

## **Report to the Synod of 2018 Provincial Elders' Conference**

### **Mission and Purpose**

The Provincial Elders' Conference shall provide priority-based leadership of all church ministries and administer the polity of the province. (*Constitution, Section 5.1*)

### **Responsibilities**

The duties of the Provincial Elders' Conference (*Constitution Section 10.5*) may be grouped into three broad categories: Vision and Direction, Relationships, and Administration and Finance. Individual responsibilities with major activities since the last Synod are listed below.

### **Assignments from the 2014 Synod**

The "Report on 2014 Synod Resolutions" provides a summary of the fulfillment of and activity related to assignments from the 2014 Synod.

### **Major Activities since Last Synod**

#### **Vision and Direction**

*Implement strategic directives of Synod and set plans and priorities for the Board of Cooperative Ministries.*

PEC fulfilled this responsibility itself, or by delegating certain actions to Provincial boards and agencies, or by creating task groups as needed. Following the 2014 Synod, PEC set initial plans and priorities for the Board of Cooperative Ministries and adjusted those in 2016 based on recommendations from that Board.

*Manage, report and communicate progress and successes from Synod directives.*

PEC received regular reports from Provincial boards and agencies both in written form and through PEC members who served as members of those groups. PEC tracked progress on all 2014 Synod Resolutions. A brief report of the fulfillment of 2014 Synod Resolutions is included in Reports to Synod. PEC

*Oversee new church development.*

The PEC developed guidelines for new and emerging ministries, called one pastor, Angelica Regalado, to an emerging ministry to Latino immigrants in the Forsyth County, NC area, and formed a New and Emerging Ministries Team to oversee the implementation and development of these ministries as directed by 2014 Synod Resolution #20.

#### **Relationships**

*Administer the call process and appointment procedures.*

PEC revised the call process during 2015-2016 to include a congregation survey, and additional meetings with congregations and boards. PEC successfully completed 23 call processes for congregations, issued 4 calls to provincial service and 1 to specialized ministry. PEC made 20 interim appointments of pastors, and 3 appointments of Provincial Acolytes to serve congregations.

*Develop relationships with, and oversee, congregations including Quadrennial Reviews. Provide conflict management support as needed.*

In 2015-2016 PEC revised the quadrennial review format and process to include a Congregational Vitality Survey originally developed for the Lutheran Church (ELCA). PEC conducted 41 quadrennial reviews with congregations and 3 with Provincial boards in the inter-synodal period and worked with congregations as needed in the areas of congregational vitality, board-pastor relationships, and conflict resolution.

*Oversee candidacy and clergy development.*

PEC revised candidacy procedures for ordination and reorganized the Candidacy and Ordination Review Committees, adjusting some functions. PEC revised the guidelines and procedures for student financial aid. A report is provided below about the number and status of candidates for ordination. PEC revised and expanded the deacon-presbyter partnership program and re-instituted a “first call” cohort for newly ordained deacons. PEC utilized the service of a pastor under provincial call to conduct a survey and make recommendations for clergy support and development; assigned clergy development matters to the part-time Assistant to the President who developed a continuing education grant program for pastors, courtesy of contributions from a generous donor; and approved continuing education grants for pastors (Pfohl Fund, Provincial Womens’ Board) and the Aldridge Education Fund (for Church Educators).

*Communicate with the Bishops’ Conference*

The PEC President joined and provided a list of prayer topics for the monthly Bishops’ Conference meeting. The PEC consulted the Bishops on matters of doctrine and polity as needed, and also about the progress and fulfillment of 2014 Synod Resolution 12. The PEC invited and commissioned bishops to officiate at 7 ordinations of deacons and 9 consecrations of presbyters. The PEC worked with the bishops to provide representative at ecumenical functions, particularly the consecration or installation of bishops in denominations with which we have a full communion partnership.

*Oversee Unity and ecumenical relationships.*

PEC made appointments to, oversaw the work of and/or received reports from the following: The United Methodist-Moravian Dialogue Team, Lutheran Moravian Coordinating Committee, Moravian Episcopal Coordinating Committee, an ad hoc group to discuss the orderly exchange of clergy between the PCUSA and Moravian Church; and (jointly with the Northern Province) Churches for Middle East Peace. PEC responded to various requests from the Unity Board, the Unity Committee on Theology, and Unity Women’s Desk. Activities of the PEC President included: representing both the Northern and Southern Provinces in Christian Churches Together in the USA; serving on the governing board of the NC Council of Churches; participating in meetings of the Unity Board, Unity Synod and Unity Executive Committee (of the worldwide Moravian Church); serving as the key contact point for joint membership of the Southern and Northern Provinces in the World Council of Churches; attending the 2015 biennial Synodical Conference of the Unity of the Brethren Church, TX; and being the endorsing agent for chaplains in the armed forces for the Southern, Northern, and Eastern West Indies Provinces and the Unity of the Brethren (TX).

