

**2014 Provincial Synod
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province**

Summary Report

Elections

The Provincial Elders' Conference

President: David Guthrie (New Philadelphia). Clergy: Ray Burke (Clemmons), Chris Thore (New Beginnings), Daniel Crews (Home). Laity: Joyce Vance (Peace), Peggy Carter (Fries Memorial), Ron Bell (Calvary).

The Board of World Mission

Donna Hurt (Home), Dan Nelson (Friedberg)

The Board of Directors, Mission Society of the Moravian Church (South)

Matthew Allen (Oak Grove), W. Scott Brent (Friedland), Scarlett Dowdy (Grace), Faye Gardner (Oak Grove), Michael Sawtelle (Friedland), Bette Hollifield (Kernersville), Joe Jarvis (New Philadelphia), Dewey Mullis (Friedland), Timothy Sapp (Advent), Jane Wynne (New Philadelphia), Tripp May (Trinity), Jeff Jones (Bethabara)

The Board of Trustees, Moravian Theological Seminary

Scott Bauer (New Philadelphia), Heather Vacek (Raleigh).

The Board of Trustees, Salem Academy and College

Wayne Burkette (Home), Chi Chi Messick (New Philadelphia), Mary Rights (Konnoak Hills), Mary Lou Stott (Home), Camille McDowell (Home).

The Board of Trustees, Salemtowne

Peggy Carter (Fries Memorial), Donald Frey (Home), Deron Mabe (Ardmore), Graham Rights (Home).

The Provincial Women's Board

Gloria Barker (Palm Beach), Oneita Dease (Fairview), Mallie Graham (Home), Evva Hanes (Friedberg), Julia Horton (Friedland), Janet Jennings (Hope), Clara Rollins (Christ), Susan Parker (Macedonia), Patricia Sapp (Fairview), Becky Ward (New Philadelphia).

Delegates to the 2016 Unity Synod

John D. Rights (Konnoak Hills), Craig Troutman (Raleigh).

Resolutions

(Full texts for these resolutions and related information may be found on the Provincial web-site: mcsp.org)

Approval of Revised Constitution and Book of Order of the Southern Province

The Synod approved resolutions to adopt revisions to the Constitution and the Book of Order of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province. These Constitutional and Book of Order changes were the result of the Provincial Restructuring efforts approved at the 2010 Synod of the Southern Province.

Revision of Board of World Mission Constitution

Synod approved a number of revisions to the Board of World Mission's Constitution that corrects wording, allows up to four Directors-at-Large with a specified term limit, permits Affiliate Membership to the Board of World Mission, and discontinues the Board's role of providing a bishop to a Mission Province.

New Provincial Share Methodology

Synod adopted a new methodology to determine congregational share for provincial support. This change was based on a share methodology used for budget years 2013 and 2014 that was implemented, monitored, and evaluated by the Provincial Support Services Board and declared a fair and equitable system by the PEC. The resolution passed moves provincial share from an expense-based budget to a new methodology that is income or revenue based. It provides a fair share for congregations while providing a more accurate projection of revenue for annual budgeting.

Unity Women's Desk Fundraising Campaign

Synod resolved that upon approval of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Southern Province the Unity Women's Desk be authorized to establish and execute a fundraising campaign, encouraging the support of churches within the Province.

Adoption of a "Safe Sanctuary" Policy for congregations and agencies

Synod passed a resolution mandating that each congregation of the Southern Province and each board and agency shall develop, adopt and implement a "Safe Sanctuary" policy and procedures related to safety issues for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults. The resolution also ensures guidelines will be provided for what is needed in developing those policies.

Spiritual Solidarity with Sisters and Brothers in Honduras

Synod resolved that the Southern Province, in solidarity with the people of Honduras, raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in North America result in violence and deeply affects the people of Honduras. The resolution urges pastors and leaders of the church to give voice to Honduran's plight and hold the people in Honduras and global partners in prayer.

Environmental Stewardship

Synod passed a resolution urging all congregations to include active stewardship of the Earth as part of their regular stewardship practices and to call upon the Board of Cooperative Ministries Environmental Task Force for educational materials and other resources to support them in this essential ministry.

