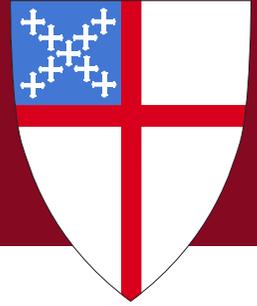




Moravian and Episcopal Churches to celebrate a Decade of Full Communion



**On Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. (ET),
Episcopalians and Moravians (and others) are invited to gather for
a 10th Anniversary Celebration of Full Communion between the Episcopal Church
and the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church.**

While the welcome will be offered from Central Moravian Church by the co-chairs of the Moravian-Episcopal Coordinating Committee, the virtual service will include worship leaders from various places where Moravians and Episcopalians live and serve.

The Liturgy for Christian Unity, from the Moravian tradition, will include reflections on scriptures texts by The Rev. David Guthrie, president of the Provincial Elders Conference of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Miller, president of the Provincial Elders Conference of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church, and The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The President of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church, The Rev. Gay Jennings, will introduce a Call to Racial Reconciliation, including a Litany for Repentance and Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation. Music will be offered by both Moravian and Episcopal musicians, including a combined virtual choir.

Full communion is a significant expression of Christian unity that allows Churches to share in in ministry and mission, including the exchange of ordained clergy. It helps us live into Jesus' Christ's prayer (in John 17) that "they all may be one", to witness to that unity, and to extend Christ's mission in the world.

On February 10, 2011, hundreds of Episcopalians and Moravians gathered at Central Moravian Church, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for a Celebration of Full Communion between the Episcopal Church and the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church. At this service prayers were offered for the unity of the Church, and Moravian and Episcopal bishops knelt before one another, and extended the right hand of fellowship to each other, in the Reconciliation of Episcopal Ministries; making visible our full communion.

"Ten years ago, when we celebrated the beginning of our full communion relationship, the focal point of the service was the reconciliation of episcopal ministries, which, in part, allows the exchange of clergy between our Churches" commented The Rev. Canon Maria Tjeltveit, Episcopal Co-Chair of the Moravian-Episcopal Coordinating Committee (MECC). "Today, a primary challenge to our Churches is racial reconciliation, as we seek to build the beloved community. So, it is fitting to have a call to repentance for racism and a commissioning to a ministry of justice and reconciliation as a focus of our service."

The 10th Anniversary Service will be aired on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. EST on the Episcopal Church's Facebook and YouTube channels and on www.moravian.org. It will continue to be available through the Episcopal Church's Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations website and Moravian.org.

For more information and the bulletin for this service, visit www.moravian.org.