## **Administration and Finance**

### *Approve the Provincial Budget*

In consultation with the Provincial Support Services Board, the PEC reviewed, adjusted and approved the Provincial Budgets for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

### *Allocate available financial resources of the province based on Synod priorities.*

PEC monitored the finances of the province, receiving reports and acting on recommendations from the Provincial Support Services Board. PEC approved the development of a revised Provincial Share allocation methodology by the PSSB Finance and Administrative Support Committee (FASC), submitted to the 2018 Synod for approval. PEC asked the FASC to develop and then utilized a financial health “dashboard” to monitor the financial capacity and stress levels of all congregations.

### *Approve congregations' requests for relief from provincial share allocations.*

During the 2018 budget process, the PEC made advance adjustment of the assigned provincial share for 9 congregations for which the calculated amount was found to be unmanageable. During 2014-2018, PEC approved 46 relief requests for 22 congregations upon recommendation of the PSSB.

### *Make appointments to boards/commissions/task forces.*

PEC made appointments to the Board of Cooperative Ministries, the Provincial Support Services Board, The Archives Commission, Interprovincial Faith and Order Commission, Interprovincial Board of Communication, Salem Academy and College Trustees, Moravian Theological Seminary Trustees, Moravian Ministries Foundation in America Trustees, the Candidacy Committee and Ordination Review Committee, and the appointments to ecumenical groups listed above.

### *Supervise and manage the day-to-day operations of the Province. Oversee Board of Cooperative Ministries (BCM) and Provincial Support Services (PSSB).*

PEC Continued active contact with Provincial Boards and agencies through PEC membership on these boards, and by receiving, reviewing and acting on regular reports and requests from these groups. PEC approved and oversaw the hiring of a full-time Human Resources Director for the Province.

## **Membership and Worship Statistics**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Communicants</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average Worship Attendance</b>
2014	13,012	15,423	5,905
2015	12,670	15,034	5,626
2016	12,542	14,869	5,486
2017		(data not yet available)	

**Membership Age Analysis \***

<b>Year</b>	<b>0-11</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>19-35</b>	<b>36-50</b>	<b>51-64</b>	<b>65-74</b>	<b>75+</b>
2012	10%	7%	17%	15%	23%	13%	15%
2016	8%	7%	17%	14%	21%	17%	15%

\* Notes: 1) Data is gathered every four years. 2) Some churches do not gather and provide age information.

**Membership Gains and Losses**

*(Note: Data for 2017 was not fully available at preparation)*

<b>2014-2016 Gains</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
Adult Baptisms	39	41	34	114	10%
Confirmations	89	72	64	225	20%
Rc'd from other Moravian	49	75	63	187	17%
Rc'd from other Denominations	63	64	70	197	18%
Reaffirmation of Faith	108	99	74	281	25%
Readmitted	25	11	5	41	4%
Other	12	11	38	61	6%
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1106</b>	
<b>2014-2016 Losses</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>% Total</b>
Transfer Other Moravian	35	47	38	120	8%
Transfer Other Denominations	34	56	43	133	9%
Moved to Inactive	38	146	138	322	21%
Dropped	101	73	131	305	20%
Deaths	207	238	199	644	42%
Other	13	3	4	20	1%
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>1544</b>	
<b>Gains Over(Under) Losses</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>(205)</b>	<b>(438)</b>	

**Pastoral Leadership Changes since the 2014 Synod**

**Candidates for Ordained Ministry**

During 2014-2017, ten candidates were approved for ordination. Six received calls, two are awaiting call, and two are completing educational requirements.

As of March 15, 2018 there are two approved candidates awaiting call: Leslie Cox (Fulp); Andrew Craver (Konnoak Hills). There are four completing educational and other preparation: Evette Campbell (Palm Beach); Illovis Gonzalez (Nueva Esperanza Fellowship); Alexander Nifong (Clemmons); Scott Rainey (Bethania); one in the early stages of the candidacy process: Reed Lawson (Bethania); and one exploring candidacy.

