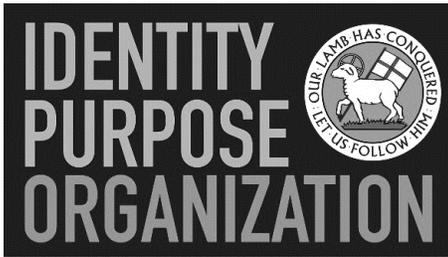


District Developments

The Newsletter of
The Eastern District
Moravian Church
February 2017
David E. Bennett,
President



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

An important conversation is currently happening across our province as our congregations gather in regional clusters to discern where God is leading us together. Understanding our identity as both Moravians of the Northern Province and the Eastern District is an important element of these conversations, in terms of discerning how our common ministry is best supported and lived out together. These listening sessions offer not only the opportunity to hear of some of the work of the IPO Task Force, but also to offer your own thoughts and ideas regarding our Moravian identity, purpose, and organization. Put very simply, this really is your opportunity to be heard.

As stated earlier by the IPO Task Force:

The Provincial Synod of 2010 called for the formation of a commission to study the structure of the Northern Province and report back with recommendations to come before the 2014 Provincial Synod. In tasking the commission, the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) interpreted and broadened the original mandate to focus on structure as one piece of the Province's larger identity, purpose, and organization. This broader focus allowed the commission to think beyond simply reduction to facilitate

cost savings. Instead, the recommendations outlined in this report reflect changes the commission believes will help to reshape our structure to more effectively and efficiently support ministry being done by congregations across the province. Additionally, recommendations are made regarding new ministry opportunities that can help us to more firmly claim our identity as people whose love for Christ sends us out in service to the world.

The commission completed its work during the inter-synodal period through six face to face meetings, and ongoing electronic communication and conference calls. The work of the commission began as conversations with stakeholders and a study of our history to facilitate deep reflection on our culture and identity as the Moravian Church Northern Province (MCNP). It became increasingly clear over time that a significant challenge facing the MCNP was the need to undergo a larger cultural shift, to help us take on a structure matching our identity as we claim our unique call to be a part of God's mission in the world.

Just as faith without works is dead, structural change without cultural change is dead. Four particular areas have been identified, which are reported here as "adaptive challenges". A variety of possible experiments in these areas to cultivate a culture of empowered local and collectively owned Provincial ministry are outlined in the report. These areas are: Identity, Connectivity, Leadership and Call, and Congregations in Context.

To read the full report go to:

<http://www.moravian.org/moravian-church-northern-province/ipo/>

Once again these conversations are important and will inform the Provincial Elders Conference and the 2018 Northern Provincial Synod in how to move forward. Please make every attempt to be present at one of these gatherings in the Eastern District.

- Saturday, February 4 – Sharon Moravian Church/Ohio/Toronto (9 AM – 12:00 PM, lunch to follow)
- Saturday, March 4 – Advent Moravian Church/Lehigh Valley (9 AM – 12:00 PM, lunch to follow)
- Saturday, March 11 – Redeemer Moravian Church/PennMar/DelVal (9 AM – 12:00 PM, lunch to follow)
- Sunday, March 12 – New Dorp Moravian Church/NY (4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, light supper provided)

2017 Youth Convo Deadline Extended

The hope of the first Moravian Youth Convo coordinator was to provide youth from all over the world to meet each other, see a wider vision of the Moravian Community and to encourage youth to consider their call to Christian service.

This summer, July 1st through 6th, youth from all over North America will gather together in Washington, D.C. for the 20th Moravian Youth Convocation. Convo 2017 registration

is open to youth who have completed 8th through 12th grade. The cost of Convo is \$800 and includes: Program- 'Witness' – look at race, today's reality and the bible, July 4th Fireworks on the Mall, Convo 2017 T-Shirt, Service Mission Opportunity, Worship, Travel once you arrive in Washington, D.C. area, Housing from July 1st through July 6th, Meals beginning with dinner on July 1st through Breakfast on July 6th. Due to the interest in this event the registration deadline has been extended to February 15th. For more information and registration forms go to:

<http://www.moravian.org/?p=9031>.

Or contact Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer at Cynthia@mcnp.org

Moravian Ministries Foundation

Etta is a lifelong Moravian who had been thinking about how she could make a significant gift to support her Moravian church. She contacted us to explain her goals and describe her assets. Originally she thought about leaving her IRA to her children and other assets to her church; however, we suggested another strategy. We explained to Etta that if her children inherited her IRA, the estate would pay estate taxes, and her children would pay income taxes on the IRA. But, by giving the IRA to her church and other assets to her children, Etta could still provide a nice inheritance to her children while avoiding the income tax. Etta then contacted her IRA custodian, who sent her an IRA beneficiary designation form. She completed it, named her Moravian church as the primary beneficiary of her IRA, and mailed the form back. Etta is very happy with the plan, as she's able to help her children and strengthen her church's ministry for years to come.

We would love to help all Moravians support the ministries they care about most. If we can provide support in the areas of planned giving or stewardship to members of your congregation or supporters of your ministry, please let us know. You can also visit www.mmfa.info to learn more about our services.

Crossroads- Spring Course Announced

Crossroads Lay Leadership at Moravian Seminary is pleased to announce that Contextual Outreach, one of our most popular courses, will run starting March 9th. It is designed for individuals or congregational teams who want to discover how to reach their local community for service and ministry. It combines demographic data with a practical community exploration to help a congregation develop a ministry plan framework that can be used for years to come. Contact Jill Peters at jpeters@moravain.edu for more info and to inquire about discounts for congregational teams.

Schedule of Events

March 25 – April 2, 2017. **275th Anniversary Moravian Cruise.** Cruise embarks from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on Crown Princess. Moravian tours will be led by Bishop Hopeton Clennon in Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. Email contact is: moraviancruise@aol.com
Website: www.moraviantour.com

Help Wanted

Hope Conference & Renewal Center is looking for youth 18 and older for the 2017 Summer Staff Team at "Camp Hope," able to work June 5 or 12 through August 12. The camp needs lifeguards, food service aides,

maintenance and custodial workers. No experience is necessary. The camp is especially interested in youth looking for a summer job that is also a mission. To recommend a candidate, contact Hope Conference Center at hopecenter@camphope.org or at 908-459-4435. Application packets will be mailed, so an address is required.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Jill Bruckart
- 3 The Rev. Tammie Rinker
- 4 Mrs. Chloe McKoy
- 7 The Rev. Valrey Watson
- 8 Mr. Greg Bowden
- 10 Mr. Ralford Watson
- 12 The Rev. Jodie Lean Harney
- 13 The Rev. Gary Marsh
- 15 Mrs. Helen Ziegler
- 18 Mrs. Barbara Hoenig
- 19 The Rev. Norman Prochnau
The Rev. Keith Harke
- 22 Mrs. Esther Richmond
- 24 Mr. Steven Coutts
- 25 The Rev. Dr. Lynnette Del-bridge
- 27 The Rev. Gary Harke
- 28 Ms. Tammy Lavoy

February Anniversaries

- 15 The Rev. & Mrs. Charlesworth Edwards

Churches celebrating February Anniversaries

- 2 - 1964 - Trinity, New Carrollton, Maryland
- 9 - 1749 - Warwick, now Lititz, Pennsylvania

Change of Address

Nigel and Maxine Powell
6 Monterey Dr
Mount Vernon, NY 10552
(Effective January 23, 2017)