



# PROVINCIAL TIES

June 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

## What Is Essential? (Part 1)

One of the things that I have appreciated about being a follower of Jesus is the inspiration and encouragement I find in how our spiritual ancestors (the Ancient Unitas Fratrum) conceptualized the key aspects of Christian faith and practice. These would eventually be organized as the “essentials, ministerials, and incidentals”. These are highlighted in the most recent edition of the “The Moravian Catechism” (2020) and date to the 1450s.

In the next several additions of the Provincial Ties, I invite you to ponder what our tradition has expressed about the “essentials” and their relevance for Moravian faith and practice today.

It was a blessing to engage in an independent study with The Rev. Dr. David Schattschneider at Moravian Theological Seminary in 1990. It focused on the core beliefs and practices of the earliest group in the Moravian faith family -

the Ancient Unitas Fratrum. At the time of the project there were very few resources published in English that captured the story. In recent years new publications have made this accessible (see “The History of the Unity of the Brethren” by Rudolf Rican, translated by C. Daniel Crews; “Faith, Love, Hope - a History of the Unitas Fratrum,” by C. Daniel Crews; and “The Theology of the Czech Brethren from Hus to Comenius,” by Craig D. Atwood.)

What stood out was the expression of organizing faith and practice in three concentric circles. At the core are the essentials. There are critical resources that lead to experiencing and understanding the essentials - which are known as the ministerials. And there are important features of church community life that facilitate these two dynamics - which form the outer circle of the incidentals. These are not separate circles. They remain connected. Everything about the ministerials and incidentals are nested in the core, in the essentials. But what makes up the ministerials and incidentals are not essential in themselves.

What I propose in this series is a brief exploration of the essentials as stated by our spiritual ancestors beginning with “what they are”. And in later additions of the Provincial Ties, exploring “why” - the context out of which these expressions took form. Concluding by “how” the essentials took form in various faith practices and expressions for early Moravian Christian communities.

“The founders of the Ancient Unity had to explain why they rejected some teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and did not reject others.” (“The Moravian Catechism” - IBOC: 2020, p. 6). By stating the “essentials” it also helped them explain why they could cooperate and collaborate with other Protestant communities while retaining their identity. “They believed that without the ‘essential’ things, a church cannot be a church, and if a church has these ‘essential’ beliefs, it is a church even if it has practices and principles that are different from other churches.” (p. 6) Believing and living out these “essentials” gives witness that we are followers of Jesus.

Technically there is one essential - a relationship with God. We say “essentials” because it has several parts. Most importantly, God’s grace has been revealed in the life, teachings, sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our spiritual ancestors described God’s part of this relationship as what has been revealed in scripture and shared experience through God’s actions of creating, redeeming, and sustaining. The human side of the relationship is our call to respond in all circumstances of life with faith, agape-love, and hope. We will explore “ministerials” later, but first and foremost among them is the essential nature of scripture to point to the dynamic nature of this essential relationship-connection to God.

God’s action is the past, present, and ongoing work of creating, redeeming, and sustaining; our part is responding to God’s infinite grace and love with our actions of faith, agape-love, and hope toward God and one another. While we cannot not come to understand this relationship without the Bible, the Ancient Unitas Fratrum did not believe the Bible was part of

the essentials. The Bible points to God's creating, redeeming, and sustaining actions. They held fast to the contention that doctrinal systems or styles of interpretation of the Bible should not be a barrier to our relationship with God. If they help us engage the essential relationship with God, they are useful; but if they become a stumbling block of division and suffering, they should be set aside. Our relationship with God should not be superseded by a particular doctrinal view or interpretation of the Bible.

What I find to be fascinating is how our spiritual ancestors expressed the "essentials" within the context of a living, dynamic relationship with God and one another. This was first and foremost, especially for a community that was newly forming into a Protestant denomination. Full disclosure: the early Ancient Unitas Fratrum grappled with this meaning in each subsequent generation. They saw the ongoing search for sound faith and practice a key part of dynamic connection to God and one another, even though the search can be frustrating and uncomfortable.

This is more striking when you consider the historic context out of which these spiritual understandings of Ancient Unitas Fratrum were formed. Stay tuned for more of the story in the next issue of the Provincial Ties.

