

DRAFT MINUTES

Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee Meeting
The Bishop's House
Old Salem, North Carolina
November 30-December 1, 2004

After a hearty meal at The Bishop's House, the Committee convened for the opening session. Michael Trice, Associate Director for the Department for Ecumenical Affairs, ELCA, provided the devotions using a new ecumenical series of Talking Points entitled *The Amazing Gift of Your Baptism*. The resource will be available for Lent and includes contributions from nine different church communions. Those in attendance were: Ms. Judith Garber, Rev. Otto Dreydoppel, Rev. Ron Rinn, Rev. Patricia Garner, Mr. Bob Hunter, the facilitator and two new members, The Right Rev. Kingsley Lewis of the Eastern West Indies Province and Rev. Carlyle Sampson, ELCA pastor on St. John, US Virgin Islands.

Bob Hunter welcomed the new members and the group did a round of "catching up" from the past six months when we met together last. The Agenda was reviewed and adjustments made due to time constraints. The minutes from the June meeting in Chicago were noted with review to take place later in our meeting.

Judith reviewed with us where Lutheran-Moravian cooperation has occurred with various endeavors across the body of the church. Next, we had discussion about two Moravian provinces – the Eastern West Indies Province and the Alaska Province.

Eastern West Indies Province: Bishop Lewis told us of the six Districts of this Province; Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts, Antigua, and the Virgin Islands. There is a Lutheran and Moravian presence on only the Virgin Islands and Antigua with very little cooperation on Antigua. On the Virgin Islands there is some discussion in St. Thomas of a city mission with Frederick Lutheran Church and a local Moravian congregation having a joint medical mission on Back Street. This is still in the "talking stage." There is also some discussion about a cooperative school between Methodists, Lutherans and Moravians but nothing has developed as of yet. Memorial Church on Antigua sponsored a forum on "teens and parents" in October with participation from youth from Frederick Lutheran Church. Bishop Lewis also participated in the Good Friday Service at Frederick Lutheran Church and in 2001 participated in the Installation and laying on of hands service for Lutheran Bishop Margarita Martinez of the Caribbean Synod, ELCA.

The question was raised about where we might go from here in promoting an ecumenical agreement between the Eastern West Indies Province and the ELCA, using as a model "Following our Shepherd to Full Communion". Good discussion on various facets of the process took place. This committee will seek to introduce some "enabling legislation"

from the ELCA at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. However, the EWI will need to do some “consensus building” in the Province.

Alaska Province: Lutheran cooperation with Moravians in the Alaska Province would begin at the local level. This is also true for Moravians and Lutherans in Canada. With respect to Lutherans and Moravians in Alaska: The committee discussed how the ELCA Churchwide office could contact the Alaska Synod Bishop to encourage initial conversation and action. Next, on the Moravian side, Otto Dreydoppel will draft a letter to the Alaska Province Provincial Elders Conference. The letter will be addressed to the Secretary of the Provincial Elders Conference, Peter Green, and Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA. The letter will also request that the ELCA Alaska Synod, Bishop Ronald D. Martinson, educate the committee on how it may best identify current and future mission opportunities for cooperation. The committee aims to enable both the ELCA Alaska Synod and the Moravian Alaska Province to facilitate further practical ecumenical agreement.

Carlyle was invited to take a few minutes to tell the committee of what is unfolding on St. John with Lutherans and other denominational bodies.

Bob Hunter will send a letter to the Provincial Elders Conference of the Eastern West Indies Province and the Caribbean Synod thanking them for sending both Carlyle and Bishop Lewis to be part of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee.

Moravian-Episcopal Bilateral Dialogue: Otto brought us up to date on the Moravian-Episcopal Bilateral Dialogue. Each member communion has ample desire to enter into full communion and now the relevant theological pieces are being explored. For the Episcopal Church the Office of Bishop is central and the Historic Episcopate is essential. The Episcopal Church requires four things for any agreement to take place. These are: a) agreement on the central place of Scripture, b) the Apostles and Nicene Creeds as symbols of the ancient church, c) the central understanding of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, d) and the Historic Episcopate.

Moravians have always had the “intent” of maintaining the historic episcopate in their tradition, which may be sufficient for the Episcopal Church. 2010 is the target date for a Service of Mutual Recognition of Episcopal Ministries. The study group is currently working on mutual recognition of ministry. There are two documents in process: a ministry document entitled *Getting to Know You* for local Moravian and Episcopal congregations and a document entitled, *Where Did We See You*, based on Matthew 25 looking at places for Moravian and Episcopal involvement in local cooperation by staffing soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other social ministries. Hopefully by 2006 a document of agreement will be written and a formalization of the agreement through the above-mentioned service (Service of Mutual Recognition of Episcopal Ministries) would take place in 2010.

The Committee adjourned for the evening around 9:00 pm. to resume the meeting at 9:00 am the following morning.

Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee Meeting
December 1, 2004

Patty Garner opened the second session with devotions from the book “Kneeling in Bethlehem” by Ann Weems.