### **Ordination as Deacon**

Aaron Linville	October 12, 2014
Charles Snider	May 21, 2017
Victoria Lasley	July 16, 2017
Adam Goodrich	September 24, 2017
Angelica Regalado	September 3, 2017
Rusty Rushing	November 19, 2017
Fran Saylor	February 18, 2018

### **Consecration as Presbyter**

Nola Knouse	March 1, 2015
Walter Bishop	April 19, 2015
James Demby	October 18, 2015
Riddick Weber	November 22, 2015
Cheryl Cottingham	November 15, 2015
Russell Williams	October 25, 2015
Betty Helms	November 12, 2017
Jeff Jones	December 17, 2017
Anthony Hayworth	January 14, 2018

### **Pastoral Changes**

#### **2014**

	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date of change:</b>
Dan Nelson	Friedberg (Associate)	May 29, 2014
John G. Rights	Kernersville	August 3, 2014
John Rainey	Mizpah	September 21, 2014
David Merritt	Bethania	October 12, 2014
Aaron Linville	Rural Hall	November 2, 2014

#### **2015**

Carol Foltz	Provincial Service	January 1, 2015
Matthew Allen	Olivet	January 18, 2015
Tony Hayworth	First, Greensboro	August 1, 2015
Jeff Carter	Little Church on the Lane	October 25, 2015
Russell Williams	Union Cross	November 1, 2015

#### **2016**

Barry Foster	Unity (appointment)	January 10, 2016
Zachary Dease	Macedonia	June 5, 2016
Carol Foltz	Moravia	September 1, 2016
Neil Routh	Grace	September 25, 2016
Joe Moore	New Philadelphia	October 9, 2016
Jeff Coppage	Fries	November 27, 2016

#### **2017**

Evette Campbell (Acolyte)	Palm Beach	February 1, 2017
Christy Clore	(Prov. Svc. to Interim, PCUSA)	February 26, 2017
Chaz Snider	Ardmore	June 11, 2017
Chuck Harmon (Acolyte)	Fulp	June 11, 2017
Andrew Heil	Home (Associate)	July 16, 2017
Victoria Lasley	Fairview (Associate)	July 23, 2017
Doug Rights	King	August 27, 2017

Angelica Regalado	Prov. Svc. (emerging ministry)	September 1, 2017
David Berrier (Acolyte)	Oak Grove	September 24, 2017
Adam Goodrich	Friedland (Associate)	October 1, 2017
Rusty Rushing	Peace	November 26, 2017
<b><u>2018</u></b>		
Fran Saylor	Mizpah	March 4, 2018
Chris Thore	Clemmons	March 11, 2018
Kelly Moore	(Prov. Service, to ELCA)	April 1, 2018

### **Specialized Ministry**

#### **2017**

Bert Hebbert Chin	Chaplain, VITAS Healthcare	March 10, 2017
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### **Interim Appointments**

Jennie Hemrick (PCUSA)	Grace (intentional interim)	April 22, 2014
Wayne Byerly	Fulp	July 15, 2014
Russell May	St. Philips	September 28, 2014
Doug Gebhard (PCUSA)	Friedland (intentional interim)	November 23, 2014
Joel Long (PCUSA)	New Philadelphia (Associate)	January 1, 2015
Keith Copeland (PCUSA)	Peace (intentional interim)	January 15, 2015
Neil Routh	Unity	January 29, 2015
Wayne Burkette	Unity	March 1, 2015
Tim Byerly	Union Cross	March 1, 2015
Wayne Byerly	Friedland	August 1, 2015
Judy Knopf	Grace	September 13, 2015
Steve Craver	Macedonia	November 1, 2015
Kevin Conley (PCUSA)	King (intentional interim)	August 8, 2016
Judith Justice	Mayodan	December 25, 2016
Judy Knopf	Come and Worship	January 15, 2017
Doug Rights	Mizpah	March 26, 2017
Judy Knopf	Hope	December 17, 2017
John Rainey	Leaksville	February 4, 2018
Frank Barker	Prince of Peace	February 4, 2018
Bill McElveen	St. Philips	February 12, 2018

### **Leave of Absence**

Kelly Moore	<b>From:</b> Fries Memorial	July 1 to December 31, 2016
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### **Provincial Acolytes** (annual appointment)

David Berrier	Oak Grove
Evette Campbell	Palm Beach
Gary Easter	Crooked Oak
Illovis Gonzalez	Nueva Esperanza Fellowship
Chuck Harmon	Fulp
Gregorio Moody	King of Kings, and New Hope (FL)
Armand Sabar	Suriname Fellowship

### **Congregational Acolytes**

Upon election by, and at the request of the church board(s), the PEC appoints Congregational Acolytes to terms of three years, after which the church board(s) may extend such appointments as desired. During 2014-2017 the PEC appointed 29 Congregational Acolytes for 15 congregations.

### **Retirements**

Margaret Leinbach	Intentional Interim Ministry	September 8, 2014
Daniel Crews	Archivist	September 30, 2014
Stuart Zimmerman	Unity	December 24, 2014
James Doss	Peace	January 15, 2015
Donald Griffin	Union Cross	February 28, 2015
Brad Bennett	(without call)	August 17, 2015
Richard Sides	Home	October 31, 2016
Judy Knopf	Intentional Interim Ministry	October 31, 2016
John Rainey	Mizpah	January 31, 2017
Ray Burke	Clemmons	February 28, 2017
Robert Peterson	Leaksville	June 30, 2017
Jon Peterson	(without call)	July 17, 2017
W. Thomas Stapleton	(without call)	January 8, 2018
B. David Smith	(without call)	January 21, 2018
Tim Byerly	(without call)	March 31, 2018

### **Potential Retirements**

There are sixteen currently active pastors who have reached or will reach the age of sixty-five during the next inter-synodal period (2018-2022).