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

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## **Commission on Ministry News** *June 2023*

The Southern Province is indeed blessed to have five candidates currently studying for ordained ministry at Moravian Theological Seminary:

Nathan Smith graduated on May 6 at MTS commencement, which was held at College Hill Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA. Noah graduated cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree. In addition, Noah received the Rev. Elder Bender Award as a worthy student exemplifying the qualities of leadership and integrity reflected in the life of Rev. Bender. Noah currently serves as student pastor at Moravia Moravian Church in Summerfield, NC and will complete his Clinical Pastoral Education this summer.

Josh Follweiler is a third-year resident student. A son of the Mayodan congregation, Josh currently serves as pastoral intern at Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, PA. Josh will complete his Clinical Pastoral Education this summer at Phoebe Rehabilitation Center in Allentown, Pa. Josh's wife, Molly, is a Music teacher in the Bethlehem area. At this year's commencement, Josh received the Hamilton Language Prize for his work in Greek and the Frueauff Award for excellence in the study of Moravian History.

Ethan Smith is second-year non-resident student and a son of the King congregation. Ethan recently completed his internship with Bethania Moravian Church and is moving to Oak Island, NC in August where he will serve as a student pastor at Covenant Moravian Church in Wilmington.

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Caleb Carter is a second-year non-resident student and a son of the Calvary congregation. Caleb recently completed his internship with Trinity Moravian. He has moved to Birmingham, AL where he serves as the Office Manager and Program Assistant for a non-profit collaborative that deals with issues related to housing and healthcare. Caleb will serve as an intern with the Abbey, a new and emerging ministry of the Episcopal Church in America located in downtown Birmingham.

David Jackson is a first-year non-resident student and a son of the Calvary congregation. David is employed as a Fireman with the Winston-Salem Fire Department. David and his wife, Hanna have two children, Bradford, and Norah.

We are also blessed to have four persons who are pursuing or already engaged in the process to become certified Christian Educators: Jeannie May (Trinity) June Edwards (Trinity) Cat Long Jones (Covenant) and Meredith Cahoon (Greensboro).

Two of our congregations have received congregational acolytes this year, including Joe Pardue (Advent), Suzanne Donders (Raleigh), Andrew Smitherman (Raleigh) and Katherine Vance (Raleigh).

Please keep all these individuals in your thoughts and prayers as they respond to God's call and use their gifts for the upbuilding of the body of Christ!

*Submitted by The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp, Director, Commission on Ministry*

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## **Unity Women's Desk News** *June 2023*

We are still taking orders for the purple and green Herrnhut Moravian Stars until June 30.

Individuals or groups can sponsor a star for a donation of \$125 (we ask groups to consider a donation of \$200) to honor a woman or group of women. The order form is attached below and includes instructions for ordering by check or online with a credit card.

Order now while you can still choose the color you want! You have until July 15 to send a tribute and/or picture if you would like.

[www.unitywomensdesk.org](http://www.unitywomensdesk.org)

*Submitted by Julie Tomberlin, Coordinator, Unity Women's Desk*

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## Provincial Women's Board June 2023

### Seminary Student Emergency Fund

Our seminary students occasionally have unexpected financial needs and because of this the Provincial Women's Board set up a Seminary Student Emergency Fund in 1985.

The initial gift of \$1,000 has been increased by gifts and pledges from the Women's Fellowships of our Province.

Who may apply? Students from the Southern Province who have been approved by the PEC as candidates for ordination in the Moravian Church, and Moravian Theological Seminary students who are attending the Seminary under the auspices of the Board of World Mission and who are supported entirely by them.

### For what purpose may the funds be used?

- The fund is used to reimburse approved candidates for ordination up to \$500 per school year for textbooks and/or computer software. Contact Cindy Lamb at the PWB office for the Reimbursement Form. This fund also provides each student a monetary gift at Christmas.
- The Finance Committee of the Provincial Women's Board will also consider any reasonable application for emergency funds. To date, assistance has been granted for medical and dental treatment/tests not covered by the usual insurance, initial housing costs, emergency travel, auto repairs, utility deposits and general expenses due to short-term unanticipated decrease in income.

