



PROVINCIAL TIES

May 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

God's Ongoing Work of Transformation

One of the great themes of the journey for growing deeper in connection with God, is the theme of change. In the life and teaching of Jesus, we learn that change isn't our biggest challenge - transformation is. And that God often presents something new to be a catalyst of transformation, which first requires a process of grief and letting go before it can be fully embraced. As the Easter season continues toward Pentecost, the lectionary for this part of the year calls us to consider anew the struggle to embrace the new leading of God as a process from letting go of the old and familiar to embracing the new transformation.

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The story of the “Walk to Emmaus” (Luke 24:13-35) is a wonderful picture of the difference between change and transformation and specifically, the process involved in the transformation Jesus represents. This story offers valuable clues for the mission of individual followers of Jesus, as well as congregations and ministry groups in our efforts to live fully in Christ while struggling through the disruptions of a pandemic that has lasted several years. Transformation has always been vital and important but living through the struggles of recent years, I have come to appreciate this story in new ways. While it would take a lot more space than this short reflection to get into them all, allow me to mention a few of these critical clues related to transformation that remain important for the present moment.

Clue one: Being overwhelmed by grief, you might even say crushed. These two disciples got up early on Easter morning and decided to walk the seven-mile journey home from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Several experiences with grief and loss hit me so hard, that taking long hikes became important therapy. Having a friend to walk with me and to help me remember and process the meaning of the loss was a great gift. I can’t begin to imagine the grief these two followers of Jesus must have been carrying, but it was great enough that the news that Jesus was risen from the dead could not lift the veil they were under. That’s the challenge of transformation; it cannot begin until the old way of knowing and living has fallen away to make room for the new. Grieving and letting go is no small task. But until we properly grieve and learn to let go, we cannot recognize the transformation that awaits us.

Clue two: Knowing about God and knowing God are not the same thing. Driven by a grief too deep to hear and receive the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus, these two hiked homeward as soon as they could - going back to what felt familiar and reliable. Even if they wanted to return on Friday just after witnessing the horrible crucifixion, long travel was not permitted on a Sabbath, particularly on the high day of Pentecost Sabbath. Sunday morning was their first opportunity to make the journey. As they walked, they met a stranger who discussed a wide range of scripture with them for the day-long hike through hills and valleys. Despite the effort of the stranger to use an explanation of scripture to open their hearts and minds to the meaning of the crucifixion, they were not able to understand. It’s not clear why. Perhaps it was grief; perhaps it was unwillingness to have their assumptions challenged. Yet they still had the compassion to ask the stranger to come in for dinner once they reached Emmaus and nightfall was approaching.

It has always amazed me how these two followers were unaware that the stranger was Jesus. Some speculate that he was in disguise. Others contend that grief put a veil over their eyes. What surprises me even more is that a careful review of scripture led by Jesus himself could not break through to two disciples. It is why this clue reminds us - we can know a lot about God, and still not fully know God.

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Clue three: The revealed presence of God transforms everything. The great moment of the story happened at the supper table. The stranger broke the bread and said a prayer of blessing. And suddenly they realized the stranger to be Jesus. “At once they knew who he was, he disappeared.” (Luke 24:31) Something far greater than the words of the story, that cannot be captured or explained, took place.

Clue four: Transformed followers act differently. Despite the late hour, the same two followers who had taken all day to walk seven miles to Emmaus, got up from the supper table and raced to Jerusalem to tell the others. I can imagine the joy of that moment of transformation with Jesus became rocket fuel in their souls.

Clue five: God’s presence is in the other place. Despite the many times I have read this story and preached from it, I remain in mystery how it concludes. Reaching the room where the other disciples were gathered, with the hope of giving testimony that Jesus really is alive, they discover Jesus has already revealed himself to the others. By itself, this clue appears as a disappointment because the two disciples from Emmaus didn’t get the chance to surprise the others -they already had their own experience of the presence of God. In fact, they were still being transformed by God’s Resurrection presence.

