

**Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
**Bishops House, Old Salem, North Carolina**  
**December 1-2, 2005**

In Attendance: Michael Trice of the ELCA, Bob Hunter and Patty Garner from the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, Judith Garber, Carlyle Sampson, Ron Rinn, Otto Dreydoppel

In Absentia: Kingsley Lewis, Bishop Martinson

Our group gathered in The Bishop's House in Old Salem at 9:00 am on December 1, 2005. Bob Hunter and Michael Trice extended welcome to all and Otto Dreydoppel lead us in devotions using the Advent 2 Liturgy from The Moravian Book of Worship. Those in attendance were: Michael Trice from the ELCA, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations office, Bob Hunter and Patty Garner from the Southern Province of the Moravian Church, Otto Dreydoppel from the Northern Province, Judith Garber, Carlyle Sampson and Ron Rinn from the ELCA. Kingsley Lewis from the East West Indies as well as Bishop Martinson of the Alaska Synod, ELCA were unable to attend.

Michael acted as our facilitator for this meeting and reviewed the Minutes from the meeting held in Chicago, June 26-28. Some conversation took place concerning the Moravian/Episcopal Dialogue and Otto stated that the Proposal will not be presented in 2006 at the Episcopal General Convention nor by the Moravians to the Northern and Southern Province Synods as had been hoped. The Dialogue group will continue "drafting" a document to be presented to both bodies.

A general discussion took place on a variety of subjects. We took some time to do our personal "catching up."

The Minutes were approved from the June 26-28 meeting held in Chicago, at the ELCA Headquarters. The committee refocused on our Mission and Purpose Statement with the intent of "where do we go from here?" relative to accountability and responsibility. We have a "narrative thread" which sometimes does not continue after we have met, and therefore we may not be viewed as effective in implementing our Agreement. Michael led the committee through an excellent exercise in "why are we here?" and the discovering of what each member brings to the task and how those gifts advance the Charter under which we operate. **BOB HUNTER HAS A RECAPITULATION OF THE RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE ON A SEPARATE SHEET.** A final question was raised as "to whom are we accountable?" and who is receiving the benefit of our charge. Otto will assist us in setting up a Black Board Website to share ideas and items of interest. We will also schedule a "conference call" for April (the 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm EST)

After lunch the group was led on a tour of Old Salem to St. Phillip's Church, an African-American Church, by Robert Sawyer, Southern Province President and the President of the World Wide Unity of the Moravian Church. Sawyer grew up next to the church and holds many memories for him. Upon our return to The Bishop's House Sawyer shared with the committee a review of the World Wide Unity. He also handed out an outline of this presentation and a "facts sheets" to give us a taste of the diversity and ecumenical nature of the Unity.

According to Sawyer our work as a committee is beneficial to the wider church and especially in expanding beyond the Northern and Southern Provinces to the Eastern West Indies

and the Alaska Synod of the ELCA. Ultimately we would hope that our work filter down to local congregations. Sawyer sees our work as positive and should be encouraged.

After a brief recess the committee reconvened. We began looking at ways we might be more effective in our work for the future by looking at what we have done in the past.

In order for the ELCA and the EWI and Alaska Provinces to move toward full communion it is important that the PEC of the EWI put it on their Synod Agenda. Kingsley Lewis will hear from Otto as to how to bring it about. "Doc" Nickolson is the Alaska Province (check this with Bob Hunter) person to contact when he returns to Anchorage after serving as a Chaplain in Iraq. Otto will follow up on this.

We talked about how we will communicate through a Blackboard and Otto will set that up through Moravian Seminary; when we meet in June we will have a demonstration

Some possible areas of implementation are in two specific areas of ecumenical formation:

Seminaries, a. conversations starters for ecumenical dialogue, a publication of the ELCA, and b. "Jan" term where ecumenicalism and globalization are discussed and experienced (ask Michael for more information). Our committee could be involved in finding scholarship funds for ecumenical formation (Ron Rinn to explore this with Harvey Huntley, Region Nine ELCA co-coordinator)

Sustaining Our Shepherds was discussed by Patty Garner who stated that a "test group" would be forming prior to Lent and go through the end of May with Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Moravian clergy participating. If this group proves to benefit from the program/discipline, then a follow-up group may be formed. Patty and Ron Rinn will receive the evaluations of the pilot group.