### **Certifications of Directors of Christian Education**

Margaret Norris	February 16, 2015
Heidi Everhart	October 22, 2015

### **Appointments of Directors of Christian Education**

Margaret Norris	Home	November 23, 2014
Heidi Everhart	Friedberg	October, 22, 2015
Jami Vandock	Raleigh	August 17, 2015
Evie Blum	Olivet	February 15, 2016
Evie Blum	New Philadelphia	May 1, 2017

### **Other Appointments**

Eric Elliott	Archivist	January 1, 2018
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## In Memory

The following pastors, pastor spouses, church educators, and provincial workers moved into the more immediate presence of our Lord and Chief Elder during the inter-synodal period:

### **Carolyn Griffin**

Sister Carolyn Adams Griffin passed away April 22, 2014, at age 67, at her home. She was born February 15, 1947 in Forsyth County to Jesse Bernard Adams, Sr. and wife, Edna Boger. Carolyn worked for Hanes Hosiery for many years before working with her husband, Don, at their family-owned business, Forsyth Appliance Service. She worked for the Board of Christian Education of the Moravian Church and also worked as a Teacher's Assistant at Gibson Elementary. Together with her husband, the Rev. Donald Griffin, Carolyn joined in serving the Bethabara and Union Cross congregations. She is survived by her husband, Donald, two daughters, one son, six grandchildren, one brother, and one sister. A graveside service was conducted by the Rev. Scott Venable, April 25, 2014, in God's Acre, in Salem. A memorial service was held April 26 at Fairview Moravian Church, with Bishop Sam Gray officiating.

### **Daniel Conrad**

Brother Joseph Daniel Conrad died September 10, 2014, at age 65. He was born July 24, 1949 to H. Joe and Mary Conrad, and was baptized at Bethania Moravian Church, in Winston-Salem, NC. Dan attended Wake Forest University, served in the United States Navy, graduated from UNC-Greensboro and received his Master of Divinity degree from Moravian Theological Seminary in 1982. He was ordained June 6, 1982 at Bethania by the Rt. Rev. George C. Higgins, and served the Community Fellowship (Welcome, NC), Mount Bethel (Cana, VA), Good Shepherd (Kernersville, NC), and Advent (Winston-Salem, NC) congregations. He also was Director of Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center from 1993 to 2000. Dan had a life-long love of music which included being a member of the US Navy band, and greatly enjoyed playing the trombone. Dan is survived by his wife, Jonetta Hilton Conrad, a step-daughter, step-granddaughter, and great-grandson, and a sister. A memorial service was held Tuesday, September 15, 2014 at Bethania Moravian Church with the Reverends Richard L. Sides and David Merritt officiating.

### **Maurita (Rita) Hughes**

Sister Maurita (Rita) Hughes, wife of the Rt. Rev. James C. (Jay) Hughes, died November 17, 2014 in Downingtown, PA, at age 91. She was the daughter of Wobbleton Bradley and Fannie Wilson Graham Cox. Rita was a graduate of Winthrop University and received her Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics and Science. She was a teacher at South Fork High School in Winston Salem, NC, and briefly taught at Salem College. Sister Hughes served faithfully with her husband as he was pastor of the Lititz congregation in the Northern Province, and the Home, Calvary and Mayodan congregations in the Southern Province. She enjoyed her work with the Women's Ministry and Youth Sunday School programs; was an avid gardener, exceptional seamstress and an excellent cook. Rita was preceded in death by her son, James C Hughes Jr. She is survived by a daughter, five grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and a daughter in law. A funeral service was held Saturday, November 22, at 2:00 p.m. at Lititz Moravian Church, the Rev. Dean Jurgen officiating.

### **Violet Befus**

Sister Violet Stelter Befus, wife of the late Rev. John Befus, passed away Sunday, January 18, 2015, at Salemtowne Retirement Community, Winston-Salem, NC. She was 93 years old. Violet was born May 14, 1921 in Lamont, Alberta, Canada to Fred and Emma Stelter. After becoming a registered nurse and marrying John Befus, she served with him 25 years in the communities of La Luz, Bilwas Karma, and Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Vi's ministries include teaching, playing the organ and leading choirs, organizing youth groups and providing counsel to young women. John and Violet later served in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada; Philadelphia, PA; and the Fries Memorial congregation in Winston-Salem, where Violet remained a member. In 2000, Vi and John moved to Salemtowne, where she continued an active and



cheerful witness after his death later that year. Throughout her life she embodied a personal philosophy in keeping with her name -- to "bloom where you are planted." A graveside service was held Saturday, January 24, at 1:00 p.m. at God's Acre, in Salem with the Reverend Kelly Moore officiating, followed by a memorial service led by Chaplain Linda Browne at 3:00 p.m., in the Saal at Salemtowne. She is survived by three children; six grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

