

# A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC EWI PROVINCE



## The Information

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4: 12-13

### The Moravian Unity – Many Cultures, One Witness

The 44th Unity Synod of the Moravian Unity was called to order at the Garden Court Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa from September 4 -10, 2023. There were approximately seventy-three delegates and about twenty-five observers to include interpreters, Unity representatives, ushers, and guests. This Unity Synod was the 28th edition for the Renewed Moravian Church. Unity Synod is held every seven years with the last Synod being held in Jamaica in 2016. The theme for this Unity Synod was: The Moravian Unity – Many Cultures, One Witness.



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
Chairman of PEC

The Moravian Unity has four regions: Africa, Caribbean and Latin America, Europe include Asia, and North America. All regions were represented though not all the Provinces/ Mission Provinces/Mission Areas were present. Absence was due to visa restrictions. Reports were received from the following entities:

South Africa	America South
Tanzania Eastern Province	Burundi,
Tanzania – Lake Tanganyika Province	Cuba
Tanzania – Mbozi Province	Suriname
Tanzania – Northern Province	European Continental Province
Tanzania – Rukwa Province	Czech Republic Province and Mission Province
Tanzania – Southern Province	Alaska
Tanzania – South West Province	Honduras
Tanzania - Western Province	South Central Tanzania
Democratic Republic of Congo	Eastern Congo
Malawi	Iringa (South West Tanzania)
Zambia	Kenya
Eastern West Indies Province	Rwanda
Guyana	Sierra Leone
Honduras	Uganda
America North	Zanzibar

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**September, 2023**

*The Moravian Unity-  
Many Cultures, One  
Witness*

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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, Evangelist discipleship and service.**

### Mailing Address

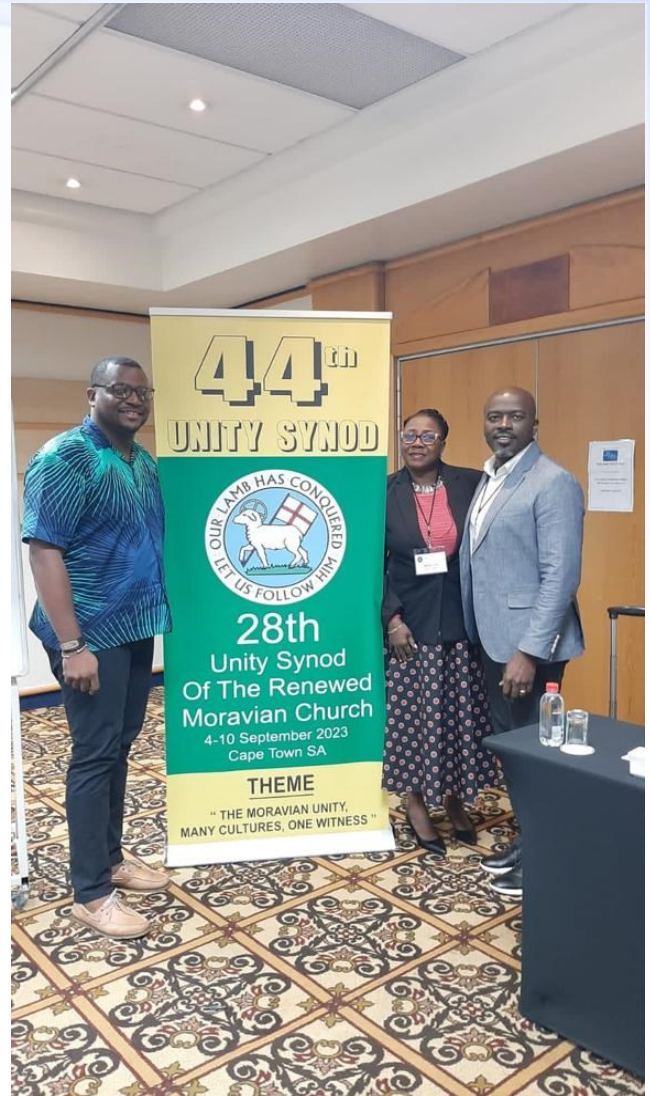
**Moravian Church - EWI Province  
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504  
St. John's, Antigua**  
Office: [moravianchewip@gmail.com](mailto:moravianchewip@gmail.com)  
Chairman: [moravianchurchewip@gmail.com](mailto:moravianchurchewip@gmail.com)  
**WEB ADDRESS : [//www.moravians.net](http://www.moravians.net)**

