



PROVINCIAL TIES

September 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

2023 Unity Synod - “Many Cultures, One Witness”

The opportunity to attend a gathering of Unity Synod is a great privilege for experiencing the deep meaning of shared faith, hope, and love that can be found across the Moravian Church or Unitas Fratrum. The Moravian Church of South Africa served as host for the 2023 Unity Board and Unity Synod that was held in Cape Town, September 1-10. The season of Spring in this beautiful land was only matched by the deep fellowship and kindness shared among the delegates from more than 25 provincial areas and our wonderful hosts. Our province was blessed to have Donna Hurt, Andrew Craver, and Neil Routh as our representatives.

The opening worship featured a focus on Acts 10:30-35 - God does not favor one human being over another. God accepts all people of all nations who have a deep respect for God and do what is right. This is the story of Peter and Cornelius and the call to share God’s love and message with all people.

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The process of Unity Synod features the presentation of reports from all the provinces and mission areas, in addition to special groups (i.e., Unity Board, Unity Women's Desk, Unity Youth Committee, etc.) Each report is assigned for further review and discussion to one of the Synod committees, which eventually returns each report as "accepted" or not "accepted." Once returned these reports take the form of a proposal and may include addendums or amendments for action. Each committee has a cross section of delegates from the four regions of the Unity which allows these reports to be further digested and understood.

Plenary business items also include election of members to the various boards from the four Unity Regions: Africa, British and Continental Provinces, Caribbean and Latin America, and North America. Discussion and adoption of Unity budget for the next synodal period is a key feature. And finally, the discussion of proposals from the Unity Board, Unity Executive Committee, or Synod committees rounds out the work of plenary sessions.

The President of Unity Synod assigns all reports and proposals to the committees of Synod, which meet and deliberate for three of the seven days of Synod. The third day of Synod is spent in part as a day to tour the local area. A large contingent of the delegates were treated to a field trip to Gnenadenthal - the first Moravian mission settlement which was founded around the time Bethlehem, PA was being settled. The final day of Synod - Sunday, September 10, the delegates of Synod were divided into three groups and transported to three local congregations for worship. The final session was held following lunch and included a Cup of Covenant ceremony.

Throughout the process of Unity Board and Unity Synod, a great spirit of fellowship and cooperation was shared. Worship was interwoven throughout each day, along with singing hymns from each cultural area of the Unity. Committee discussions led to meaningful proposals and resolutions. And the shared work and experience of community knitted the delegates together into a deep love for one another and the ministries of the Moravian Church.

Early on, an emotional high point was the adoption of the resolution that officially creates the South Asia Mission Area. The initial ministry in Northern India in the 1850s, was begun through Moravian missionaries from Germany and later supervised by the British Province. Ministry in recent decades has spread to several more countries and is now prospering throughout the region. The vote led to a standing ovation and tears for all the ministry that has unfolded and led to this new step.

Highlights of proposals that were approved into resolutions included action for a process to acknowledge the sin of slavery and that the Moravian Unity benefited from the use and exploitation of slaves, which included a mutual call to work to dismantle current aftereffects and expressions of human bondage in the world. Synod also adopted an action for addressing the care of the environment.

It is not often that a Unity Synod adopts a resolution related to discipline or boundaries. The 2016 Unity Synod (COUF: 2016, Resolution #10) took action to declare the United Alaska Moravian Ministries to have no connection to the Moravian Church. Additionally, that UAMM should not interfere with Moravians

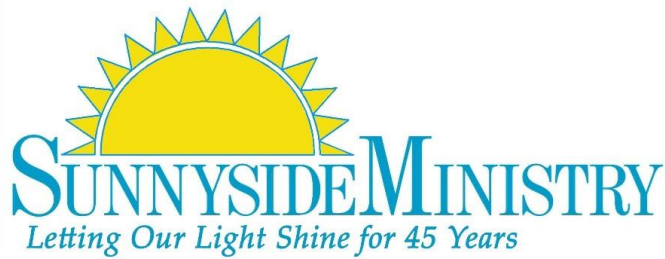
within the worldwide Unity. This included removing the ministry credentials of the clergy connected to the group until they are willing to follow the polity and practices of the Unity. This resulted in removing the ministry credentials of the former Bishop of the Unity residing in Alaska, William “Doc” Nicholson for bringing division within the Unity. In recent years, the UAMM was renamed United International Moravian Ministry (UIMM) which continues to provoke divisions occurring in several regions of the Unity. The 2023 Unity Synod adopted to hold accountable any clergy connected to or associating with UIMM.

As Unity Synod concluded, delegates shared in a meaningful service of covenanting. Through hymns and liturgy, we celebrated and gave God thanks of bringing the Moravian Church together for this important time making more evident God’s passion for our “many cultures” devoted to “one witness” of faith, hope, and love for all people.

The complete listing of resolutions is soon to be published in the latest edition of the 2023 Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum (COUF).

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

Following Christ by
Empowering Others for
45 years



The Need is Becoming Critical

Sunnyside Ministry has experienced a vast increase in food demand in recent months. Since May 1st, we have provided food to more than 7,250 food-insecure people in Forsyth and Davidson Counties. This is more than 150,000 pounds of food, which is actually a lower-than-expected number. In the past, this would have been more than 250,000 pounds.

