

**Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
**Lititz, Pennsylvania**  
**October 19, 2000**

The Committee members assembled in the Chapel of the Lititz Moravian Church for a worship service and Love Feast hosted by members of the Congregation. Following the service the group gathered in the former Single Brothers House Conference Room and shared introductions and current life and ministry circumstances. It was a joy and privilege to catch up with one another and hear the hopes and hurts of each of us. Those in attendance were: Professor Otto Dreydoppel, Pr. Patricia Garner, Mr. Robert Hunter, Pr. Ronald Rinn, Pr. Martha Sheaffer, ELCA Staff, Pr. A. Craig Settlage, and Pr. Darlis Swan with special guest, Bishop Guy Edminston of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.

A discussion of “Policies and Procedures Exchangeability of Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament” was most productive. Otto, author of the document, lead the members through the piece beginning with appropriate comments on the opening section. The group found a more fitting and clear title would be “Policies and Procedures for an Orderly Exchange of Ministers of Word and Sacrament”. For our discussion, Bob Hunter handed out “Reception of Ordained Personnel from Other Dominations”, a document used by the Moravian Church as a companion piece. The business for this meeting is to formulate a process, which will honor each the current practice of each tradition but provide for a method to accomplish effective orderly exchange.

The issue was raised about how to expose candidates from each tradition to the life and practice of the other. Currently the ELCA does require some guided reading resources to acquaint people from other traditions with what it means to be Lutheran. The ELCA also has a three-year mentoring process for newly ordained under a required structure named First Call Theological Education.

Item Two in Principles of Agreement was discussed. This item calls for service in one’s own tradition, the sending body, before a person can be invited to serve in another tradition, the receiving body.

The Committee reviewed the entire document, “Principles for the Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament”. See document as refined and amended. Otto will provide this to the committee and for the minutes. We congratulated Otto for his good work with this document.

It was suggested that at each of our subsequent meetings we would have a Chaplain appointed to lead us in worship since this gathering today began with such a worship service. Marty Sheaffer will be our Chaplain for the April meeting.

A Question and Answer document will be developed if appropriate to enable better

understanding of the Principles.

Craig Settlage informed the group of a grant to the ELCA from the Lilly Foundation to assist new pastors in their ministry. Since the resource to be used will be on-line it will could be available to the Moravian church.

It was suggested that we work with the Virgin Islands Conference of the ELCA and Bishop Sosa on this possibility. Perhaps a gathering of Lutheran and Moravian clergy to review "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion" and other resources as the center piece would be helpful. Loren Matthais would be the contact person for the Moravians. Darlis will contact the appropriate Lutheran person and Otto the Moravian. This would be the stepping stone to move the process forward.

Over lunch Darlis spoke about various ways in which we might report the activities between the two bodies. She shared an extensive report of activities from the Lutheran-Reformed Coordinating Committee. It was suggested that we could report through the Synods in which the activities occur, mainly North Carolina and Pennsylvania/Lower Susquehanna.

We reviewed the calendar and set the following dates: April 27, 2001 in Bethlehem, PA., with invitation to attend the lectures the day before at Moravian College and Seminary, and October 8th, 2001 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Otto asked for more guidance from the Committee concerning contact with the Alaska Province about opening a dialogue between Lutherans and Moravians there. We will wait to see how our work goes with the Caribbean. There is a larger cultural difference in Alaska we need to take into account before we go further.

Otto reported on the Love Feast October 8th in Allentown where there was a packed church and a great celebration. He also told the Committee members of his involvement with the first meeting of the Moravian/Episcopal dialogue in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in September. Marty reported on her involvement with the Moravian Women gathering of two congregations, also in September. Various members of the Committee shared their experiences in the ongoing cooperative work of our two bodies.

The meeting adjourned with best wishes for safe travel and a group picture.

Respectfully submitted

Ron Rinn, Recorder