



Moravian EWIP Synod 34 installs a new PEC to serve for the next Triennium

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

July 2025, Issue

A New Journey Begins

With the 34th Provincial Synod in the rearview mirror, we rise to address the mandate set by Synod. Before looking too far ahead, I crave your indulgence to reflect on our first in-person Provincial event since 2019.

The planning was intense as the Trinidad Conference had not been this way before. Nonetheless, they pushed ahead and delivered well. Bro. Ulston Patmore Smith offered an unusual welcome through an extempo calypso piece. Like the hosting, it was creative, warm, inviting, rooted, and serious. Congratulations to the local planning committee.

The business of Synod was intense. Some Committees had lots to consider. Ministry has changed and is continuing to change to meet the evolving needs of the membership and the wider community. It is difficult to plan for the change when it is not clear what will come next. Notwithstanding, they tried. There were long discussions about the pension plan and next faithful steps to follow. There was also discussion about ministry and the reality of decline and how we might both arrest and reverse the current trends. There were also discussions around stewarding the resources (land, building, people) God has provided to support the ministry. We left Synod with the understanding that there is work to be done.

This historic Synod saw the ordination of Sis. Marleen Browne to diaconate of the Moravian Church. This service was held at Memorial Moravian Church in Tunapuna and the only worship service to be held away from the Regent Star Hotel. Delegates also elected a bishop in the person of Bro. Ezra Parris.

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Vision Statement
A Church - Transformed,
United,
Victorious in Christ

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Rev. Neilson Waithe Marks 70th Birthday at Synod with a Life of Service and New Goals Ahead

Surrounded by colleagues and friends at the 34th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, on July 10, 2025 Rev. Neilson Waithe quietly marked his 70th birthday — a milestone he approached with characteristic humility and focus on his work. “I’m not a big celebratory person,” he said with a smile. “It’s just another year, and I still have work to do.”



That work, at present, includes finishing the final chapters of his latest book — his tenth — which he hopes will be his most widely read and discussed yet. A seasoned pastor, author, counselor, and former Tutor Warden at the United Theological College of the West Indies, Rev. Waithe now serves as a Clergy Care Consultant supporting ministers and their families, while advocating for better use of the church’s resources.

Throughout his ministry, Rev. Waithe has served across the Caribbean, from launching mental health initiatives to leading community development projects inspired by direct



engagement with local needs. His philosophy, shaped by decades of pastoral and counseling work, is rooted in knowing the people and communities beyond church walls. “Walk through the community,”

he advises younger clergy. “Get to know its people, its needs — that’s how you develop a vision for service.”

Rev. Waithe fondly recalls stories from throughout his ministry including working alongside retired Archbishop Howard Gregory in 1995 to provide trauma and counseling support in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Anguilla following a devastating hurricane.

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A new Provincial Board was also elected. The three clergy representatives (Bro. Algernon Lewis, Bro. Adrian Smith, and Bro. Jeremy Francis) were re-elected along with Sis. Joan John of the Trinidad Conference and Sis. Cindy Hackett of the Tobago Conference. Sis. John has a background in economics and finance and is a retired Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. Sis. Hackett still works in finance. Sis. Lisa Maryse Roberts from the Antigua/St. Kitts Conference was appointed Treasurer and Sis. Elisa Hodge was appointed Assistant Treasurer. Sincerest thanks to Sis. Deborah Moore-Miggins and Sis. Evannie Jeremiah for their dedication and service to God and this Province in the last triennium.

The worship at Synod was inspirational. Whether it was stirring sermons from the chaplain, Bro. Cortroy Jarvis, or the wonderful, heavenly singing, the moments were glorious. Staff of the hotel often commented on the worship events. One staff of the hotel remained after the end of the shift to attend worship. Thanks be to God.

Now, the work continues. We move forward with hope, believing that God is already ahead of us making a way.



Provincial Day of Prayer

Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on Monday September 1, 2025. This prayer meeting begins at 5:00 am and will be led by the Moravian Church Trinidad Conference.

The link for the meeting will be shared in due course.



34th Provincial Synod Interviews

Archbishop Gregory Calls for Bold Stewardship Changes at EWIP 34th Provincial Synod

The Retired Most Right Reverend Dr. Howard Gregory, OJ — former Archbishop of the Province of the West Indies and 14th Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands — delivered a stirring address at the opening retreat of the 34th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province.