Not all the reports were discussed though all were tabled. This list provides a clearer picture of the many cultures aiming at one witness. The diversity is great and underscores the need to be mindful that the Moravian Church cannot be the same everywhere though the core values may remain rooted. Each area must discern how God is calling the church to represent God in that space. Even as proposals are crafted into resolutions to guide the affairs of this global body and statements are crystallized to speak on behalf of the church, all the voices must be heard.

The varied voices were heard in the business of Synod. The Russian aggression against Ukraine attracted our attention as some of our members are affected and a statement signaling the disapproval of Unity Synod 2023 was approved by Synod. Our church's involvement and complicity with slavery and the African slave trade also attracted the attention of the Synod. After protracted emotional debate and conversations, a resolution was passed to sensitively address this vexing situation in the Unity. Another proposal challenged the church to be a prophetic voice on political issues which will land differently in different places. Given the climate crisis and the issues of global warming, a resolution was crafted to encourage the Unity to be better stewards of our "Father's world." In due course the full list of the dozens of resolutions will be published soon for the general guidance and operation of the Unity.

While Synod was not a place to discuss strategy for ministry and mission, the reports showed the work being done in the various areas. For the church in the West, there was a consistent theme of declining membership, staff, and economic challenges. Alongside those challenges were efforts to innovate and rethink what it means to be the church in this time. If those conversations are honestly held and actioned, we may see responses that offer signs of hope.

The work of the church in African and Asia is encouraging. The consistent theme was increase of membership and staff. They also struggle economically. If we are able to work together, the possibilities are great.



The fellowship at Unity Synod 2023 was great. For those who were experiencing their first Unity event, new connections were made and for others, their network increased. We may all go back to our corners and continue doing what we were doing before we went to Unity Synod. However, for those of us who came from the EWI Province – Bro. Erwin Warner, Sis. Beverly Job, Bishop Kingsley Lewis, and Bro. Algernon Lewis, we hope that the spirit of Unity Synod 2023 will move all participants to be more diligent in our One Witness.



## Unity Mission Agreement

### Moravian Church Missions in a time of Globalization

#### Mission is our calling

We are living in a challenging time for the Moravian Church and our global mission. There are more, brothers and sisters in the Moravian Unity today than ever before. Moravians praise God and read the Scriptures in dozens of languages across the globe, and the Moravian Church is more culturally diverse than ever. This growth, geographical spread, and diversity means that Moravians are also faced with significant challenges in our globalized economy. There is an ever-growing gap between rich and poor throughout the world. Civil wars and other conflicts ravage many nations, leaving millions as stateless refugees. Countless people are living on the margins of society and suffer from poverty, hunger, addiction, and despair. The destruction of nature is accelerating rather than abating, and climate change now threatens the well-being of over a billion people.

It can be tempting to retreat from the challenges, but mission has been at the heart of the Moravian Church since its renewal in Herrnhut in 1727. Moravians were called to go to the despised, rejected, and frightened people in the margins of the world to share their lives to show them Christ's love. "Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10) Moravians still believe that no one on this earth is God-forsaken; all people are made in the image of God. All people are our brothers and sisters because we share the same image of God. Our mission may be anywhere at any time whenever and wherever God calls us to go and serve.

In 1957, our modern Moravian Unity was established to facilitate and expand our global mission while retaining our unity as Moravian brothers and sisters. We are living in the midst of globalization, which provides extraordinary new opportunities for mission and building communities of faith but globalization also brings great challenges.

