

**Report to the Southern Province Synod of 2014
From Moravian Music Foundation
November 5, 2013**

MISSION, PURPOSE, AND VALUES

The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) preserves, celebrates, and cultivates the musical life of the Moravians. MMF seeks to uphold the values of faithful worship within the Moravian heritage, stewardship of God's gifts of music and worship (both present and past), and sound scholarship.

MMF is governed by a Board of Trustees, of whom 3 are appointed by each of the following: Southern Provincial Elders Conference, Northern Provincial Elders Conference, Salem Congregation, and Bethlehem Area Moravians; and from 9 to 16 additional members are elected by the board itself. Board members serve four-year terms, and may serve two consecutive terms. Board members in 2014 who are members of Southern Province churches are: Matthew Allen, Robbie Alphin, Thomas Baucom, Mike Cude, Hal Garrison, Ray Gatland, Chancy M. Kapp, Frank Martin, David Teague, and Montine Pfohl Wilkinson. MMF has a staff of three: the Rev. Nola Reed Knouse, Director; Gwyneth A. Michel, Assistant Director (Bethlehem office), and Margaret Brady, Office Manager.

RESPONSIBILITIES

MMF is responsible for the physical care of the archival music collections of both Northern and Southern Provinces; for Moravian Music Festivals; and for providing music and worship resources for congregations and agencies of the Moravian Church, our ecumenical partners as appropriate, amateur and professional musicians, and scholars and students worldwide. MMF is under contractual agreement with the Northern and Southern Provinces, Bethlehem Area Moravians, and the Salem Congregation for the custody, research, publication, recording, and other uses of the archival music collections, the vast majority of which belong to these Moravian Church agencies and not to MMF at all.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

MMF's activities within the intersynodal period have included:

Preservation

- Continuation of work towards converting the catalog of the collections to electronic records, so that musicians worldwide can see what resources MMF has, both archival manuscripts and modern publications and recordings

Celebration

- **Moravian Music Festival:** Beginning with the 24th Moravian Music Festival of 2013, MMF sponsors the quadrennial Moravian Music Festivals (prior to 2010, these were sponsored by the Southern and Northern Provinces in alternation). The 24th Festival (July 14-20, 2013, in Bethlehem, PA), had over 300 participants, including over 50 children (K-5th grade) and 15 youth (middle school through high school). The children had a separate program featuring a newly-written musical telling the story of Moravian missions around the world, and a variety of fun activities in the afternoons. Youth participated in adult musical ensembles, and also had separate gatherings for pizza parties, a tour of Moravian College, games, and an ice cream social. The adult band and chorus presented excellent concerts. Youth and adult participants were also able to

participate in a handbell choir, trombone choir, instrumental chamber music ensembles, or choral anthem reading sessions.

The opening lovefeast of the Festival was an ecumenical service, celebrating the full communion relationships among the ELCA, Episcopal Church, and Moravian Church – the first such event including all three ecumenical partners. This service, featuring a 100-voice ecumenical choir, leadership from all three denominations, and the Rev. Nola Reed Knouse as preacher, may be viewed at http://www.diobeth.org/What_s_Happening/Videos_and_Photos/.

The 25th Moravian Music Festival will be held in the summer of 2017 in Winston-Salem (specific location to be determined).

- **Moravian Music Weekends:** In cooperation with Laurel Ridge, MMF has sponsored “Moravian Music on the Mountain: A Moravian Music Weekend” in the winters of 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Each weekend so far has seen more than 50 participants, some in the band and some in the choir and a few “listeners”. Each year we schedule the event so that we can share Sunday morning worship with the Mountain Laurel Moravian Fellowship. The 2014 weekend will feature Drake Flynt, choral director, and Robbie Alphin, band director, with Matthew Allen as devotions leader.
- **Moravian Music Sunday** each year is celebrated on the 5th Sunday of Easter (or other times if more convenient to the congregations). MMF provides suggested orders of worship, music suggestions for band and choir, and other information to enable the congregations to celebrate the rich and continuing heritage of Moravian music. Moravian Music Sunday of 2014 is May 18, and materials will be mailed in January.
- **Concert Sponsorships:** MMF assists the Moramus Chorale (in Winston-Salem) and the Unitas Chorale (in Bethlehem) with concert programming, program printing, and some financial support. The Moramus Chorale generally presents two to three concerts each year. Projected for 2014 are a spring concert in May and a presentation of the *Psalm of Joy*, the music prepared for the first known celebration of July 4 in the nation (1783), to be presented in Salem on July 4, 2014.

In addition, MMF assists musicians and performing groups worldwide with programming assistance, music suggestions, and loans. MMF manages the Music Lending Libraries in both Southern and Northern Provinces, with over 200 loans of vocal and instrumental music each year.

Cultivation

- **Music publishing:** MMF publishes choral music in the Moravian Star Anthem Series, which has a series of anthems edited from the archival collections and a series of anthems written by living Moravian composers. Forty-eight anthems are now published, with several others projected for publication in 2014. In response to the concern that much older Moravian music is too high, a keyboard part in a lower key is available for most of these anthems, so that the sopranos don't have to sing so high for so long. The publication of most of these is sponsored by donors (individuals or churches) in honor or in memory of someone.

MMF also publishes music for piano and organ, including recent publications of settings of Moravian hymn tunes for piano. A collection of Moravian organ music is projected for publication in early 2014.

