

# SYNOD 2014

## **Moravian Church in America Southern Province**

*April 3-6, 2014*

*Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC*

## **Resolution and Elections**

**Synod of the Southern Province**  
*of the*  
**Moravian Church in America**

*April 3-6, 2014*

**Officers of Synod**

*Co-chairs:*

**Peggy Carter**  
**Craig Troutman**

*Secretaries:*

**Donna Hurt, Secretary**  
**Linda Hastings, Secretary**  
**Leibia Willis, Secretary**

**Keith Kapp, Parliamentarian**

*Steering Committee:*

**Judy Knopf**  
**Gray Styers**  
**David Shaffner**

## **Foreword**

The quadrennial synod of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, convened on Thursday, April 3, 2014 and adjourned on Sunday, April 6, 2014. The Synod took place at the YMCA's Blue Ridge Assembly at Black Mountain, NC. The Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman spoke at opening worship. In addition to worship times at the beginning and close of each synod session, each day began with an early morning celebration of Holy Communion led by the bishops residing in the Southern Province.

In the year prior to the Synod a leadership team comprised of 5 subcommittees, planned for synod in areas of delegate preparation, leadership, nominations, program, and worship. This preparation allowed for openness to God's leading and time to consider new opportunities for ministry for the Moravian Church. Both the Synod and the time of preparation for it called the Province to a recommitment to a Christ-centered, mission-oriented purpose and direction.

A list of members of Synod, resolutions adopted, and results of elections are included in this booklet along with the Constitution and Standing Rules of Synod.

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## ***Officially Accredited Members & Members Ex-Officio***

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### **Archivist**

C. Daniel Crews

### **Bishops**

D. Wayne Burkette  
Samuel J. Gray  
Graham H. Rights  
Lane A. Sapp  
John F. Wilson

### **Board of Cooperative Ministries**

Ruth Cole Burcaw

### **Board of World Mission**

Judy Ganz

### **Christian Educators**

Scarlett Dowdy  
Paula Hall  
Beth Hayes  
Donna Hurt  
Lisa Mullen  
Joyce Vance  
Fran Saylor

### **Mission Society**

Dan Nelson

### **Provincial Elders' Conference**

Betsy Bombick  
Ray Burke  
David Guthrie  
Gary Kniskern  
Neil Routh  
Christopher Thore  
Joyce Vance

### **Provincial Support Services Board**

David Guthrie  
Lisa Kirkman  
Gary Kniskern  
Jerry Smith  
Gray Styers  
Christopher Thore  
Craig Troutman, Chair

### **Provincial Treasurer**

Dennis Stanfield

### **Provincial Women's Board**

Tamra Thomas

### **Salem Academy and College**

Susan Pauly

### **Salemtowne**

Joe Lydon

## ***Ordained Ministers***

Matthew Allen  
Craig Atwood  
Frank Barker  
Walter Bishop  
Jon Boling  
Ray Burke  
Wayne Burkette  
Wayne Byerly  
Jeff Carter  
Christy Clore  
Rachel Connelly

Cheryl Cottingham  
Daniel Crews  
Zachary Dease  
James Demby  
James L. Doss  
Carol Foltz  
Patricia Garner  
Sam Gray  
Worth Green  
Don Griffin  
David Guthrie

Tony Hayworth  
Andrew Heil  
Betty Helms  
Wilma Israel  
John Jackman  
Jeffrey Jones  
Judith Justice  
Judy Knopf  
Nola R. Knouse  
David Marcus  
C.L. (Tripp) May III

William McElveen  
David Merritt  
Joseph Moore  
Kelly H. Moore  
Lisa Mullen  
Dan Nelson  
James C. Newsome  
Joseph Nicholas  
Robert Peek  
Robert Peterson  
John Rainey

Douglas C. Rights  
Graham H. Rights  
John D. Rights  
John G. Rights  
Cornelius B. Routh  
Lane Sapp  
Tim Sapp  
Richard L. Sides  
Tom Shelton  
Richard Spaugh  
Chris Thore

Virginia Tobiassen  
Craig Troutman  
Heather Vacek  
Frank Venable  
Scott Venable  
Riddick Weber  
Russell Williams  
John F. Wilson  
Steve Wilson  
Robert Wolfe  
Stuart Zimmerman

## *Delegates of Congregations*

### **Advent**

Barbara Davis  
Joe Pardue

### **Ardmore**

Glen Mabe

### **Bethabara**

Phillip Sapp

### **Bethania**

Judy Brownlee  
Cynthia Craddock

### **Bethesda**

none

### **Calvary**

Matthew Kane  
Bill Seippel  
Jan Trivette

### **Christ**

Linda Hastings  
Chris Vogler

### **Christ the King**

Jon Carlson  
Corey Whittaker

### **Clemmons**

Becky Cook

Brenda Davis

Roger McCawley  
Charles Stovall

### **Covenant**

Donald E. Britt

### **Crooked Oak**

none

### **Enterprise**

Dennis Coone

### **Fairview**

Robert Rascoe  
Barry Self

### **First (GA)**

Leibia Willis

### **First (NC)**

Gay Cass  
Terry Hindle

### **Friedberg**

Heidi Everhart  
Shela Foster  
Gary Jackson  
Ray Lambeth  
Wanda Russell  
Norm West  
Jim Williams

### **Friedland**

Gordon Caviness  
Betsy Messick  
Dana Rushing

### **Fries Memorial**

Molly Keener

### **Fulp**

Dorothy Via

### **Good Shepherd**

Donna Royster

### **Grace**

Mary Anna Arnold  
Hubert McMillian  
Robin Simmons

### **Home**

Libby Ayers  
Helen Beets  
Peggy Dotson  
Hal Garner  
Bob Hunter  
Toni Kapp  
Ted Leinbach  
David Shaffner  
Scott Southerland  
Susan Spence

**Hope**

Chris Meinberg

**Hopewell**

Marsha Lynn Grubbs

**Immanuel New Eden**

Pat Plyer

**Kernersville**

Daniel Atkins  
Judith Bullock  
Susan Hough

**King**

Lynne Doby  
Paula Hall  
Bill McElveen  
Cynthia Seiver

**King of Kings**

Maria Garcia  
Gregorio Moody

**Konnoak Hills**

Vicki Craver  
Kitsy Mathis

**Leaksville**

Gail Turner

**Little Church on the Lane**

Jeff Fulp  
Phil Lambeth  
Rusty Rushing

**Macedonia**

Sharon Boger  
Anne Graham

**Mayodan**

Sue Moore

**Messiah**

Roma Combs

**Mizpah**

Susan Hawkins

**Moravia**

Michael Kimel

**Mt. Bethel**

Steve Hiatt

**New Beginnings**

Joseph Harris

**New Hope (FL)**

Hazel Hooker

**New Hope (NC)**

Tom Schultz

**New Philadelphia**

Bill Byrd  
Nick Chrysson  
David Daggett  
Jack Geis  
Nancy Holland  
Patrick Linville  
Bill Sides  
Ron Tedder  
Kay Windsor

**Oak Grove**

Louise Whealton

**Olivet**

Winfield Beroth  
Rachel Desmarais

**Palm Beach**

Gloria Barker

**Peace**

Lesli McNamara

**Pine Chapel**

Charlie Hemrick

**Prince of Peace**

Genel Christian  
Celestine Joseph  
Geri Puello

**Providence**

none

**Raleigh**

Matt Hartman  
Fran Saylor  
Katherine Wilkerson

**Rolling Hills**

Caroline Owens

**Rural Hall**

Richard Key  
Michael P. Terry

**St. Phillips**

Alphonso Gaydon, Sr.

**Trinity**

Gary Stilley  
Cynthia Tesh

**Union Cross**

Karen Harris  
Roger Johnson  
Barry McGee

**Unity**

Deejie M. Culbertson

**Willow Hill**

none

## *Advisory Delegates*

### **Board of World Mission**

Justin Rabbach

### **Episcopal Church**

Katherine Jefferts Schori

### **Interprovincial Board of Communications**

Mike Riess

### **Margate Fellowship**

Dwight Moore

### **Moravian College & Theological Seminary**

none

### **Moravian Ministries Foundation**

Paul McLaughlin

Chi Chi Messick

### **The Unity of the Brethren**

James Hejl

### **Moravian Music Foundation**

Nola Knouse

### **Mountain Laurel Fellowship**

Julia Simmons

### **Northern Province PEC**

Betsy Miller

### **Moravian Church, Canadian District**

Bryan Peacock

### **Palmetto Fellowship**

Patricia Bald

### **Rayaka Ingnika Fellowship**

Jose Willis

### **Suriname Fellowship**

Armand Sabar

### **Sunnyside Ministries**

Tommy Cole

### **Tampa Fellowship**

Frederico Velasquez

### **Youth and College Age**

Adam Goodrich

Rachel Styers

Chris Underdal

### **Candidate for Ordination**

Aaron Linville

# *Characteristic Groups*

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## **Cooperation Group**

*Facilitators – Steve Wilson and Scarlett Dowdy*

Wanda Russell, Betsy Messick, Walter Bishop, Frank Barker, James Demby, Michael P. Terry, Susan Hough, Lesli McNamara, Stuart Zimmerman, Tommy Cole, Jerry Smith, Bob Peek, Dennis Coone, Norm West, Toni Kapp, Chris Meinberg, Paula Hall, Heather Vacek, Tom Shelton

## **Growth Group**

*Facilitators – Rick Sides and Donna Royster*

Kelly Moore, Susan Spence, Sharon Boger, Michael Kimel, Hazel Hooker, Bill Sides, Jose Willis, Tom Schultz, Graham Rights, Betsy Bombick, Julia Simmons, Gay Cass, Hal Garner, Jim Williams, Sue Moore, Betty Helms, Barry McGee, John Wilson

## **Stewardship Group**

*Facilitators – Becky Cook and Wayne Byerly*

Rachel Connelly, Barry Self, Christy Clore, James Hoots, John Jackman, Tim Sapp, Jeff Jones, Pat Plyler, Maria Garcia, Jack Geis, Tripp May, Sam Gray, Adam Goodrich, Glen Mabe, Helen Beets, Worth Green, Susan Pauly, Ruth Cole Burcaw, Zachary Dease, Paul McLaughlin