### **Donald Winters**

Brother R. Donald Winters died March 18, 2015 at his home, at the age of 67.. Don was born October 15, 1947 in Wilkes County to the late Glenn Samuel and Ruth Elizabeth Sidden Winters. He graduated High School in Wilkes County, attended Winston-Salem Business College, and earned a BAS Degree from Guilford College and a Master of Divinity from Moravian Theological Seminary in 1985. Prior to his ordained ministry he was employed by the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel newspapers. Don also served in the US Army, and in the US Army Reserve Corps. He was ordained a deacon June 23, 1985 by Bishop J. C. Hughes, and consecrated a presbyter by Bishop Hughes, August 12, 1990. Don served the Olivet, Fairview and Kernersville congregations in North Carolina, as well as on the Public Relations Commission, Interprovincial Board of Publications, the Board of Evangelism and Home Missions, and the Board of Elders of Salem Congregation. He also was a chaplain with the Vienna and Mount Tabor and the Kernersville Fire Departments. Don is survived by his wife, Mary Winters, two daughters, and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Olivet Moravian Church, Winston Salem, NC with the Rev. Matthew Allen officiating. Burial followed in God's Acre, at Olivet.

### **Hazel Stelter**

Sister Hazel Marie Cox Stelter passed away Friday, May 1, 2015, at the age of 93. Hazel was born in Mt. Airy, NC, attended schools in North Carolina, and graduated valedictorian from Ellerbe High School in 1938. She graduated from the NC Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and received her RN in 1943. While in nursing school she met the Rev. Elmer R. Stelter, and they were married in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in October 1943. Together they served congregations in Alberta before accepting a call in 1961 to Olivet Moravian Church, and later, Ardmore Moravian Church, where they served until retirement in 1983. Sr. Stelter is survived by her three children; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her sister, Betty Mabe. A graveside service was held in God's Acre in Salem, Saturday, May 16, with the Rev. Gerald Befus officiating.

### **Sybil Rights**

Sister Sybil Critz Strupe Rights, died May 19, 2015, at the age of 76, at Salemtowne Moravian Retirement Community. Sybil was born in Winston-Salem on June 28, 1938 to Ivie Levine Strupe and Susie Critz Strupe. She graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, earned a degree in English from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and later in life received a Master's Degree in English from Wake Forest University. Sybil married Graham Rights on September 7, 1963. They began married life in Nicaragua, where Graham served as a Moravian missionary. Together they served the Moravian Church in Mayodan, NC, Winston-Salem, NC, the Board of World Mission, Bethlehem, PA; while Graham served as PEC President, and at the First Moravian Church, Greensboro, NC. Sybil was a high school English teacher in Winston-Salem, Atlanta, and Managua, before taking a break from work outside the home to raise her children. She returned to work as a substitute teacher, a property manager, and coordinator of the Moravian Church's Gemeinschaft program. She was known for her intellect, wit, and gentle, loving nature. She could quote long verses, songs and quotations from memory and enjoyed singing in the choir. She is survived by her husband, The Rt. Rev. Graham H. Rights; a daughter, a son, the Rev. John G. Rights, four grandchildren, and a sister. A funeral service was held Friday, May 22, 2015, at New Philadelphia Moravian Church, with burial following in God's Acre, at New Philadelphia.

### **Norwood Green, Sr.**

Brother Worth Norwood Green, Sr., passed away Friday, February 12, 2016, his 94th birthday. Norwood was born in Winston-Salem, NC, the second of three children of Luther "Luke" and Mary Easter Green, and grew up in the area surrounding the old Arista cotton mill. He graduated James A. Gray High School in 1940, and enlisted in the United States Army. He twice rose to the rank of Staff Sgt. and held that rank as a member of the Normandy invasion force, landing at Utah Beach on "D plus 1", and received the Bronze Star for meritorious service. He married Henrietta Stout December 26, 1947. Norwood graduated from Mars Hill College, Moravian College (1950), and Moravian Theological Seminary (1952). He was ordained a deacon in 1952, and consecrated a Presbyterian in 1958; served pastorates at Enterprise, Hopewell, New Eden, Pine Chapel, Hope (Indiana), Friedberg, and Friedland Moravian Churches; and retired at the age of 67. He then served 14 years as the chaplain of Salemtowne Moravian Retirement Community, did a partially overlapping 15 year "interim" at Memorial Reformed Church and continued to support the volunteer chaplaincy at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Norwood is survived by his wife, Henrietta; by one son, the Rev. Worth Norwood Green, Jr., two grandchildren, and by four great-grandchildren. Following a private family interment at Friedberg Moravian Church, a memorial service was held at Fairview Moravian Church at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016 with the Rev. Scott Venable officiating.

