

The Moravian Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts
of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

August 2025

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questions or
concerns about
this newsletter.

Mission in Action: Moravian Youth Convo 2025

Rev. Dan Miller, Board of World Mission Director of Mission Service

With the blessing of the Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Northern and Southern Provinces, the Board of World Mission (BWM) planned and hosted Convo for the first time.

The 23rd Youth Convo took place in Miami, July 2–7, under the theme “Mission In Action.” 20 high school-aged youth and 13 adult staff from Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Wisconsin, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad, St. Thomas, and Jamaica—representing four Unity provinces—gathered on the Florida International University campus for fellowship, learning, worship, and fun. With gratitude for those who had led and participated in previous Convos, this group embraced the inherited purposes for Convo:

- To give young people of the denomination from all over the world an opportunity to meet.
- To give young people a wider vision of our denomination, not just as the little church on the corner, but as a church serving the world.
- To encourage young people to consider their life's work in Christian service.
- To provide a pilgrimage for young Moravians.
- To examine the spiritual motivations that empowered our Moravian foremothers and fathers to start the Moravian Church, withstand adversity, and to take the Gospel message to all the world.
- To experience this pilgrimage in a group, treating each person with respect and care.
- To build community as we share the spiritual pilgrimage, experience Moravians in a different culture, and serve the community we find ourselves in through mission and outreach.



Throughout the week, every experience connected to these purposes. Outings like an Everglades airboat tour, Major League Baseball game, and time at Dolphin Mall, Miami Beach, and on campus fostered relationships. Singing together, teaching each other regional prayers and songs, and worshipping with New Hope and Prince of Peace Moravian Churches built community. Learning Moravian history from Riddick Weber, improvisation and spiritual listening with Brian Dixon, and leadership development with BWM staff deepened participants' understanding of their gifts and how God might be calling them to serve back home.

“It was truly amazing how well we bonded, forming healthy relationships that will remain etched in our hearts and minds. Both small and large group discussions were enlightening, offering valuable insights into the global impact of the Moravian Church. We were reminded that the Moravian Church is not just a ‘little church around the corner,’ but one with a rich history and a mission being carried out with deep intentionality.”

—Michelle Daley, Adult Staff, Jamaica

The BWM is deeply grateful to everyone who supported this event by planning, traveling, hosting, and welcoming us!

Provincewide Updates

Provincial Synod 2026 Registration is Open

Congregational, district, and provincial leaders received an email on July 23rd with information regarding registration for Synod 2026. **The deadline to register is October 1st.**

Provincial Lay Staff Spotlight: Jeffrey Long Named Director of Operations

We're excited to share some fantastic news—Jeffrey Long has officially been promoted to Director of Operations!

Jeffrey has been an integral part of our organization in his role as Project Manager, consistently demonstrating strong leadership, operational insight, and a deep commitment to excellence. His ability to streamline processes, drive cross-functional collaboration, and deliver results has made a lasting impact across the organization. In his new role, Jeffrey will oversee the day-to-day operations and help drive strategic initiatives that keep us running smoothly and scaling smartly. His experience and vision will be instrumental in shaping our operational strategies and supporting our long-term goals.

Congratulations, Jeffrey!

Reminder for MCNP Clergy, Lay Staff, and Eligible Spouses

Complete your annual wellness visit for 2025 and earn a reward for you and your congregation! To learn more about the MCNP Wellness Program, please check out the flyer in the MCNP Portal (or scan QR code).



2026 Daily Texts Pre-Ordering Now Open

It's time to start thinking about 2026...the 2026 Moravian Daily Texts, that is!

Today, nearly 300 years after its first publication, the Moravian Daily Texts continues its promise of a “daily message from God that is new every morning.” Shared with 1.5 million believers in more than 60 languages around the globe, the Moravian Daily Texts offers an inspirational connection to the Holy Scriptures every day. Each entry in this beloved daily devotional includes “watchwords”—Old and New Testament verses to accompany readers throughout the day—combined with beautiful hymn texts and heartfelt prayers selected and written by Moravians across North America.