Final clue: The story is still being written. The “Walk to Emmaus” story serves as a transition moment in the larger storyline of Luke’s two-volume description of Jesus and the birth of the Church. The second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, builds on the important clues of God’s desire to transform the world - from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth. It also paints a picture of the importance of knowing about God, and even more, having a transforming experience of God. The story does not end. God is still revealing his presence and bringing about transformation in many places and through many different people and groups of people.

The Moravian Church - in the Southern Province and beyond - is also a story that the Spirit of God continues to write. We, like the followers on the road to Emmaus, continue to be challenged with change and grief. And we are offered God’s transforming presence as we journey toward the new things God is revealing. In God’s mystery, a transformation that often is intertwined with grief and change, but is made more meaningful when we choose to travel onward into God’s mystery together.

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



Provincial Website

You have asked for access to resources about events, supports for clergy and educators, and communication in general. Check out the new look of the MCSP website, designed with you in mind!

You will find:

- Online Provincial Calendar
- Resources
 - Congregational administration and finance forms
 - Human resources Racial Justice and Healing resources
 - Commission on Ministry resources for certification and ordination processes
 - Continuing Education grant opportunities
- Contact Information for Provincial Staff

Check it out here: www.moravian.org/southern

Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CCD

MMFA News for May 2023

The world is in need and God is calling you.



Time to talk about grants

By Laura Watson

Is God calling your community of faith to serve in a new way? Does your ministry need extra funding to make a difference in the world?

Your Moravian Ministries Foundation is excited to begin the 2023 grant cycle on May 15. These field of interest funds will be accepting applications:

- [Hunger & Thirst Field of Interest](#): Grants address food and/or water insecurity.

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- [Housing & Shelter Field of Interest](#): For those providing safety, shelter, and housing to the vulnerable and unhoused.
- [Healing & Health Field of Interest](#): For those ministering to the ill or promoting health/wellness.
- [Prison Ministry Field of Interest](#): For ministry to the imprisoned and their families.
- [Clothing Field of Interest](#): For ministries that provide clothing to those in need.
- [Environmental Stewardship Field of Interest](#): For those looking to protect and restore God's creation.
- [Racial Awareness, Equity, & Reconciliation Field of Interest](#): For those who wish to promote racial awareness, racial equity, and racial reconciliation through advocacy, training, and ministry.

Visit [our website](#) to learn more about each fund, to read about past grant recipients, and for details on how to apply.



Please contact Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs, if you have any grant-related questions (lwatson@mmfa.com or (336) 725-2589).

(MMFA's grant-making program is made possible by generous individuals like you who donate to our field of interest funds, and by a portion of MMFA's net income each year.)

CCD Update

Things are continuing to shift in our offices as we conclude one exploratory interim process and begin another.

- The Rev. Christy Clore has helped us to discern how we can more effectively engage with congregations around faith formation practices as things have changed post-covid. We will be in a hiring process this summer.
 - If you or your Christian Education committee want consultation about Sunday School or VBS curriculums for this summer or next fall please make an appointment to meet with Christy **before June 17, 2023**.
 - The Lending Library is always available as a resource to look at curriculum samples for all ages.
- The Rev. Dana Myers is joining our team for the rest of 2023, in a part time capacity to help clarify the needs congregations have regarding youth and young adult ministries. She will be reaching out to hear

directly from you about what support for that ministry in your context could look like.

CCD Event-Save the Date: November 11, 2023

This event is designed with you in mind!

You have told us that it is hard to find the energy you need to pursue ministry you feel God is calling you to do in your communities. And we want to help support your leaders with tools and encouragement that will open us stores of energy for ministry!

You will be together with leaders from other congregations to share ideas, crowdsource resources and celebrate the ways God is at work in your respective ministries.

Start inviting board members and other lay leaders to join in on this opportunity to learn and build your capacity for the ministry you do!