Speaking from *Exodus 4:2* under the theme “*What’s That You Have in Your Hands: The Stewardship of the Church’s Resources*”, Archbishop Gregory challenged the church to re-examine how it manages the gifts God has entrusted to it.

“We cannot rely on the structures and methods of the past,” he told delegates. “God can use what we already have, even when it seems insufficient, for His greater purpose.”

Facing Today’s Realities

Gregory identified pressing issues impacting the church’s sustainability:

- Over-reliance on traditional funding sources.
- Declining and aging congregations.
- Unclear ownership and underuse of church properties.
- Development efforts that overlook broader societal shifts such as urbanization.
- Weak connections between Congregation, Conference, and Provincial leadership in prioritizing development.

He urged leaders to be intentional about how resources are received, managed, and accounted for.

Strategic Steps for the Future

Among the Archbishop’s recommendations:

- Selling certain properties to fund more viable development projects.
- Creating opportunities for members to invest in church initiatives, with transparent returns.
- Learning from successful models, such as the Anglican Church in Jamaica’s apartment complex development.
- Encouraging legacy giving through wills, estates, and planned gifts, supported by a clear legal framework.

Empowering Clergy and Laity

Gregory underscored that effective stewardship requires both clergy and laity to serve according to their unique skills and abilities. “The laity must be empowered to lead strategic moves that keep the church responsive to a changing world,” he said.

Moving Forward with Purpose

His charge set a decisive tone for the Synod’s deliberations. Leaders will continue exploring how to align the church’s mission with practical, sustainable action — ensuring that resources are managed wisely and used for God’s glory.



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Ordination Interview with Sis. Marleen Ruiz Browne

“To God Be All the Glory”: Sister Marleen Browne Reflects on Her Journey, Just Hours Before Ordination

On the eve of a life-changing milestone, Sis. Marleen Browne sits calmly, her voice tinged with both awe and assurance. In less than 24 hours, she will be officially ordained to the diaconate in the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church. For her, this is not merely an achievement. It is an act of thanksgiving.

*“I almost didn’t make it here, but to God be all the glory.
Great things He has done—and is still doing.”*

Sis. Browne is a Trinidadian by birth and hails from the beautiful village of Toco. She is a past student of Toco Anglican School and Toco Composite School.

Before entering full-time ministry, she was already deeply immersed in service alongside her husband. From Sunday School to Youth and Women’s Ministry, even to Cleaning Ministry. She also fondly recounts her service as Chaplain for Prison Ministries in Antigua

and Barbuda, and Tortola - each role was a sacred training ground. *“It’s not the type of ministry,”* she emphasizes, *“but the willingness to avail myself to God in every aspect.”*



That posture of surrender took root early. As a child, Sis.

Browne often found herself in front of the mirror, deodorant bottles and hairbrushes as microphones, singing and preaching to an imaginary congregation. *“Those bottles didn’t give me an ‘amen,’ but they had a purpose,”* she laughs. It was, she believes, divine preparation in the simplest of settings.

Her journey, however, has not been without deep valleys. Behind her smile is the memory of affliction—moments where illness threatened to silence her calling. *“There were days when I cried out on my bed of affliction, asking God to save me so I could continue in His vineyard.”* He answered with restoration and a renewed sense of purpose. *“I made promises to Him in those moments—and He gave me life.”*

Sis. Browne currently serves as Minister of Christian Education in the Trinidad Conference. She is tasked with responsibility for the L’Anse Noire & Gloster Lodge Moravian Primary Schools in Trinidad. She also serves as pastor of the Memorial Moravian Congregation, Trinidad.

Sis. Browne’s passion for outreach pulses strongly. Her ministry has not been confined to church walls. Instead, she speaks of her desire to walk into communities, reaching the unchurched and individuals from diverse religious beliefs, meeting people in the highways and byways, and answering the Great Commission: *“Go ye into all the world.”* This is evidenced in her active engagement in diverse outreach ministries including a Bar Ministry in Tunapuna, Trinidad.

As a graduate of the United Theological College (UTC) and the West Indies Theological College, she completed numerous biblical courses—still she insists her deepest education came through dependence on God.

“There’s royalty in our DNA,” she says, referencing her self-published book *To Reign in Your Royalty*. *“It doesn’t matter what your past looks like—God sees us through His royal lens.”* Another of her works, *Beautiful Ashes*, echo themes of hope, healing, and divine transformation for those feeling broken.