The cover image selected for the North American 2026 Moravian Daily Texts editions features a beautiful floral sunrise. The 2026 editions don't begin shipping until early November, but you can pre-order yours at discounted prices for a limited time at store.moravian.org; you can also download our printable mail-in order here.



Order by August 13, 2025, to receive a 10% discount on the paperback, hardcover, large print and journal editions of the North American editions and the German and Spanish-language editions we offer. For more information on all of our items, visit store.moravian.org, or call Jill at 1 (800) 732-0591, ext. 703.

SACRED GROUND: A Film and Reading-Based Dialogue on Race and Faith

On Zoom, Every other Monday, 1:30–3:00 p.m. or 7:00–8:30 p.m. (ET)

August 25–November 17, 2025; January 5–February 16, 2026

Learn the multiracial history of our country that you may have missed growing up and now school teachers are not supposed to teach. Full Communion Sacred Ground is an 11-part series built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories, and the stories of our families. Join Episcopalians, Lutherans, Moravians, and others to learn how race continues to shape our nation and how we might respond in faith, lament, and action.

Full Communion Sacred Ground is free but it requires an investment of your time and heart. There are about two hours of film-watching and reading between each session. Each person will be part of the larger group and a small dialogue circle. Participants are urged to attend each session, to build trust and depth in the circles. Sacred Ground will challenge and reward you, as we work toward becoming Beloved Community.

Please go to www.episcopalchurch.org/sacredground to learn more about Sacred Ground. Contact the Rev. Maria Tjeltveit at sacredground.beth@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to register for a preview session (Aug. 11, 2–3 or 7–8 pm ET) or the full course. Scan the QR code to learn more and find a bulletin insert to share with your congregation.



MMFA 2025 Grant Recipients Announced

We are thrilled to announce that this year, the Moravian Ministries Foundation has awarded **\$168,030.12 to 25 inspiring ministries and organizations** working to meet urgent needs and serve with compassion and faith.



From hunger relief and housing to healing and racial equity, these grants reflect the generosity of donors and the power of purposeful giving. Each dollar makes a difference, and each grant represents a story of hope, transformation, and love in action. **Congratulations to all of our grant recipients!** Find the full list of recipients at MMFA.com (or scan QR code).



Board of World Mission 2024 Annual Report *Gearing Up for the Long Haul*

The Board of World Mission's 2024 Annual Report is here! This report highlights the accomplishments of the past year, but more importantly, it reflects our preparations for the future. We're listening to individuals, congregations, and global partners. We're investing in leadership and long-term sustainability.



And we're inviting you to join us on this ride, for the long haul. Thank you for being part of this adventure. We're grateful for your support and your willingness to keep lacing up your shoes, filling your backpack, and moving forward – no matter how many miles stretch ahead. We're so glad you're on this journey with us.



Read the report in the latest edition of the Moravian Magazine or at MoravianMission.org.

Racial Justice Team Calendar: August 2025

August 9th: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Rev. Dave Bennett, President of the Northern Province Provincial Elders' Conference, has provided a reflection, entitled *Bearing in Mind...*, for use on and around this day. Find the reflection, as well as a bulletin insert, by scanning the QR code. An excerpt of the reflection is included below.

On August 9, our world acknowledges together the "International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples." Dating back to 1994, this day comes at the endorsement of the United Nations to raise awareness and protect the rights and cultures of indigenous communities worldwide. I was moved by the actual language of the resolution which offers credence for this sacred day.

AUGUST

05 Mass killing at Sikh Temple in WI (2012)
09 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
09 STN Michael Brown (2014)
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Victims of the Slave Trade and its Abolition



Ecumenical News: August 2025

Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, Ecumenical Officer

This summer, three of our full communion partners held their equivalents of our provincial Synod. The Anglican Church of Canada met in London, Ontario, to elect a new primate to lead their church for the next six years. In an election process that is very different from ours, they prayerfully elected Bishop Shane Parker (pictured top) to be their next primate. In other business, they passed resolutions to explore reorganizing their denominational structure and issued a strong statement in support of migrant people and workers in the fields.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada met in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to elect a new national bishop, Larry Kochendorfer (pictured middle). Their gathering also expressed gratitude to Bishop Susan Johnson for her 18 years of national leadership in the denomination. At this gathering, we were humbled to hear Imad Haddad, bishop-elect of the Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, speak powerfully about the conditions in Gaza and the Middle East and implored us to advocate for a just peace in the region.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, as I write this article. They have elected Bishop Yehiel Curry (pictured bottom) as their new presiding bishop. They will also give thanks to Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for her 12 years of service as the presiding bishop and chart a course for the future.



