

The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp completed his ministry at Calvary with a send off on January 8. He arrived and began as the Director of the Commission on Ministry on January 30.

Development is underway in partnership with the Provincial Support Services Board to bring together a property committee to assist in assessing the needs and responsibilities connected to acquiring or closing church property. This is particularly necessary at present with the close of Providence Moravian Church (December 31, 2022) that includes ongoing maintenance and operation of its cemetery.

Call process conversations continue with Ardmore, Grace, Kernersville, Leaksville, Moravia and Raleigh. Conversation has begun to secure more clarification for helping fellowships and congregations in development – including The Table and Come and Worship.

The PEC hosted the Moravian Ministries Association meeting on January 5, 10:30 AM at Trinity Moravian. We featured what we are learning from Quadrennial Review conversations with clergy and congregations. Part of the meeting included ways clergy and DCEs can work together for crowd sourcing ideas and goals for the new year. A principle theme being: what does it mean to engage successful ministry in the aftermath of the pandemic. The meeting on Feb 2 will focus on what the PEC is discovering about the call process including space for feedback from the clergy and DCEs. Please remember that attendance at MMA meetings is expected from all clergy, provincial acolytes, and DCEs under call or appointment to congregations in the MCSP. A virtual link is available for those unable to be in-person. However, in-person attendance is greatly encouraged.

The PEC meetings for February have been moved to accommodate the schedule of various engagements and the Leadership Summit. They include Feb 9 and Feb 25.

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

Concerns and Celebrations

Ordination Anniversaries for February 2023

Paul Couch, Jr.....29 years
Tim Sapp.....17 years
Craig Troutman.....41 years
Steve Wilson.....47 years
Andrew Heil.....10 years
Fran Saylor.....5 years

DCE Anniversary for February 2023

Joyce Vance.....23 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!

Great Sabbath Singers Wanted

Under the direction of Drake Flynt, with Mary Louise Kapp Peebles as organist, the Great Sabbath Chorus will present a Great Sabbath Service of Music and Worship on Saturday, April 8.

Chorus rehearsals begin on Sunday, February 26 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Home Moravian Church. Sunday afternoon rehearsals will continue on March 5, 12, 19, and 26 and on Friday, March 31, at 7:00 pm.

Singers from all our churches are encouraged to sing. Community singers are also invited. The music this year will feature the Rutter Requiem.

Interested singers should email Ted Leinbach at tedleinbach@aol.com.

Submitted by Ted Leinbach for the Great Sabbath Committee

CCD Update

February 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)

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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.

Admin Power Lunch Bunch

When: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12pm-1pm, BYOL-drinks and dessert provided

Where: Cedarhryst (459 S. Church St) and via Zoom

Zoom Link

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81195486265?pwd=MnhKWDRvRC9QbmZoMlhsZ0grZzlPU T09>, Meeting ID: 811 9548 6265)

Who: Administrative staff in congregations, please encourage your staff to attend as part of their work with your congregation.

What: We hope to provide space for administrative staff to get support for their congregational work. We will base programs on the requests from participants and help onboarding new administrative staff as they are hired.

Things like,

- Keeping congregational records up to date
- Archive requests and information that should be sent to the Archives
- Marketing support for social media, e-newsletters, websites, etc.
- Opportunities to crowdsource questions and ideas together
- Knowledge about the provincial supports that are available

Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CCD

Moravian Music Foundation

February 2023

Moravian Music on the Mountain, March 10-12, 2023, Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference and Retreat Center

Please join us for a cozy weekend of music and fellowship at Laurel Ridge. You may sing, play in the band, share your gifts at our talent night, or just listen and enjoy.

Our leaders will be Amanda Moody-Schumpert, Chorus; Van Krause, Band; Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp, Devotions. More information at <https://moravianmusic.org/music-on-the-mountain-2023/> Registration is easy and your participation supports Moravian music and Laurel Ridge! <https://moravianmusic.regfox.com/moravian-music-on-the-mountain> **Moravian Music Weekends were created to give participants an opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn, and to enjoy Moravian fellowship in a casual mountain setting with cozy accommodations and delicious meals included.**

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Moramus Chorale – Singers Wanted!

Please share with choirs and worship teams.

New prospective singers or those who want to find out more are encouraged to come to the next rehearsal and meet the Director. The Moramus Chorale is a concert-level and recording-level performance ensemble of the Moravian Music Foundation. They have premiered new works by living composers and presented "first modern performances"

of many (newly edited) works by historic composers. The Chorale seeks talented singers, with an interest in Moravian music, who welcome a challenge and are committed to excellence. Director: Drake Flynt MMF (336) 725-0651 or info@moravianmusic.org moravianmusic.org/moramus-chorale/

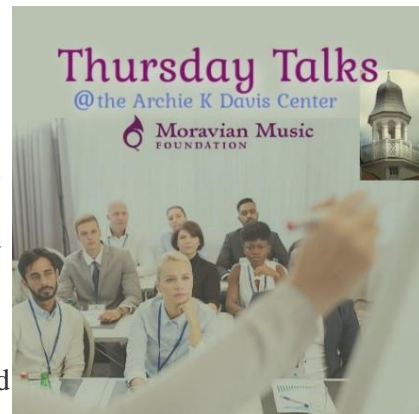
Rehearsals are the 2nd Saturday of the month 10:00am, and the Fourth Tuesday of the month 7:00 - 9:00pm. (Saturday dress rehearsals and additional sectionals and rehearsals are common, scheduled as needed.)

