



THE INFORMATION

A communication from the Chair of the PEC of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies

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)

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Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chair of PEC

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Building the Bridge while Walking on it

The famous words from Charles Dickens still run true – it was the best of times, and it was the worst of times. We live in what might be called the “Dickens reality” as we navigate our way forward. Technology has moved us so far forward that many manual operations are now automated. Anyone can instruct an AI tool to write them an essay providing the relevant prompts. High phone bills are not as regular now with voice over internet protocols that allow for international and other calls using the internet.

Yet, it is also the worst of times. We have more connectivity but people seem less concerned for each other. The wars and rumours of wars are growing daily. Things that we never thought possible between nations are either happening or have a real possibility of happening. We live in a constant state of flux where certainty and reliability are luxuries.

The church is not immune to these realities. We are faced with the same scenarios of the best and worst of times. Decline and disaffiliation from the church is at an alarming rate. That is matched by a reduction in the number of the faithful responding to the call of God to enter the ministry of the church in a full-time or part-time capacity. Reduced numbers and influence also mean reduced income in spite of rising overheads. On the good side we have more technology and sophistication in ministry than we have ever had. In addition to material things, we are people of faith who have seen the overcoming power of God at work. If we take a careful look at salvation history and the history of the Moravian Church, we can see that the challenges are not new - we have been here before. Truth be told, the idea of the kingdom of God or the reign of God in the world deposits us in the space of “the already but not yet.”

This expression may be foreign to many but for people of faith we are expected to live in that space. Whenever we talk about the kingdom of God, we are talking about something that is present but not fully here. “The already but not yet” is a theological framework describing the Christian experience of living between Christ's first and second comings, where the blessings of God's Kingdom have been inaugurated but not fully consummated.

Vision Statement

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

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This means believers have already received certain spiritual benefits, like reconciliation with God and the indwelling Holy Spirit, but still await future fulfilment, such as the complete absence of sin and the full presence of God in the new heaven and earth” (Google, 2025). The best of times and the worst of time. So how do we meaningfully engage the present?

If we are going to change anything around us, our thought process must change. If the mental posture remains within its current confines, it will not conceive that there are other ways through the wilderness. The Israelites thought they were done for in the wilderness and longed for the flesh pots of Egypt (Exodus 16:3). Moses had a difficult time convincing them to change the thinking about what is possible through faith in God. They were thinking based on their previous experience of oppression. Even when God showed up in the manna and quail, some were still skeptical.

We must begin to think differently about what can happen in church in a season where it seems that the usual metrics of participation, personnel, and resources are limited. We must be open for what can happen with the five loaves and two fish. The essence of our faith is that God is never out of options. Can we believe that and remain open for God to act?

This season of the church also requires a posture of agility. For too long we have settled into a rhythm of linear, predictable actions – one thing follows the other, two follows one, calling means full-time ministry, working in the church means preaching, fund-raiser means a labour-intensive activity, church service means Sunday morning, outreach means soup kitchen or some other activity where the church gets to be hero. Agility is the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to the context rather than doing the expected thing. That has been a challenge at the Provincial Board level as there are so many moving parts to consider, and the system was

not built for quick, dynamic action. However, we must adjust to new realities. The Reimagining Leadership initiative in the Province is to help us do this better.

Agility forces us to be dynamic in our approach to ministry. The next steps are not predetermined, they arise from the context. When the context changes, the next step changes. Much of the technology we use today were changed in the process of delivery meaning, while they were developing the product, the functionalities were changed because the needs of the user changed along the way. As we deliver ministry in this time, we must make sure that the needs of our congregants are equal to the ministry provided. It makes ministry difficult but it forces us to listen if we want ministry to resonate with the people.

This season also requires that we channel Beth Lewis again – grow, hold, fold. Given all the current ecosystems in which we are called to be church, what does God require of us? We must listen to these communities we have inhabited for decades and centuries to hear the cries and needs that are arising. What do people want from the church and how does God want to meet those needs? We can only do this by keeping minds open and our posture ready to respond. What we hear might both surprise and excite us. It may mean folding long cherished practices that have run their course while growing new practices that feed the needs of the community so that they can draw closer to Jesus.