## **Relationship to Christ Group**

*Facilitators – Rachel Desmarais and Jeff Carter*

Judy Brownlee, Jon Carlson, Scott Venable, Fran Saylor, Roger Johnson, Beth Hayes, Cynthia Craddock, Ray Burke, Terry Hindle, Matt Hartman, Deeje Culbertson, Craig Atwood, Patricia Garner, Gregorio Moody, Nick Chrysson, Caroline Owens, Karen Harris, Lisa Kirkman, Brenda Davis, Justin Rabbach, Rusty Rushing

## **Mission Group**

*Facilitators – Worth Green and Lynn Doby*

Frank Venable, Cynthia Seiver, Phil Lambeth, Russell Williams, Nola Knouse, Armand Sabar, Roma Combs, Barbara Davis, Jim Newsome, Molly Keener, Hubert McMillian, Andrew Heil, Steve Hiatt, Matthew Allen, Chi Chi Messick, Dana Rushing, Dorothy Via, Tony Hayworth, Ted Leinbach, Jon Boling, Celestine Joseph

## **Worship Group**

*Facilitators – Carol Foltz and Patrick Linville*

Phillip Sapp, Vicki Craver, Nancy Holland, Don Griffin, Judy Ganz, Judith Justice, Dwight Moore, Alphonso Gaydon, David Guthrie, Corey Whittaker, Federico Velasquez, Robin Simmons, Peggy Dodson, Judith Bullock, Joe Nicholas, Bill Seippel, Ginny Tobiassen, Bill McElveen, Kay Windsor, Charlie Hemrick, Geri Puello, Gary Stilley

## **Leadership Group**

*Facilitators – Kitsy Mathis and Dan Nelson*

Chris Vogler, Neil Routh, Gail Turner, Louise Whealton, Winfield Beroth, Daniel Crews, Roger McCawley, Aaron Linville, Heidi Everhart, Gordon Caviness, Jim Doss, Rachel Styers, Joe Lydon, Riddick Weber, Patricia Bald, Jeff Fulp, Cheryl Cottingham, Anne Graham, Charles Stovall, Chris Underdal, Richard Key, John Rainey

## **Ministry Group**

*Facilitators – Robert Wolfe and Tamra Thomas*

Matthew Kane, Steve Weicz, Marsha Lynn Grubbs, Chris Thore, Bill Byrd, Katherine Wilkerson, Cynthia Tesh, Joe Pardue, David Merritt, Mary Anna Arnold, Ray Mims, Genel Christian, Joyce Vance, Tom Higdon, Daniel Adkins, Susan Hawkins, David Daggett, Willie Israel, Doug Rights, Gary Jackson

## ***Characteristic Group Facilitator Trainers:***

Judy Knopf, Donna Hurt.

# RESOLUTIONS

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## *By Order of Synod*

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### **Resolution #16**

#### **Subject: Privilege of Vote at This Synod**

**WHEREAS**, the Book of Order (*Paragraph 1550, II. Rules and Regulations, Section 3. Representation at Synod*) states that delegates are seated with the privilege of vote subject to their respective congregation being current in payment of the pastor's salary, current expenses, and annual payments of all contributions required by the *Synod (as listed under Article XX, paragraph 1, of the Rules and Regulations)*; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Support Services Board has reported as directed to the Provincial Elders' Conference the status of congregations with respect to this requirement; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ardmore and King of Kings congregations were not current (as of December 31, 2013) with payment of contributions as required by Synod; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Support Services Board and the Provincial Treasurer are in varying stages of engaging these congregations to resolve differences between payments which were assigned and payments which were received; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Provincial Support Services Board believe that we are a church that discerns and decides best when all congregations are included in the conversation and deliberation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Provincial Support Services Board affirm that it is in the best interest of this Synod to allow all those assembled to participate fully in the discussion and decisions; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** elected delegates of the congregations listed in this resolution have both voice and vote during the Synod of 2014, through suspension of The Book of Order, Paragraph 1550, Section 3. Representation at Synod ; and,

**RESOLVED, That** by this action any contributions currently outstanding are not excused, but that in each case an understanding will be reached between the congregation's board(s) and the Provincial Treasurer's Office about fulfilling these obligations.

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## *Cooperation Characteristic Group*

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### **Resolution #15**

#### **Subject: John Hus Memorial Year 2015**

**WHEREAS**, July 6, 2015 marks the 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of John Hus, and his courageous effort to reform the church is regarded by many as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation; and

**WHEREAS**, John Hus's motto "Truth Prevails," and his willingness to testify to his faith in spite of condemnation continues to inspire those who speak the truth and live the truth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Moravian Church recognizes Hus as one of its most important forebears, and the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America both acknowledge Hus as a saint and hero of the faith, and all Czech Protestant churches claim the legacy of John Hus; and

**WHEREAS**, Hus still provides much inspiration and wisdom for modern Moravians; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province designate 2015 a year to honor the memory and teachings of John Hus; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Provincial Elders Conference guide efforts to commemorate Hus, including requesting the Board of Cooperative Ministries and Interprovincial Board of Communication to prepare events, print, and electronic material appropriate to this observance; and,

**RESOLVED, That** our full communion partners be invited to join with the Southern Province in a public ceremony honoring the legacy of John Hus on or near July 6, 2015 and that the Unity of the Brethren in Texas be invited to share in a joint commemoration of our common spiritual ancestry; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province cooperate with any celebrations, events, or activities undertaken throughout the Worldwide Unity; and,

**RESOLVED, That** every congregation be encouraged to participate in and hold programs about Hus and his legacy; and,

**RESOLVED, That** if passed, this resolution be forwarded on to our brothers and sisters in the Northern Province for consideration at their June 2014 Synod; and,

**RESOLVED That** all Moravians be invited to reflect on John Hus's witness and how his modern spiritual descendants can emulate his example of faithful devotion to Christ.

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# *Finance Committee*

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## **Resolution #6**

### **Subject: New Provincial Share Methodology**

**WHEREAS** the 2010 Synod Resolution #28 authorized the development and implementation of a new Provincial share methodology in the 2010-2014 inter-synodal period, and asked that "a conforming amendment to the Book of Order that speaks to this new implemented methodology" be presented to the 2014 Synod; and,

**WHEREAS** the 2010 Synod Resolution #19 called for a complete revision of the Book of Order, and required that policies and procedures to be indexed in, but not contained in the revised Book of Order; and,

**WHEREAS** the proposed revised Book of Order includes the following statement:  
**Each congregation's share of the Provincial Budget shall be determined by a methodology set forth in a Synod-approved policy and implemented by the Provincial Support Services Board at the direction of the Provincial Elders' Conference;** and,

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Support Services Board, through its Finance and Administrative Support Committee developed, approved, tested and recommended to the Provincial Elders' Conference a new Provincial share methodology; and,

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Elders' Conference approved use of new methodology on a provisional basis for budget years 2013 and 2014; and,

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Support Services Board and its Finance and Administrative Support Committee implemented, monitored and evaluated the new Provincial share methodology for the budget years 2013 and 2014, and,

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Elders' Conference has accepted a report of the Provincial Support Services Board that the new Provincial Share methodology is a fair and equitable system; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, That** the following policy be adopted and indexed for reference in the Book of Order:

**Allocations for Provincial Ministry – Each congregation's Provincial Share shall be based on its most recent three-year moving average revenue history. The total Provincial Share requested from each congregation for the past three audited years shall be divided by its Annual Operating Receipts as defined by the Provincial Treasurer (See Exhibit A, Excerpt of the "Receipts" portion of the Annual Church Audit Form, and Exhibit B, "Definition of Annual Operating Receipts (Line 1 Income, attached.) for the past three audited years to determine the percentage given. This three-year moving average percentage shall be applied to the Annual**

**Operating Receipts, above, for the last audited year to determine the requested amount for the next budget year. The total amount required from the congregations using this method shall form the basis for establishing the Provincial Budget along with other Provincial sources of income.**

**All congregations are required to contribute a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 20% of their Annual Operating Receipts, above, as their Provincial Share. The Finance and Administrative Support Committee, in conjunction with the Provincial Support Services Board and the Provincial Elders' Conference, shall work directly with those congregations falling below the 10% minimum to develop and implement programs to achieve the minimum requirement.**

**The Finance and Administrative Support Committee shall review the status of congregational giving and ongoing effectiveness of the Provincial Share methodology and make recommendations to the Provincial Support Services Board for necessary action or changes.**

**The Provincial Elders Conference shall be given the authority to make any adjustments in the required amounts of Provincial Share, as determined by the formula prior to the submission of the requirements to the congregations when, in the opinion of the Provincial Elders Conference, such adjustments are needed for an equitable allocation.**

**The Provincial Elders Conference shall be given the authority to adjust the amount required of a congregation if, after consultation with the Board of Trustees or Church Board of a congregation, the circumstances warrant an adjustment.**

**The Provincial Support Services Board may be given the authority by the Provincial Elders' Conference to make adjustments to this policy during the Inter-synodal period.**

**Exhibit A**

[Excerpt of the "Receipts" Portion of the Annual Church Audit Form]

**RECEIPTS:**

- 1. Annual Operating Receipts:
  - a. Pledges and Offerings (including pledged, unpledged, & loose offerings) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Memorial Gifts not designated to a non-operating fund \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Receipts from fundraising not designated to a non-operating fund \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Transfers into operating account from investment or non-operating funds \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Income from operating account funds \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Receipts from rentals not designated to a non-operating fund \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATING RECEIPTS (Total Line 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Receipts into Trust or Endowment Funds \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Receipts into Designated or Restricted Funds \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Investment Income, gains/losses designated to a non-operating fund \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Sales Tax Refunds \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Rental receipts designated to a non-operating fund \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Deferred Receipts / Prepaid pledges \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. [blank] \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. TOTAL RECEIPTS (lines 1 to 9) \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Exhibit B**

### Definition of “Annual Operating Receipts” (Line 1 Income)

The definition of what has been termed “Line 1 Income” shall mean all components of “Annual Operating Receipts” as broken out under Line 1 on the budget form. Annual Operating Receipts shall include receipts garnered for the general operations of the church congregation, as follows:

1. Offering Plate Collections, in the year received:
  - a. Regular pledged tithes and offerings of church members;
  - b. Unpledged tithes and offerings of church members;
  - c. Offerings/donations from non-members of the congregation;
  - d. All loose offerings;
2. Memorial Gifts not designated to a specific non-operating cause;
3. Fundraising Income not designated to a specific non-operating cause;
4. Transfers into the Operating Account from investment accounts or other funds – if funds are originally classified as “non-operating,” but are subsequently transferred into the operating account, they should be treated as “Line 1 Income” when they are moved to the operating account;
5. Income on operating funds (e.g. interest on the operating fund checking account);
6. Rental Income if not designated for a specific non-operating cause.