Annual Pension Fund Report

Synod resolved that the Provincial Elders' Conference in consultation with the Pension Committee provide an annual written report to congregations of the Province that includes information about the current balance and number of participants in the Pension Fund and the status of pension obligations.

Study and Discernment Regarding Homosexuality

Synod passed a resolution that reaffirmed a resolution from 2010 to provide leadership, resources and a process for a conversation about homosexuality in the church that includes diverse viewpoints, and opportunities for open and honest discussion, study and discernment; and that the process of dialogue and discernment should take into account similar efforts made, and decisions that have been or may be reached by our sister provinces within the Unity, as well as any actions of the 2014 Unity Board and 2016 Unity Synod. The resolution further stipulated that this work, which was not completed during the last inter-synodal period, be completed prior to the Synod of 2018.

Living into Visions Discerned by Synod

Synod formally adopted reports from working groups which offered a broad spectrum of visions in the areas of our relationship with Christ, cooperation, growth, leadership, ministry, mission, stewardship and worship; and, delivered them to the Provincial Elders' Conference to determine priority, assess feasibility, and provide direction for living into these visions during the inter-synodal period.

John Hus Memorial Year 2015

Synod passed a resolution that designates 2015 as year to honor the memory and teachings of John Hus; and outlined activities and opportunities to honor the legacy of Hus during 2015. It also resolved to encourage the Northern Province Synod to be held in June to adopt a similar resolution and that all Moravians be invited to reflect on John Hus's witness and how his modern spiritual descendants can emulate his example of faithful devotion to Christ.

Cornerstone Campaign

Synod resolved that the Southern Province's Cornerstone Campaign be continued for the next inter-synodal period and that the PEC is authorized to establish policies and procedures; to use Cornerstone Campaign funds for general financial support of new and emerging ministries; and encourage congregations to consider the Cornerstone Campaign in their budgeting process.

Establishment of Manna Ministries

Synod resolved that the Southern Province recognize the role and value of "Manna Ministries," new and emerging ministries that do not otherwise fit into the existing models and categories of ministry; and that the Provincial Elders Conference determine how to develop guidelines for Manna Ministries that promote sustainability, offer accountability, and foster collaboration and discernment.

Liturgical and Sacramental Unity and Liberty

Synod charged the Interprovincial Faith and Order Committee to develop guidelines for evaluating changes to liturgies, litanies, rites, and sacraments, so that we may continue to celebrate both the unity and variety of our liturgical life and that, if agreeable to both provinces, the guidelines be subject to review by the clergy and bishops of the Northern and Southern provinces before the Provincial Elders' Conference of each province revise and approve guidelines for their province.

Cooperation and Collaboration with Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Synod passed a resolution that directs the Provincial Elders' Conference or its representatives to engage in an informal, but intentional, dialogue with representatives of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity regarding ways the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province and the WFU School of Divinity can cooperate and collaborate together for their mutual benefit; and present a report at the 2018 Synod describing the progress of this dialogue and collaborative efforts with the WFU School of Divinity. The Moravian Theological Seminary will be invited to participate in these discussions.

Appreciation for Bishop James C. Hughes' Ministry

Synod adopted a resolution expressing deep appreciation and gratitude for Bishop Hughes' faithful and dedicated service to Christ and his Church, and conveying to Bishop Hughes and Sister Hughes our prayers for God's blessing on them in their new home in Pennsylvania.

Memoranda to Synod

The following memoranda were received by Synod as information from the respective groups, but were not discussed or voted upon.

From the Ministry Characteristic Group

Recommending the Provincial Elders' Conference ensure that the issues of pastoral care and spiritual growth and development of pastors, Christian education professionals, candidates for ordination, and those seeking candidacy are being addressed by identifying a bishop or a staff person with the appropriate gifts to actively provide the spiritual care, development and support needed.

From the Committee on Government

Recommending that the Provincial Elders' Conference consider restoring the position of Assistant to the Provincial Elders' Conference President to a level that will provide the President with greater flexibility and assistance in managing the pastoral, spiritual, and administrative affairs of the Southern Province.