



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

The Information

"I must turn aside and look at this great sight..." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses" And he said, "Here I am." Exodus 3 vs 3-4 (NRSV)

June, 2021

The Church at its best



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

I am always intrigued by conversations about the church – ecclesiology. I believe in the church because the church is God's expression in the world – God created the church on the Day of Pentecost. The church has been active in the world for better and for worse. Quite often, the church is the agent of change. However, the church has also been the subject of change that has pushed it away from its core value of being the embodied presence of the triune God in the world.

We must continue to look at the ministry of the church to see how we might be at our best. Being at our best means understanding what God has called the church to be and majoring in being that. It is my opinion that the church prefers *to do* rather than *to be*. Doing things is easy. Yes, it requires time, resources, and energy. However, it is easier to *do* church rather than to *be*

church. Being the church requires a redesigning of our internal architecture. Anyone who has done building renovations knows that it is messy and inconvenient. Old walls, plumbing, electricals, and fixtures can be difficult to remove. Sometimes they are so closely tied to the building, that removing them can compromise the entire structure. Yet still, to achieve the best design, disruption and dislocation are part of the process.

What does it mean for the church to be at its best? The answer may vary depending on one's perspective. Some people may speak of numbers – in dollars and cents in seats/views and likes. Others think of activism and activity. Some think of conversion and evangelistic zeal while others think of simple obedience to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. It may be all or none of the above. It is important for each Christ-follower to seriously reflect on what it means for them to be the church in this pandemic season of conspiracy theories, plagues, meaninglessness, and technological advancement – the best of times and the worst of times. What difference does it make that you are part of the church and what are you like when you are at your best? I am challenged by the questions and share three things I want to be as the church at its best.

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Vision Statement

**A Church - Transformed,
United,
Victorious in Christ**

Mission Statement

**By the grace of God, we seek to be
faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ;
without distinction, we use all that we
possess to call all peoples to the truth
of the Gospel through worship,
evangelism, discipleship
and service.**

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The Church at its Best continued from Page 1

Lots of people still struggle to understand who or what is the church. Many inside and outside still see the church as a building with professional clergy who are the primary actors of the Christian faith. In this construct members just play along “by keeping the institution going as they plan their social events, do charity, and let the professionals perform the acts of faith” (Strommen, 2020). This institutional mentality reduces the church to a social club that caters to its members’ needs rather than the mission of God in the world. At its best, the church is the whole people of God, gathered by the Holy Spirit around the cross of Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The church at its best is an unmistakable movement of the triune God in the world.

Incarnational rather than attractional

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in the upper room. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). In reading this text we get caught up with the tongues as a supernatural gift and miss the more pragmatic message of tongues as a means of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ. Speaking in tongues was primarily a witnessing tool – power of God and the message of the gospel.

The Spirit was poured out on the gathered disciples first. As they received the Spirit, they received new life in Jesus – born again. They are now new creatures in Christ because the Holy Spirit now dwells in them. The Spirit of God worked from the heart to transform the internal universe of the disciples to reflect the values of the kingdom. This work is continuous. The Apostle Paul renders it this way - And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). With the Spirit of God living within, the disciples were transformed.

The disciples in turn became agents of transformation in the world. Scripture records how their transformed lives impacted others around them. Whether it was with the sharing of the possessions from house to house (Acts 2:42ff) or the miracles that were done through them (Acts 3:6), it was evident that “these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13c). The point here is that they embodied the church, it lived inside of them.

The church at its best in our time must be incarnational. The church must be within us wherever we find ourselves – it must be incarnated. The attractional church is far more popular where we invite people to come to church where the music, the preaching, the atmosphere, the fellowship can draw people. The attractional model is not bad, it’s just not primary. Each disciple’s life must be a billboard of the difference Jesus makes. Our efforts to attract people to the church will fail, even if they come, when the transformation that the Spirit orchestrates is not resident in the disciples. The church is at its best when it embodies that transformative element that only the gospel of Jesus brings.

Embrace the cross

The church is also at its best when it embraces the cross. When I speak of the cross, I think of Jesus’ statement in Mark 8: 34-38. Verse 34:b says, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Jesus is clear that representing him in the world is burdensome but each disciple must choose to bear the burden of following Jesus. This is a bold declaration and if we are truthful, it is not the posture of much of the church. Let me hasten to say that I do not think this means that the church should be obnoxious. The cruciformed life embraces the ways of Jesus which caused him to appeal to people in need and anger the status quo.