#### Exceptions

The following items shall be excluded from “Annual Operating Receipts” when received:

1. Irregular gifts, tithes, offerings of a significant amount – for example, someone makes an abnormally large gift or donation, whether restricted or not, which greatly exceeds a regular offering amount, and which the congregation does not immediately need to meet regular operating expenses (including provincial share);
2. Deferred Income (i.e. Prepaid Pledges) – that is, contributions received in one year that are prepaid for the following year. These should be shown on a separate line item (not Line 1 Income) for current year contributions, and cash recorded when received. Deferred Income items would then be re-classified (transferred) into “Annual Operating Receipts” the following year;
3. Memorial Gifts designated to a specific non-operating cause;
4. Fundraising Income designated to a specific non-operating cause;
5. Rental Income designated to a specific non-operating cause;
6. Income and capital gains associated with non-operating funds, which are not transferred to the operating account;
7. Benevolence gifts designated for a specific non-operating cause;
8. Gifts, Trusts, Bequests designated by the donor for the benefit of specific non-operating causes;
9. Sales tax refunds;
10. Funds raised for capital campaigns.

**Resolution #7**

**Subject: Unity Women's Desk Fundraising Campaign**

**WHEREAS** the Unity Women's Desk was affirmed by the Unity synods of 2002 and 2009; and

**WHEREAS** the Unity Women's Desk has been functioning with Unity Board approval and supervision since 2011; and

**WHEREAS** the Unity Women's Desk exists to further the status of women by addressing the following areas of concern to women: 1) education, 2) violence against women, 3) employment and overcoming poverty, 4) health issues of women and children, 5) parenting for justice, and 6) supporting women in ministry: and

**WHEREAS** the Unity Women's Desk since 2012 has affected the lives of over 40 girls and women with scholarship grants, five groups of women with business loans, hundreds of women and men with our monthly Prayer List, and numerous groups of women with support for developing women's conferences in their own countries; and

**WHEREAS** the Unity Women's Desk has been functioning on a very limited budget with only \$500.00 per annum in Unity Board support; and

**WHEREAS** the Unity Board has sent a request to each Province asking for support for the Unity Women's Desk; and

**WHEREAS** women comprise over 60% of the total membership of the Moravian Church, but have heretofore received little attention to their specific needs; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Support Services Board shall conduct an assessment of the merits of a fundraising campaign and further define oversight of the fundraising efforts and make its recommendation to the Provincial Elders Conference, and the Provincial Elders Conference shall give final approval before any fundraising campaign shall begin; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Unity Women's Desk, upon the approval of the Provincial Elder's Conference of the Southern Province, shall be authorized to establish and execute a fundraising campaign, with a goal of ongoing funding of a Scholarship Fund, a revolving Projects and Loan Fund, and an administrative fund; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the 2014 Synod of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, affirms the work of the Unity Women's Desk and encourages each church within the Province to actively assist the Unity Women's Desk in raising these funds should this campaign be undertaken; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Unity Women's Desk provide a report of its progress to the Provincial Elder's Conference on an annual basis, and at other times as requested by the Provincial Elder's Conference or its authorized designee, and a summary report of its efforts to the 2018 Synod of the Moravian Church, Southern Province.

## **Resolution #11**

### **Subject: Annual Pension Fund Report**

**WHEREAS**, the Pension Committee, working under the oversight of the Provincial Elders' Conference, is charged with the stewardship of the Pension Fund of the Southern Province; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Province has a moral and fiscal responsibility for providing pensions for its retired clergy at an amount determined by the Provincial Elders' Conference; and,

**WHEREAS**, the cost of providing pension benefits is borne by the Pension Fund and required contributions from the congregations of the Province; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Provincial Elders' Conference in consultation with the Pension Committee shall provide an annual written report to the congregations of the Province which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

the current balance of the Pension Fund

the current number of participants

the percentage of current and projected pension obligations which is fully funded based on actuarial calculation

the percentage of current and projected pension obligations which represents an unfunded liability based on actuarial calculation.

## **Resolution #17**

### **Subject: Cornerstone Campaign**

**WHEREAS**, the Cornerstone Campaign was established by the Synod of 1986, and continued by the Synods of 1992, 1995, 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2010; and,

**WHEREAS**, this program has raised over \$1.6 million dollars, greatly assisting new congregations in the purchase, construction or renovation of church facilities from which to conduct their ministry, witness and service; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a balance of approximately \$515,000 currently on hand; and,

**WHEREAS**, the use of funds raised by the Cornerstone Campaign has previously been restricted only to funding facilities for new congregations; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to budget constraints, there is a need for general financial support for new congregations and emerging ministries, including: compensation for church planters and ministry leaders; and grants to support start-up, operating, and specific ministry costs; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Provincial Elders' Conference is authorized to establish policies and procedures and to use Cornerstone Campaign funds for such general financial support of new and emerging ministries; and

**RESOLVED, That** the Cornerstone Campaign be continued for the next inter-synodal period (2014-2018), and funded annually from our congregations as a requested item at a level determined by the Provincial Elders' Conference; and,

**RESOLVED, That** Church Board(s) of our congregations review and consider their participation in this program each year before preparing their annual budgets.

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## *Committee on Government*

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### **Resolution #2**

#### **Subject: Revision of the Book of Order of the Southern Province**

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 Synod passed Resolution 19, which mandated a revision of the Book of Order, and tasked the Provincial Elders' Conference with coordinating this revision and providing it for review and appropriate action at the Synod of 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, a Revision Committee appointed by the PEC has completed its work, and

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference has reviewed and approved the proposed revision and is confident that it reflects the desires of the 2010 Synod as expressed in Resolution 19, and

**WHEREAS**, the text of the revised Book of Order has been presented to the delegates of the 2014 Synod for their review and consideration, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the revised Book of Order of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province is approved.

### **Resolution #5**

#### **Subject: Board of World Mission Constitution**

**WHEREAS** the current Constitution of the Board of World Mission states that it may be amended by the action of the synods of the Alaska, Northern and Southern Provinces, and the Convention of the Unity of the Brethren, all concurring and each acting according to its own rules; and,

**WHEREAS** the scope and opportunities for mission work evolve with time and it is appropriate to review and update the Constitution to reflect current understandings and operations and this has been done by the Board, in conjunction with revisions in its Bylaws; and,

**WHEREAS** the Board of World Mission has reviewed its Constitution and has revised its Bylaws and finds the proposed changes to the Constitution as desirable for carrying out the work assigned to it; and

**WHEREAS** it is desirable for the Board to have the ability to increase the diversity of its members and/or to include expertise in specific areas that inform our work by having the capability of appointing *up to* four delegates-at-large, in place of the two we currently appoint (*Membership #1 and 1e*); and,

**WHEREAS** it is desirable to have a systematic change of Board membership for at-large delegates, with a suggested limitation of two terms of four years each (*Membership #1.e*); and,

**WHEREAS** the Board of World Mission no longer has a Director of Mission Education and recognize that all staff are advisory members without vote (*Membership #4*); and,

**WHEREAS** there are other provinces and mission organizations with which it is beneficial to coordinate our mission endeavors, and thus the category of Affiliate Membership is added as a non-voting participant to provide for these relationships (*Affiliate Membership*); and,

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Board active in areas where mission personnel are serving is responsible for oversight of these mission personnel (*Duties of the Board #6*); and,

**WHEREAS** the *Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum* provides for the convening of a Synod once a mission area has become a mission province, which then gives it the right to elect its own bishop and thus this role for the Board of World Mission is eliminated (*Duties of the Board, #7*); and,

**WHEREAS** the term “unordained” is not proper terminology for someone who has not been ordained, and this has been changed accordingly (*Calls and Appointments #3*); and,

**WHEREAS** these revisions were approved by the Board of World Mission Directors at its fall meeting, October 5, 2013; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the 2014 Synod of the Southern Province approve the proposed Revisions to the Constitution of the Board of World Mission, as noted in the **attached** Proposed Revision dated October 5, 2013, that allow up to four Directors-at-Large with a specified term limit, that permit Affiliate Membership to the Board of World Mission, that delete the Board role of providing a bishop, and that correct wording.

## **Resolution #8**

### **Subject: Adoption of a "Safe Sanctuary" Policy**

**WHEREAS** our ministries in the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province desire that children, youth, and adults experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith; and,

**WHEREAS** our Moravian Covenant of Christian Living says the following:

As parents, remembering that our children are the property of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 1:19), we will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord

(Ephesians 6:4) and take all possible care to preserve them from every evil influence.  
(Covenant of Christian Living B. Family Life paragraph 24)

We will not hate, despise, slander or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God. (Covenant of Christian Living A. Our Witness in the World paragraph 29); and,

**WHEREAS** each congregation and ministry should actively seek to protect the well being of children, youth and vulnerable adults in their care and the personnel who work with them in the ministries of the church; and,

**WHEREAS** research and experience show that the adoption and implementation of such policies and procedures are important steps to ensure safety and well being along with reducing risk to children, youth, vulnerable adults, members of churches, churches, provincial boards and agencies; and,

**WHEREAS** addressing this need ensures that children, youth and vulnerable adults are not placed at risk, and that churches, boards and agencies do not face undesirable legal liabilities; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province mandates that each congregation of the Southern Province and each board or agency shall:

1) Develop, adopt, and implement a “Safe Sanctuary” policy and procedures related to safety issues for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

2) At a minimum, incorporate into this policy and its procedures components that:

- Establish procedures for reporting and responding to incidents of abuse or injury.
- Apply to all paid and volunteer staff that works with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- Establish a screening process for workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- Establish training, supervision, and support procedures for workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- Provide information and training on safety issues for those who accompany youth, children and vulnerable adults away from their congregation; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Human Resources and Compensation Benefits Committee and the Provincial Support Services Board of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province provide for congregations, boards and agencies examples of existing policies and guidelines to assist them in developing their own policy and consultation as needed.