- **Sing to the Lord a New Song:** The new Moravian songbook, published by IBOC in 2013, was prepared for publication by MMF, with an interprovincial committee which included both Nola Knouse and Gwyneth Michel. (Southern Province members of the committee were Brad Bennett and Riddick Weber.) All the typesetting and proofreading for the new book were done by MMF,

including the time-consuming yet rewarding task of writing down the music for 22 of the 80 included songs, since those submissions consisted of a recording and a copy of the text. The new songbook was introduced at the Moravian Music Festival, and an introductory workshop is scheduled for November 10 at Kernersville Moravian Church. The first printing of 1500 copies is almost completely sold out, and the second printing will be completed before Thanksgiving 2013

- **Support for synods, Moravian Church gatherings, and other unity activities:** MMF continues to provide music and worship consultation and staff support for provincial synods (both provinces), district synods (Northern Province), and intersynodal conferences (Southern Province), as well as for other denominational events. MMF provided copyright consultation and licensing services for the 2011 Moravian Women's Conference and for the 2013 Interprovincial Moravian Ministers Retreat.

MMF provided typesetting services for the recent ordinations and consecrations in Cuba, so that they could sing the two traditional ordination/consecration hymns in Spanish (Spanish text provided by Sam Gray).

- **Copyright policy:** Following repeated observations of the violation of copyright law in Moravian gatherings and congregations, MMF staff worked with legal counsel to draft "Guidelines for Congregations and Agencies of the Moravian Church in America for the Use of Copyrighted Materials." Adopted by the Provincial Elders Conferences of both provinces in December of 2012, this document includes a statement of the Moravian Church's policy on the use of copyrighted materials; definitions of "copyright" and "fair use"; information about copyright law as it applies to videos, software, and the internet; obtaining permission to use a copyrighted work; information on the various available copyright licenses; and other resources. This was distributed to all Southern and Northern Province congregations, and is available on the Moravian Music Foundation website at <http://moravianmusic.org/media/Copyright-Guidelines-for-Congregations-and-Agencies-of-the-Moravian-Church-in-America.pdf>.
- **Consultation with Individual Congregations:** MMF provides worship and music consultations upon request from individual congregations. Over 60% of Southern Province congregations have consulted MMF within the past two years, for advice or suggestions concerning topics including: how to find a new director of music or organist; suggestions for music for choir; how to start or encourage a band; specific copyright questions; requests for special orders of worship; counsel for challenging relationships between pastors and musicians; descants for Moravian hymns; etc.
- **Representing the Moravian Church:** MMF has frequent contact with musicians, students, and scholars from around the world who have varying degrees of knowledge about the Moravian Church and its faith. MMF serves as an interpreter of Moravian tradition to these individuals and groups, and a number of people have come to faith in Christ and become members of Moravian Churches through contact with MMF. We engage in evangelical outreach regularly.

FUTURE DIRECTION AND OPPORTUNITIES

The MMF Board of Trustees engaged in a long-range planning retreat October 4-6, 2013. The results of that meeting are now in the hands of the Board's Vision and Planning Team, working to create a draft of a long-range plan for MMF's work for the next 5 to 10 years. Among the topics considered are the following:

- **Education and Training:** MMF sees the need for more educational opportunities for church musicians and for congregation members at large, including children and youth. The board's Education and Training Team is working to plan how MMF might better serve the church in this area.
- **Events:** The board's Events team has developed a five-year plan for Moravian Music Weekends, continuing the one at Laurel Ridge annually and planning to sponsor one or two in other geographic areas each year.
- **Research, Publications, and Recordings:** This board team is seeking to respond to the call from our church musicians for more music suitable to the smaller choir. MMF has published several two-part and SAB anthems within the past few years, and is planning a collection of sacred Moravian music suitable for the unison choir or soloists.
- **Staffing:** The board is engaging a staffing consultant to review MMF's work and structure and make recommendations for staffing needs. The current 3-person staff is woefully inadequate to continue fulfilling the mission and the variety of opportunities that come MMF's way.
- **Funding:** The board's Financial Resources and Stewardship Team continues to struggle with maintaining the level of service to the churches in the face of shrinking provincial support. Within the last fourteen years, Southern Province support to MMF has shrunk from \$25,062 in 2001 to \$6,000 in 2014 – a reduction of 76%. In the same time frame, while Northern Province support has increased, total Moravian Church support has declined from a high of \$48,043 in 2009, or 15% of a \$328,000 annual budget, to a total of \$22,245 in 2014, or 7% of a smaller \$313,000 budget. This is particularly troubling because MMF has increased the services provided to congregations throughout this period of time.

Synod delegates may have heard of the large bequest received by MMF. We were notified in December of 2012 of this bequest, and as of October 31, 2013, we have received approximately half of the anticipated gift. This does not mean that MMF is now "rolling in cash"; rather, this gift stabilizes our financial position, which (like everyone else) has suffered significantly through the recession. MMF's Financial Resources and Stewardship Team is working to develop plans for how best to use the income from this bequest.

With the decline in church support, and the drop in annual giving through the recession years (though that appears to be stabilizing as well), MMF's annual budget was slashed from a high of \$490,000 in 2006 to the \$313,000 for 2014 mentioned above. Income for 2014 is projected to be Moravian Church support (7%), individual donations (40%), grants (5%), sales and royalties (8%), investment income (37%), and special project funds (3%). Expenses are projected to be personnel (57%), occupancy (20%), professional services (9%), and programs and services (14%).