#### Our Unity: a gift, a witness and a task

Our Moravian Unity is a gift, a witness and a task.

- It is a precious *gift* we have received as a heritage

from our ancestors in faith. This gift we need to maintain as a source of inspiration for our own mission. It is part of our heritage that we believe that our Unity is a gift of our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ.

- Through our Lord and Savior we are bound together in a fellowship of love and forgiveness. Unity does not mean agreement in all things, but it does mean a willingness to love one another, care for one another, and pray for one another.
- Our Unity is a powerful *witness* to the world that we remain together despite our cultural, economic, and linguistic differences. More than that, we Moravians care for each other in our Unity: "If one part of the body suffers, all parts suffer with it." (1 Cor. 12:22)
- Our Unity is also a *task* given to us. We have to invest energy, time, prayer, and money to maintain the Unity and renew it. We do this not for the sake of the Unity itself, but because of our witness to the world.
- We therefore commit ourselves to work together to maintain our Moravian Unity. We will not allow theological and cultural differences to break our communion, but will seek the open dialogue with each other to solve conflicts among us. In this we are a token of Christ's reconciliation working through us in the world.

#### Sent out as agents of God's love

Mission means "being sent". We are sent to other people and cultures in humility following Jesus Christ and proclaiming his Good News. In the past, missionaries were sent from Europe to cross oceans and geographical boundaries to reach out to the so-called "heathen", but we have learned that there are many other borders and barriers we have to cross. Our mission is not just cross-cultural, it is multicultural and intercultural. Missionaries today are sent to overcome barriers of

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race, class, and gender. It is our mission to speak out wherever barriers divide humanity and harm our brothers and sisters. “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Eph. 2:19)

Following the example of Christ, we Moravians strive to overcome the barriers which exclude people and God’s creation from living a sustainable life in peace and dignity, such as racism, power imbalances, and poverty or climate injustice.

We are living in the midst of globalization, which provides extraordinary new opportunities for mission, but also brings great challenges. In the 18th century, Moravians saw their mission in helping those who were hurt by colonization, yet our church also profited from the colonialism and colonial structures, at times even from slavery. The church is still repenting for its role in the slave-economy. In the 21st Century, we have to learn from the lessons of the past. We need to draw each other’s attention to how we Moravians participate in economic globalization and profit from unjust economic and political mechanisms. We are called to be advocates for those who are being harmed by globalization, wherever we and they are. As Christians, we are called to change our way of life so that all God’s creation can be sustained. As missionaries we are called to be agents of God’s justice, love and mercy in a suffering world: South and North, East and West.



### Quote of the Day

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

## Call Advisory and Congratulations

The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:

1. The Rev. David Ince who currently serves as the Supplementary Associate Pastor of the Bethlehem and Faith Pastorate in Barbados has accepted a call to serve as the Supplementary Associate Pastor of the Sharon and Dunscombe Pastorate in the Barbados Conference. This call takes effect from September 1, 2023.
2. The PEC offers congratulations to Sis. Tia Phillip of the Cana Congregation in the Antigua Conference on being elected to serve on the Young People in the Ecumenical Movement Commission. The commission aims to ensure that the prophetic voices of young people are present and heard within the WCC and to empower young people through networking and ecumenical commitment on various levels.

Let us pray for Bro. David Ince and family and Sis. Tia Phillip as they answer the call of God in this season of their lives.



## Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center

Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) is an institution of the Worldwide Moravian Church working in Palestine. It contributes to securing life in dignity for persons with intellectual disabilities (PwIDs), through the provision of rehabilitation and training, integration and inclusion, awareness building, and community mobilization, based on love, dignity, justice, and equality.

SMRC is located in a village called Abu Qash, in Ramallah and Al-Bireh District, West Bank, Palestine, 25 km to the north of Jerusalem. SMRC trains and rehabilitates around 126 PwIDs of all ages inside and outside the Center. Thirty qualified staff members work with great commitment and pride in this special mission.

