

Report to Synod 2014

From: Lutheran—Moravian Coordinating Committee (LMCC)

Mission, Purpose and Values

The LMCC was established in 1999, after the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Moravian Church in America, both Northern and Southern Provinces, approved the Full Communion Agreement.

Major responsibilities established included: to ensure that commitments made in the Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion would be carried out and serve as a forum for mission possibilities; address matters related to programs to the appropriate units of the participating churches; facilitate inter-church activities; propose national events for the participating churches; and develop a pattern of representation between the two participating churches.

Responsibilities (including any specific assignments from the 2010 Synod)

- Continue to develop and enhance the purpose and mission of the committee.
- Continue to encourage partnership and collaboration at the congregational, regional, and church-wide levels in areas of mission, service and leadership.
- Raise awareness in our synods and provinces by welcoming full communion partners to participate in our continuing education events, workshops, and conferences.

Summary of Activities (including positive resources or gifts identified)

- We celebrate that Moravian and ELCA congregations continue to deepen their engagement in cooperative opportunities for outreach and mission through youth programs, congregational worship, community outreach, the sharing of resources (both people and facilities), short-term missions, and disaster response/relief.
- LMCC meets quarterly (or as needed) in conference calls and annually in a mutually agreed upon location with attention given to stewardship of resources, strategic direction, and partnership.
- The LMCC sought opportunities for LMCC and Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee to come together for informal conversations related to the sharing of information and best practices.
- The opportunities for sharing between LMCC and LECC resulted in opportunities for improved communication: a historical timeline of the committee's work that could be shared as a public document; and the development of a FaceBook page to facilitate creative sharing of ideas and opportunities for mission partnerships between individuals, agencies, and congregations in both Moravian and ELCA contexts.
- The committee's charter was revised to read: "Each church body will be represented by four persons, one of whom is a staff person for ecumenical matters, or a person appointed to carry out such responsibilities."

- The committee met in Bethlehem, PA in July 2013 for the purpose of sharing in the opening lovefeast of the Moravian Music Festival celebrating music from each of the Moravian, Lutheran, and Episcopal traditions and visiting ministries highlighted by the judicatory leaders (Moravian, Lutheran, and Episcopal) as they meet regularly in the Lehigh Valley to identify areas of ministry where they can work collaboratively.

Future Direction and Opportunities

- Continue to explore, among our respective seminaries, openings to student engagement in cross-ecumenical learning opportunities.
- Continue to encourage mutual ministry opportunities such as: disaster relief, short-term missions, hunger initiatives, advocacy, and HIV/AIDS.
- Pray for the Moravian Episcopal Coordinating Committee and look forward to hearing more from them as they move forward in their work. All coordinating committees agreed to share with one another, through the co-chairs of each committee, their respective strategic directives, minutes, and reports.
- Recognizing that God has called us, and our respective denominations, to share in the fulfillment of God's mission, we continue to look for places where we can support and encourage one another towards the goal of connecting our God-given gifts with unfulfilled need in the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Tracy Pryor
Moravian Co-Chair, LMCC