### **Mark Leinbach**

Brother Mark Luther Leinbach, died Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at age 63. He was born December 3, 1952, to Luther Kenneth and Eunice Shamel Leinbach. He attended Bethania Moravian Church with his family, where he met his wife, Molly, as a young child when they were in the same Sunday school class. He graduated from North Forsyth High School and Forsyth Technical Community College and worked as a senior CAD designer at Luwa Bahnson, Inc. for 25 years. He served as the Facilities Manager at Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center for five years before continuing his career as Facilities Manager and Superintendent of the Graveyard for the Salem Congregation of the Moravian Church, Southern Province for the last 13 years. He enjoyed playing trombone in the Moravian band. He also spent much of his time woodworking. He was preceded in death by his father and his brother, Wayne. He is survived by Molly, a daughter and son, his mother and three sisters. A funeral service was held Saturday, July 30, at Bethania Moravian Church, with the Rev. Brad Bennett and the Rev. David Merritt officiating, and burial following in God's Acre, Bethania.

### **John Christman**

Brother John David Christman, died Sunday, August 14, 2016 at the Brian Center of Eden, in Eden, NC. He was 71 years old. John was born in Easton, PA on June 9, 1945, a son of John Lincoln and Dorothy Sandt Christman. He graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1967 and Moravian Theological Seminary in 1970. While a student, he served at the following churches in Pennsylvania: Paxton Methodist Church, St. Marks UCC and Calvary Baptist Church. He accepted a call to be pastor of the Leaksville Moravian Church, Eden, NC. Brother Christman was ordained June 21, 1970 at Nazareth Moravian Church, Nazareth PA, by the Rt. Rev. Allen Schattschneider, and installed at Leaksville on June 28. Along with his wife, Arlean, he faithfully served as pastor there for 32 years, until his retirement in 2002. He was consecrated a presbyter on June 20, 1976 at the Leaksville church, by the Rt. Rev. George Higgins. John was very involved in the community, serving in the Eden YMCA Men's Club, the Eden Lion's Club and the Eden and Leaksville Fire Departments, and as the Secretary on the Executive Board of the Eden Boys and Girls Club for many years. He was one of the founding members of the Eden Ministerial Association and the Cooperative Christian Ministry, Leaksville. He is survived by his wife, three sons and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted August 17, 2016 at Leaksville Moravian Church, with burial at Ridge View Memorial Gardens, Eden, NC.

### **James Blanton, III**

Brother James Overton Blanton III, age 85, originally from Winston-Salem, passed away in Jacksonville, Florida on August 18, 2016. In 1957, after serving briefly as Associate Pastor at Home Moravian Church, Jim married Rena Marie Moody and accepted a missionary call to Nisky Moravian Church in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he served for three years. Brother Blanton resigned from the Moravian ministry in 1962 to pursue a Civil Engineering degree at NC State, and spent 27 years working for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, CO. Jim's wife, Rena Marie Moody passed away in 1999; and his son Stephen D. Blanton died in 2015. He is survived four children, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held at Home Moravian Church Saturday, August 27, 2016, with burial following in God's Acre, Salem.

### **Grace Marx**

Sister Grace Hoppe Marx died at age 96 at home October 30, 2016. Grace was born on a farm in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and grew up in Bruderfeld Moravian Church. At Van-Es Christian summer camp, she met Sam Marx, then completing seminary. Sam and Grace were married in 1945, and Grace worked with the Victorian Order of Nurses while Sam completed his medical training at McGill University. Beginning in 1949, Grace served for 35 years in Nicaragua and Honduras as a medical missionary alongside her husband Dr. Sam. They developed a small clinic in Ahuas into a full hospital. Grace and Sam were awarded the Honduran Presidential Award in 1986 for meritorious service among the Miskito. In 1987 they moved back to North Carolina where Grace continued participating at Christ Moravian Church as vocalist, pianist, and volunteer. The Marx's moved to Salemtowne in 2005, where Sam died in 2011. She took on as her job praying for her nurses and care-givers, even as her limitations grew. "Amazing Grace" she became known in the Health Center—always thankful for her care, and for her family. Grace is survived by five children, fourteen grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 5, 2016 at Christ Moravian Church with Rev. Dr. David Marcus, Rev. Gary Byrum, and Rt. Rev. Sam Gray officiating. Burial followed in God's Acre, Salem.