Other areas of cooperative opportunities are:

- Racism, Poverty and Sexism, a study presentation for Moravians in Winston-Salem in March
- Raising awareness in ELCA Synods and Moravian Provinces where we invite other ecumenical partners to events and activities
- New church starts and revitalizations and
- Church growth gathering in Bethlehem in March

These items lead into a general discussion and personal reflections on our work together. Noted at this time was our next meeting in Chicago June 21-22 beginning at 8:00am and for the worship service that day we would have a Moravian Love Feast. Those traveling some distance will fly in the evening of the 20th.

December 2, 2005

Session 3 at Old Salem

The group gathered for devotions led by Ron Rinn and then moved into a review of the previous sessions discussions concerning how we might "coordinate" our work more effectively. Judy Garber asked how we might be more intentional in Pennsylvania and the Northern Province and "widening" our mutual ministry. The following were assigned "tasks" for the committee members:

Full Communion with the East West Indies and Alaska Provinces with their Synod meetings in 2006—Otto Dreydoppel

A Blackboard which is set up at Moravian Seminary will be demonstrated at our June meeting. Otto

A conference call in April to give us more information. Bob Hunter and Michael Trice. Tentative date is the 6th of April at 3 EST and 2 CST.

Ecumenical Foundation---“Jan” term where we will try to include Moravian Seminary students in not this year then in 2007—Otto

Secure a grant writer to help under-write some of the costs of these ideas with scholarship money. Ron Rinn Perhaps Thrivent Financial and ELCA Fund for Leaders.

Health and Wellness ELCA program initiative. Craig Settlege (Tammy Divine)

Social Justice and Poverty concerns—Judy Garber will introduce to Region 8 of ELCA.

The idea of focusing on a particular topic for the ELCA Memorials at Synod Assemblies for cooperation with our ecumenical partners and in the Southern Province whereby addressing issues of mutual concern. This would also give some exposure to what we are trying to do together in this group. Judy, Patty, and Bob

Raising awareness and inviting each other to:

Continuing educational events--everyone

Workshops at our camping sites: Laurel Ridge mission camp and Lutheridge servant camp--Bob

NC Synod “on line” monthly news letter the Synod Servant

Mission developments and new starts as well as congregational revitalization

The Reverend David Guthrie, Executive Director for the Board of Evangelism and Home Missions of the Southern Province joined the committee to give us some ideas how we might work closer together. He gave an historical “over view” of the Southern Province and church development. Growth was along the line of “daughter congregations” linked by a Mother Church in concentric circles from Bethania, Bethabara and Salem. The Sunday school program effects growth in ways that pushed out of the Wachovia tract. After World War II move emphasis was placed on suburban congregations with “church planting.” In the late ‘50’s and ‘60’s it was classic church developments with pastors gathering people and starting a congregation. Currently it is the desire to grow churches based on leadership, money and a kairos time to start a new congregation every two years. David then directed our attention to the current situation.

#### MODELS:

The fellowship model is to gather Moravians in a group and being a “house church” and establishing lay leadership and the pastoral leadership coming later. This can sometimes create some conflict in the transition. Mixed results of success and failure have occurred and it is at a plateau where it just does not work out.

New Church start model is to select an area and send in a pastor, meet in a place like a funeral home and try to take off.

Daughter congregation model is to send some folks from an established congregation into a mission development along with a pastor as an associate to the Mother church. This takes about two years then there is the launch of a new congregation.

In Florida they were able to organize a diverse group of Moravians in 1979 in the Miami area with folks from the Caribbean and Latin America.

The ELCA Evangelism strategy begins with prayer and has come out of using the Moravian Daily Texts and thus show how some “seeds” planted by the Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion Agreement has borne fruit. And the Moravians are using many ELCA materials for their outreaching planning. Brent Dahlsteng is the ELCA, Director for Evangelism and Heather

Feltman is the contact person for Disaster Relief and they have worked in partnership with Moravians in Region 9 of the ELCA to coordinate efforts on Gulf Coast relief.

Revitalization: Several churches are on a plateau and need real attention. Almost too many facets of needs that is overwhelming. Currently Alice Mann from Alban Institute is providing guidance as the strategy is changing. They offer three resources: “Who are we?” “Who are our neighbors?” and “What is God calling us to do in this place?” This resource comes from a series entitled Healthy Congregations.

David concluded his presentation with the expressed desire to pursue more areas of mutual ministry and cooperation on joint efforts for mission and ministry.

The next gathering is in Chicago on June 21-22. Please note the conference call on April 6th 3 pm EST and 2 pm CST.