



PROVINCIAL TIES

January 2017

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —



Living the Essentials Conference

February 17-18, 2017 New Philadelphia Moravian Church will host a provincial, intersynodal conference with the theme: “Living the Essentials: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” Congregations, fellowships, new and emerging ministries, and provincial boards and agencies have received invitations and information about selecting and registering participants. **Please note that the deadline for registrations is January 18, using the link on the conference website: <https://MCSPevents.wordpress.com>** The program will include: worship, keynote presentations, and an open process of small group discussion.

Being the church in the twenty-first century calls us to new challenges and demands bold action. We’ll explore how spiritual growth, community, and mission characterize the life, witness,

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and ministry of the Moravian Church yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood will provide an historical perspective of Moravian congregations from Zinzendorf's time through the present, and the implications of that history for the future. Craig's presentation will be part of an evening program Friday, Feb. 17 which will be open to the public. During the conference David Guthrie, PEC President, will share about our current Southern Province. And, you'll hear about different forms of church for a changing world and have opportunity to offer your own ideas and dreams for the future Moravian Church.

God creates; God redeems; God blesses us. And we respond in faith, in love, and in hope. Practicing these essentials brings us closer to living as God calls us to live and opens the way for God's spirit to renew us and give us new energy for ministry. May this conference engage us and inspire us as we explore possibilities for a vibrant future!

Submitted by David Guthrie

Unity Offering

Each year congregations around the world gather a special offering for a particular mission or ministry within the world-wide church. [The 2017 Unity Offering](#) will be used to support the 2017 Unity Mission Conference, November 15-20, 2017, in Cape Town, South Africa. We encourage congregations to participate in this effort and to receive this offering on Sunday, March 5, 2017.

Note that there will be additional opportunities for congregations, mission committees, and others to contribute through the Board of World Mission to support participant costs for delegates to this Mission Conference from BWM partner provinces.

Moravian Ministries Foundation

The New Year brings a few changes for the Moravian Ministries Foundation staff. Laura Watson, Director for Faith and Philanthropy, will now oversee Morningstar Campaign Services, our service that helps churches and agencies with capital campaigns and stewardship. Laura has been with the Foundation since April 2012 and has assisted with both capital campaigns and stewardship ministries since 2015.

Kara Yates, Business and Financial Services Manager, will provide support for our Common Fund investors, including processing requests, sending reports and updates, and troubleshooting any issues that arise.

We will be hiring a Director for Gratitude and Generosity; this person's primary responsibility will be overseeing our planned giving service, which includes working with individuals, couples, and families who want to create a planned gift to benefit a Moravian ministry, as well as our church-based program that helps congregations and agencies encourage their members and supporters to remember them through an estate gift. For more information about the position, please contact me at pmclaughlin@mmfa.info or 336-725-2589.

We are excited about what 2017 will bring for the Foundation and our Moravian Church as we work together to ensure its strength and viability for generations to come. Please let us know how the Foundation can serve you and your ministry.

Submitted by Paul McLaughlin

Unity Prayer Day

March 1 is the anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) in 1457. We encourage congregations to mark this occasion on **Sunday, March 5**. This is also a good time to receive the 2017 Unity Offering.

YEAR END REPORTS

A reminder that annual year-end reports are due in the PEC office by January 31. These were provided via e-mail in November to pastors, church educators and secretaries. They are also available at the Provincial website.

The report forms for pastors, church educators and congregational ministries are available for completion online.

Newsletter Notes from Around the Southern Province

The 2017 *Directory and Statistics* is out, and we note that 6 congregations show gains in all three of the following categories for 2015: confirmed communicants, total membership, and average worship attendance. May all our congregations follow this example in next year's *Directory and Statistics*.

Oak Grove is close to completing the new Kitchen, Bathroom, and Fellowship Hall project. The large kitchen will have enough room for two stoves, two refrigerators, and a dishwasher and a walk in pantry. The large Fellowship Hall will also feature new adjustable LED lighting and a storage closet for chairs, tables, etc. as well as large bathrooms. You can also keep nice and dry on rainy days by entering under the new portico.