### **Dorothy Wooten**

Sister Dorothy Louise Wooten passed away December 3, 2016, at age 89. She was born January 5, 1927, Forsyth County, NC, the daughter of Winston-Salem Police Chief, James Garfield Wooten and Dora Mitchell Wooten. She graduated Gray High School in 1944, and Salem College in 1948. For the next 15 years, Dorothy worked with the Board of Christian Education of the Moravian Church, Southern Province. She created much of the Sunday school curriculum as well as training for teachers and the planning of provincial summer conferences. In 1963 she became a first grade teacher at Latham Elementary School, Winston-Salem serving for 26 years. In 1989, she became caregiver for her sister, Minnie and a best friend, Rachel Carter. She knitted hundreds of toboggans and afghan blankets over a 10-year period. These were distributed to children and expecting mothers all over the world. She was also a devoted volunteer at the Sunnyside Ministry. The biggest love of her life was the Moravian Church. Throughout her life she attended Home, Trinity and Enterprise Moravian Churches. She is survived by her adopted family of Miles and Pauletta Warfford of Clemmons, Bob and Jane Handly of Dallas, Texas, and Bob and Debbie Rowland of Clemmons. A memorial service was held Dec. 8, at Salem Funeral Home, Winston Salem, followed by a graveside service at Woodland Cemetery, led by the Rev. Arkon Stewart.

**James Hughes**

Brother James C. Hughes, 92, a bishop of the Unitas Fratrum, died Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Simpson Meadows in Downingtown, Pa. James was born April 13, 1923 in Winston Salem, N.C., the son of James Reuben Hughes and Dora Ethel Hayes Hughes. Jay was baptized Sept. 20, 1923, at New Philadelphia Moravian Church. He attended South Fork Elementary School, graduated R. J. Reynolds High School (1940); worked briefly at Salem Steel Company, Winston-Salem; received a BA degree from Moravian College (1945); the BD degree from Moravian Theological Seminary (1947), and later in life, he earned a D. Min. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary (1983). Jay married Virginia Maurita Cox July 12, 1947. Together they served Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., the Lititz Moravian Church, Calvary Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Mayodan Moravian Church, Mayodan, N.C. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop J. Kenneth Pfohl, June 15, 1947; consecrated a presbyter June 24, 1951, by Bishop Pfohl, and consecrated a bishop November 17, 1974, at Lititz Moravian Church. In addition to pastoral ministry, James served the church through participation in a variety of provincial and interprovincial boards, as well as ecumenical and community organizations. He and Rita moved to Downingtown, PA in February 2014. He was preceded in death by a son, James C. Hughes, Jr., in 2013, and by his wife of 67 years, Rita, in 2014. Jay is survived by his daughter, five grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and a daughter-in-law. A burial service followed by a memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., December 7, at Lititz Moravian Church, with the Rev. Dean Jurgen officiating.

**Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Barnes**

Sister Mary Elizabeth Tesch Barnes passed away March 19, 2017, at age 86. She was born January 31, 1931 to the Rev. Samuel J. Tesch and Edith Neligh Tesch, and was the oldest of the Tesch sisters. She graduated from Reynolds High School and attended Salem College. With her husband, The Rev. Alan H. Barnes, she served congregations in Raleigh, Fort Lauderdale, Winston-Salem and Rural Hall. She was a gifted church musician, serving as a band member, organist and a faithful choir member, praising God with her rich, beautiful alto voice. An avid gardener, she taught the family to appreciate the beauty of flowers, vegetable gardens, autumn leaves and sunsets. She was preceded in death by her husband and daughter, Martha; and is survive by a son, two daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson; and three sisters, Edith Johnson, Anne French, and Sarah Salzwedel. A memorial service was held Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at Home Moravian Church, followed by burial in God's Acre, Salem.

**Wallace Elliott**

Brother Wallace Calvin Elliott, age 83, died March 30, 2017, at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, Winston-Salem, NC. Wally was born January 8, 1934 in Guilford County, the son of William and Sarah Gardner Elliott, and was an active member of the Moravia congregation. He graduated Moravian College (1958) and Moravian Theological Seminary (1961), was ordained a deacon July 23, 1961 by Bishop Herbert Spaugh, and consecrated a presbyter April 27, 1969, at Park Road (Peace) Moravian Church, Charlotte, NC, by bishop Spaugh. Wally served as pastor at Home Moravian (Associate), Oak Grove, Park Road, Charlotte, NC; First Ulrichsville, OH; Graceham, Thurmont MD; Community Fellowship, Welcome, NC; and Christ, Winston-Salem. He enjoyed playing in the church band, writing music and playing guitar; and was active in the camp and conference ministry at Laurel Ridge. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Anne Weigner Elliott, and is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in God's Acre, Salem, with the Rev. David Marcus officiating.

