

## Report to the Synod of 2014

### From: Moravian-Episcopal Coordinating Committee (MECC)

**Mission, Purpose and Values:** *Finding Our Delight in the Lord*, the document establishing full communion between the Episcopal Church in America and the Moravian Church in America (Northern & Southern Provinces) called for the creation of a “joint commission, fully accountable to the decision-making bodies in the two churches” (Paragraph 38).

**Responsibilities:** The charge given to this inter-provincial body is very broad and casts it primarily as an advisory body advocating the cause of full communion within both denominations.

**Summary of activities:** The MECC members have been appointed by the two denominations and an initial meeting took place on January 16-17, 2013 in Winston-Salem, NC. Present were Moravians the Rev. David Schattschneider (NP), the Rt. Rev. Wayne Burkette (SP) and Liz Leonard (SP). Janel Rice (NP) was unable to attend. Episcopalians present were Josephine Hicks (Charlotte, NC), the Rev. Jonah Kendall (Durham, NC), the Rt. Rev. Steven Miller (Diocese of Milwaukee, WI), and the Rev. Maria Tjeltveit (Allentown, PA). The Rev. Margaret Rose, working with ecumenical and inter-faith programs at the national Episcopal Church Center was also present. Miller and Tjeltveit were members of the Theological Dialogue that produced the proposal for full communion. Everyone else is new to this discussion. It was agreed that Schattschneider and Miller will be co-chairs and Tjeltveit will be recording secretary. The second meeting of the committee was by telephone conference call on October 15, 2013.

The committee has spent considerable time describing the characteristics and policies of the two denominations. Topics have included administrative structure, the role of deacons, of bishops, the call process, clergy benefits, and ways to educate congregations about full communion. Committee members will assemble a list of printed and electronic resources describing our full communion and will make the list available to congregations.

*Finding Our Delight in the Lord* suggests the possibility of the interchange of clergy whereby ministers of one denomination would serve a congregation in the other on a short-term or temporary basis. Since there already exist procedures governing the Moravian-Lutheran Exchange of Clergy and Episcopal-Lutheran Exchange of Clergy, the MECC took as its first task the development of a policy describing the exchange of Moravian-Episcopal clergy. The Committee is finishing the final draft of this policy statement. Once complete it will be sent to the PECs of the Southern and Northern Provinces and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church for comment.

**Future Direction and Opportunities:** One issue running through the MECC conversations has been the different understanding of the role of deacons and bishops within the two traditions. Committee members have expressed interest in addressing those issues once the policy matter mentioned above has been dealt with. There are tentative plans to hold a face-to-face meeting of the Committee in Bethlehem, PA in spring 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. David A. Schattschneider, Ph.D.

November 15, 2013