The church at its best embracing the cross of Christ is willing to lay down its right to its programmes and agendas for the direction of the Spirit. That is easier said than done. For congregations with legacy programmes and groups that have done valuable ministry over the years, it is no easy feat to accept that all the current efforts are answering questions that no one is asking. In other words, this programme or activity that once made such an impact no longer resonates. Styles and forms of worship that are treasured may need to retire because they no longer help the gathered body of Christ to connect with God. As much as commercial sex work is contrary to the core values of the gospel, the commercial sex worker is valued in the eyes of God and should be included in our prayers and ministry. The cruciformed life calls the church to represent Christ in the world.

Lives into full forgiveness

Finally, when the church is at its best, it understands that forgiveness is a command not a suggestion. The body of Christ is made of real people with real issues.

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God Calls us to Ministry

The Minister as Pastor

Since we began looking at the fact that God has called us to ministry, we have considered some of what this ministry entails. We have noted that the minister is called to be priest and to be prophet. We shall now consider another aspect of the ministry, which is that of pastor.

The function of pastor comes right out of the scriptures. We can turn to Ephesians 4:11,12 as one authority for this: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

The word 'pastor' means to pasture or feed. The image is that of a shepherd and his relationship to his flock. The shepherd is one who provides food and nourishment for his flock. It will be useful at this stage to point out that there is a significant difference between our shepherds in the West and shepherds in the East. Matthew Henry in his comments on John 10:1-5 notes that "the Eastern shepherds went before their sheep, to set them in the way of his steps." In commenting on the passage about the Good Shepherd, John Gill expresses it this way: "...in allusion to the eastern shepherds, who when they put out their flocks, did not, as ours do, drive them before them, and follow after them, at least not always, but went before them."

Isaiah 40:11 gives us another image of the shepherd or pastor: "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *and* gently lead those who are with young." The pastor, then, is one who will feed and protect the young members of the flock.

Another image of the pastor comes from the Prophet Jeremiah, "And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." 3:11. Imparting knowledge and understanding is a painstaking activity which requires the constant and not sporadic attention of the pastor.

Jeremiah also gives us another description of the pastor in Chapter 23: 3,4. He says, "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have

driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking." Part of the minister's responsibility as a pastor is to go after the wandering or backslidden and to build up the flock thereby.

One of the important roles that a shepherd plays is that of tending the wounded. There are times when a sheep may sustain a broken leg or be cut or be injured in some other way. We know well the image of the shepherd carrying a lamb on his shoulder. The shepherd has to come to the rescue. So, too, the pastor has to spend time attending to members of his/her flock. People who are in trouble or difficulty may need counselling; people who are bereaved will need to be comforted and consoled; when there is a new birth there will be the need for baptism and the attendant counselling of parents and godparents; when couples come to get married there will be the need for premarital counselling and if perchance things get rocky within marriage, then the pastor must be prepared to do marriage counselling; there will be crisis situations which will require many hours of counselling with the pastor walking alongside those in crisis. Indeed, the pastor often has to respond to people in crisis who are not even members of the church, but who seek the assistance of the pastor.

Another aspect of the pastoral work of the minister is that of developing an intimate knowledge of the members of the flock. Visiting the members of the congregation regularly is one of the best ways of achieving this and establishing relationships with the flock. This is analogous to the sheep knowing the voice of the shepherd and the shepherd knowing his sheep.

The final thing one would want to emphasize here is the role of under-shepherds. The pastor of a congregation is an under-shepherd to the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, but he/she also must develop under-shepherds in the congregation to assist in the pastoral care of the congregation.

In our next installment we shall speak further about under-shepherding as we consider the minister as teacher.

Background Material

John Groenfeldt, *We Have This Ministry*
 William H. Willimon: *Pastor*: Abingdon Press, 2002
 Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on John 10
 John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible on John 10:4
 Ephesians 4: 11,12
 John 10:1-17
 Isaiah 40:11
 Jeremiah 3:15; 23:24



July 18-24, 2021

The 26th Moravian Music Festival is in two parts. We will be online this summer and then in-person in Bethlehem, PA in July of 2022.

If you register for part 1 (only \$50), you will receive a code for \$25 off registration for part 2! (scholarships available) moravianmusicfestival.org

This year's Festival will capitalize on technology to focus on education, with webinars, panels, and round-tables.

There will be social time to connect with friends and colleagues and even some fun and games. See the calendar and daily schedule at moravianmusicfestival.org

Registering soon allows you to join the virtual chorus and/or virtual band; you may record yourself singing/playing along with the foundation tracks and we will edit all the submissions together into one performance.

Register Now! We need all submissions by the end of June!!

The music we learn this year, we will present live next year.

Free public concerts will be presented online each evening during Festival week. www.moravianmusicfestival.org

The children's program/youth program is built upon a youth musical theater production called ACTS. This year will be learning the words and music and sharing some fun activities online. Next year will be the full live production in Bethlehem! Children and youth are free; simply fill out the form at moravianmusicfestival.org

Erik J Salzwedel



www.moravianmusic.org



www.moravianmusicfestival.org

The Church at its Best continued from Page 2

There will always be conflicts and disagreements. Yet, as the people of God, the resources have been provided to teach us how to deal with conflict.