The causes are twofold. First, Sunnyside Ministry is providing more food to people who are hungry than ever before, except for the summer of 2020 at the beginning of COVID-19. Secondly, the amount of donated food is only about 30% of what we received in 2020. This means we have to buy more food, and while we are seeking opportunities to save on purchases, we are buying more food than ever in our history. In 2020, we hosted many significant Food Drive events, bringing in TONS of food. We were hoping you could consider the opportunity for your congregation to host a food drive this fall. We know many churches collect food at Thanksgiving (and we are eagerly anticipating those donations this year). Still, a September Food Drive could get the fall off to a good start for your congregation and Sunnyside Ministry.

Since Sunday, March 22, 2020, Konnoak Hills Moravian has hosted a Drive-Thru Community Food Drive every Sunday (except a couple of inclement weather days.) Folks from around the Konnoak Hills Community bring food for the event.

Brother John D. Rights shared how this weekly event has sparked the Konnoak Hills Congregation and Neighborhood.

“The weekly drive-thru food offerings we began in March 2000 continue each Sunday. Approximately 500 pounds of food are collected each month addressing the biblical mandate to share our bread. We know poverty is not something we can food-bank our way out of, but Sunnyside no-less serves as a conduit of God’s grace, placing the food we collect into the hands of our most vulnerable neighbors. Focusing beyond ourselves in this way increases the life of our participating members as well as the good number of non-members who regularly contribute. Each jar of peanut butter and every can of soup contributes to a perpetuating culture of generosity.” - John D. Rights

If you host a food drive and would like us to pick up the food, we will gladly bring our truck, either for the event or to pick up following the food drive. Call 336-724-7558 or email carla@sunnysideministry.org to make arrangements!

Submitted by David Holsten, Director, Sunnyside Ministries

Concerns and Celebrations

Deaths:

David William McElveen, son of The Rev. Dr. **William McElveen** and **Carol McElveen**, entered the more immediate presence of his Savior on Thursday, September 21 in Huntersville, NC. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, September 29 at Assurance United Methodist Church in Huntersville, NC. The funeral will be held on Saturday, September 30 at 2:00 pm at the church. Please keep Bill, Carol, and David’s family in your prayers during this time of grief and loss.

Phyllis Lee Spier, wife of Bill Spier and mother of **Fran Saylor**, entered the more immediate presence of her Savior on Sunday, September 3 in Charlotte, NC. A Memorial Service will be held later at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Please keep Fran and her family in your prayers during this significant time of grief and loss.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Mrs. Laura Ann Romero**, née Merritt, daughter of **David and Terri Merritt**, who entered into the more immediate presence of the Savior on Thursday, August 24, 2023. At this difficult time, the family respectively requests no phone calls, texts, or visits. Emails, mail, and Facebook messages are welcomed. We pray God’s peace and comfort for Antonio, David, Terri, Ashley, Melanie and all the family.



Ordination Anniversaries for September 2023

Bert Chin.....32 years
Patricia Garner.....25 years
John Jackman..... 41 years
Nola Knouse.....14 years
William McElveen..... 65 years
Will Sibert.....37 years
Ramona Spencer.....18 years
Adam Goodrich.....6 years
Angelica Regalado.....6 years
Leslie Cox.....4 years
Barbara Styers.....3 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!

Provincial Events Calendar



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.

MISSION CAMP REUNION

Have you participated in Mission Camp at Laurel Ridge?
Mark your calendars for a reunion with other Mission Camp alums on
October 7, 2022, 3:00 - 7:00 pm.
Hope to see you there!

Submitted by The Rev. Dana Myers

From the Provincial Financial Office

Provincial Financial Office Staff Change - Karen Allen's position will be changing September 15th. She will no longer be handling Human Resources for the Province. Her duties will only consist of Payroll and Accounts Receivable. She will also be transitioning her hours to Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 to 5:00. We will be recruiting a part-time Human Resource Administrator. In the meantime, please direct your HR needs to Robyn Glance.

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2024 Provincial Budget Presentation -Please mark your calendars for Tuesday night, October 10, 2023. This is the date for this year's Provincial Budget Presentation. This year's event will be virtual like last year. There will be opportunities for questions and answers during the presentation.

Submitted by Robyn Glance, Chief Financial Officer

Moravian Music Foundation

The fall concert season is kicking off with an abundance of opportunities!



An Introduction to Music Theory

When: Fall semester runs on Tuesdays (1:00pm–2:00pm) for 10 weeks beginning on September 5.

Where: Archie K. Davis Center, 457 S Church St. Winston-Salem

Taught by Christopher Ogburn. Free to participate.

Please [sign up](http://www.moravianmusic.org) www.moravianmusic.org

Careers at MMF

MMF is currently seeking a **Director of the Bethlehem Office**

<https://moravianmusic.org/contact-us/careers/>

An Opportunity for Church groups and Agencies!

ChristmasFest will be Dec. 16 2023 and agencies and churches or church groups are invited to set up a table (tent) on the grounds to display items, sell items, share a unique nativity scene(s) for the public to enjoy. No charge, if you bring your own tent and table. Tents not required.

Please use the vendor portal at <https://moravianmusic.org/christmasfest/> to share your ideas, and we will be in touch about schedules and details.

Volunteers Needed! Sign Up at <https://moravianmusic.org/preservers-volunteer-group/>

Submitted by Erik Salzwedel, Moravian Music Foundation

Moravian Ministries Foundation Association

Spotlight on Stewardship:

Thriving ministries pay attention to these four critical areas of stewardship:

- Theology
- Leadership
- Mission and vision
- Year-round action

If your church is ready to look at its stewardship efforts with fresh eyes, let MMFA help. Together we'll identify:

- short term goals you'd like to achieve
- long term changes you hope to see
- steps to accomplish both

Contact Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs, to get started today! (336.725.2589 or lwatson@mmfa.com)

For Your Address Book:

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