In each gathering, we Moravians were warmly welcomed with gracious hospitality and deep appreciation for the gifts that we bring to our full communion partners and our shared effort to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we think that our denomination is too small to make a difference. Our siblings in Christ tell us how our rich history and current witness bless this world.



Stuck No More: Jumpstarting Stewardship This Fall Webinar

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 | 12:00 PM ET OR 7:00 PM ET

Has your church put stewardship on hold? There's no time like the present to move from inactive to engaged in healthy habits of steward formation. This encouraging and practical webinar will share four key steps to restart (or begin for the first time!)

your church's conversation on what it means to live as God's grateful, faithful and generous stewards.

Who: Ideal for pastors and lay leaders of congregations who are ready to reengage in stewardship

Where: Register at [MMFA.com](https://www.mmfa.com)

When: Tuesday, September 9th, 12pm ET or 7pm ET



Have questions? Call or email Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs, for more information or to see how MMFA's free stewardship services can help your church!

Clergy Updates

The Rev. Eric Renner has accepted the call to serve at Hope Moravian Church, Hope, Indiana, and will be installed at Hope Moravian Church on Sunday, November 9, 2025. Rev. Renner is currently serving half-time at the Shepherd of the Prairie Church in Fargo, North Dakota, and half-time at the Canaan Moravian Church in Davenport, North Dakota. He will conclude his ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie and Canaan on October 19, 2025. Please keep Rev. Renner, his wife Kristine, son Billy, and the Shepherd of the Prairie, Canaan, and Hope Congregations in your prayers during this time of transition.

The Rev. Greg Behrend, pastor and administrative director at You Belong in Green Bay, Wisconsin, has accepted the change to serve in a quarter-time call to You Belong and has accepted a three-quarter call to Freedom Moravian Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. This change was effective July 1, 2025. This decision comes with the blessing and support of the leadership teams at both Freedom and You Belong, as well as the District Board, PEC, and Emerging Ministries Committee. Please hold the Behrend family and the saints at Freedom and You Belong in your prayers as these ministry transitions take place.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Nancy Harstine	17 Shelia Clennon
4 Margaret Hassler	17 Marcia Eder
4 Barry Lehman	19 Valerie Lehman
5 Susan Weinlick	19 Linda Marsh
5 Charles McDonald	19 Anthony Pula
7 Jay Petrella	19 Seth Habegger
8 Bonnee Lauridsen	21 Stephen Nicholas
11 Terry Folk	21 Karen Kilps
11 Mary Bielke	22 Christine Johnson
11 Jeffrey Van Orden	23 Pam Henning
12 Richard Beck	24 Aden Ward
14 Joy Hicks	25 Sharon Lauderman
14 Louise Kent	26 Samuel Propsom
14 Tom Von Boeckmann	29 Matthew Wisser
17 Jennika Eckhaus	30 Amy Straughan

Ordination Anniversaries

5 Carol Reifinger (41 years)
7 Jennifer Moran (14 years)
8 Tracy Pryor (26 years)
10 John Fritts (11 years)
11 Lance Fox (19 years)
12 Gary Harke (52 years)
13 Otto Dreydoppel (47 years)
16 Diane Joseph (27 years)
20 Katie Van Der Linden (19 years)
21 Sherwin Alleyne (56 years)
22 Charlesworth Edwards (49 years)
24 Judy Ganz (17 years)
24 James Lavoy (11 years)
26 John Wallace (41 years)
26 Kay Ward (46 years)
27 Sayward Lippincott (19 years)
28 Nancy Von Boeckmann (32 years)
29 William Andrews (43 years)
29 Reid Lauderman (15 years)
30 Jodie Harney (16 years)

