

Report to the 2018 Synod

**Re: Implementation of 2014 Synod Resolution #20
Cooperation and Collaboration with the WFU School of Divinity**

From: Provincial Elders' Conference

This Resolution asked the PEC to “*engage in an informal but intentional dialogue with representatives of the WFU School of Divinity regarding ways [the Southern Province] can cooperate and collaborate together for their mutual benefit,*” and, “*that representatives of Moravian Theological Seminary be invited to participate.*”

In July, 2017, the Interim Assistant to the President of the PEC met with Dr. Gail O’Day, Dean of the Wake Forest Divinity School; Dr. Michelle Roberts, Associate Dean of Academics; and Dr. Shonda Jones, Associate Dean of Admissions to discuss ways of cooperation between the Divinity School and the Moravian Church, Southern Province. Subsequent meetings and conversations were also held with the Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch, Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary.

The discussions reviewed current cooperative efforts of the Divinity School, Moravian Seminary (MTS) and the Southern Province (SP), as well as additional ways to work together to enhance the education of candidates for ordination, pastors, church educators, and laity.

Current cooperative efforts include: SP clergy have audited Divinity School classes; Divinity School continuing education events are advertised among Moravian pastors and church educators (through the Board of Cooperative Ministries); Moravian congregations provide internships and summer placements for Moravian students and non-Moravian students at the Divinity School (Prof. John Senior is the contact person at the Divinity School); Divinity School faculty have provided leadership for Moravian Ministry Association (MMA) retreats and monthly meetings of the MMA.

Dean O’Day and Dean Crouch agreed to draft a “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Divinity School and MTS which would grant mutual recognition of academic credits and ease of transfer of credits, thus creating a more “seamless” path of academic preparation for Moravian candidates for ordination who may take courses at both schools. The Divinity School agreed to work with the Assistant to the PEC President to help Moravian candidates enrolled at the Divinity School meet the academic requirements for ordination in the Moravian Church, SP.

MTS extended to the Divinity School the possibility of Divinity School students (Moravian and non-Moravian) participating in MTS-sponsored educational travel opportunities during Jan Term and summer.

The Divinity School was extended an invitation for its students to do research at the Moravian Archives and/or the Moravian Music Foundation.

The PEC anticipates that both MTS and the Divinity School will have input into planning for a continuing education event for SP pastors in the fall of 2018.

The PEC anticipates building additional cooperative efforts and collaboration between the Divinity School, Moravian Theological Seminary and the Southern Province in the future.