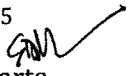


Provincial Update – Advent 2017

“Gracious God, this Advent season stirs a longing to have Christ come alive within us, yet we allow ourselves to become enslaved to cynicism, selfishness, and greed. In a season for freely giving and receiving, we tend to live by debt and obligation. We rush from task to task, scarcely opening our eyes to the peace and beauty around us. We glory in the visions of the old man Zechariah in the temple, which were fulfilled in his wife, Elizabeth; but our ministry to the elderly in our midst falls short. We sing of One who was laid in a borrowed manger, but we ignore the poor and homeless among us. We decry the violence of a wicked king, yet we are too often silent in the face of abuse and injustice around us. For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray, gracious God.” MBW Advent 2 Liturgy p. 55

I pray that we allow this prayer to shape our lives as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. 

Unity Mission Conference Report

The Unity Mission Conference, held in November in Cape Town, South Africa, brought together Moravians from 35 countries. The 200+ delegates and observers worshipped, heard papers on mission past and present, attended workshops, and enjoyed fellowship with one another. Of all that we learned and experienced, the relationships and connections formed was perhaps the most significant blessing of all. Stay tuned for a full report in an upcoming issue of *The Moravian*. Thanks to all for your prayers and financial support that helped our delegates and observers experience this powerful event.

Role of the Unity - Discussion Paper

Earlier this fall, each congregation received a Discussion Paper entitled, “The Role of the Unity” and was invited to study it and offer feedback. For those congregations who have completed this study, please send your feedback directly to Betsy Miller (betsy@mcnp.org) to be included with our response to the Unity. If you have not yet had a chance to read and reflect on the content, there is still time!

Download the report: <http://www.moravian.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/UCOT-Role-of-the-Worldwide-Moravian-Unity.pdf>

Churches for Middle East Peace

For the past several years, the Br. Bob Sawyer has represented the Northern and Southern Provinces on the ecumenical organization, Churches for Middle East Peace. This group focuses on ways to enhance peace in this volatile area and provide resources for congregations to be more informed. Bob has just stepped down from this role. We are pleased to announce that the Br. Rick Sides, retired pastor in the Southern Province, will be our new interprovincial representative. We extend our deep appreciation to Bob for his years of faithful service and welcome Rick to this role!

Provincial Synod June 21-25, 2018

Preparations are underway for Provincial Synod, to be held June 21-25, 2018 on the campus of Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. The theme is “Gather, Grow, Go!” and will focus on God’s invitation to gather as sisters and brothers in Christ, grow in faithful discipleship, and go to bear witness to God’s transforming love.

By now, congregations should have elected their delegates and alternates. Registrations, with full payment, are due in the Provincial Office February 1. Canadian congregations are asked to send registration forms to the office in Bethlehem and payment to the Canadian District Office. Pre-Synod meetings are scheduled from January 7-March 25. All delegates and alternates are expected to attend; others are welcome if room is available. The schedule is on the next page.

Tell Us a Story!

All congregations and provincial agencies are invited to tell us a story about what God is doing in your neighborhood. Please develop a 60-90 second video that describes how you are touching lives through feeding the hungry or clothing the naked or housing the homeless or making a difference in the lives of those around you. The invitation was sent out September 22; a copy is included in this email. Deadline in January 15. Help us tell the story of God at work in our province!

Unity Prayer Watch

As of this writing, we are in the midst of our turn to support the worldwide Moravian Church through the Unity Prayer Watch. If your congregation has completed its ‘watch,’ thank you! If your turn is still ahead, thank you in advance for your prayerful support of the world! It is a privilege and joy to be in prayer for brothers and sisters throughout the Unity.

Save the Date! April 4, 2018

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018, the National Council of Churches is holding a remembrance and call to action on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC, this will be a day of speeches and events to mark this day and launch a Truth and Reconciliation initiative to fight racism in our culture. Consider joining brothers and sisters in faith to gather and bear witness to our faith. Sr. Tammie Rinker is the Moravian coordinator on the planning team. We hope to charter at least one bus to this event. Stay tuned for more information.

Discover Islam – a DVD

Thanks to the efforts of our full communion partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who joined with the Islamic Society of North America, we have been given enough copies of a 6-DVD documentary entitled “Discover Islam” for every congregation to have one, free of charge. The Provincial Office has been distributing these copies as we are able, and will be sending out the remaining ones after Christmas. Please take advantage of this rich resource to learn more about our Muslim brothers and sisters as a way of fostering civil discourse and hospitality.

Clergy Coaching/Spiritual Direction

The Province is pleased to provide support for clergy under call or appointment to receive spiritual direction and coaching. In order to receive reimbursement for your 2017 expenses, please turn in all receipts to the Finance Office (tammy@mcnp.org) by January 15, 2018. Requests for reimbursement received after that date will not be honored.

Annual Reports Due February 28

As a reminder to pastors and church leaders, your Annual Reports are due February 28. It is important to return these to the provincial office on time. We need the information in them to prepare for synod. Thank you in advance for your timely cooperation!

Christmas blessings to all!

On behalf of the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Provincial Staff, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! Joy to the World, the Lord is come!! To observe the holiday, the Provincial Offices will be closed December 22 at 2 pm and will re-open January 2.

Pre-Synod Meetings

Region	Congregations included	Date
NYC Metro Staten Island, NJ north	John Hus, Fellowship, United, First, Tremont Terrace, Grace Great Kills, New Dorp, Vanderbilt, Castleton Hill, Battle Hill	Jan 28 4-7 pm Great Kills
MD-DC- NJ south, PHL Penn-Mar	Faith, Trinity, St Paul's, Palmyra, Egg Harbor, Riverside, Redeemer Graceham, Lititz, Lebanon, Lancaster, York, Covenant	March 10 10-2 Redeemer
Lehigh Valley North and South	Canadensis, Newfoundland, Palmer, Schoeneck, Nazareth, Easton Advent, Central, West Side, College Hill, East Hills, Edgeboro, MorningStar, Emmaus, Mountainview, Calvary	January 27 9-1 College Hill
Ohio New Dawn	Dover, Gnaden, Fry's Valley, Schoenbrunn, Sharon, Uhrichsville, Promise, Redeemer New Dawn	February 3 10-2 Schoenbrunn
California	Morongo	January 7 After worship
ND	Canaan, Goshen, Bethel, SOTP	February 18 1-4 Shepherd
MN	Our Savior's, Berea, Northfield, Christ's Community, Waconia, Chaska, Lake Auburn	February 17 10-2 Chaska
Illiana	Hope, West Salem	March 24 10:30-2:30 Hope
WI NE WI Central	Sister Bay, Ephraim, Sturgeon Bay, Freedom, GB West, Daggett Rapids, Veedum	January 20 10-2 GB West
WI South	London, Christian Faith, Glenwood, Lakeview, Lake Mills, London, Ebenezer, Watertown	January 21 1-4 Lake Mills
Michigan	Unionville, Grace	March 25 After church Unionville
Edmonton	Edmonton, Rio Terrace, Good News, Heimtal, Millwoods	March 4 1-4 Millwoods
Calgary	Good Shepherd, Christ	March 3 9-1 Christ