

# District Developments

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



**Please Excuse our  
Mess...Renovations Soon to Be  
Completed!**

As a result of two Eastern District Leadership Summits, the EDEB has approved some major renovations to the Eastern District Service Ministry structure. For years our district has been served by six district commissions, which provided support to congregations in various areas of ministry. With the development of the A.I.D. program for congregational revitalization, this work is now predominantly completed by internal staff and external resource persons. Additionally, the 2016 Eastern District Synod established that the work of the district for the next four years would be focused on collaborative mission initiatives, which do not fit into the older model of district commissions. This put our district leadership into some hard, but very productive work over the last 6 months. Gathering at two different Leadership Summits, the elected members of all 6 commissions, district/ provincial/ interprovincial staff, and the EDEB were led into some in-depth strategic planning by Lyn Chynoweth. After constructing and assessing four different infrastructure models, the district leadership finally settled on a new model which will continue to offer the congregational support provided by the previous six district commissions, but also offers the structure necessary to pursue the mission mandates of the 2016 Eastern District Synod.

The new model, which fondly became known as “the hybrid,” combines the work of some commissions who were duplicating areas of support, which thereby frees up some support space for addressing the mission mandates of the synod. Centered around a Mission Leadership Team, the Stewardship of Life Ministry Team (Stewardship/Evangelism), the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team (Christian Education/Lay Ministry), and the Church in Society Ministry Team (Social Justice/Community) will support our district congregations in these areas and will also work collaboratively to fulfill the mission initiatives established by the 2016 synod. Below is a summary of how the Ministry Teams will function and how the synod elected commission leaders will be assimilated into the new structure.

**Purpose of the Ministry Leadership Team...**to share activities, programs and needs of each Ministry Team; to provide feedback to each Ministry Team; to collaborate in meeting the needs and programs of the District; and to support and encourage one another and congregations in ministry.

## **The Stewardship of Life, Spiritual Formation, and Church in Society Ministry Teams:**

- Ministry Teams meet quarterly (2 meetings face-to-face)
- Ministry Teams in year 1 shall consist of current membership plus additional representatives as needed
- Ministry Team Chairpersons in current intersynodal period shall consist of chairpersons already appointed and will serve as co-chairpersons
- Ministry Team Chairperson after current intersynodal period shall be appointed by the EDEB
- Ministry Teams after current intersynodal period shall consist of 2 clergy and 2 lay elected by the Synod and additional members as needed in consultation with the EDEB – *with emphasis on representatives from each region of the District*

- The face-to-face meetings of the Ministry Teams shall be held in same location, followed by the Leadership Team meeting

An Implementation Team has been established to transition the current structure for Service Ministry to this new hybrid model by this next fall.

On behalf of the EDEB, I would like to express our gratitude to the 30 plus district leaders who have been diligently working on this effort over the last many months. These individuals have been excellently led and supported by interprovincial leaders, such as Judy Ganz, Executive Director of the Board of World Missions, and our district staff, Marie Coutts and Cynthia Geyer. Finally, the end result could not have been arrived at without the superb guidance of Sister Lyn Chynoweth, who “herded the cats” in this complex adventure. Again, please excuse our mess...renovations soon to be completed!

## **Identity Purpose Organization Meeting Dates**

An important conversation is currently happening. 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. Please make every attempt to be present at one of the following gatherings in the Eastern District:

Saturday, March 4 – Advent Moravian Church/Lehigh Valley:  
(9 AM – 12 PM, lunch to follow).

## 2 DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 2017

Saturday, March 11 – Redeemer Moravian Church/PennMar/DelVal:  
(9AM-12:00 PM, lunch to follow.

Sunday, March 12 – New Dorp Moravian Church/NY:  
(4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, light supper provided).

### Is It Time to Start Work Towards a New Moravian Book of Worship?

The PECs of Northern and Southern Provinces working together have authorized a committee to begin asking that question of our congregations, pastors, music leaders, and members. The committee has the following members: Thomas Baucom, Rebecca Craver, Brian Dixon, Chris Giesler, Nola Knouse, Aaron Linville and Lillian Shelton, and met February 22-23 in Winston-Salem.