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Ordination Interview with Sis. Marleen Ruiz Browne

Now, on the threshold of ordination, her thoughts center not on the ceremony itself, but on its meaning.

“It’s a ministry to extend the love of God. This world is in need of love - and I want to be a catalyst for this generation.”

She pauses, offering thanks to those who have journeyed with her—her mother Sandra Ruiz, her father Martin Salvery, her husband Rev. Erflin Browne, her family, her congregation at the Memorial Moravian Church, the Trinidad Conference, the Eastern West Indies Province, and the many prayer warriors who have stood in the gap for her. *“To walk this path, you need people praying you through.”* She further expresses sincere thanks to the many pastors and spiritual leaders who have inspired and guided her to this point.

Her favorite verse remains Matthew 6:33 — *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His*

righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” As for a song? She sings softly, *“You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains.”*

Before the sun rises on her ordination day, Sis. Marleen Browne rises in spirit — humbled, grateful, and ready. Not for titles or recognition,

but for more ministry, more souls, and more expressions of the unfailing love of God.

“I’m too far from where I started, and I just can’t give up now.”



Fraternal Greetings from the Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Province Highlights Unity at Moravian EWIP Synod

A message of solidarity and spiritual encouragement was delivered to the 34th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province by Rev. Barrington Daley, President of the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.



In a spirit of unity, Rev. Daley extended warm greetings to bishops, delegates, and friends gathered for the synod, emphasizing a shared heritage and commitment to God’s mission within the Caribbean region.

“This is more than formality,” Rev. Daley declared. “It is a genuine expression of our unity in mission, shared heritage, and enduring partnership in the work of God.”

Commending the synod’s theme, which calls for a shift by reigniting passion, reclaiming identity, and renewing purpose, he acknowledged the sacred responsibility shared by all members of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province.

Rev. Daley praised the Eastern West Indies Province’s faithful witness and leadership in the face of evolving ministry challenges. “Your witness continues to be a light and a source of strength to the Moravian community and the wider body of Christ,” he said, assuring the synod of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands’ prayers and commitment to walk alongside them in unity.

He concluded by invoking blessings of wisdom, courage, and grace over the synod’s deliberations. “May your decisions be God-honoring, your fellowship be rich, and your vision renewed for the task ahead.”

The message was warmly received, reinforcing the spirit of partnership that continues to strengthen the ties between the Moravian provinces of the region.

Fraternal Greetings from North American Provinces and the Board of World Mission: A Celebration of Moravian Mission and Unity

Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher, representative from the Board of World Mission (BWM) and the Moravian Church in North America delivered a message of unity, service, and global outreach. Speaking on behalf of the Northern and Southern Provinces, as well as the entire BWM, he shared updates on the ongoing efforts to foster connection and growth within the global Moravian community.



Rev. Dr. Christopher recognized the BWM's interprovincial mission, encompassing the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America. He extended greetings from Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President of the Southern Province, and Rev. David Bennett, President of the Northern Province, as well as Bro. Justin Rabbach, Executive Director of the BWM. Special acknowledgment was also given to other members of the Board of World Mission present at the 34th Provincial Synod: Rev. Barrington Daley, President, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Province, and Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis, Secretary, Eastern West Indies Province.

A Legacy of Partnership and Growth

Rev. Dr. Christopher shared of his personal connection to the Board of World Mission. In 2007, he attended his first BWM meeting as a representative of the Eastern West Indies Province. Now, years later, the full-circle moment of addressing a wider audience highlighted the enduring partnerships and impactful collaborations the BWM has cultivated over the years.

The address emphasized that the BWM is one of several mission boards within the Moravian Church, alongside the Danish Mission Board, the British Mission Board, and others. Collectively, these organizations work to support mission efforts across the globe.

Global Outreach and Impact

The mission board currently supports work in Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, Tanzania, and beyond. One notable project, "Blessings Flow," provides clean water to communities in Honduras, exemplifying the tangible ways the BWM is improving lives.



Recent events, such as the youth conference 'Mission in Action' (MIA) held in Miami, also showcased the active participation of Moravian youth. Delegates from Jamaica and the Eastern West Indies Province represented more than half of the total attendees, a testament to the region's dedication to fostering the next generation of Moravian leaders.