## **Resolution #12**

### **Subject: Study and Discernment Regarding Homosexuality**

**WHEREAS** the Unity Synod of 2002 and the Unity Board meeting of 2010 encouraged dialogue within the various provinces of our church about homosexuality in the church; and,

**WHEREAS** during the 2010-2014 inter-synodal period, the Provincial Elders' Conference has taken some steps, but has not fully implemented the call of the church expressed in 2010 Synod resolution #24: Homosexuality Study and Discernment; therefore be it

**RESOLVED That**, the Synod of 2014 reaffirms the spirit and intent of the 2010 Synod resolution #24, specifically: to provide leadership, resources and a process for a conversation about homosexuality in the church that includes diverse viewpoints, and opportunities for open and honest discussion, study and discernment; and,

**RESOLVED That**, this process of dialogue and discernment should take into account similar efforts made, and decisions that have been or may be reached by our sister provinces within the Unity, as well as any actions of the 2014 Unity Board and 2016 Unity Synod; and,

**RESOLVED That**, the Provincial Elders' Conference should fulfill what is stated in this resolution in a manner which it determines is best and prior to the Synod of 2018; and,

**RESOLVED That**, the task force should be appointed by September 15, 2014 and begin its work by November 1, 2014.

## **Resolution #14**

### **Subject: Living into Visions Discerned by Synod**

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference is elected with a trust to oversee the work of the Southern Province in the inter-synodal period; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference is in a strong position to assess the strengths and resources of the Province; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 Synod has offered a broad spectrum of visions in the areas of our relationship with Christ, cooperation, growth, leadership, ministry, mission, stewardship and worship; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that this Synod formally adopts the reports presented by the eight Characteristic Groups, and delivers them to the Provincial Elders' Conference; and,

**RESOLVED** that in regard to these visions, the Provincial Elders' Conference determine priority, assesses feasibility, and provide direction for living into these visions in the most appropriate way during the inter-synodal period.

## **Resolution #18**

### **Subject: Establishment of Manna Ministries**

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, an outreach worship ministry was begun—with PEC approval—by the staff of the Board of World Mission, the Board of Christian Education, and the Board of Evangelism and Home Mission. Offering a unique worship experience for those interested in varied expressions of church, beyond current customs and practices, this outreach worship ministry is now called Come and Worship, and meets at Chelsea's, a coffee shop on Trade St. in downtown Winston-Salem. It now offers two services each Sunday with a combined average attendance of 60; and,

**WHEREAS**, Anthony's Plot is a Moravian intentional community of faith that combines residency, community development work, and a socially-relevant and spiritually-hopeful outreach to bring the good news of Jesus to visible reality. Anthony's Plot works to bring about reconciliation among those of different classes, cultures, and races by organizing neighborhood meals, worship, and events, and advocating for and working with the homeless population in Winston-Salem; and

**WHEREAS**, section 4 of *The Ground of the Unity* states that the Unitas Fratrum takes part in the continual search for sound doctrine as well as a fuller understanding and ever clearer proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, section 9 of *The Ground of the Unity* states that “We pray the Lord ever anew to point to us the way to reach our neighbors, opening our hearts and hands to them in their need”; and,

**WHEREAS**, paragraph 1300 of the *Book of Order* (2010) states that every member of the church is charged and inspired to be ever fashioned by grace through sanctification, and thus, every member of the Church has committed themselves to be guided by the leading of the Holy Spirit as we together endeavor to remain faithful to this call; and,

**WHEREAS**, God may be calling Moravians to develop communities of faith and other ministries that are consistent with the mission of the Moravian Church Southern Province, that join the Spirit's transforming work in this ever-changing world, and reach out in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to our neighbors; and,

**WHEREAS**, Exodus 16 reveals that the Lord provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, an undefined form of provision which in Hebrew literally means “what is it”; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Southern Province recognize the role and value of “Manna Ministries,” new and emerging ministries that do not otherwise fit into the existing models and categories of ministry; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference designate an existing entity or new task force (1) to develop, during the upcoming intersynodal period, guidelines for Manna Ministries

that promote sustainability, offer accountability, and foster collaboration and discernment during periods of transition and for the future, and (2) to explore and facilitate the development of Manna Ministries, under the oversight of the PEC or its designee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference determine how best to affirm Manna Ministries as recognized, legitimate ministries of the Southern Province.

## **Resolution #25**

### **Subject: Liturgical and Sacramental Unity and Liberty**

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 Southern Province *Book of Order*, par 1353, upholds our unity in the forms of public worship and the “features of chief importance” in our liturgies and litanies, and

**WHEREAS**, par. 1353 also upholds the claim that “the essence and the soul of our meetings are not to be found in the form but rather in the religion of the heart, which is expressed, in the form,” and that it is “a valued principle of our church that she has liberty to introduce changes and improvements in her mode of worship according to her circumstances and needs;” and

**WHEREAS**, the approved revisions to the Book of Order, "Ch 7, Worship" read, “The rites and sacraments are to be administered in a way consistent with the theology and liturgical forms in the current Synod or PEC-approved worship book(s) and supplements, unless alternate forms are approved by the PEC.” and “Additional services for Holy Communion using other hymn stanzas may be prepared, but these stanzas are to be in accord with the teaching of the official services, and the spoken words must be those in the official worship book(s),” and

**WHEREAS**, the approved revisions appropriately seek to bring accountability to worship leaders, that they stay mindful of the theological and doctrinal emphases and practices of the Moravian Church as expressed in official statements of provincial and Unity Synods, and

**WHEREAS**, despite the benefits of these revisions, they could also potentially impede the work of the PEC with continual requests to approve alternate forms of rites and sacraments and potentially constrain worship that seeks to bring innovations in response to the leading of the Spirit, and

**WHEREAS**, the essence and the soul of our worship are not to be found in the form but in the religion of the heart that is expressed in the form. It is a valued principle that our church has liberty to introduce changes and improvements in the forms of worship according to her circumstances and needs. These changes and improvements are subject to the testing of scripture, of official doctrines and emphases of the Moravian Church expressed in official provincial and Unity documents, and, if necessary, the discernment of the Provincial Elders Conference.” therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Interprovincial Faith and Order Committee be charged to develop, as soon as possible, (1) guidelines for evaluating changes to liturgies, litanies, rites, and sacraments, so that we may continue to celebrate both the unity and variety of our liturgical life, and (2) that if

agreeable to both provinces, the guidelines be subject to review by the clergy and bishops of the Northern and Southern provinces before the PEC's of each province revise and approve guidelines for their province (without requiring that the guidelines be the same for each province).

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## ***Leadership Characteristic Group***

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### **Resolution #1**

#### **Subject: Revision of the Constitution of the Southern Province**

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 Synod passed Resolution 19, which mandated a revision of the Book of Order, and tasked the Provincial Elders' Conference with coordinating this revision and providing it for review and appropriate action at the Synod of 2014, and

**WHEREAS**, that resolution stated:

**RESOLVED, That** as part of the revision of the *Church Order of the Southern Province*, the existing Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, shall be combined into one document to be called Constitution of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province; and,

**WHEREAS**, a Revision Committee appointed by the PEC has completed the revision, which has included combining the former Constitution and Rules and Regulations into one document to be called the Constitution, and

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Elders' Conference has reviewed and approved the work of the Revision Committee, and

**WHEREAS**, the text of the revised Constitution has been presented to the delegates of the 2014 Synod for their review and consideration, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the revised Constitution of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province is approved.

### **Resolution #20**

#### **Subject: Cooperation and Collaboration with the Wake Forest University School of Divinity**

**WHEREAS**, the Leadership characteristic of healthy congregations includes developing the gifts of each member, current clergy, and future clergy; and

**WHEREAS**, since the days of the early Church, there is the ongoing need for strong clergy and lay leadership, led by the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, The Moravian Church in America, Southern Province has been a leader in the ecumenical movement, inviting discussions that led to relationships with other denominations and cooperative efforts with other institutions to further the work of Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Divinity is relatively new but already defining and refining its role and mission as a leading non-denominational seminary in the United States, with an emphasis on ecumenical dialogue; and

**WHEREAS**, the WFU School of Divinity is located five miles from the Provincial Offices of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, and there are over 35 Moravian Churches within a 30-mile radius of the School of Divinity; and

**WHEREAS**, some of our Moravian clergy have been educated at the WFU School of Divinity; and

**WHEREAS**, there are already many ties and relationships between numerous lay members and clergy of Moravian churches and students, faculty, and administrators at the WFU School of Divinity; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous opportunities exist for cooperation and collaboration between the Moravian Church and the WFU School of Divinity, including, but not limited to: joint lay education programs; joint research involving our Archives and Music Foundation; continuing education and leadership programs for clergy; summer field placements and internships; guest speakers, preachers, class lecturers, etc; and, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference or its representatives engage in an informal, but intentional, dialogue with representatives of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity regarding ways the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province and the WFU School of Divinity can cooperate and collaborate together for their mutual benefit; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That representatives of Moravian Theological Seminary be invited to participate in this dialogue, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Provincial Elders Conference or its designee present a report at the 2018 Synod describing the progress of this dialogue and the development of joint programs and collaborative efforts with the WFU School of Divinity.