None of our activities should be about the survival of the church into the next century. It must be about fulfilling the mission of God in the world. Wanting to follow the Holy Spirit into the world to make a difference must be our driving force. In following the Holy Spirit, we realize that even though the church is stuck in determining the next steps, God is already out in the world preparing people for us to reach them.

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BOARD OF WORLD MISSION of the Moravian Church • North America

Mission Minute: Moravian Youth Convo 2025



“MIA: Mission in Action” Moravian Youth Convo 2025 in Miami, Florida, was an incredible week of fellowship, learning, worship, and fun with participants and staff from Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad, Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and Wisconsin. Program and worship times were led by the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber, the Rev. Brian Dixon, Acolyte Monique Richards, and BWM staff members.

We had the blessing to visit both New Hope Moravian Church and Prince of Peace Moravian Church, as well as other local sites, including South Beach, the Everglades, and the Marlins stadium (for a Miami Marlins vs. Milwaukee Brewers game!). Much of our free time, program time, and worship time was spent sharing songs, activities, and experiences from our home areas, so that participants left with new resources to use as they step into leadership roles.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported this event by assisting with the planning, traveling to be on staff, and welcoming us as we arrived in Florida.

Bodybuilding: Equipping God's People for Ministry
The deeply collaborative New Testament
vision for ministry

By Dr. Dwight Zscheile

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There are over 95 images or metaphors for the church in the New Testament, but one of the most central ones is the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul uses this image several places in his writings to describe how Jesus's community continues the ministry of Jesus collaboratively in the power of God's Spirit. The variety of spiritual gifts and ministries that Jesus personally embodied are distributed among the church members. For the body to function fully in ministry, all of these gifts and members need to be activated and play their role.

There are many gifts listed in the key New Testament passages that talk about the body of Christ. These include administration, apostleship, discernment, encouragement, evangelism, faith, giving, healing, hospitality, knowledge, leadership, mercy, pastoring or shepherding, prophecy, service, speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues, and wisdom. These gifts are spread throughout the body of Christ, not concentrated in one person or leader. They are given so that the whole Christian community can grow into maturity and in its witness to God's love in the world.

The New Testament's vision for ministry is deeply collaborative. Jesus invested in forming and training his disciples as apprentices of a distinct Way of life that was an alternative to the prevailing norms of the Roman Empire. Christians lived a countercultural story and countercultural ethics characterized by mercy, sacrificial love, equality, inclusion, holiness, and hope. The church grew because this Way was compelling and attractive in a society oriented around hierarchy, hedonism, and exploitation. 1 Peter 2:9 puts it this way: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim

the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Over time, as Christianity spread through the Roman Empire, the church became defined less by being a countercultural community with high barriers to entry. It became more associated with social and cultural establishment and privilege after the church was legalized by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century.

In the early church, leaders were identified as having particular gifts such as teaching, shepherding, prophecy, and evangelism that were vital for the body of Christ to grow and flourish. Their work, as we see in Ephesians 4:11, is to [equip the whole community of believers](#) for the shared work of ministry. There was not a separate caste of clergy or ordained leaders. Baptism into Christ was the foundation for ministry. Recall that Jesus was in regular conflict with the formal clergy of first-century Judaism—the Pharisees and scribes—when they set themselves apart and claimed higher status than everyone else. Early churches adopted and modified leadership offices from the synagogues of the time, but these were primarily functional roles.

As Christianity became more established in Roman society, it adopted some of the hierarchical leadership structures of the surrounding culture. Holiness became less a defining feature of a *community* of believers pursuing a narrow and difficult Way of life and more an attribute ascribed to an institution and its leaders by nature of their office. Ministry became something that certain people set apart did *for* the whole, rather than something the whole did utilizing its various gifts in service to each other and neighbors in a pagan society.

Where does this leave us today? In many congregations, the assumption is that ordained clergy perform the ministry *for* the members, not just teaching, equipping, and nurturing them to use their gifts in ministry, but rather doing all the things!

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Bodybuilding: Equipping God's People for Ministry

This can quickly become overwhelming and lead to burnout. In *The Unnecessary Pastor*, Eugene Peterson says, "Congregations get their ideas of what makes a pastor from the culture, not from the Scriptures; they want a winner; they want their needs met; they want to be part of something zesty and glamorous." Trying to fulfill these expectations can be deadly, as Peterson goes on to say: "The constant danger for those of us who enter the ranks of the ordained is that we take on a professional religious role that gradually obliterates the life of the soul."