We're formulating surveys that will be sent to all pastors, music directors, members of worship/music committees, vice-chairs of elders and chairs of trustees (asking them to forward it to their entire boards). In addition, we'll reach out to senior high camp participants, college age Moravians, seminarians and ministerial candidates, and *anyone else who wishes to participate*. You'll hear more about this soon, as we hope to "go live" with our survey by April 1.

Please don't miss this opportunity to reflect with us about the future of worship and music in the Moravian Church in North America! Watch your email inboxes and future issues of the *Moravian* for more details about how you can help shape future worship resources!

### Moravian Ministries Foundation

2016 was an interesting year for investors and Moravian Common Fund participants. Early on we experienced the remnants of the downturn that began in 2015; then we had a mid-year rally followed by nervous-

ness about the elections. The year concluded with the so-called Trump Rally.

Looking deeper into the numbers for the Common Fund, we saw that Domestic Large Caps, Domestic Small Caps and Emerging Markets were the places to be, while International Large Caps and International REITs were somewhat weak. After the election, while domestic equities popped, the Bond Market saw a dramatic drop in value as yields rose.

The bottom-line question is: How did we do? Frankly, it was a good, "normal" year. This means we did slightly better than our projected rate for average return for each of the portfolios, and better than our Composite Benchmark.

In 2016:

- The **Growth Portfolio** delivered 7.7% for investors (composite benchmark: 7.4%)
- The **Growth and Income Portfolio** delivered 7.2% (benchmark: 6.0%)
- The **Balanced Portfolio** earned 6.3% for investors (benchmark: 5.5%)
- Finally, the **Income Portfolio** delivered 5.6% (benchmark: 4.6%)

While we don't complete our Peer Study until June, I looked at one of the foundations we include in our peer group whose returns are among the top three in the study; its portfolio that most resembles our Growth Portfolio delivered 4.9% for 2016, versus our 7.7%.

Looking ahead, diversification is still the key. It has worked in the past and it will work in the future for your investments and the Common Fund.

Also, we remain committed to delivering a superior customer service experience at the lowest possible cost to your ministry. **Our reported performance numbers ALWAYS reflect the results after the .69% fee is taken, which is not always**

**the case with other institutions.** For example, the foundation cited earlier in this report only deducts from its reported returns only the external management and investment advisory expenses, and does not include the withdrawals to support its administration and internal operation. In most cases, most foundations charge 1% or more on top of the external fees.

Please call me if you have any questions about the Common Fund or would like a meeting to discuss your investments and the Common Fund. You can also view our quarterly performance results on our website by going to [http://mmfa.info/quarterly\\_performance\\_report](http://mmfa.info/quarterly_performance_report).

Lastly, thank you for Investing Where You Believe!

Paul McLaughlin, MMFA President

### Special IBOC Sale!

Get ready for Holy Week Services with **Readings for Holy Week**, now on sale at great prices!

Pocket edition now \$7.50 (reg. \$9.95)

Large Print edition now \$8.95 (reg. \$11.95)

Music Edition now \$10.50 (reg. \$13.95)  
(All editions are durable hardcover.)

And we still have **2017 Moravian Images Wall Calendar** available, with 12 months of uniquely Moravian photos on heavy cardstock...now 40% off! Originally \$12.00, now \$7.20

View and purchase any of these items through our on-line store:

[www.store.moravian.org](http://www.store.moravian.org) or call the IBOC offices @610-86-7566 (ext 38) to place your order.