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## *Mission Characteristic Group*

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### **Resolution #9**

#### **Subject: Spiritual Solidarity with Sisters and Brothers in Honduras**

**WHEREAS** for more than 60 years the Moravian Church in North America has had a special relationship with the Moravian Church in Honduras, as one of our partner provinces and through the sending of missionaries and mission teams to work alongside our Honduran sisters and brothers; and,

**WHEREAS** Honduras has experienced a rise in gang violence - it now has the highest homicide rate per capita in the world with 6,200 killings, or 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 alone (UN report, 10/2011); and,

**WHEREAS** this gang violence is directly connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs that are eventually sold here in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS** the pastors and churches and people of faith in Honduras are unable to speak out against the gangs and the illegal drug trade without the risk of retaliation that threatens their personal safety; and,

**WHEREAS** we in this country have the freedom to speak out against the drug-related violence that threatens the quality of life of the people in Honduras; and,

**WHEREAS** we have the responsibility to discourage complacency by raising the awareness of the struggles that others face; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Synod of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province call upon its congregations and agencies, with the help of the Board of World Mission, to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in North America results in violence and exacerbates human rights violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in Honduras; and,

**RESOLVED, That** since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against gangs and violence without risk to their personal safety, the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province urges pastors and leaders in churches throughout the Southern Province to speak out from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans' plight; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province calls upon the members of its congregations to realize that awareness and education concerning the consumption of illegal drugs must begin "at home," and move outward into neighborhoods and communities; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province encourages its congregations and agencies, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and,

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, encourages its members in various settings to call on our nation’s governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address situations of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking and violence that impact the quality of life for our sisters and brothers in Honduras.

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## *Stewardship Characteristic Group*

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### **Resolution #10**

#### **Subject: Environmental Stewardship**

**WHEREAS** on November 25, 2003 the Provincial Elders Conference adopted a document titled “Caring for Creation”; and,

**WHEREAS** this document contains statements from The Covenant for Christian Living and The Ground of the Unity about our responsibility to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us, and to seek and attain what is best for all people; and,

**WHEREAS** this document also contains eleven statements from our liturgies calling us to care for Creation; and,

**WHEREAS** this document originated with the Commission on Church and Society of the Southern Province; and,

**WHEREAS** the Synod of 2010 set the Strategic Direction for the Province during the years of 2010 to 2014, by stating that a “Priority Initiative for Stewardship shall be: We will claim and affirm our stewardship of Creation and all God has given us as an essential part of our discipleship with Jesus Christ,” therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Southern Province Synod of 2014 urges all congregations to include active stewardship of the Earth as part of their regular stewardship practices; and,

**RESOLVED, That** congregations call upon the Board of Cooperative Ministries Environmental Task Force for educational materials and other resources to support them in this essential ministry.

**RESOLVED That,** the Provincial Elders' Conference should fulfill what is stated in this resolution in a manner which it determines is best and prior to the Synod of 2018; and,

**RESOLVED That,** the task force should be appointed by September 15, 2014 and begin its work by November 1, 2014.

# REPORTS

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## *Cooperation Characteristic Group*

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The vision of the Cooperation Group is..

that as the "Southern Congregation" of the Moravian Church, living into God's mission in the world together, rooted in our identity, we will risk and cherish engagement, to "serve all people by proclaiming the Gospel and witnessing to our faith by word and deed." (MCCL, 1)

For this to happen, we will need to be "transformed by the renewing of our minds," (Rom 12:2) so that we will be able:

- to enact the sharing of God's resources and assets, both tangible and intangible, (e.g., people, staff, facilities, programs)
- to understand God's work happening outside of church walls, (e.g., mobile VBS, coffee houses, Laurel Ridge, neighbors), and
- to discern God's work wherever we're led.

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## *Stewardship Characteristic Group*

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In the area of Stewardship, Our vision for the next four years is:

- Expand the concept of Stewardship. (Grace, Gratitude, Generosity/making it easier)
- Clear understanding of our identity and effective communication of it. (Story Telling)
- More<sup>2</sup> Manna Ministries (innovation and entrepreneurial spirit)

This is what we believe it will take for this vision to become reality:

- Trusting
- Talking
- Recycling

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## *Mission Characteristic Group*

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In the area of Mission, our vision for the next four years is:

Mission IS Possible

- Everyone
- Everywhere
- Empowering
- Eternal

This is what we believe it will take for this vision to become reality:

- Every congregation and RCC is actively engaged in mission. To engage, we need to know our neighbors, know their needs, and address their needs by developing and sustaining relationships.
- Every congregation and/or RCC is engaged in mission partnership opportunities, be they Moravian and/or Ecumenical.

In addition to the annual prayer day for world mission, every congregation celebrates multiple Mission Sundays, especially in worship, emphasizing local and global.

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## *Worship Characteristic Group*

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In the area of WORSHIP, our vision for the next four years is:

Christ-centered and people-focused (*inward*)

- Reflecting theology of the heart
- Family involvement/participatory
- No strangers: joyful diversity

Supporting wider, growing, variety of expressions of worship (*upward*)

- In flexible times and places
- With technology that supports community and does not foster isolation

Grounded in theology (*outward*)

- Living worshipful lives
- Moving out/in for the community, the world while honoring Sabbath rest

This is what we believe it will take for this vision to become reality:

- God's transforming grace
- Developing spiritual practices that keep us connected to God's transforming grace
- Education in our identity, theology and history
- Experiences/Experiment variety of worship
- Trust in the spirit to live through the discomfort of the process
- Conversations about what worship is and how we do it
- Seek out the stranger
- Empower everybody to reach out

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## *Leadership Characteristic Group*

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Vision For Leadership For Next Four Years

- 1) Empower laity
- 2) Address the needs of underserved demographics
- 3) Bring:
  - a. church to the people
  - b. people to the church

Means by which we will do this

- 1) Develop youth and lay leadership programs:
  - a. Through BCM MLN programs, congregational resourcing
  - b. MTS Crossroads programs
  - c. Other educational opportunities, missions, agencies
- 2) Encourage collaboration within and outside the denomination
- 3) Use technology

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## *Ministry Characteristic Group*

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In the area of Ministry, our vision for the next four years is:

- 1 TECHNOLOGY Better leveraging and disbursement.
- 2 CHRIST CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS Intergenerational & Multicultural.
- 3 Greater use of our resources to enhance MINISTRY.

This is what we believe it will take for this vision to become reality:

- 1 LEARNING: ways to use our technology to enhance MINISTRY.
- 2 CARING: involvement with people who come to have relationship to CHRIST.
- 3 GROWING: in our understanding of what it means to use our TIME, TALENT & TREASURE in MINISTRY.

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## *Growth Characteristic Group*

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In the area of Growth, our vision for the next 4 years is:

- Building unity in our Christ-centered life together
- Living out of our unique gifts, capacities, & abilities to love and serve God
- Embrace & utilize technology to better serve the Church and the world
- ‘Think’ outside the church (bldg)
  
- Unity in Christ-centered
  - Loving relationships
  - Embrace diversity
  - Scripture centered worship & Teaching
  - Build one another up
  - Openness to change
  - Nurturing children, youth, and families
  - Actively listen to others
  - Modeling encouragement
  
- Technology
  - Providing leaders / trainers, resources, and education
  - Congregational sharing (What is working for growth?)
  - Enhance communication
  - See technology as our servant
  
- Living out of Gifts
  - Congregational education
  - New member assimilation
  - Mentoring
  - Planning out of abundance rather than scarcity
  - ‘Calling forth’ gifts in congregations
  - Celebrating/acknowledging our gifts
  
- Think outside...
  - We are all ‘sent people’
  - Mission is a faith adventure
  - See change as our friend
  - Have a vision beyond the walls
  - Seek out new challenges
  - Remove the obstacles

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## *Relationship to Christ Characteristic Group*

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In the area of Relationship to Christ, our vision for the next four years is :

- To take the eternal and unchanging love of Christ into the world in creative and accessible ways.
- We will be inclusive, flexible, and adaptive
- With confidence in Christ, let's be bold.

This is what we believe it will take for this vision to become reality :

- Meet people where they are
- Utilize technology
- Let some programs go to let others grow
- Equip and educate lay people
- Reach beyond the ability of our current resources—take a leap of faith
- Address the change in family dynamics
- Recognize there are different contexts of ministry

# MEMORANDA

*The following memoranda were received by Synod as information from the respective groups, but were not discussed or voted upon.*

## **From the Ministry Characteristic Group**

Regarding: Resolution #22 – Appointment of a Bishop to a provincial position for the care of Pastors, Directors of Christian Educators, Candidates for Ordination, and those seeking candidacy for ordination.

The Ministry Characteristic Group received Resolution #22 after it was rewritten by the Finance Committee. After thorough discussion, the committee decided not to report this resolution for consideration by Synod.

The members of the Ministry Characteristic Group recommended that the Provincial Elders' Conference ensure that the issues of pastoral care and spiritual growth and development of pastors, Christian Education professionals, candidates for ordination, and those seeking candidacy are being addressed by identifying a bishop or a staff person with the appropriate gifts to actively provide the spiritual care, development, and support needed.

## **From the Committee on Government**

Regarding: Resolution #24 – Appointment of a Chief Administrator of the Southern Province

The Government Committee received Resolution # 24 regarding the appointment of a Chief Administrator of the Southern Province. After thorough discussion, the committee has decided not to report this resolution for consideration by the Synod.

The members of the Government Committee recommend that the Provincial Elders' Conference consider restoring the position of Assistant to the President of the PEC to a level that will provide the PEC President with greater flexibility and assistance in managing the pastoral, spiritual, and administrative affairs of the Southern Province.

# *Other Committees*

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## *Synod Planning Committee*

**Convener:** David Guthrie

**Delegate Preparation:** Kelly Moore, Russell Williams

**Leadership:** Judy Knopf, John D. Rights

**Program:** Donna Hurt, Neil Routh

**Worship:** Matthew Allen, Willie Israel

**Nominations:** Dave Marcus, Carol Foltz

**Facilities:** PEC Office

## **Steering Committee**

Judy Knopf, David Shaffner, Gray Styers

## **Committee on Government**

Joe Moore, Gloria Barker, Shela Foster, Don Britt, John D. Rights, Robert Rascoe, Bob Hunter, Wayne Burkette, Dave Marcus

## **Finance Committee**

Jan Trivette, Libby Ayers, Scott Southerland, Joseph Harris, Ray Lambeth, Ron Tedder, Dennis Stanfield, Gary Kniskern, Bob Peterson

## **Office Staff/Tellers/Ushers**

Beverly Johnson, Event/Office Coordinator; Pat Byerly, Avis Gray, Amanda Shumpert, office staff; Mike Sloan, Chief Usher; Joey Transou, Sarah Hubbard, Amy Linville, Communication Specialists; Mike and Teresa Cude, Donna Griffin, Sarah Hunter, Linda Kniskern, Sally Sloan, Karl and Gladys Stimpson, Kathy Sparks.