The era of Christendom in the West is over. We live in a new pagan society. The church must rediscover its identity as a people set apart in holiness, not just look to clergy set apart to embody holiness for the rest of us. This model is increasingly exhausted as many clergy leaders are caught up in unsustainable expectations and unhealthy models and some have fallen in scandals. The church will regain credibility when it lives Jesus's Way as a community of broken and redeemed people, sinners transformed into saints, and shares Jesus's story with the world. As Paul says in Ephesians 4:15-16: "But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

Reprinted from: <https://faithlead.org/blog/bodybuilding-equipping-gods-people-for-ministry/>



Provincial Day of Prayer

Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be observed on Saturday November 1, 2025. Our prayer meeting begins at 5:00 am. Come, let us call on the name of the Lord.

The Zoom link for this prayer meeting will be shared shortly. Come, let us pray!



OECS - Caricom Honey Show 2025

Heavenly Hives is a business initiative of the Montgomery Moravian Church in Tobago. They participated in the OECS Caricom Honey Show held in St. Kitts. They placed 3rd in the commercial production category.

Congratulations to the Pastor and members of the Montgomery Moravian Church and the Heavenly Hives production team.



SHIFT: Reclaiming our identity, Renewing of Purpose, and Re-igniting of Passion

OPENING SERVICE MORAVIAN CHURCH BARBADOS CONFERENCE

Celebrating 260 Years of Work & Service

Sharon Moravian Church, Sharon, St Thomas
Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 5 pm

*A Legacy Rooted in Faith,
Education & Service
with Thanksgiving*

MORAVIAN FEST 260

Let's all celebrate!





Birthday Celebrants

August 16— 31



Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts	20
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Bro. Reuben Vessup	22
Bro. Erwin Warner	24
Bro. Conrad Spencer	29
Sis. Angela Frederick	30

September 1 - 30

Bro. Colin Mathew	02
Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	03
Bro. Walton Frederick	07
Sis. Myrtle Isaac	08
Sis. Callisha Grenidge-Mark	16
Bro. Devon Mannix	23
Sis. Lynda Prout	29

October 1—15

Sis. Shanele Chase -St. Hull	04
Sis. Nicole Wellington-Barker	09
Bro. Joseph Nicholas	15

Anniversary Celebrants

August 16 - 31

Bro. Daniel Mark & Sis. Callisha Greenidge Mark	18
Bro. Selvin McMillan & Sis. June McMillan	20
Bro. Kevin St. Hill & Sis. Shanele Chase St. Hill	25

September 1 - 30

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



Ordination Anniversaries



Bro. Mikie Roberts August 16, 1993
 Sis. Vera Waithe August 17, 2003
 Bro. Adrian Smith August 17, 2003
 Bro. Kevin St. Hill August 30, 2018
 Bro. Alban St. Hill September 11, 1996
 Bro. Jeremy Francis September 07, 2003

Building the Bridge while walking on it continued from page 2

The institutional church may be backed into a corner and having conversations about survival, but God is not. God never runs out of options and God is always up to something. It is up to us to discern what's next.

This is a season where we must build the bridge as we walk on it. This means that our next steps are uncertain because of the pace of change around us. However, when we keep our minds open for what God is doing, set our posture to respond in a timely manner to what God is doing, we will discern those faithful new steps we need to take to participate in the mission of God in the world. It is the best of times and worst of times. We can see failure or we can see opportunity. I choose to see opportunity.



Condolences



The Provincial family extends condolences to Rev. Nigel Daniel on the death of his mother, Mrs. Fernella Daniel. Sis. Daniel died on September 27, 2025 in Antigua. The funeral service for Sis. Daniel takes place on October 27, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Cana Moravian Church, Swetes Village, Antigua.

Please pray for Bro. Daniel and family in their time of grief and loss.

Moravian Multipurpose Complex Conference Center & Apartments



Graduations

Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

- ◆ 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. This area is fully air-conditioned.
- ◆ 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.

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.

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