While on the cross, Jesus forgave his crucifiers. The church is singular in its view of forgiveness. The church at its best needs to know that "as those whom God has forgiven, God's people are invited to live into full forgiveness of sins, whereby we forgive, bear with, and aid one another. Too often, members of Christ's body do not live fully into this full forgiveness and reconciliation (and those outside the church take notice!)" (Peterson, 2020).

To speak of forgiveness reminds me of a comment by an atheist who was profoundly impacted by the mother of a man who was shot by a white supremacist. The day after the murder, the mother of the slain man offered her forgiveness to her son's murderer. This was faith in action and represents the church at its best. It arises from the ethic of unconditional love which is central to the kingdom. This is the way of Jesus and it is what we are called to be.

The church can only be at its best when Jesus is central to the faith. Sometimes, we allow tradition to take the place of Jesus. However, given all the dislocation around us and the questioning of faith and the relevance of the church, we are being called to be church at its best...a church that reflects the way of Jesus more accurately.

References

- Peterson, C. M. (2020). Does the church still matter? A Lutheran perspective on the church's relevance today. *Word & World*, 40(1), 3-11.
- Strommen, J. (2020, 59-70). Reimagining church. *Word & World*, 40(1).

Quote of the Day

"Be patient with yourself.
Self-growth is tender;
it's holy ground.
There's no greater investment."
- **Stephen Covey**

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THE MORAVIAN CHURCH ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON 2021 CHECKLIST

We are told that the 2021 Hurricane season is expected to be above average. Let us take the time to be prepared. Preparation is vital to our safety and the protection of property. Make sure that you have adequate insurance coverage for your home and property.

START PREPARING NOW

- ◆ Keep important documents (insurance policies, birth certificates, will and testaments, licenses, etc.) in safe, dry, waterproof and fireproof containers.
- ◆ Have emergency supplies on hand, including cash, medications, non-perishable items, first-aid supplies, clothing and bottled water.
- ◆ Protect your property by putting up shutters, cutting back tree limbs and clearing debris.
- ◆ Service your generator. If you do not have one, consider purchasing one.
- ◆ Locate the nearest shelter. If you live in a low-lying area, decide where you will go if a storm threatens.
- ◆ Take an inventory of your personal property, room by room, with the cost and date purchased. Take pictures of each room.

WHEN A STORM THREATENS

Inside the home

- ◆ Make sure your important documents - passports, wills, contracts, insurance papers, car titles, deeds, leases and tax information - are safely stored
- ◆ Stock heavy duty garbage bags for post-storm home and yard cleanup.
- ◆ Check flashlight and radio batteries and have extras on hand.
- ◆ Charge rechargeable cellular phones, drills, power screwdrivers, flashlights, and camera batteries.
- ◆ If you plan to go to a shelter start packing. Do not wait until the hurricane makes landfall to get to the shelter.

Outside the home

- ◆ Refill special medications.
- ◆ Get cash (ATMs may not work for days after).
- ◆ Fill vehicle fuel tank. Check battery, water, oil.
- ◆ Make sure you have a spare tire and buy aerosol kits that fix, inflate flats.
- ◆ Prepare your pool. Do not drain it.
- ◆ If you own a boat, make necessary preparations.

WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED

Inside the home

- ◆ Move furniture away from windows or cover with plastic
- ◆ Move as many valuables as possible off the floor to limit water damage.

Outside the home:

- ◆ Cover windows with shutters, storm panels or plywood.
- ◆ Remove swings and tarps from swing sets. Tie down anything you cannot take inside.
- ◆ Check for loose rain gutters, moldings.
- ◆ Move grills, patio furniture, and potted plants into your house or garage.
- ◆ Disconnect and remove satellite dish.
- ◆ Plug roof drains to prevent salt water contamination to cistern.
- ◆ Secure and brace external doors, especially the garage door and double doors.
- ◆ Move vehicles out of flood-prone areas and into garages if possible. If not, park cars away from trees and close to homes or buildings.

DURING THE STORM

When in a Watch area...

- ◆ Listen frequently to radio, TV
- ◆ Keep batteries, first aid supplies, drinking water and medications close
- ◆ Have cash on hand in case power goes out and ATM's don't work.

When in a Warning area...

- ◆ Closely monitor radio, TV or Meteorological forecasts for official bulletins
- ◆ Follow instructions issued by local officials. **Leave immediately if ordered with assistance from Authorized organizations eg. National Office of Disaster Services (NODS or Red Cross)**

AFTER THE STORM

- ◆ Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- ◆ Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never use candles and other open flames indoors.
- ◆ Take photos of any damage to buildings or contents
- ◆ Prepare an inventory of items damaged
- ◆ Contact your insurance professional as soon as possible.