# *Elections*

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## **The Board of World Mission**

Donna Hurt

Dan Nelson

## **The Mission Society**

Matthew Allen

W. Scott Brent

Scarlett Dowdy

Faye Gardner

Bette Hollifield

Joe Jarvis

Jeff Jones

Tripp May

Dewey Mullis

Timothy Sapp

Michael Sawtelle

Jane Wynne

## **The Moravian Theological Seminary, Trustees**

Scott Bauer

Heather Vacek

## **The Provincial Elders' Conference**

David Guthrie, President

Chris Thore

Ray Burke

Joyce Vance

Peggy Carter

Ron Bell

Daniel Crews

## **The Provincial Women's Board**

Gloria Barker

Oneita Dease

Mallie Graham

Evva Hanes

Julia Horton

Janet Jennings

Susan Parker

Clara Rollins

Patricia Sapp

Becky Ward

## **Delegates to Salem Academy and College, Trustees**

Wayne Burkette

Chi Chi Messick

Mary Rights

Mary Lou Stott

Camille McDowell

## **The Salemtowne, Board of Directors**

Peggy Carter

Donald Frey

Deron Mabe

Graham Rights

## **Delegates to the 2016 Unity Synod**

John D. Rights

Craig Troutman

# *The Constitution*

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## **Constitution of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province**

### **Section 1. Name and Title**

The name and title of this Province of the Unitas Fratrum shall be the "Moravian Church in America, Southern Province."

### **Section 2. The Government of the Unity**

The Unity Synod of the Moravian Church is supreme in all things assigned to it by the Constitution of the Unity. In all other affairs of the Unity in the Southern Province, the Government is vested in the Provincial Synod, and in the Boards elected and authorized by the Provincial Synod.

### **Section 3. The Provincial Synod**

The Provincial Synod has the supreme legislative power of the Province in all things not committed to the Unity Synod. It shall consist of elected delegates and official members; it shall determine the qualification of its own members; it shall prescribe what bodies shall be entitled to representation, and on what basis, and in what manner to be elected.

### **Section 4. Duties and Functions of the Provincial Synod**

The Provincial Synod shall have power:

1. to carry out the principles of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) laid down by the Unity Synod for constitution, doctrine, worship and congregational life;
2. to examine and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Province and its congregations;
3. to legislate in regard to constitution, worship and congregational life for the Province;
4. to provide the vision, direction and expectations for Provincial mission and ministry and to review the results thereof;
5. to elect the Provincial Elders' Conference which shall constitute the administrative board of the Province and which shall be responsible to the Synod for the management of the affairs committed to it;
6. to elect representatives to inter-provincial agencies, boards and such other entities as it deems appropriate;
7. to elect Bishops;
8. to elect Delegates to Unity Synod;
9. to act as the final court of appeal to hear and redress grievances; and,

10. to perform such other acts as shall be designated to it by the Constitution and such other acts as shall be lawful under its Articles of Incorporation.

## **Section 5. Provincial Synods**

1. The stated Provincial Synods of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, shall meet every four years.
2. Special Synods may be called in the interval by the Provincial Elders' Conference or upon a written request of 300 or more communicant members.
3. At least sixty days prior to the opening date of each stated Synod, the Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint its chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and parliamentarian.
4. At least sixty days prior to the opening date of each stated Synod, the Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint a Committee on Government, and a Nominations Committee, which shall present to Synod nominations for all boards to be elected by Synod unless otherwise provided for. After presentation of the Nominating Committee's report, additional nominations may be made from the floor.
5. Each Provincial Board shall prepare a written report of its work during the inter-synodal period to be submitted to the Provincial Elders' Conference at least thirty days prior to the date of Synod. A copy of those reports shall be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the opening of Synod to all official delegates.
6. Only the report of the Provincial Elders' Conference may be read in full during the meeting of Synod.
7. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint synodal committees as may be needed. Each committee shall study the state of the church in the field assigned to it, pass upon resolutions of Synod referred to it, and render a report to Synod.

## **Section 6. Conferences**

Whenever in the judgment of the Provincial Elders' Conference a non-legislative Church Conference upon any subject is desirable, such Conference shall be called by the Provincial Elders' Conference, which shall fix the ratio of representation and time and place of meetings

## **Section 7. Members of Provincial Synods**

The following shall be members of the Provincial Synods, provided however, that in the event one or more of the entities below shall cease to exist, then such entity shall cease to have a representative at Provincial Synods:

1. Delegates from the congregations in the Province.
2. Members of the existing Provincial Elders' Conference.
3. The Chair of the Provincial Services Support Board.
4. The Provincial Treasurer.
5. All Bishops residing in the Southern Province.

6. All ordained ministers serving under call in the Southern Province and all ordained ministers or Provincial Acolytes, who are in full charge of organized congregations in the Southern Province.
7. One representative of Salem Academy and College.
8. The President of the Provincial Women's Board.
9. The Chair of the Board of Cooperative Ministries.
10. The Executive Director of the Board of Cooperative Ministries.
11. The Executive Director of the Bd. of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America.
12. One representative of the Moravian Home (Salem towne).
13. All retired ordained ministers residing in the Southern Province or retired from the Southern Province.
14. The Archivist of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province.
15. The President of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc.
16. All certified Moravian full-time professional Church Educators currently employed by congregations or provincial boards and agencies in the Southern Province.
17. The Assistant to the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference who is a member of the Moravian Church.

## **Section 8. Representation at Synod**

1. Every regularly organized congregation shall be entitled to one delegate for every one hundred twenty-five (125) adult communicant members or major fraction thereof, based on the membership list at the close of the last statistical year as determined by the Provincial Elders' Conference; provided, however, every regularly organized congregation shall be entitled to at least one delegate. Communicant members are those described in the Synod Approved Recommendations of Rules and Regulations (in an Appendix of this Book of Order). Such entitlement shall, however, be subject to the fulfillment of the following requirements:
  - a. The payment of the pastor's salary, such salary to be agreed upon by the Board of Trustees or the Church Board of the Congregation and the Provincial Elders' Conference.
  - b. The payment of its current expenses.
  - c. The payment annually of all contributions required by Synod as described in the Constitution.

Congregations that do not meet these requirements shall have their delegate(s) seated at Synod with privilege of the floor and participation in committees but without vote. If the Provincial Elders' Conference deems there are justifiable reasons for waiving the prohibition to voting for a particular congregation, they may recommend to each Synod that such congregation's delegate(s) have voting privileges.
2. All members of a congregation who are entitled to vote in elections having reference to the affairs of their own congregations shall have the privilege of voting for delegates. A majority of the votes cast is necessary to decide the election, which is to be held by ballot.
3. In the election of delegates where nominees are presented at a Congregation Council, at least 20% of these official nominees shall be members of the official Board or Boards.
4. The delegates must be full communicant members.
5. Alternates are to be elected according to the same rule that applies to delegates.

6. The delegates and alternates must be furnished with the necessary credentials.

## **Section 9. Elections and Appointments**

1. Members of the Provincial Elders' Conference and of other boards shall be elected at stated Synods.
2. Resolutions calling for the election of a bishop or bishops shall be referred to the appropriate Synod committee dealing with the ministry. In the event no such resolution is presented, the appropriate committee may recommend to Synod the election of a bishop or bishops.
3. A majority vote of two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for the election of bishops (by ballot without nomination) and the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference (by ballot without nomination). A majority vote of two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for the election of each clergy and lay member of the Provincial Elders' Conference (by ballot with nomination).
4. All other elections shall be by a majority of the votes cast.
5. Members of the Provincial Elders' Conference and the various boards elected by synod, shall serve for one term of four years after which they may be eligible for re-election to a second term of four years, subject to a reasonable rotation of membership established by the board. After serving two consecutive full terms, they may be eligible again for election after an interval of four years.
6. Any board may designate among the members it is authorized to appoint a position or positions to which members may be appointed for less than a four-year term, provided no such member serves more than eight consecutive years.
7. In the event of a vacancy on a board, or a member fails to be re-appointed or re-elected, the one appointed or elected to fill the vacancy shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of the person being replaced. The new member's eligibility to a succeeding four-year term shall be determined by the remaining eligibility of the person being replaced. Members who serve less than four years of the second term of the person replaced shall be eligible for election or appointment to two terms in their own right.
8. Vacancies occurring on boards to which synod elects members shall be filled as follows:
  - a. Vacancies occurring on interprovincial and interdenominational boards of members elected by the Synod of the Southern Province shall be filled by the Provincial Elders' Conference.
  - b. Vacancies occurring among the members of any board other than specified in Paragraph 7 above shall be filled by the remaining members of the elected board.
  - c. A member of any board may be removed for cause, such as failure to attend meetings or enter into the work of the board. Such removal shall be by 2/3 vote of the affected board.
9. In the event the office of the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference becomes vacant between Synods, the Conference may appoint a person to bring the Conference to full membership. The Conference may then choose one of its members President. If a member of the conference other than the new appointee becomes its president, the new appointee's eligibility for election to a succeeding four-year term shall be determined by the remaining eligibility of the person elected president. The order of rotation shall be preserved in the terms of the members of the Conference other than that of president.

10. Individual boards and agencies of the Province as constituted as of the date of synod are authorized to determine the best date on which their newly elected members shall take office. The date selected shall not be later than the first day of the second month following their election.

