

Report to the Synod of 2014: Board of Cooperative Ministries



Mission, Purpose, & Values

*The Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM) engages and supports congregations and Regional Conferences of Churches (RCCs) in their ministries as together we grow in faith, love and hope, following Jesus in serving the world. In other words, we **Build, Connect, and Mobilize** Moravians to live out our faith!*



This 25-member board is made up of one (1) member appointed by each of the 12 Regional Conference of Churches and one (1) member appointed by the PEC for each Regional Conference of Churches representative, for a total of 25 members, including the President of the PEC. A 5-person staff carries out the Board's mission from our offices at 500 South Church Street in Winston-Salem, a location also housing nearly [5000 resources](#) to enrich Moravian ministries.



Responsibilities

The [2009 Southern Province Special Synod](#) created BCM, and charged it to provide support to congregations and [Regional Conferences of Churches](#) in order to develop and maintain a high level of health and growth. Read more about our formal responsibilities on the [What We Do](#) page of our website at www.moravianbcm.org. Watch [a 14-minute video overview](#) of the BCM. We serve individuals, families, classes and small groups, congregations, and RCCs, as well as pastors, lay leaders, church educators and other professional staff. We offer:

- Children's, family, youth, college and young adult ministry support and programming;
- Coaching, consulting, and training in leadership & board development, technology and social media, asset mapping, stewardship, faith formation, Moravian heritage/theology and much more;
- Insightful books, videos, and easy-to-use curriculum at our Resource Center; and
- A place for social ministry groups to convene and take action in areas like multicultural ministries, poverty, environmental stewardship, and others.

Report to the Synod of 2014: Board of Cooperative Ministries



Summary of Activities

The 2010 Synod passed [Resolution #34](#), which outlined **eight characteristics of healthy congregations**. Through our events, programs, and communications, we help make these characteristics more accessible to Moravians, so that we can live out our faith more fully. Nearly everything BCM does flows into or out of these foundational characteristics. As we discuss the activities and accomplishments of the BCM, we'll note **(parenthetically – key on page 4)** which of the **eight characteristics** we address with this work.

At our annual planning retreat in August 2013, the BCM [evaluated our work](#) and identified [accomplishments](#), areas of strength, and future goals (read about the 2012 retreat [here](#)). They actually fall quite nicely into our three major areas of vision:

BUILD:

Transition & Organization: The Special Synod of 2009 voted to restructure the Southern Province, in order to improve “communication, polity, unity and community building, and discover how we might better organize ourselves for the service of Christ.” RCCs and the PEC appointed representatives to BCM in the months before and after Synod 2010. During the first two years of this inter-synodal period, the Board focused on how “we might better organize ourselves.” BCM members and staff elected officers in November 2010 and created a process to determine an effective operating and staffing structure for the Board. First, they evaluated and assessed ministries and ministry needs; then, they examined the existing positions; and finally, they aligned needs with new and expanded positions. BCM completed its staffing with the hiring of Beth Hayes, Director of Congregational Ministries & Resources (May 2012); Heather Stevenson, Administrative Assistant (May 2012); Ruth Cole Burcaw, Executive Director (July 2012); Doug Rights, Director of Youth, College, & Young Adult Ministries (Dec 2012); and Amy Gardin Linville, Communications Coordinator (January 2013). **(C, G, L, Mn, S)**



Mission Alignment: Who is BCM? Why do we exist? What do we want to accomplish? We've spent time working on the identity of this organization, on its character. If we know who we are and what we are becoming, we can make intelligent choices where we invest our time and energy. We use our four [ministry teams](#) (Advocacy & Mission, Communication & Outreach, Education & Spiritual Formation, and Leadership Development & Support) and [our staff](#) to continuously ensure our actual work is aligned with our mission, our identity, and the eight characteristics of congregational health. **(C, G, L, S)**

Infrastructure: Moravians from all over North America are now able to borrow nearly 5000 Moravian-friendly resources on topics such as children's ministry and youth ministry, spiritual growth, Bible studies and more. In November 2012, BCM voted to create an online resource library, found at <http://resource.moravian.org/Home>, in order to make these resources more accessible to more people. The new system features lending and sales capability as well as auto-reminder and reservation functions to ensure timely return and distribution. The library came online in March 2013 and now has over 115 users. **(C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S, W)**

Report to the Synod of 2014: Board of Cooperative Ministries

Leadership Development: The [Moravian Leadership Network](#) (MLN) joins and strengthens current and emerging Moravian leaders through experiential, group-oriented learning. Our goal is to broaden and deepen the pool of Moravian leaders, people who will dedicate themselves to fulfill God’s mission with a sense of vision, purpose, excitement and common good, creating a future of greater possibilities. The first class, made up of 18 individuals from 15 different Moravian congregations, began meeting in September 2013 and will finish their time together in May 2014. (C, G, L, Mn, S)