New Horizons in Brazil and Zambia

Among the most exciting developments shared was the establishment of Moravian congregations in Brazil, the newest addition to the global Moravian mission. What makes this expansion unique is the organic interest in the Moravian Church by Brazilians who, having read about the church's history and values, were inspired to join the community. Today, two Moravian congregations thrive in Brazil, marking a significant milestone in the church's global mission. Additionally, the BWM has recently formed partnerships with the Moravian Church in Zambia, further extending its reach and influence.

Responding to Disaster and Strengthening Unity

Rev. Dr. Christopher highlighted the Moravian Disaster Response Team's active role in providing aid in the aftermath of recent floods in Texas. This initiative reflects the BWM's commitment to addressing urgent needs and supporting communities in times of crisis.

Rev. Dr. Christopher expressed gratitude for the Eastern West Indies Province's contributions to the BWM's work. He emphasized the importance of maintaining long-term relationships with global partners and continuing efforts to grow and strengthen mission provinces worldwide.

Guyana Province shares a message of Faith, Perseverance, and Hope to Moravian Brethren in the EWIP

Rev. Winston M. McGregor, Chairman of the Moravian Church Guyana Province shared uplifting greetings in which, he reminded synodals of the power of faith, prayer, and patience in overcoming challenges.

Drawing inspiration from the story of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness, Rev. McGregor encouraged everyone to trust in God's guidance, just as He led His people through trials in the past.



Acknowledging the struggles of leadership and service, Rev. McGregor highlighted the importance of seeking divine help rather than relying solely on one's own strength. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13) was a central theme, offering hope and a reminder that God gives us the strength to keep moving forward.

Rev. McGregor encouraged patience, trusting that every problem has a solution and that God's timing is always perfect. He urged synodals to remain steadfast, lean on God, and find renewed strength through faith and prayer.

Rev. McGregor extended blessings for all "children of the Lord," with a reminder to keep pursuing the work with hope and perseverance.

Rev. Neilson Waithe Marks 70th Birthday at Synod with a Life of Service and New Goals Ahead Continued from page 2

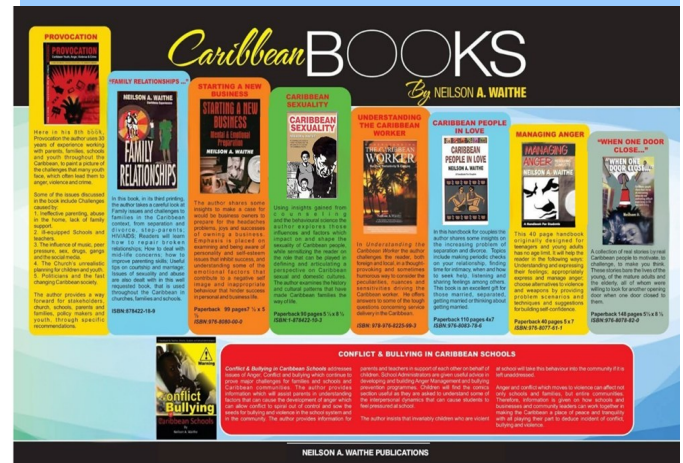
He recounted in detail when he first arrived to the Gracehill Congregation in Liberta, Antigua. He recalls sending young people to survey residents about what the church could offer. The response — a call for daycare and preschool — became a reality through his leadership.

That spirit of community partnership extended beyond projects. He often connected with young men through sports, playing football and cricket

alongside them. Decades later, former players still remember him as "the pastor who played with us," a testament to his relational style of ministry.

His legacy includes pioneering employee assistance programs in the Eastern Caribbean, establishing counseling centers and Employee Assistance Programs, and delivering mental health seminars across the region. While he now maintains a smaller counseling practice, he continues to focus on workshops, seminars, and writing as avenues to reach people.

Looking ahead, Rev. Waithe remains committed to ministry, mental health advocacy, and equipping the next generation of church leaders. "You're never too old to learn," he reflected. "And you're never done serving."



Birthday Celebrants August 1 - 15

Sis. Marleen Browne	01
Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel	04



Ordination Anniversaries August 1 - 17

Bro. Selvin McMillan August 11, 1974
Bro Neilson Waithe August 08, 1982
Bro. Mikie Roberts August 16, 1993
Bro. Adrian Smith August 17, 2003
Sis. Vera Waithe August 17, 2003

Moravian Multipurpose Complex Conference Center & Apartments



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Weddings
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- ◆ 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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