Speaking of Fellowship Hall improvements, **Grace** installed a ramp and safety railings in their Fellowship Hall leading to the stage, nursery, and classrooms.

Submitted by Nicole L. Crabbe, Assistant Archivist, Moravian Archives

PEC News for January 2017

The Provincial Elders' Conference met December 5th and 19th, with all members present, except for Ron Bell who was absent Dec. 5th, recovering from surgery. The meeting began with sharing news, needs and concerns from among church leaders and congregations, followed by prayers of intercession

SYNOD / STRATEGIC DIRECTION

PEC reviewed and discussed plans for the Feb. 2017 "Living the Essentials" Conference, including preparation of a "state of the church" presentation and materials. PEC received an update of the work of the Synod Planning Committee, which continues regular monthly meetings. PEC

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approved guidelines for New and Emerging Ministries as mandated by 2014 Synod Resolution #18 (“Manna” Ministries), and affirmed the “Fresh Expressions” model of starting new worshipping communities as part of those guidelines.

CHURCHES AND LEADERS

PEC discussed a request from Palm Beach for the appointment of a Provincial Acolyte; and took action as needed in call processes for: Ardmore, Clemmons, Friedland, Mayodan, Mizpah, and Prince of Peace. PEC clarified guidelines for when and how church boards may request consideration of specific individuals for call as pastor; discussed revisions to policies and guidelines for interim pastors; and had conversation about the relationship between call, ordination and employment. PEC discussed recently-completed quadrennial reviews which utilized new survey materials; and approved an assistance grant to one pastor from the Pastoral Assistance Fund. PEC discussed the group of candidates who are expected to complete preparation for ordination in 2017, and made arrangements for the reactivation of the ordination review committee.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, and COMMISSIONS

PEC extended the appointment of Richard Starbuck as Archivist through May 2017, and approved steps by the Archives Commission for their search for the next Archivist.

UNITY AND ECUMENICAL

PEC continued work on its response to Unity Synod Resolution 44; discussed a letter received from the Alaska Provincial Board about possible assistance with pastoral leadership needs; and approved a general solicitation in the Province by the Board of World Mission as it raises funding to support participants in the Unity Mission Conference to be held in South Africa in Nov. 2017.

OTHER MATTERS

PEC discussed major tasks and initiatives of the PEC for the remaining months of its current term; determined to move from two monthly meetings to one, generally on the first Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with the possibility of additional meetings as needed.

The Provincial Elders’ Conference will meet January 9.

Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President

For Your January Calendar

- 2.....New Year Holiday
- 9.....PEC Meeting
- 12.....MMF/Archives Lunch Lecture, 12:15 p.m.
- 16.....MLK Holiday
- 17.....Mission Society Meeting
- 19-20.....Moravian College/MTS Joint Board Meeting
- 21.....FL District RCC Meeting, W. Palm Beach
- 22.....Resolution #12 Worship and Prayer Service, 3pm, Clemmons
- 22.....RYC and Youth Leader Meeting, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- 31-Feb.3....Christian Churches Together, Garden Grove, CA

For Your Address Book

Address Change:

The Rev. **Truman Dunn**
5649 Cornwallis Drive
Yadkinville, NC 27055

Phone Number Change:

The Rev. **John G. Rights** - 336.692.2984

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Changes:

The Rev. **Ray Burke** will retire February 28, 2017, after over 40 years of ministry, having served the New Philadelphia, Konnoak Hills, and Clemmons congregations, and as an Army Chaplain. Please keep Ray, his wife, Kay, and their family, and also the Clemmons congregation and boards in prayer.

The Rev. **Virginia Tobiassen** has accepted a call to become Pastor of Home Moravian Church after serving as Associate Pastor since 2013. A service of installation is planned for January 29. Remember Ginny, her husband, Bill, and the members and leadership at Home Church during this time of transition.

Illnesses:

Please continue to remember **Gary Easter**, Provincial Acolyte for Crooked Oak Moravian Church, as he recovers at home from a motorcycle accident that happened before Thanksgiving.

Ordination Anniversaries for January 2017

Ray Burke.....	40
James Doss.....	42
Truman Dunn.....	43
Ray Johnson.....	50
Ofreciano Julias.....	32
Roy Ledbetter.....	43
Russell May.....	11
Virginia Tobiassen.....	4

Congratulations and God Bless You!