Educational Materials & New Moravian Resources: BCM provides curriculum that enriches Sunday School classes, small groups, youth programs, and Vacation Bible School to 55 Moravian churches, dozens of Presbyterian Churches and others. We hear often from Moravians interested in adding a Moravian twist to their existing programs and curricula. New additions to our Moravian “repertoire” include *Simply Moravian: A Modern Guide to the Ancient Essentials* (an intergenerational resource and devotions), *Still Waters* (a small group study on spiritual autobiography), *Moravians & Missions* (a VBS supplement featuring Moravian mission areas), and even tips to jazz up your Children’s Lovefeast. (C, L, Mn, Ms, R, S, W)

Congregational/RCC Support & Discernment: What’s the next chapter in the story of your congregation or RCC? BCM helps explore that story, using tools such as [MissionInsite](#), an integrated suite of information and query tools which give demographic information specifically tailored to churches, asset mapping, as well as customized coaching, training, and support designed to meet specific needs and topics such as stewardship, strategic planning, leadership, conflict resolution, spiritual type, ministry innovation, and more. We’ve developed an [online toolkit](#) to provide information and support to Regional Conferences of Churches, many of which are formed and experiencing ministry and mission together. Read more of [their stories](#). (C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S, W)

CONNECT:

Communication & Events: Connecting requires communication (C, G, Mn), so the newly-hired staff worked quickly to develop:

- A [weekly e-newsletter](#) with over 500 subscribers featuring upcoming events, new programs and resources;
- A [quarterly printed newsletter](#) focusing on the stories of our ministries, events, RCCs, BCM members and staff;
- A brand-new [website](#) and [blog](#);
- Facebook pages for the [Leadership Network](#), [BCM](#) and [Roots & Wings](#) (children & family ministry);
- [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#) accounts; and
- A comprehensive online [Provincial calendar](#).



BCM has hosted dozens of events with hundreds of attendees, covering topics ranging from technology to theology, and everything in between. (C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S, W) Major events are listed below.

- BCM Orientation Events
- Chill ‘n’ Chat Book Club
- [College Age Mission Trips](#)
- [College Age Get-Togethers & Retreat](#)
- Comenius Learning Series Fall Event
- [Comenius Learning Series Summer Conference](#)
- Comenius Learning Series: Leadership Focus events ([2013 Pictures](#))
- [Convo 2013](#)

Report to the Synod of 2014: Board of Cooperative Ministries

- Discover Your Spiritual Type Workshop (RCC-sponsored event)
- [Environmental Stewardship Conference](#)
- [Fall Lay Seminary](#)
- Godly Play Leader Workshop
- [Latino Ministries Conferences](#)
- Simply Moravian: The Essentials for Educational Ministry
- Technology Workshop
- VBS Preview Open House

Common Interest Groups: BCM brings together Moravians to meet regularly in groups such as the [Regional Youth Council](#), the [Young Adult Moravians](#) (YAMs), the [Senior Friends Advisory Council](#), Friends of the Resource Center, Moravian Christian Educators, and more. **(C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S, W)**

MOBILIZE:

Once we've developed a foundation (build) and gotten the right people together (connect), we also get to work, offering a space for ministry groups to take action in areas like:

- [Environmental Stewardship Task Force](#) & Conferences **(C, Mn, S)**
- Faith & Health Initiatives (partnerships with Shepherd's Center, [Congregational Nurse Network](#), Mental Health Association, Wake Forest Baptist Health, and others) **(C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S)**
- [Friends of Moravian Prison Ministries](#) **(C,L, Mn, Ms)**
- Multicultural Ministries (specifically [Latino Ministries Committee](#) & Conferences) **(C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R)**
- [Sunnyside Ministry](#) - Sunnyside Ministry completed renovation of the facility, including enlarging and repaving the parking lot. They continue to build ecumenical support and now have volunteers from over 60 churches. After 30 years, the free medical clinic was discontinued and new educational program called "Gaining Control" was started. Demand for assistance continues to grow and Sunnyside continues as an outreach for the Moravian Church and a place where people of faith can live out their faith serving others in ministry. **(C, L, Mn, Ms, S)**
- Poverty, Homelessness, & Other Social Concerns **(C, G, L, Mn, Ms, R, S)**



What's Next?

In many ways, our work is just beginning. We spent much of 2011-2012 "building" our team, then spent 2012-2013 "connecting" and "mobilizing" to carry out our mission. Every day brings with it new ideas for innovative, creative, meaningful ministry that we can provide, facilitate and share.

We're excited about the future! Coming soon is the Big Idea Forum, which gives Moravians a way to explore innovative ministry by learning from the successes of other congregations, the Children & Family Ministry Team, working to develop a child-centered ministry that supports congregations in fulfilling the promises of baptism, financial education for young adults, the next installment of *Simply Moravian* featuring Bishop Jon Amos Comenius, as well as more events, more learning, more conversation, more living out our faith. We invite you to join us in our "cooperative" ministries, as together we grow in faith, love and hope, following Jesus in serving the world.

"Glory to God, who is able to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine through his power at work within us . . ." (Ephesians: 3:20)

Characteristic Key	
C-Cooperation	Ms-Mission
G-Growth	R-Relationship
L-Leadership	S-Stewardship
Mn-Ministry	W-Worship