## **Section 10. Provincial Elders' Conference**

1. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall provide priority-based leadership of all church ministries and administer the polity of the province.
2. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall consist of seven persons to be elected by Synod: a President who may be a layperson or clergy, three (3) laypersons and three (3) clergy.
3. The Synod shall elect the President of the Conference, after which the remaining six (6) members shall be chosen in accordance with the Constitution.
4. The term of office of the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference shall be from the first day of the second month following the adjournment of Synod until a successor is seated. All other members shall take office upon election. The outgoing President of the Provincial Elders' Conference shall be continued on salary and housing allowance for a period of two months after the end of Synod to permit an orderly transfer of authority to the incoming President.
5. It shall be the duty of the Provincial Elders' Conference to:
  - a. See that the enactments of Synod are carried out, including implementation of strategic directives of Synod and setting plans and priorities for the Board of Cooperative Ministries.
  - b. Oversee candidacy and clergy development.
  - c. Approve ordination of Deacons and consecration of Presbyters.
  - d. Administer the call process and appointment procedures including calling and superintending the ministers of the Province.
  - e. Set and monitor guidelines for compensation and benefits of clergy.
  - f. Supervise the congregations of the Province, encouraging them in their work and service and hold Quadrennial Reviews with each congregation.
  - g. Determine the formation and structure of the Regional Conferences of Churches.
  - h. Provide Conflict Management support as needed.
  - i. Make necessary appointments to boards, commissions, and task forces.
  - j. Supervise and manage the day-to-day operations of the Province.
  - k. Oversee Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM), and Provincial Support Services Board (PSSB), and the Archives, including the appointment of professional staff.
  - l. Oversee Unity and ecumenical relationships.
  - m. Oversee planning and preparation for Synod, including: fixing the date and place of the meeting of Synod, calling special Synods, acting as the standing committee of credentials at all Synods, and appointing the officers, committees and committee chairpersons prior to the convening of Synod.
  - n. Oversee new church development and pass upon the admission of new congregations.
  - o. Approve the Provincial Budget.
  - p. Allocate available financial resources of the province based on Synod priorities.
  - q. Act on requests from congregations for relief from provincial share allocations.

- r. Act on requests from congregations to obtain loans for buildings, property, renovations and equipment.
  - s. Upon review by the Provincial Support Services Board, act on requests for any fund raising solicitation of the congregations or their members by other congregations, boards, agencies or individuals.
  - t. Exercise joint responsibility, with the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, as members of the corporation of the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America.
  - u. Manage, report and communicate progress and successes from Synod directives.
  - v. Communicate with the Bishops' Conference.
6. It shall be the duty of the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference:
- a. To preside at meetings of the Conference and to carry out the directives of the Conference.
  - b. To be knowledgeable about the talents and capabilities of the ministers and students preparing for the ministry in order to recommend to the Conference the best use of ministerial personnel.
  - c. To be knowledgeable about the needs and opportunities for growth and service of the congregations, and to assist them in achieving maximum results.
  - d. To represent the province or to provide for representation at the meeting of ecumenical bodies of which the province is a member.
  - e. To represent the province on the Unity Board.
  - f. To appoint provincial committees as needed with the approval of the Conference.
  - g. To lead the Conference in establishing and achieving its goals and priorities.

## **Section 11. Board of Cooperative Ministries**

1. The Board of Cooperative Ministries shall provide support to congregations and Regional Conferences of Churches groupings to develop and maintain a high level of health and growth.
2. The Board of Cooperative Ministries shall be composed of one (1) member appointed by each Regional Conference of Churches, an equal number of members appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference, and the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference, ex officio. The Chair of the Board shall be elected from among the appointed members.
3. It shall be the duty of the Board of Cooperative Ministries to:
  - a. Oversee the development and implementation of specific plans set by the PEC for ministry and direction.
  - b. Recommend to the PEC staffing needs for the Board of Cooperative Ministries, including staffing structure, as well as professional staff for call and appointment.
  - c. Recommend to the PEC special commissions, committees and task forces (including recommendations for appointment).
  - d. Measure and report to the PEC effectiveness and results of plan implementation and action.
  - e. Promote, facilitate and assist as needed in the identification and use of gifts of ministry at the congregational level.

- f. To maintain a high level of effectiveness of the staff charged with assisting congregations, RCC groups, and leaders in general within the province seeking to foster congregation health and growth.

## **Section 12. Provincial Support Services**

1. The Provincial Support Services shall provide ancillary services (Financial, Human Resources, Archival, and Risk Management) to all organizational levels of the province.
2. The Provincial Support Services Board shall be composed of two (2) members of the Board of Cooperative Ministries, three (3) at-large appointments by the Provincial Elders' Conference, one of which shall be an ordained pastor serving a congregation of the Southern Province, the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference, ex officio, and one (1) additional members of the Provincial Elders' Conference.
3. The Board shall elect one of its members as Chair.
4. It shall be the duty of the Provincial Support Services Board to:
  - a. Oversee the coordination of support for ancillary services to all organizational levels of the Province.
  - b. Recommend to the PEC staffing needs for the Provincial Support Services Board, including staffing structure, as well as professional staff for call and appointment.
  - c. Provide analytical support for measuring results.
  - d. Monitor the financial health for the Province providing information to the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Board of Cooperative Ministries.
  - e. Assess financial health of churches and cooperative ministries.
  - f. Evaluate and recommend action on financial forgiveness requests from churches.
  - g. Review requests from congregations to obtain loans for buildings, property, renovations, and equipment and make recommendations to the Provincial Elders' Conference.
  - h. Review requests for any fund raising solicitation of the congregations or their members by other congregations, boards, agencies or individuals, and make recommendations to the Provincial Elders' Conference.
  - i. Assist the Provincial Elders' Conference in the preparation of the provincial budget and allocation of financial resources to cooperative ministries based on realistic church share expectations.
  - j. Monitor compliance and address issues regarding human resources, financial audits, operating risks and legal risk.
  - k. Provide oversight to the benefit plans.
  - l. Provide and maintain a Provincial hazard insurance group policy for all church properties.
5. The Board shall have oversight of the following:
  - a. Treasurer's Office
    - i. The Treasurer's Office shall provide financial services and support to all organizational levels of the Province.
    - ii. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer's Office to:
      1. Provide financial services to provincial entities of the Moravian Church, Southern Province.
      2. Be a resource for churches for all accounting matters.

3. Assist churches in the preparation of requests for financial forgiveness.
  4. Assist the Provincial Support Services Board as needed in tracking support for measuring results of provincial goals.
  5. Support the financial monitoring request from the Provincial Support Services Board for the Moravian Church, Southern Province.
  6. Serve as liaison for the Moravian Church, Southern Province, with contract services.
- b. Human Resources
- i. Human Resources shall provide human resource services and support to all organizational levels of the province.
  - ii. It shall be the duty of Human Resources to:
    1. Ensure compliance with all human resource regulatory requirements.
    2. Be a resource for churches and the Province for all human resource matters.

### **Section 13. Congregations**

1. God in Jesus Christ by growing in their love of God, in their discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ, and in their love, and service toward others.
2. It shall be the duty of a congregation to:
  - a. Develop within its life the characteristics of a healthy congregation, implement the strategies determined by Synod, and meet the resulting goals and objectives developed by the PEC.
  - b. Actively participate with other Moravians provincially and in the Regional Conferences of Churches.
  - c. Pastors and representatives to the Regional Conference of Churches have the responsibility of fostering the active involvement of their members in the life of the Province and of the Regional Conference.
  - d. Actively serve in the community and with the wider church.
  - e. Seek to fulfill its purpose, role and responsibilities by supporting the efforts of pastors and lay leaders.
  - f. Members of congregations are called to participate actively in opportunities for worship, study and service in the congregation, region and Province supporting the ministry of the church through providing time, talent and treasure.

### **Section 14. Provincial Contributions**

1. Each congregation's share of the Provincial Budget shall be determined by a methodology set forth in a Synod-approved policy and implemented by the Provincial Support Services Board at the direction of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

2. Every congregation is required to contribute through its annual budget an amount agreed upon between the congregation and the Provincial Elders' Conference to the following causes:
  - a. World Missions, to be administered by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America.
  - b. The education of candidates for the ministry in the Moravian College and Theological Seminary.
  - c. Provincial Self-Support, to cover the general administrative expenses of the province.
  - d. The Clergy Pension Fund of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church.
  - e. Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center.
  - f. The Moravian.
  - g. Salem Academy and College for the Department of Religion.
  - h. Unity and Inter-Denominational Causes.
  - i. Archives.
  - j. Moravian Music Foundation.
  - k. Music Festival and Commission on Music and Worship.
  - l. Retiree's Medical Insurance Plan.
  - m. Provincial Elders' Conference, Board of Cooperative Ministries, Provincial Support Services, Regional Conferences of Churches, Congregations and such other ministry as the Provincial Elders' Conference shall from time to time determine.
3. Every congregation is requested to contribute through its annual budget an amount agreed upon between the congregation and the Provincial Elders' Conference to the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches.
4. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall determine those congregations that are delinquent at the end of each fiscal year.
5. In any case where a church board takes exception to the amount of contribution or contributions requested of it by the PEC, it shall be the duty of the Church Board, prior to the adoption of its budget, to request consultation with the PEC for the express purpose of reaching an agreement on the amount of the contribution.

## **Section 15. Congregation Finances**

1. The Board of Trustees or Church Board of each congregation shall prepare prior to the beginning of each calendar year, a budget of income and expenses for the guidance of the financial affairs of the congregation. A copy of this budget shall be filed with the Treasurer of the Province on or before December 15 preceding the beginning of such year.
2. The Board shall appoint a committee of auditors from the membership of the congregation or an auditor outside the membership to examine in detail the accounts of the Treasurer at the end of each calendar year and make a report to the Board.
3. At the close of each calendar year, the Treasurer of the congregation shall submit a full report of all financial transactions to the Church membership.

4. A copy of the annual report of the Treasurer of the congregation and a Certificate of the Audit shall be filed with the Treasurer of the Province by May 15 following the close of each year.
5. In the event the Budget or Financial Report or Audit Certificate is not filed by the appointed date, the Provincial PEC shall have the authority to require the Chairperson of the Joint Board of the Church to call a meeting of the Joint Board, or if necessary, a Church Council to effect compliance immediately.
6. All church treasurers or other financial officers of congregations shall be covered by a position-type fidelity bond, with limits recommended by the Provincial Support Services Board, the cost of which shall be borne by the individual congregations.
7. Each congregation shall maintain broad hazard insurance coverage for its properties, either through participation in a Provincial group policy or through a separate policy secured by the congregation and approved by the Provincial Support Services Board.
8. A self-supporting congregation is one that provides, either from the contributions of its membership and adherents or from the income of its own funds, without any fixed or regular aid from provincial funds, an adequate salary for its pastor and the means for the defrayal of all other expenses of its church establishment, besides meeting its obligations to the regular causes of the church.