336-722-4911 or [pwbmcsp@gmail.com](mailto:pwbmcsp@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Cindy Lamb, Provincial Women's Board*

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## CCD Update June 2023

### NEW Board Basics Newsletter!

You've told us that you are looking for practical resources that can help church boards in their ministry. We are testing out a quarterly newsletter, specifically tailored to board leaders. You can check it out here and give us feedback!



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<https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2023/05/30/testing-1-2-3-board-basics-quarterly-newsletter/>

Share with all your board members and any other folks you think might appreciate the tools!

### CCD Save the Dates

**Sunday, August 20, 2023-Children's Festival hosted by Olivet Moravian from 3-5pm**

- If you have musicians that would be interested in participating in the lovefeast please contact Cat Long at [catinfrance1@yahoo.com](mailto:catinfrance1@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, August 26, 2023-Faith Formation Engagement with Marie Coutts-full day**

- This event is for pastors, educators, Sunday school teachers, anyone involved in faith formation in congregations is welcome!

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

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## 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

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## Concerns and Celebrations

### Deaths:

Sister **Elynor Fishel Rights**, wife of the late Rev. Burton Jones Rights, passed into the presence of the Savior on Friday, May 19, 2023. She is survived by her sons, the Rev. Douglas Coman Rights and the Rev. John D. Rights. The funeral service was held at Clemmons Moravian Church on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 with the Rev. Chris Thore and the Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp officiating. Interment followed in God's Acre in Salem.

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### **Pastoral Changes:**

**The Rev. Andrew Heil** was installed as Pastor of Grace Moravian Church, Mt. Airy, NC on June 4. Please keep the Heil family and the Grace congregation in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of ministry together.

**The Rev. Wayne Byerly** will be installed as the Interim Pastor of Leaksville Moravian Church on July 2. Please support Wayne and the Leaksville congregation as they begin this new relationship in ministry together.

**The Rev. Dana Myers** has been struggling with a chronic illness impacting her gastro-intestinal tract. Dana has been serving part-time at Fries Memorial as Associate Pastor, and in a part-time role for the Commission on Congregational Development where she is assisting with developing a vision and description for the future Provincial Youth and Young Adult Ministry position. Due to this extended illness, Dana has been called to full-time ministry by the PEC so that she can be placed on medical leave while she is receiving medical care and recuperating. Please keep Dana and her family in your prayers.

### **Congratulations:**

Congratulations to **Noah Smith**, candidate for ordination and student pastor at Moravia Moravian Church on his graduation May 6 from Moravian Theological Seminary. Noah received the Rev. Elmer Bender Memorial Prize awarded to a worthy individual preparing for the ministry of the Moravian Church.

### ***Ordination Anniversaries for June 2023***

Bradley Bennett.....	39 yrs.
Walter Bishop.....	18 yrs.
Wayne Burkette.....	54 yrs.
Robert Wolfe.....	34 yrs.
Dion Christopher.....	32 yrs.
Rebecca Craver.....	16 yrs.
Frank Crouch.....	43 yrs.
Charles Fishel.....	60 yrs.
Billy Flippin.....	26 yrs.
Carol Foltz.....	45 yrs.
Chris Giesler.....	37 yrs.
Tom Shelton.....	45 yrs.
David Guthrie.....	37 yrs.
Thomas Hauptert.....	43 yrs.
Wilma Israel.....	19 yrs.
Judith Justice.....	28 yrs.
David Marcus.....	27 yrs.
Tom Minor.....	57 yrs.
Joseph Moore.....	25 yrs.
Kelly Moore.....	25 yrs.
James Newsome.....	36 yrs.

Douglas Rights..... 40 yrs.  
Graham Rights..... 63 yrs.  
John D. Rights..... 38 yrs  
Neil Routh..... 33 yrs.  
Lane Sapp..... 35 yrs.  
Barry Vernon..... 47 yrs.  
Jack Vaiden..... 51 yrs.

***Congratulations and God Bless You!***

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## **Moravian Music Foundation**

*June 2023*



Please welcome Johana Diaz as Accounting and Finance Associate for the Moravian Music Foundation.