### **June Shamel**

Sister June Zimmerman Shamel, wife of the Rev. Richard Shamel, passed away June 27, 2017, at the age of 87. June was born in Reading, Pennsylvania to William and Ethel (Bear) Zimmerman, June 5, 1930. She graduated from Reading High School in 1948 and from the Moravian Seminary and College for Women, Bethlehem, PA in 1954. She married the Rev. Richard I. Shamel on August 13, 1955. June shared in Richard's ministry as he served Moravian congregations in Coopersburg, PA; New York City; St. John's, Antigua; and the Moravia, New Eden, Providence, and Macedonia congregations in the Southern Province. Until her retirement in 1995, June worked with the Legal Aid Society in Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Lexington, NC. She was an active member of the Macedonia Moravian Church where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. She is survived by her husband, Richard; three sons, Paul Steven and Carl; and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 30, 2017 at Macedonia Moravian Church, with Rev. Zachary Dease officiating.

### **Julia Denham**

Sister Julia Carr Denham died August 12, 2017, at Salemtowne retirement community, at age 77. She was born November 8, 1939 to Almon and Frankie Talley Carr in Winston-Salem, NC. Julia was a lifelong member of Christ Moravian Church, where she sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and served for many years as Director of Christian Education. Her family remembers her for the warmth and love that she showed towards all around her and her playful sense of humor. She died after a many-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, John, two daughters, and a brother. A memorial service was held Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Christ Moravian Church, with the Rev. David Marcus officiating.

### **Christian Weber**

Brother Christian David Weber, age 90, passed away October 29, 2017, at Salemtowne retirement community. Chris was born in Indianapolis, IN, May 13, 1927, the son of the Rev. Christian Otto Weber and Dorothy Pfohl Weber. His father and two brothers (F. Herbert, and C. Bruce) were also pastors. Chris, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, graduated Davidson College (1948), graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary (1952), and pursued further studies at Manchester University, in England. In 1953 Chris was ordained a deacon November 8, 1953 by Bishop J. Kenneth Pfohl, and consecrated a presbyter October 18, 1959, also by Bishop Pfohl. He served as pastor at Oak Grove. In 1964 he married Dorothy Esta Sohn, and together they served the Boca Raton, FL, and Bethania congregations. He conducted the original survey in 1957 for our province's work in Florida, before becoming pastor at Boca Raton. In retirement, the Webers were active in helping establish Palm Beach Moravian Church. Chris is survived by a niece, four nephews, 4 great nieces, and 5 great nephews. A memorial service was held at Fairview Moravian Church, at 10:00 a.m., Saturday Nov. 4, 2017. A private interment occurred later in Boca Raton, FL.

### **Jimmie L. Newsom, Sr.**

Brother Jimmie Lee Newsom, Sr. died Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at age 91. He was born March 18, 1926, the youngest of nine children of Charles Oscar and Mollie Daye Newsom. Jimmie grew up in the Trinity congregation, in Winston-Salem, and was a member of the Advent congregation when he became a candidate for ordination. He attended Moravian College, graduated from High Point College and earned the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, PA. He was ordained a deacon June 30, 1963 by Bishop Herbert Spaugh. He married Irene Reeves February 4, 1947, and together they served the King, Konnoak Hills, Oak Grove, Pine Chapel, and New Eden congregations in the Southern Province, and as interim pastor of the Covina, CA congregation in the Western District of the Northern Province. When asked why he became a Moravian minister, Jimmie answered, "All I ever wanted to do was to love people. When I found out there was a job for that, I knew that's what God was calling me to do." He retired from active service at the New Eden congregation in 1999. He is survived by his children, the Rev. Jimmie Newsom, Jr., Deborah Larrimore, and Steven Newsom; six grandchildren and five great-

grandchildren. A memorial service was led by Jimmie Newsom, Jr., Saturday, March 10, 2018 at King Moravian Church, followed by a graveside service Sunday, March 11, in God's Acre, Old Salem.

**Irene Newsom**

Sister Irene Selena Reeves Newsom passed away March 25, 2018, at age 89. She was born Sept. 14, 1928, the first child of Robert Glenn Reeves and Dorothy Byrant Reeves. She married the Rev. Jimmie L. Newsom Sr., February 4, 1947, and partnered with Jimmie as he served pastorates at the King, Konnoak Hills, Oak Grove, Pine Chapel, and New Eden congregations in the Southern Province, and as interim pastor of the Covina, CA congregation in the Western District of the Northern Province. She had a career in banking, retiring as assistant treasurer of First Federal Savings and Loan. She was preceded in death (by 25 days) by her husband, Jimmie She is survived by her three children, the Rev. Jimmie L. Newsom, Jr., Deborah Larrimore, and Steve Newsom, by six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Jimmie L. Newsom, Jr., at King Moravian Church, Saturday, March 31, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. There was a separate interment at God's Acre, Salem.