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

13 Newfoundland, Pennsylvania (188 years)
31 Castleton Hill, Staten Island, New York (152 years)

Please pray for the following churches who are in the call process or without pastors:

- Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
- Castleton Hill, Staten Island, New York
- Chaska, Minnesota
- Christ, Calgary, Alberta
- Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin
- Daggett, Michigan
- Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC
- First, Dover, Ohio
- First, New York, New York
- Great Kills, Staten Island, New York
- Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta
- Hope, Indiana
- Lebanon, Pennsylvania
- St. Paul's, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York
- Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin
- Waconia, Minnesota



Moravian Church in Canada

Christian Nationalism: A Canadian Context

October 18th 10 am – 3pm MT

The Canadian District, in collaboration with Lutheran colleagues, is sponsoring an event following through on the 2023 Provincial Synod's Christians against Christian Nationalism resolution. At this event we'll define Christian Nationalism, learn how it manifests in a Canadian context, and explore how our congregations and clergy might respond.

Speakers for the event are Dr. Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Marc Froese, Professor of Political Science at Burman University in Alberta.

We would like to thank Rio Terrace Church for providing the location and the Northern Province's Racial Justice Team for supplying the honorarium for our speakers.

When: October 18, 2025 10:00–3:00 Mountain Time

Where: Rio Terrace Church & Zoom

Registration info TBA.

Questions about the event can be sent to Pastor Aaron (pastor@mcchurch.ca).



130th Celebration!

OF MILLWOODS COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7th 10:30AM

2304 38th Street NW Edmonton, Alberta

T6L 4K9 780-463-7427

**Followed by a heritage potluck so please
bring a dish that means something to your
heritage/family!**



NOW HIRING: Executive Assistant to the Eastern District Executive Board President

Full-Time, Hybrid Position. The Eastern District Executive Board President's executive assistant manages the District office operations. Essential functions include managing the District President's calendar and correspondence, maintaining pertinent information on pastors and congregations in the District, managing ongoing information relative to Eastern District Executive Board responsibilities, and assisting with event planning for district and provincial synods, as well as other meetings and events. This role offers a flexible, hybrid work environment, allowing team members to split time between remote work and in-office collaboration. We understand the importance of work-life balance, and while night and weekend work may be required during certain project periods, we offer flexible scheduling and compensatory time off to ensure a fair balance. We are committed to supporting your success and professional growth.



Eastern District Area Directors of Faith Formation

We are pleased to introduce our new team of four Directors of Faith Formation and our Resource Director for the Eastern District. These individuals will be providing support, resources, and training to our congregations, which have been divided into four geographic areas. (Area 1 is a half-time position for the Lehigh Valley; Area 2 is a quarter-time position for Ohio and Toronto; Area 3 is a half-time position for Penn-Mar and Delaware Valley; Area 4 is a quarter-time position covering the New York region.) They will begin their work together later this month. In coming months, they will be introducing themselves to the congregations in their areas; we hope you will welcome them into your midst and view them as a helpful resource for your faith formation ministries.



Lanie Yaswinski, Area 1 – Lehigh Valley

An active member of Schoeneck Moravian Church, Lanie has served in youth ministry for more than twenty years. In roles as Sunday School teacher, VBS instructor and Junior Youth leader, she has been interested to discover methods that do (and don't) inspire faith formation in our youth. She currently serves as an archival consultant for the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth, PA, and in the past has also served as assistant archivist of the Moravian Archives – Northern Province in Bethlehem, PA. With a strong background in Moravian history, Lanie looks forward to identifying engaging faith formation programs consistent with Moravian theology, in particular ones that develop a missional spirit within our youth.



Shana Angel, Area 2 – Ohio & Toronto

Shana is joyful to be a part of the Directors of Faith Formation team! She received her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business and Applied Economics and later followed her passion for teaching and earned her master's in agriculture and Extension Education. Shana is involved throughout the Moravian Church in diverse capacities including the Ohio Moravian Missions Council, the Ohio Moravian Shared Ministry Team, the Interprovincial Board of Communications, and an emerging homeschool ministry at Frys Valley Moravian Church. Shana is an active member at Frys Valley and adores her husband, Jonathan, and being a mom and foster mom to her kids.