Submitted by The Rev. Rebecca Craver, Director, CCD

Join Us for Upcoming Ecumenical Educators Gatherings!

We'll gather for these hybrid opportunities to share faith formation resources and support on:

June 1 from 12:30-2pm
in the Cedarhyrst conference room or via Zoom

June 1 from 7-8:30pm
via Zoom

We'll use the same Zoom Link for all meetings - [click here...](#)

Anyone working with Faith Formation or Educational Ministries are welcome to join in -

we're attempting to offer both a midday option and an evening option to give a wider variety of schedules the opportunity to take part!

Submitted by The Rev. Christy Clore



Provincial Events Calendar

Friends,



Going forward, using this link [Provincial Event Calendar](#), you will find all Provincial events scheduled in the Southern Province. The calendar will be updated when the PEC office has knowledge of an event. Please refer to the link often as it will probably change weekly. This link will take the place of the usual calendar items listed in the Ties.

Please contact the PEC office if you have questions or concerns. 336.725.5811

News from the PEC

The PEC held several meetings in April, which included four virtual sessions. We have benefited from a new effort to hold briefings with one another weekly to keep our discussions and discernments moving forward.

Call process efforts include Ardmore, Bethabara, Calvary, Come & Worship, Home, Kernersville, Moravia, and Raleigh.

PEC representatives attended the spring Trustee meetings for Moravian University, Moravian Theological Seminary, and Lancaster Theological Seminary (April 19-21). Moravian University continues to navigate the challenges of maintaining core standards while adjusting to the impact of the cost of college education as a small institution. The merger between Moravian and Lancaster Seminaries continues a positive path. The next step will be a combined curricula in the Master of Divinity degree and other areas of study. A focus for 2022-2023 has been a major capital campaign, which has received positive support from all three parts of the Moravian University and the seminaries.

Preparations are underway for Unity Synod, which will take place in South Africa in early September. Attending as representatives of the Southern Province will be Andrew Craver, Donna Hurt, and Neil Routh.

Routh and Sapp will be attending the graduation ceremony for Moravian Theological Seminary (May 6) which includes Noah Smith receiving his Master of Divinity degree. Christopher, Routh, and Sapp will attend a planning retreat with representatives of the Northern Province PEC (May 7-9), which will evaluate the present Lilly Grant funding for pastoral ministry. Audrey West, who manages this grant program for MTS, will lead the retreat. Discussion about the potential for a new grant through the Lilly Foundation will also be discussed at this time.

Commission on Ministry has begun a regular update publication called “Ministerials” - look for it through social media offerings shared jointly with the Commission on Congregational Development. It is a sister publication to “Essentials.” Both publications offer regular updates on opportunities and events being sponsored by each of these groups.

A new effort has been launched to offer support and partnership with the Moravian Ministries Association, which hosts monthly meetings for clergy, provincial acolytes, and Christian Educators. MMA meets on the first Thursday of each month at Trinity Moravian beginning at 10:00 with fellowship and program at 10:30 AM. The planning team is presently designing program offerings and arranging for the annual September MMA retreat at Laurel Ridge (September 25-28). Stay tuned for more details on the retreat registration.

The PEC respectfully asks all clergy, provincial acolytes, and Christian Educators to place a high priority for attending MMA monthly meetings and the MMA retreat in September. A virtual option will be available whenever possible, but physical attendance is strongly encouraged. Help the MMA team and the PEC as we partner to make these gatherings an important space to continue to build upon the theme of trust that was featured at Leadership Summit earlier this year.

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

Bread for the World Advocacy Summit June 12-13

Bread for the World is a non-partisan collective Christian voice endorsed by the 1983 Synod of the Southern Province. For 40 years, Moravians active in Bread have addressed root causes of hunger by urging Congress to end hunger at home and abroad. Participants write letters and make other personal contacts with Senators and Representatives.