Condolences

The Provincial Family stands with The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor and Family at this time of the death of his father, Bro. Vernon Roy Connor. His death at 101 years old signals a long, impactful legacy. His death also marks the end of an era.



For the Psalmist to say, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants" (Psalm 113:15), seems strange to most people. Yet, when we view death as rest from sickness, trouble, and pain, this declaration becomes acceptable. When we allow God to enter into the disruption caused by death, our sorrow is infused with hope and peace.

Members of the Connor clan, Bro. Vernon Roy Connor has lived and laboured long on this side of eternity. Along the way, he carried you, nurtured you, and imparted of himself to you. His unique fingerprint is on your lives and you are who you are because of the transforming hand of God working through him in your lives. Let his death be a celebration of a life well lived. May the memories fill your hearts with joy mingled with sorrow because this living branch has transitioned.

Having served as his pastor for many years, I recall his gentle spirit, his quiet strength and tenacity, and his faithfulness to God. When I think of him, Romans 12:18 comes to mind, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." May that legacy be a distinguishing trait for generations to come.

The Provincial family supports you with prayers and presence as you journey through the valley of the shadow of death. We remind you that "weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Our sovereign God will hold you in peace.

Condolences

The Moravian Church Provincial family expresses condolences to Sis. Maureen Lewis on the passing of her brother Dr. Hugo Francis Murchison Reid. He died in Trinidad on 1st June 2021.

He was a retired scientist in the field of nephritis and streptococcal diseases who worked with the Rockefeller Institute at the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre in Trinidad for many years.

Funeral and cremation took place on 8th June in Trinidad.



To Celebrants, June 17 - 29

Sis. Joycelyn Connor	17
Bro. Selvin McMillan	25
Sis. Elva Richards- Goodwin	25
Sis. Karen Challenger	26
Sis. Jasmin Crooks	26
Sis. Roslyn Hamblin	29



To Celebrants, July 3 - 15

Sis. Ida Brown	3
Sis. Movelle Kellman	5
Sis. La-Verne Richards	6
Sis. Yvonne Jean	7
Bro. Winston Chase	8
Bro. Anselm Richards	9
Bro. Michael Goodwin	9
Bro. Neilson Waithe	10
Sis. Cherice Job-Lewis	10
Bro. Ralph Prince	11



for the months of June & July

Sis. Elva Richards-Goodwin & Bro. Michael Goodwin	23
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew & Bro. Colin Matthew	04
Bro. Nigel Daniel & Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel	06
Bro. Neilson Waithe & Sis. Vera Waithe	07
Sis. Karen Challenger-George and Bro. Dave George	15

Jesus is Coming Again

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters to form the **mystery answer**.

Archangel,
Awesome,
Bugle,
Caring,
Clean spirit,
Disciples,
Earth,
Father,
Forbearance,
Gentleness,
God-fearing,
Goodness,
Guardian,
Heart-warmed,
Help,
Honest,
Jerusalem,

Joy,
Kindness,
Lord,
Love,
Paul,
Peacemaker,
People,
Powerful,
Prayer,
Precious,
Rainbow,
Righteous,
Self-Control
Treasurer,
Trumpet,
Truthful,
Wonderful



- After Jesus fed 5,000+ people with two fish and five loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over?

- Whose example does Paul say Christians should follow in Chapter 5 of Ephesians? _____
- What does Paul say may "abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment?" _____
- What tribe was Paul from? _____
- According to the Beatitudes who will be filled?

- What did Simon Peter do for a living before he became an apostle? _____
- In the Gospel of Mark, how did the Virgin Mary learn of her pregnancy? _____
- Who is Stephens in Acts of the Apostles?

- By what name was Paul of Tarsus known before he began his missionary activity? _____
- According to Paul's formulation in 1 Corinthians, which is the greatest of the imperishable qualities?

- Who was the high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial? _____
- In the Gospel according to John, which of the Apostles doubts Jesus's resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes? _____
- According to the Gospel of Matthew, where did Jesus's first public sermon take place?

- How did Judas signal Jesus's identity to the Roman officials? _____
- Who murdered John the Baptist?

Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

Graduations

Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's. Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.

Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The Conference Center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill over-looking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with available internet cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

The Mystery word is
Redeemer

Bible Trivia Answers
1. 12, 2. Christ's, 3. Love, 4. Benjamin, 5. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness
6. He was a fisherman, 7. From the Angel Gabriel, 8. The first Christian Martyr, 9. Saul
10. Love, 11. Caiphas, 12. Thomas, 13. On the Mount, 14. He kissed Him, 15. Herod Antipas

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