Sustaining Our Shepherds (SOS) Resource: Bob Hunter reviewed the day’s Agenda and Patty Garner spoke of her meeting with the Spirituality Committee of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. Something in the fall of 2005 is a possibility for a minister’s retreat with John Largent, LTSS Campus Pastor, as the keynote speaker and using Patty’s resource on spiritual formation as the main retreat resource. Ron Rinn will work with Patty in forming a “test” group to utilize the resource for presentation to the Lutheran group in 2005. The first test group could meet in January 2005 at Laurel Ridge, NC the Moravian Camp. The title of the resource since the last meeting (and minutes) has been changed from “Saving” to “Sustaining” Our Shepherds” (SOS).

Patty has written to a number of Bishops in both the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church asking them to write a closing prayer to be used in the resource. Patty also gave to Michael Trice a copy of the letter sent to Bishops and Michael will forward this to Bishop Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA asking him to contact Synod Bishops in the ELCA. The three Lutherans on this committee were asked to contact their home Synod Bishop in order to contribute a prayer from each to be included in SOS. These bishops are Bolick, [North Carolina] Martinez, [Caribbean] Strobel [Northeast Pennsylvania] and Hendrix [Lower Susquehanna].

Additional comments were made about the implication of SOS for the Moravian/Episcopal Dialogue. Otto will provide a conduit for Patty from the Episcopal dialogue and Ron will work with Patty on expanding contacts in the North Carolina Synod through the Assistant to the Bishop, Beth Kearney as well as with Bishop Bolick. Patty will e-mail the Spiritual Assessment Inventory to the members of the committee. With modifications, SOS could also be used for Directors of Christian Education and Ministers of Music as well as clergy in both bodies.

Other possibilities for training are distance learning (that capability exists at Moravian Seminary, LTSS and Salem College) and perhaps video presentations as well.

A Motion:

A motion was made that: **The Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee wishes to affirm and applaud the work of Patty Garner for the emerging resource SOS designed to enrich and renew our Church leaders. We encourage this project and will continue to seek its implementation in both church bodies. The creation of this resource is in response to health and wellness issues and the loss of church leaders in each body due to personal stress, professional fatigue and spiritual aridity. This committee recognizes, as Patty herself noted, that “one can not serve Living Water from dry wells.”** This motion was approved.

Contributions from the Coordinating Committee: Discussion continued regarding contributions each full communion partner has made to the life and mission of the Church.

Moravian: One such contribution is SOS and the impact it will have on the ELCA emphasis in spiritual formation and continuing support and encouragement to rostered members of the ELCA. Michael Trice will take this resource to Craig Settlage, Associate Executive Director for the Division for Ministry, ELCA, for some formation of a presentation to the Conference of Bishops at the October meeting in 2005.

ELCA: A contribution Lutherans have made to the Moravian communion is a reflection on how to receive clergy from other traditions; as a tangible result of our cooperation Moravians now require a Moravian “year” on the campus of Moravian Seminary for recent graduates from seminaries other than Moravian Seminary and may require the same for ordained clergy from other traditions.

Health and Wellness Update: The program is being more widely disbursed and awareness is increasing. ELCA Conference of Bishops took up the issue and heartily endorsed it through personal experience of health and wellness concerns among that body. Our physical bodies need to be attended to as good stewards of God’s gift of life.

Spiritual formation on the Seminary level update: Moravian Seminary Dean has embraced the concept and John Lergen at LTSS is interested in using this as a test case there.

MED:

Otto reported on the Protocol of MED:

1. The ongoing Consecration and Installation of Bishops in both bodies, as well as with the Lutherans would be most helpful. Currently there is no such protocol.
2. From the Inter-Provincial Bishop’s Conference a request was made from the Northern Provincial Elders Conference asking who should represent the Province at Installation of ELCA Bishops?

A Recommendation:

This Committee strongly encourages that representatives of each body participate in the Installation or Consecration of Bishops in the other body including the “laying on of hands.” Where Moravians are present in ELCA Synods a Moravian Bishop will normally participate in the “laying on of hands” in the Installation Service. Wherever possible a Moravian Bishop would also participate in the Installation Service of an ELCA Bishop and the “laying on of hands” in geographic areas where there is no sizable Moravian presence.

An ELCA Synod Bishop will normally participate in the Consecration of a Moravian Bishop and the “laying on of hands.”

This Recommendation was voted and approved.

A Recommendation:

We, the members of the Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee, are encouraged by the continuing dialogue between our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal and Moravian communions. As the Episcopal and Moravian Bilateral Commission continues in their faithful discernment toward full communion, we ask God to bless their efforts and uphold both communions in their distinct, yet shared ministries.

This Recommendation was voted and approved.

A Recommendation:

Be it resolved the Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee encourage the extension of Following our Shepherd to Full Communion Agreement to include the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church and that this Resolution be submitted to the 2005 ELCA Church Wide Assembly and the 2006 EWI Synod.

This Recommendation was voted and approved.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held in Chicago, IL on June 27-28, 2005 beginning at 5:00 PM Central Standard Time with dinner and ending by 5:00 PM the 28th. Those who might stay over night on the 28th for team building are encouraged to do so. Michael Trice will attempt to have the committee members lead the worship service at the Lutheran Center on the June 28th. The fall meeting will be in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, on December 2-4, 2005 in order to attend worship service following the meeting.