On June 12 and 13, Bread for the World will host its annual Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. Bread leadership, staff, members and supporters will come together to use their collective voice to engage Members of Congress to advocate for policies that address hunger and give struggling families in the U.S. and around the world a chance at a healthy and prosperous life. The Summit will feature powerful speakers, subject-matter experts, status presentations on current policies and discussions on how best to address the causes and circumstances that surround hunger. The invitation to share this event is extended to all. For more information or to register before June 2, [use this link](#).

Submitted by The Rev. John. D. Rights

Concerns and Celebrations

Deaths:

Sister **Marion Couch**, 98, wife of the late Rev. Paul Couch, Sr., entered the more immediate presence of her Savior on Monday, April 3. Marion is the mother of Bishop Blair Couch of Bethlehem, Pa, and the Rev. Paul Couch, Jr. of Graham, NC. Please keep Marion's family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Brother **John Rainey's** twin sister, Janet Rainey Gaynor, passed away on April 26 in Germantown, Wisconsin. Please remember John's family in prayer in the days and weeks to come. No formal services are planned currently.

Sister **Sandra Thigpen's** son, Brian Christopher Thigpen, died tragically in a tractor accident May 1 near Raleigh, NC. Please keep Sandra and her family in your prayers during this time of loss. Currently, arrangements are incomplete.

Ordination Anniversaries for May 2023

Matthew Allen.....	25 years
Craig Atwood.....	36 years
Ted Burcaw.....	37 years
Daniel Crews.....	53 years
Lehoma Goode.....	33 years
William Gramley.....	61 years
Samuel Gray.....	37 years
David Merritt.....	41 years
Jon Peterson.....	43 years
Robert Sawyer.....	56 years
Richard Sides	48 years
Carl Southerland.....	47 years
Chaz Snider.....	6 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!

Moravian Music Foundation

May 2023

Reminder that Moravian Music Sunday is May 7, 2023!

There is still time to plan and use the ready-made *order of service, liturgy,*
and other resources at

<https://moravianmusic.org/moravian-music-sunday-2023/>



Our theme is the 300th birth year anniversary of Christian Gregor.



Moravian Serenades Concert Series begins in Winston-Salem.

The Moravian Music Foundation presents *A Celebration of the Tannenberg Organ*, featuring the Moramus Chorale and soloists, Cristy Lynn Brown, soprano, Susan Bates and Mary Louise Kapp Peeples, organ. The concert, Friday, May 12, 2023 at

7:00pm, is the first in the series of Serenades concerts. Please join us at the Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Rd., Winston-Salem, NC for a concert featuring both the 1800 organ and the Moramus Chorale. The program will celebrate the unique approach of early Moravians to music, organ music, and congregational singing. Reception to follow. Tickets available at www.moravianmusic.org. This concert is made possible with the generous support of Sallie Greenfield and John Dyer, Old Salem Museums & Gardens, and Karen Millican.

You may purchase season tickets to all the Winston-Salem area concerts or single tickets (\$10/9/5). Season Tickets are available (\$35), and include:

- **A Celebration of the Tannenberg Organ, Friday, May 12, 2023; 7:00pm**
- **American Roots, July 1, 2023;** all-day event with special performance at AKD Center
- **An Evening of Songs from the Heart, Sept. 15, 2023, 7:00pm**
- **The Long Eighteenth Century, Oct. 27, 2023, 7:00pm**
- **Night of Light Concert, Dec. 16, 2023 (special VIP event), 7:00pm**

Season VIP Tickets (\$75) include the above, a fifth concert, and more:

- **Reserved Seating** at all concerts
- **Two VIP receptions** (Sept. 15 and Dec. 16)
- **Night of Light Concert, Dec. 16, 2023 (special VIP event), 7:00p**

Upcoming Thursday Talks (12:30pm)

~ **May 11 *David Tannenberg and the American Organ*** [A precursor to the May 12 performance of the 1800 Tannenberg at the James A. Gray Auditorium, Old Salem Visitor Ctr], Christopher Ogburn, Ph.D.