Thursday Talks @ the Archie K Davis Center

As part of MMF's educational mission, informative lectures are offered, free to the public, on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Talks will cover a variety of research topics, spanning music history, musicology, and biography or provide information about MMF projects and programs. While our lectures are packed with information, they are concise and move at a quick pace. We keep it light and fun, presented with lots of visual aids, listening, and light refreshments! More details and links to past lecture video at bit.ly/3kRmR3W [The Moravian Archives is lining up Talks for the 4th Thursday of each month.]

Thursday Talks, for the spring of 2023, will be at the Archie K. Davis Center in Winston-Salem, NC.

- Thursday, February 9: "Anachronistic Anacreontic Politics" (Dave Blum, speaker)
- Thursday, February 23: Rev. John Jackman will speak about his new historical film project on Jan Hus.
- Thursday, March 9: "Follow the Music" (Barbara Strauss, speaker)
- Thursday, April 13: "The Moravian Music Foundation: A History" (Christopher Ogburn, speaker) A guided tour of the vault will be offered in conjunction with this Talk.
- Thursday, May 11: "David Tannenberg and the American Organ" [A precursor to the May 12 performance of the Tannenberg at the James A. Gray Auditorium] (Christopher Ogburn, speaker)



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The Little Sparrows Music Academy is a new initiative by the Moravian Music Foundation, commencing in January 2023, to celebrate and remember the importance of music education in the history of the Moravian church. The Little Sparrows Academy is an

educational outreach program that will be catered towards the youngest children in our community. As an outreach program of MMF, we take our music on the road. Our visits/lessons/sessions are delivered through well-established early childhood educational programs in our community. <https://moravianmusic.org/little-sparrows-music-academy/>

Submitted by Erik J Salzwedel, Manager of Operations & Communications, Moravian Music Foundation

APCE Share Faith Formation Resource Roundtable

When: Thursday, February 9, 2023,
11am-1pm,
BYOL (Bring your Own Lunch)

Where: Club Room
at Home Moravian Church
and via Zoom



Come to S. Church Street in Old Salem, look for signs to direct you from there.
(This is a half block down the street from the Lending Library at 459 S. Church Street.)

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 Association of Partners in Christian Education Annual Event as they share about faith formation resources, strategies, workshop presentations, and other helpful information they gleaned from this year's event in Birmingham. This is also a time for those who attended to connect after the event.



459 S. Church St., Winston Salem, NC 27101
336.722.8124

<https://www.moravian.org/ccd/>

Submitted by The Rev. Christy Clore

MCSP CONGREGATIONS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS SURVEY

DUE March 1, 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/MCSPCaringSurvey>



The CCD's Advocacy & Justice Team invites **ALL Congregational Leaders** to complete this 3 minute survey! Leaders of Boards, Circles, Youth, Sunday School, Mission Teams, Clergy & DCE's too!

[CARING FOR NEIGHBORS SURVEY](#) DUE MARCH 1

We NEED Your HELP!! Yes, YOU! Are you a leader in a Moravian Church in the Southern Province? Are you a Board Chair or Vice Chair? Women's Fellowship Circle Leader? Youth Group Leader? Sunday School Teacher? Mission Team leader? Social Concerns leader? Do you help with local missions? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Please take 3 minutes to fill out this survey <https://tinyurl.com/MCSPCaringSurvey> about how your congregation or fellowship is involved in caring for your neighbors and local community. This survey is being conducted by the Moravian Advocacy and Justice Action Team (AJAT), a team of the CCD, that came out of Synod 2022. This survey is in preparation for the MCSP "Bridges to Community" event that will be held on May 6th in Winston-Salem. [The Survey IS DUE by MARCH 1.](#)

Many thanks,
your MCSP AJAT Leaders

Questions: Contact Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller at PastorSuzanneMiller@gmail.com or 919-815-7861.

For Your February Calendar

9 - PEC Virtual Meeting, Cedarhyrst
25 - PEC Meeting, Cedarhyrst
17-19 - Winter Journey, LR
23-24 - Leadership Summit, New Philadelphia



For Your Address Book

Lane Sapp's new work information: lsapp@mcsp.org , 459 South Church Street,
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Published monthly by
The Provincial Elders' Conference, Southern Province

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