Maddie Figiel, Area 3 – Del Val & Penn-Mar

Maddie is a long-standing member of the Palmyra Moravian Church and is excited to start this new chapter as one of the Directors of Faith Formation. She is a 2023 graduate of Moravian University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and Minor in Global Religions. Maddie is currently a cardiac critical care nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and serves as one of the founding members of the Provincial Youth Council. She is looking forward to expanding her faith and relations amongst congregations in Area 3.



Todd Hallett, Area 4 – New York

Todd is thrilled to join the Eastern District Directors of Faith Formation team, bringing a passion for nurturing spiritual growth within the Moravian Church. With a bachelor's degree in Health & Society and Psychology from the University of Rochester and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, he blends community engagement with faith leadership. A proud father who enjoys hiking and the outdoors, Todd is an active member of Great Kills Moravian Church, serving as an elder, teaching confirmation, and leading Bible studies. He looks forward to fostering inclusive, meaningful faith formation across Area 4.



Jami Vandock, Resource Director

Currently serving as Director of Faith Formation for Raleigh Moravian Church in NC, Jami has been hired 1/4 time as Resource Director for the Directors of Faith Formation. Jami will continue serving Raleigh Moravian 3/4 time while providing resource direction and yearly training events for the Eastern District Area Directors. Jami brings to this position lifelong experience with the Moravian Church, as well as eight years as a Certified Christian Educator. Jami grew up in Ohio as a member of Dover First Moravian. She holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University and completed a master's degree in Music Education from Kent State University. She previously taught k-12 music in public education and served as Director of Church Music.

The Western District Moravian Church in America, Northern Province



Moravian Women's Retreat – September 12-14, 2025

The Western District Women's Retreat will be held at Mt. Morris September 12-14, 2025. Rev. Jane Gehler will be the guest speaker as we enjoy a weekend of fellowship. Jane's program is Women of Strength, Women of Faith (that's Us!) We'll be celebrating our strength and resilience while nurturing our faith amidst life's challenges. We hope you can join us at tranquil Mt. Morris to take time to relax and enjoy the Lord's creation. In addition to a great program there will also be time for fellowship, laughter, sharing and delicious meals.

The cost is \$185.00 for Black Oak lodging or \$150.00 in the cabins. Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast meals are included. If you are only able to come for part of the weekend, that could be accommodated as well. **Registration deadline is Friday, August 22; materials are available in your church office. Scan the QR code for a PDF of the retreat information and registration form.** If you have questions, please contact Cindy Miller (cbmiller.LTD@gmail.com or 920-988-7303) or Diane McFarlane (diane.dave.mc132@gmail.com or 920-988-1993).



2025 Justice
Conference

Save the Date!

**Western District Justice Conference
Friday October 17-Sunday, October 19
Watertown & Milwaukee**

Board of World Mission Spaghetti Dinner at Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church Saturday, September 6th at 5 pm

Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner in the church dining room on Saturday, September 6 at 5 pm., and you are invited! This dinner is to carb up members and friends of the Board of World Mission who will be riding the Door County Century Ride the next day. This will be a wonderful time for fellowship and for you to have a chance to meet these fellow Moravians who will be participating in the ride. The meal will be spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and of course, Econo Foods (Tadych's) world-famous cherry sheet pie! There will be a freewill offering, and we hope Moravians from across Door County and the Western District will attend. It would be helpful if you could RSVP to the Sturgeon Bay church office (920-743-6218) if you plan on attending, so we can get an idea of how much food to prepare. This will be a great time for fellowship, and we hope you will join us.



Support the Team!! BWM supporters are training hard to challenge themselves in commitment to our shared ministry. Choose a team member to support at the QR code (or learn more at MoravianMission.org/CenturyRide).



P.S. It's not too late to join the team! The ride is almost full, but if you sign up soon, you too can spend a day of fun in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin! **Learn more at MoravianMission.org/CenturyRide/ and contact sylvie@moravianmission.org with any questions.**