### Crossroads- Spring Semester

Creative Worship with Rev. Maggie Wellert on Mondays starting Mar 13 from 6-9 pm. Contextual Outreach for individuals or congregational teams on Thursdays starting Mar 9 from 6-9 pm. Registration,

### 3 DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 2017

which is now open, and more info on both courses:  
[www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads) or contact Jill Peters at [jpeters@moravian.edu](mailto:jpeters@moravian.edu)

#### Schedule of Events

March 25 – April 2, 2017. **275<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:moraviancruise@aol.com)  
Website: [www.moraviantour.com](http://www.moraviantour.com)

April 22<sup>nd</sup>-Eastern Region Moravian Women Annual Spring Rally, 9 am at Redeemer Moravian Church, Philadelphia, PA. Please contact Blondel Jones Grant at [mbabjg@gmail.com](mailto:mbabjg@gmail.com).

#### New HR & Benefits Manager to Northern Province

Please welcome Jacquie Petko, our new HR & Benefits Manager to the Moravian Church Northern Province. Prior to Jacquie joining The Moravian Church Northern Province, she worked as an HR Generalist for an HR outsourcing company in Allentown, PA. Jacquie earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Shippensburg University. She shares her home with her husband and two children, along with her Bichon Frise who thinks he is in charge.

#### Pastoral Changes

Brother E. Jeffrey Van Orden has accepted an appointment to serve as part-time pastor for Palmyra Moravian Church, Cinnaminson, New Jersey. Brother Van Orden will begin this new work March 1, 2017.

Sister Rebecca Sisley, pastor of the Sharon Moravian Church in New Philadelphia, OH, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the First Moravian Church in

Riverside, New Jersey. Her last day at Sharon is February 26; she will be installed at First on March 19. Please keep Rebecca and her family, and both Sharon and First in your prayers.

Brother Gregg Schafer, pastor of the Canadensis and Newfoundland Moravian Churches in PA, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Morongo Moravian Church in Banning, CA. His last day at Canadensis and Newfoundland is June 11; he will be installed at Morongo on July 2. Please keep Gregg and his family, and all three congregations in your prayers at this time of transition.

Brother John Fritts, chaplain at Marquardt Village in Watertown, WI, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Covenant Moravian Church in York, PA. He will be installed on April 9. Please be in prayer for John and Anne, and for brothers and sisters at Marquardt and Covenant.

Brother Michael Poole, an ordained pastor in the ELCA church and spouse of Sister Tracy Pryor, has accepted an appointment to serve part-time as pastor of the Battle Hill Moravian Church in Union, New Jersey. He will be installed April 2. Please be in prayer for Michael and Tracy and the people of Battle Hill.

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

##### March Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Mary Harke
- 4 The Rev. Abzal Sahadath
- 5 The Rev. Marvin Henkelmann  
Mrs. Wilma Henkelmann
- 7 Mrs. Mary Ellen Henkelmann  
The Rev. Sayward Lippincott
- 8 The Rev. Dr. David Schwarz
- 10 Lauren Dougherty
- 12 The Rev. Peter Skelly
- 18 The Rev. Dr. Howard Cox
- 19 The Rev. George Richmond  
The Rev. Bevon White
- 21 The Rev. Michael Johnson
- 23 Mrs. Susan Sommers  
Mrs. Cheryl Wallace
- 24 The Rev. Andy Kilps  
Mrs. Maxine Powell

- 25 The Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon
- 26 Mr. Iva Grant  
Mrs. Audrey Wanamaker
- 31 Mrs. Marie Coutts  
The Rev. John Wallace

##### March Anniversaries

- 1 The Rev. Wanda Weidman &  
Mr. Richard Everhart
- 12 The Rev. & Mrs. William Rinderknecht
- 20 The Rev. & Mrs. Gary Straughan
- 23 The Rev. & Mrs. John Hoenig

Churches celebrating March anniversaries:

- 5 - 1939 - Calvary, Allentown, PA
- 14 - 1886 - Great Kills, Staten Island, NY
- 14 - 1951 - Mountainview, Hellertown, PA
- 25 - 1752 - First, York, PA
- 27 - 1966 - John Hus, Brooklyn, NY

#### 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](mailto:hopecenter@camphope.org), or at 908-459-4435. Application packets will be mailed, so an address is required.