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*Star Mountain Rehabilitation center continued from Page 4*

### Vision

To be pioneers in securing life in dignity for PwIDs in Palestine

### Values

Commitment

Respect

Transparency

Justice and equality

### Strategic Goals

1. Provide distinctive rehabilitation and training services to persons with intellectual disabilities regardless of their disability level.
2. Raise the awareness of the Palestinian community including families, individuals, institutions, and policy-makers on the rights and capacities of persons with intellectual disabilities.
3. Change local and national policies in accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Palestinian Law through the Advocacy Committee and partners.

SMRC is committed to ensuring the PwIDs get opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. Therefore they have arranged for those who attend the Center to participate in activities such as drama and acrobatics. Since these persons are sometimes left out of cultural activities, they have also been learning the traditional dances of Palestine. PwIDs have also been exposed to the circus and all the excitement that goes along with this activity. One of their students won a gold medal in the most recent edition of the Special Olympics.

The facilities also include an 18 room guest house, conference facilities, and dining hall facilities. There is a thrust to care for the environment and be ecologically responsible. They have embarked on a project to cultivate their available land with fruits and vegetables which they will in turn sell to support the work of SMRC.

Each year, we in the Eastern West Indies give to SMRC as part of Missions offerings to the Unity to support the good ministry and work they are doing in the name of the Lord and of the Moravian Church. Let us continue to give as the Lord allows.



God enabled the Corinthian believers to be blameless before Him.

**Supply the missing letters in the verse, then rearrange them to spell the missing word...**

Paul told them...

“You do not la  k

any spi  itual  ift

as you  agerly

w  it for our Lord.”

That was because of God’s

# Let Us Celebrate



## Birthday Celebrants

### September 16—30

Sis. Callisha Greenidge Mark	16
Bro. Devon Mannix	23
Sis. Lynda Prout	29



### October 1—15



Bro. Winston Jones	02
Sis. Shanele Chase St. Hill	04
Sis. Georgette John-Cotton	06
Sis. Nicole Wellington-Barker	09
Bro. Joseph Nicholas	15



## Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

### September 16—30

Bro. Delroy Burley & Sis. Katrina Reece Burley	19
Bro. Conrad Spencer & Sis. Sonia Spencer	24
Bro. Frank Barker & Sis. Gloria Barker	27
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford & Bro. Keith Horsford	30

## The Chairman out of Office

The Chairman will be out of office for Unity Synod and Vacation leave from August 28 – September 12 and September 13 – September 30, respectively.

Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith, Vice Chair of the Province, will act as Chairman in his absence.



## Condolences



The Provincial family extends condolences to the family of the late Sis. Annette John-Nelson, daughter of the late Rev. Alva John of Tobago. Sis. Annette died on August 16, 2023, and was buried at the Montgomery Moravian Church in Tobago on September 1, 2023.

Please pray for the family in this time of grief and loss.



## Day of Prayer and Offering for Surviving Spouses

### The PEC makes the following Announcement:

Sunday, September 17, 2023, will be observed as the annual day of prayer for the surviving spouses of Moravian Pastors in the Eastern West Indies Province. On this day, we pray for the spouses who were partners in the work of ministry. Please remember in prayer:

- Sis. Dorothy Graham - Barbados
- Sis. Deborah Challenger- Antigua
- Sis. Myrtle Miller- USA
- Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs- Virgin Islands
- Sis. Lynda Prout- Trinidad

Along with prayer, a special offering will be taken on Sunday, September 24, 2023 as a token of appreciation to our sisters for the tremendous role they played in the ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province.