## **Section 16. Fellowships**

Fellowships may be organized by Moravians or former Moravians (communicant members of existing Moravian or other Christian churches) in places where no Moravian Church exists to provide spiritual enrichment for their members and to offer opportunities to enjoy practices unique to the Moravian experience. Fellowships follow guidelines established by the Provincial Elders' Conference and are not required to grow into and become established congregations.

## **Section 17. Regional Conferences of Churches**

1. The Regional Conferences of Churches shall enable communication, build unity and expand community throughout the Moravian Church, Southern Province in order to contribute to the growth of healthy congregations.
2. It shall be the duty of Regional Conferences of Churches to:
  - a. Facilitate better communication within the Province and among congregations.
  - b. Serve as a resource for input to the BCM on local congregation's needs and perspectives in order to enable the BCM to provide practical and professional help.
  - c. Promote ownership, interaction and participation in shared ministries as defined by Synod priorities and direction.
  - d. Promote sharing of strengths, gifts, assets and best practices of each congregation.
  - e. Identify and facilitate connection for initiatives arising across the Conference's churches. Identify and recommend candidates for provincial appointments and assist in their recruitment.

## **Section 18. Florida District**

1. For the purposes of cooperation and communication the Moravian Churches and Fellowships in Florida are designated as the Florida District of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, to be administered under by laws approved by the Provincial Elders' Conference.
2. The Florida District Board shall be directly responsible to the Provincial Elders' Conference and take no action inconsistent with its policies or the enactments of Provincial Synods.

## **Section 19. Board of Trustees of Salem Academy and College**

1. The Board of Trustees of Salem Academy and College shall consist of thirty members, of which five members shall be elected by the Provincial Synod of the Southern Province and five members shall be appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Southern Province in consultation with the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees.
2. The five trustees elected by the Provincial Synod shall be elected for terms of four years each. The terms of other members of the Board of Trustees, including those appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference, shall be rotated in such a manner as to result in, as much as possible, an equal number of expiring terms each year.
3. In order to insure that the ongoing needs of Salem Academy and College and its Board of Trustees are addressed, the nominees to the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees presented to each Synod by the Synod Committee on Nominations shall be reviewed and approved prior to Synod by the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees. This shall in no way preclude the possibility of additional nominations from the floor of Synod.
4. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to adopt by-laws, elect officers, and generally to direct the business and affairs of the Institution.
5. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to submit to each stated Synod of the province, through its representative, a report on the general condition of the Institution.
6. Articles of Incorporation for Salem Academy and College are on file in the office of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

## **Section 20. Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church**

1. The Synod of the Southern Province shall elect two directors of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church. The Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint one of its members as a director of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church. The Board of Directors of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc. shall appoint one of its members as a director of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church.
2. The Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church administers the mission work of the two provinces of the Moravian Church in America. It is incorporated under the laws

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and operates under its own Constitution and By-Laws approved by the Synods of the Northern and Southern Provinces.

3. Articles of Incorporation for the Board of World Mission are on file in the office of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

### **Section 21. The Board of Directors of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc.**

1. The Board of Directors of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc., shall be composed of the two elected directors of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America and twelve directors elected by the Synod from among the membership of the Society.
2. The Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South, Inc., is incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina. As the auxiliary provincial mission society it is responsible for the promotion in the Southern Province of interest in and support of foreign missions. It shall administer the invested funds entrusted to its control, and the surplus of its income shall be turned over to the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America.
3. The Charter of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South is on file in the office of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

### **Section 22. The Provincial Women's Board**

1. The Provincial Women's Board shall consist of ten members elected by Synod.
2. The Provincial Women's Board shall have the right to elect for a term of four years subject to re-election for a second term of four years, six persons to serve on the Board with all the rights and privileges enjoyed by members elected by Synod, provided the rules governing rotation in office as given in this Constitution are followed.
3. The seventeenth member of the board will be a female clergy member appointed by the board to serve a two-year term with the option to be re-appointed for another two-year term.
4. It shall be the duty of this Board:
  - a. To promote the acquaintance and fellowship of the women of the Province and seek to encourage their growth in Christian character and service.
  - b. To formulate and present a program for the united effort of the Women's Fellowships of the congregations and to enlist their cooperation in carrying it out.
  - c. To lend its assistance to the Provincial Elders' Conference or other boards of the province, whenever called upon, towards the accomplishment of the work assigned to them.
  - d. To further the cause of Christ and the Kingdom among the women of our Southern Province.
5. This Board shall render a report to each stated Synod.
6. The Provincial Women's Board shall appoint four representatives to serve on the Inter-Provincial Women's Board of the Moravian Church in America, which Board is hereby recognized as such, and to which the Northern Provincial Women's Board sends an equal

number of representatives. The functions of the Inter-Provincial Board are stated in its own Rules and Regulations, which have been ratified by both the Northern and Southern Provincial Women's Boards.

### **Section 23. The Board of Trustees of Moravian Theological Seminary**

1. The Synod of the Southern Province shall elect two members of the Board of Trustees of Moravian Theological Seminary for a term of four years, subject to re-election for a second term of four years.
2. Any vacancy occurring among the two members shall be filled by the Provincial Elders' Conference until the next stated Synod.

### **Section 24. The Board of Directors of Salemtowne (Moravian Home, Incorporated)**

1. The Board of Directors of Salemtowne shall be composed of no more than eighteen members, of whom four members shall be elected by the Provincial Synod of the Southern Province, and six members shall be appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference.
2. The four directors elected by the Provincial Synod and the six appointed by the Provincial Elders' Conference, shall serve for terms of four years each. All other members shall be selected by the Board of Directors to serve four-year terms and shall be rotated in such a manner as to result in, as much as possible, an equal number of expiring terms each year.
3. The Board shall elect its own Chairman and other officers.
4. Salemtowne is incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina as a non-profit corporation for the purpose of erecting, maintaining, and operating a continuing care retirement community.
5. The Board of Directors shall appoint a President who shall be responsible for the care of the residents and for the administration of the retirement community in all its departments. If the President is an ordained minister of the Moravian Church, he/she shall serve under call of the Provincial Elders' Conference.
6. The Board of Directors shall submit to each stated synod a report of its operations and financial condition.
7. The Articles of Incorporation for the Moravian Home, Incorporated (dba Salemtowne) are on file in the office of the Provincial Elders' Conference.

### **Section 25. Other Boards and Commissions**

The following entities, while not separately incorporated, determine their own By Laws and operate under the oversight of a Board with members elected by the Provincial Synod, or under a Board the members of which are appointed by a Board elected by the Provincial Synod:

1. The Archives Commission, overseen by the Provincial Elders' Conference. The Archives are jointly owned, and funded in equal shares by the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, and Salem Congregation.

2. The Board of Directors of Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center, overseen by the Provincial Elders' Conference.
3. The Sunnyside Ministry Program Board, overseen by the Board of Cooperative Ministries.

### **Section 26. Amendments**

Any proposed changes in this Constitution shall be submitted to a Provincial Synod, and then referred to the Committee on Government, and when reported back by the said committee, may be adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by Synod.

# *Standing Rules of Synod*

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1. In the plenary sessions of synod, where the *Standing Rules of Synod* do not cover parliamentary procedures, and where there is no conflict with the rules or the *Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Southern Province*, the basis for procedure shall be *Roberts' Rules of Order*.
2. Resolutions duplicated and distributed to the members before synod convenes shall be referred to proper synod committees for consideration without being read.
3. Synod minutes shall be reviewed by a committee of three appointed by the chairperson of synod so that they need not be approved by the full synod.
4. After the initial roll call of delegates, further roll calls shall be made by delegates signing attendance slips. The secretaries of synod shall immediately record the roll.
5. All resolutions coming from synod committees shall be referred to the Steering Committee. This committee does not have the power to alter or reject resolutions, but to see that resolutions are duplicated and distributed to delegates before they are presented for action.
6. At the beginning of the synod the Committee on Nominations shall distribute to the delegates a list of the positions to be filled by election and the nominations for these positions.
7. Ballots for all board elections shall be cast at the same time, except boards for which nominations are not permitted.
8. To provide for number 7 above, the ballot with nominations for all board elections, except boards for which nominations are not permitted, will be presented to synod delegates at the convening of synod, and
  - a. At the first appropriate time, opportunity will be given to present nominations from the floor. A delegate wishing to place a person in nomination shall provide an Information Form completed by the person to be nominated. The Information Form shall be designed by the (Nominations) Committee and shall include a statement to be signed by the nominee indicating a willingness to serve if elected.
  - b. After nominations from the floor have been closed, those nominated from the floor will be assigned a number so when it's time to cast votes, people can use any nominee's number and enter it on their electronic voting device. (Nominations made prior to synod will be listed in alphabetical order. Nominees from the floor will not be listed in alphabetical order).
  - c. As soon as appropriate, the voting for all boards, except boards for which nominations are not permitted, shall take place.
9. Reports of task forces, study groups or committees authorized or appointed by Synod during the intersynodal period shall be referred to the appropriate Synod Committee.
10. All legislation requiring funding either on a provincial basis or the local congregation in the total amount of \$2,500 or more must be received by the Finance Committee by a deadline set at

each synod by the Steering Committee. Such legislation should be reported to synod by the Finance Committee, regardless of the committee from which it originates. All such legislation should be presented at one time before any single item is voted, with the total possible cost to the province and individual churches being indicated, and subsequent to the presentation, each item shall be given careful consideration and voted upon. Any amendment on the floor of synod to legislation requiring funding which causes a net change of \$2500 or more in any item must be referred back to the Finance Committee prior to being acted upon.

11. At the close of each synod the Provincial Elders' Conference shall appoint a committee to review the *Book of Order* of the Southern Province and bring it into conformity with the acts of synod.

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