From the Resolution 12 Steering Committee

As 2017 begins, we are continuing our work as directed by the 2014 Synod of the Southern Province, to provide resources and opportunities for study and discernment regarding homosexuality and the church. We remain grateful for this call to serve, and thankful for all who have participated in this work of discernment and study.

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Please join us for a service of worship and prayer, to be held Sunday afternoon, January 22, at 3:00 p.m. at Clemmons Moravian Church. This service will be led by the Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp, and the focus of the service is “Prayer and Discernment”. This, the second in our series of services planned and led by the bishops residing in the Southern Province, will be an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate the things that unite us, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to know and do God’s will in our province, and worship the Triune God in community together.

We remain available to meet with individual congregations or RCCs to talk about what we have done and what is still to come, as we continue our work. Please contact any committee member to set up a time for us to be with you!

Also we are nearing the completion of the video series for congregational, RCC, and small-group use, to facilitate the conversations at a more local level. Please check the Resolution 12 tab on the provincial website – www.mcsp.org – frequently for updates. We encourage you all to remember, and to remind your brothers and sisters, that there is indeed no subject that we need avoid talking about, as brothers and sisters united by Christ. Difficult as some conversations are, when held in a spirit of respect and love for one another in the Lord, they bear rich fruit in greater understanding and in powerful witness to a polarized world. Please join us in showing a “more excellent way” – the way of loving service together.

Submitted by Nola Reed Knouse, for the Resolution 12 Steering Committee.

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Craig Troutman	919-787-4034	craig@raleighmoravian.org
Steve Wilson	704-301-6365	stevewilson313@gmail.com

Latest BCM News and Events

Vacation Bible School Time Is A Coming...

The Board of Cooperative Ministries is getting the new w2017 VBS starter kits in daily now. We have options from Abingdon, Cokesbury, Group, Standard, Concordia, and a few hints of how to do a Moravian themed VBS using the curriculum that is due for download in March. These kits can be borrowed for a two week preview period. We will host an afternoon in the center on Sunday, February 12 where you will be able to see the options set up, ask questions. Get those VBS leaders on board early in the planning process.

An Opportunity for all Youth Leaders in every congregation

On Sunday afternoon, January 22, the Regional Youth Council will have their monthly meeting from 2:30-4:00. The Moravian Church Educator group along with the Friends of the Resource Center would like to invite all youth leaders to come to the Resource Center during those times too, either by yourself or make it an opportunity to be with your RYC representatives. We will meet downstairs as a support and sharing time along with showing some resources that are helpful in youth ministry. During the last half hour, the two groups will join together for some refreshments and sharing together. Make your plans now to come visit with us.

Moravian Music Foundation News

MORAVIAN MUSIC NEWS & EVENTS

Jan 2 - The Archie K Davis Center will be closed for the New Year holiday.

Jan 12 - Lunchtime Lecture – *Moravian Music Elsewhere, Part 1*, Nola R. Knouse. Lunchtime Lectures are held at 12:15 p.m. in the Spaugh Lecture/Recital Hall of the Archie K. Davis Center. [DIRECTIONS](#) Free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your lunch! [Complete Lecture Schedule](#)

January 15 - The Burke Singers of WSSU and Jason McKinney, bass, Home Moravian Church sanctuary, 529 S. Church St., Winston-Salem, NC. 3:00p.m. [Music@Home Concert Series](#) – Free; donations appreciated. 2:00 Pre-Concert Lecture, St. Philips African Moravian Church in Salem. In partnership with the St. Philips congregation and Old Salem Museum & Gardens.

Feb 9 - Lunchtime Lecture – *Even More Fun Finds in the Vault*, Nola R. Knouse. Lunchtime Lectures are held at 12:15 p.m. in the Spaugh Lecture/Recital Hall of the Archie K. Davis Center. [DIRECTIONS](#) Free and open to the public. You are welcome to bring your lunch! [Complete Lecture Schedule](#)

Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel, Moravian Music Foundation

**Deadline for submission of articles for the February Issue of Provincial Ties is
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2017
Happy New Year!