ALL the words listed below are in the puzzle “The Great Flood” - 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**



Altar,	Floodgates,	Noah,
Animals,	Food,	Olive,
Ark,	Forty,	Pairs,
Balsam,	Fruitful,	Pitch,
Bird,	Genesis,	Rainbow,
Clouds,	Ham,	Righteous,
Covenant,	Heavens,	Roof,
Creatures,	Japheth,	Shem,
Days,	Judgment,	Sons,
Descendants,	Livestock,	Violence,
Destroy,	Mankind,	Waters,
Door,	Mate,	Wickedness,
Dove,	Mountains,	Wife
Female,	Multiply,	
Float,	Nephilim,	

B	I	R	D	E	S	T	R	O	Y	S	R	I	A	P
E	L	A	M	E	F	O	O	D	N	I	K	N	A	M
W	A	T	E	R	S	S	E	N	D	E	K	C	I	W
M	E	H	S	F	L	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T	F
R	S	T	T	S	I	S	E	N	E	G	M	A	H	O
M	N	E	K	N	V	W	T	N	S	R	M	F	A	R
A	E	H	R	S	E	T	A	G	D	O	O	L	F	T
S	V	P	A	U	S	M	N	N	R	A	U	O	A	Y
L	A	A	I	O	T	D	G	E	I	A	N	A	F	L
A	E	J	N	E	O	A	U	D	P	M	T	T	A	P
B	H	O	B	T	C	Y	E	O	U	H	A	L	S	I
E	C	L	O	H	K	S	D	R	L	J	I	L	A	T
V	T	I	W	G	N	O	A	H	C	C	N	L	S	L
O	I	V	V	I	O	L	E	N	C	E	S	R	I	U
D	P	E	F	R	U	I	T	F	U	L	E	T	A	M

- Jesus was born closest to which year?**  
 A. 10 B. C C. 0 A. D  
 B. 5 B. C D. 5 A. D
- Where was Jesus born?**  
 A. Nazareth C. Jerusalem  
 B. Bethlehem D. Jericho
- Why did Joseph and Mary give the baby the name Jesus?**  
 A. He was named after Joseph's brother.  
 B. They were instructed to by an angel.  
 C. It was suggested by Mary's cousin Elizabeth.  
 D. It was foretold in the Book of Isaiah.
- How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?**  
 A. They followed a star in the east.  
 B. King Herod told them where Jesus was born.  
 C. They were told in a dream.  
 D. An angel of the Lord told them.
- How did the Magi (wise men) who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?**  
 A. They followed a star in the east.  
 B. The shepherds told them Jesus had been born in Bethlehem.  
 C. They were told in a dream.  
 D. An angel of the Lord told them.
- Which was *not* a gift the Wise Men brought to Jesus?**  
 A. Gold C. Myrrh  
 B. Frankincense D. Silver
- Why did Joseph take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt?**  
 A. To look for work as a carpenter  
 B. That was where they lived.  
 C. To escape from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus.  
 D. To visit Mary's cousin Elizabeth
- Of what religion were Joseph, Mary and Jesus?**  
 A. Islam C. Judaism  
 B. Christianity D. Buddhism
- Where did Jesus grow up after returning from Egypt?**  
 A. Nazareth C. Jerusalem  
 B. Bethlehem D. Jericho
- One year when Jesus and his family went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple and his parents could not find him for 3 days. How old was Jesus then?**  
 A. 10 C. 14  
 B. 12 D. 16



# 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.

## ARARAT

### Mystery word

8. Judaism
9. Nazareth
10. 12 (Luke 2:41-50)
6. Silver (Matthew 2:11)
7. to escape from King Herod who wanted to kill Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15)
4. An angel of the Lord told them (Luke 2:8-20)
5. They followed a star in the east (Matthew 2:1-10)
2. Bethlehem (The story of Jesus' birth is told in Luke 2)
3. They were instructed by an Angel (Matthew 1:20-21, Luke 1:26-33)
1. 5 B.C. (In the year 532 A.D., a monk named Denys le Petit calculated that Jesus was born in the Roman year 753 and we number our years of the Christian era since that date. However, it is now believed that Denys miscalculated and Jesus was actually born between 6 and 4 B.C.)

### Answers to Bible Quiz