~ **May 25 *The Impact of Lay Preachers in the Moravian Church Southern Province - circa 1850-1920s***, The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh

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And, visit the new Gift Shop at AKD



The Moravian Music Foundation has a new Gift Shop, that will be open before each Talk. In fact, starting May 10th it will be open every Wed, Thurs and Friday from 9:30am to 12:30am.

➤ Moravians & the World • Moravian Heritage • Moravian Sites ➤

The 8th Bethlehem Conference on Moravian History & Music

THE WALTER VIVIAN MOSES LECTURE IN MORAVIAN STUDIES
Christina Petterson

MORAVIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY KEYNOTE LECTURE
Winelle Kirton-Roberts

CONFERENCE CONCERT
Lititz Moravian Collegium Musicum in Concert

August 17–19, 2023
HYBRID FORMAT: ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ONLINE
MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

REGISTRATION OPEN | MORAVIANCONFERENCES.ORG | 610.866.3255

The conference is sponsored by Moravian Archives, Moravian University, and Center for Moravian Studies, in partnership with Moravian Music Foundation, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Historical Society, and Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, with additional funding generously provided by Bethlehem Area Moravians and Penn State University Press.

A portrait of a woman in historical Moravian attire, wearing a white head covering and a dark dress with a white collar and a dark bow. She is holding a book or document.

Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel

Margate Moravian Church

The Provincial Elders' Conference is pleased to announce Margate Moravian Fellowship requested and was granted Congregation status, which will go into effect in conjunction with the occasion of their 19th Anniversary on May 30, 2023.

The Margate Fellowship was initially started in 2004 with the first official worship held on May 30 in the City of Margate, Florida.

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The congregation has decided to keep the name “Margate” recognizing the Margate is a fish. The early Christian church used ICHTHUS (ἰχθύς which in Greek means fish) as a symbol of the Eucharist and as a symbol of the church. ICHTHUS is translated Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, our/the Savior. Consistent with that, the church will also use Matthew 4:19 and Mark 1:17 as the scripture theme for the church “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men”.

The PEC affirms the growth of the Margate community through almost 19 years of history, its ministry to the nearby community, and the development of its stewardship. We agree that it equals a level of participation and commitment that is fitting with being a congregation.

On behalf of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America, the Provincial Elders’ Conference offers their sincerest congratulations to the Margate Moravian Church and wishes God’s richest blessings in their future endeavors.

In observance of this milestone, the Margate congregation will hold a service of celebration on May 28, 2023 at 3:00pm. The Margate Moravian Church extends an invitation to the Province to join in this celebration.

Provincial Staffing Updates

The Commission on Congregational Development is continuing in the process of discovery and discernment for the best structure of our staff to meet the needs of congregations throughout the Southern Province with Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and Congregational Development support. We want to share some updates on the process.

Faith Formation Coordinator

We were fortunate to have the Rev. Christy Clore for an interim period to help assess and discern the shape of the Faith Formation Coordinator position going forward.

- Rev. Clore will conclude her interim work with us on June 24, 2023.
- The CCD will begin a hiring process in July 2023 for the Faith Formation Coordinator position.

Interim Youth Ministry position

We are beginning a second interim process for the discernment and development of the Youth Ministry position proposed at the 2022 Synod. Like the Interim Faith Formation position, this role enables the CCD to assess the needs and suggest the key aspects of how to best support the congregations of the Southern Province in these ministry areas. Rev. Dana Myers will be working in a part time capacity to research and develop the position description in consultation with leaders, youth and young adults throughout the province.

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- Rev. Myers began in March and will continue until December 2023.
- The CCD plans to begin a hiring process in the first quarter of 2024.

We welcome your prayers and input as we continue our work of supporting congregations through accompaniment, consultation, and events focused on the stated needs of congregational lay and clergy leaders. Sincerely, Neil Routh President, Provincial Elders Conference Moravian Church, Southern Province.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh

**Published monthly by
*The Provincial Elders' Conference, Southern Province***

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