### **American Roots**

American Roots is a Celebration of Music of Early Americana, featuring the *Psalm of Joy* (an historic ode of music and *thanksgiving for peace*, Salem, July 4, 1783)

Saturday, July 1, 2023

[read more about the SERENADE Series >>](#) More details at [moravianmusic.org/american-roots/](http://moravianmusic.org/american-roots/)

In partnership with Old Salem Museums and Gardens, there will be music happening throughout Salem from 10:00am to 4:00pm on July 1.

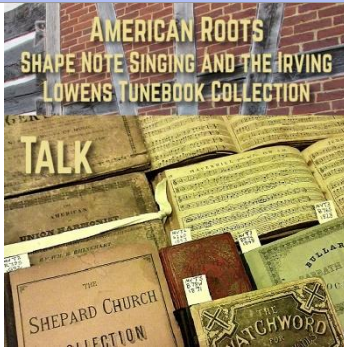
**TALK on *Shape Note Singing and the Irving Lowens Tunebook Collection*:**  
10:00am Archie K Davis Center, 457 S. Church St. in Salem.

**MUSIC: *American Roots*, MMF-sponsored music at the Tavern; free: 11:00a, 1:00p, 2:00p**

**TALK on the *Psalm of Joy* and its music and significance: 2:45pm, Gray Aud., Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Rd., prior to the concert.**

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**MUSIC: *Psalm of Joy***, 3:00pm, Gray Auditorium, 900 Old Salem Rd., Winston-Salem, NC

The Featured (ticketed) Concert is *Psalm of Joy* at Gray Auditorium, 900 Old Salem Rd., Winston-Salem, NC (3:00pm) *Psalm of Joy* will feature the Tannenber organ and the Moramus Chorale singing an ode of thanksgiving for peace by Joh. Friedrich Peter; the earliest known organized 4th of July observance.

## Moravian Music and Community Calendar

<https://moravianmusic.org/news-and-events/calendar-of-events/>

Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel

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## From the Provincial Financial Office *June 2023*

**2022 Church Audits**-Church Audits were due April 15th. The form and instructions are on the MCSP.org website if you have misplaced the documents sent to your church. Work on the 2024 budget is underway and the audit is the number one item needed to get started. Please contact Robyn Glance, CFO if you have any questions.

**2023 Budgets** - As of this writing, we are still looking for 2023 budgets from 10 churches. These were due on December 15, 2022. These are important not only from a church standpoint, but also provincially they allow for benchmarking between similar size churches. Please check with your Church Treasurer or Board Chair and if you are one of the 10 churches, please respond as soon as possible.

**Housing Allowances**- Now that we are halfway through the year, it is a good time to recheck how much of your minister's compensation is designated as "housing allowance." If your minister has had a significant increase in housing related costs, such as unexpected repairs, major remodeling, new appliances, loan prepayment, etc., then the amount you have currently designated may be too low. There are limitations on how much a minister can claim as a housing allowance but, if appropriate, increasing the amount designated costs the Church nothing and potentially saves the minister from paying needless federal and state income taxes. There is the common misconception that housing allowances can only be changed at the beginning of the year. This is not true. They can be changed at any time during the year. Obviously, any change needs to be approved by your Church Board and properly reflected on the Church's monthly payroll voucher. If you have any questions in this area, please give us a call.

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**Herbert W. and Maye S. Aldridge Fund** - The Advisory Board of the Herbert W. and Maye S. Aldridge Fund welcomes your requests for support. The Fund was created “to encourage world peace and alleviate hunger, to give financial assistance to a student to attend Moravian Seminary, to give financial assistance to someone to enter or reside at Salemtowne, to give financial assistance to someone in need or to support any other worthwhile cause recommended by the Advisory Board.” Individual awards of up to \$500 are available and an application form can be obtained from the MCSP.org website.

*Submitted by Robyn Glance, Chief Financial Officer*

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## ***FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK***

### **New Home Addresses:**

The Rt. Rev. **Graham Rights**  
3317 Salemtowne Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106  
Phone: 336-744-8083

The Rev. **Andrew Heil**  
104 Grace Street  
Mt. Airey, NC 27030

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