



*"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." 1 Chronicles 4 : 9 -10."*

# The Information

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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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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Provincial Synod will begin in the next 3 days in St. Kitts (July 10, 2009). The Synod is the highest authority in the Province, with supreme legislative powers in all matters not committed to the Unity Synod. The duties and powers of the Provincial Synod shall be:

- ◆ Discharge of tasks which fall to Synod as a Court of Appeal.
- ◆ To carry out and give effect to the principles of the Moravian Church as laid down by the Unity Synod of Constitution, Doctrine, Worship and Congregational life.
- ◆ The power of legislation touching Constitution, Worship and Congregational life.
- ◆ To settle the Provincial undertakings and fields of work; the giving up of existing and the taking in hand of new fields of work; the admission of or the giving up of congregations.
- ◆ Election of members of the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC); election of members of Provincial committees.
- ◆ Oversight of the undertakings carried on in the name of the Province as a whole.
- ◆ Election of Bishops of the Moravian Church.
- ◆ Election of Delegate(s) to Unity Synod.

The Provincial Synod is responsible to Unity Synod for the principles on which it adopts resolutions and supervises its Executive Board and undertakings. **The resolutions of the Provincial Synod are binding on all boards, congregations, Ministers and individual members in the Province.** Notice of constitutional changes affecting the synod or the administration of the Province must be given to the PEC at least three months prior to the date of the Synod.

The Chairman and members of PEC welcome all delegates and observers to this 29<sup>th</sup> Provincial Synod. Let us determine to seek God's face and place our hands into his hands. Let us commit this time to prayer and fasting as we journey ahead.

The St. Kitts Conference has been working assiduously to make sure that all goes well for this very important Synod. Thank you very much St. Kitts, we look forward to a wonderful, spirit-filled experience. We come with the words of scripture as enunciated in Lamentation. 3: 22-23 **"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"**.

## Women Priests in the Moravian Church in 1758

During an ordination service in Herrnhut on May 12th 1758, three women were ordained as “priestesses” or presbyters of the **M o r a v i a n C h u r c h**: Elizabeth Layritz, Marie von Zinzendorf, and Magdalena Vierorth. It was a memorable ordination service during which not only the three priestesses but also eighteen deconesses, twenty-seven deacons, six priests (presbyters) and two (male) bishops were ordained.

The ordination of women was unheard of in the 18th century. Even today, some Christian religious groups do not allow women to be ordained, based on Paul’s admonition that “women should be silent in the churches” (1Cor. 14:34). Zinzendorf, leader of the Moravians, however, interpreted the bible text as being intended for the situation in Corinth and he did allow women a much more prominent religious role.

In 1745 Count Zinzendorf decided to ordain a group of 20 women as deconesses and in the years to follow many other women were ordained as well. Zinzendorf was influenced by other radical Priests such as Gottfried Arnold, who in his widely read publications had demonstrated the existence of “diaconissas” and “presbyteriae” in the early Christian church.

In 1745 the Moravian Church adopted the system of various degrees of pastoral service from the

Ancient Unity: acolytes, decons, presbyters, and bishops. Acolytes were unordained ministerial helpers, whereas deacons, presbyters, and bishops were members of the ordained ministry. From the beginning women were accepted as acolytes as well as ordained deacons. It seems that Zinzendorf intended to consecrate women as presbyters, although he was hesitant to do so in public. During the ceremony on May 12th 1758, Zinzendorf announced he had ordained other priestesses in the previous years, however without making these events public. Even among Moravians the prominent role women played was controversial; in many cases Zinzendorf had to defend this policy before the other leaders of the church. During the service on May 12th Zinzendorf declared: “*The sisters*

*Also have a right to the priesthood. They have among themselves and in their capacity the same three first degrees of the congregational offices [acolytes, deacons, and presbyters] as the brethren.”* As they knelt, Zinzendorf and Anna Nitchsmann laid their hands on the sisters heads and consecrated the three women as priestesses while the choir sang a doxology that has since remained part of every Moravian ordination service (Glory Be to Thy Most Holy Priesthood”).

What were the responsibilities of ordained women in the early Moravian Church? Ordained women were allowed to perform pastoral services within their respective choirs and to give an address in meetings with only women present; they also assisted in the dis-

tribution of Holy Communion, and some of them (the so-called archdeaconses) even performed ordinations of other women. The office of the archdeaconses came closest to that of a male bishop. Although the women’s responsibilities were confined to the female realm and therefore not equal to those of their male counterparts, their roles were quite extraordinary when compared with other groups of the time.

Zinzendorf’s successors did not approve of women in prominent leadership roles. Although the ordination of deaconesses continued until 1790, female presbyters were no longer consecrated. Women continued their service to the church, although they played their roles not as openly as when Zinzendorf was still alive. It would not be until 1967 when a Moravian woman was ordained again in Dresden, Germany.

Paul Peuker

Visit [www.moravianarchives.org/thismonth.php](http://www.moravianarchives.org/thismonth.php) for more information

### Unity Synod

On Monday 27 July, people from all over the Moravian Unity will be flying into Heathrow and Gatwick

bound for High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. Three people from each full Unity Province, one from each Affiliated Province, and Unity Undertaking along with representatives of the bishops, the women’s steering committee, the theological standing committee and the youth steering committee.

In Total there will be 70 synodals meeting together for two weeks at

High Leigh. The reason that the synod lasts so long is that much of the time is spent in committee. Each synodal will be a member of one of the following committees: Finance, Ministry, Mission & Unity affairs, Constitutional matters, Church in Society. Proposals are referred to the committees for further work and re-drafting. They are then brought back to the plenary and can possibly be referred back for even more work.

It is extremely hard to forecast the number of events and delegations that will be needed during the forthcoming seven year period. This Synod will have at least 10 more delegates than the last one.

The business will be conducted in English and there will be a translator for those Spanish speakers who need some help in this area.

There are very few churches that have an international legislature and it takes a real commitment to the Unity to bind oneself and one's province to the decisions taken by such a diverse body. Yet this is a distinctive aspect of what it means to be a Moravian: a willingness to discern together God's will for his church.

The theme for the Synod is "Discerning God's mission through our Unity" and, for the first time, a designated chaplain has been appointed to coordinate daily worship and Bible Study and we are pleased that Sis. Angeline Swart, immediate past President of the Unity Board has accepted this invitation. Sis. Beth Torkington will be preaching at the opening service and we look forward to her message for us on that day.

The middle weekend will be free of business. Delegates will be on a tour of London on the Saturday. On the Sunday, there will be a service at High Leigh in the morning and then coaches will take everyone who so chooses to Chelsea to visit the Close.

So, we look forward to a fortnight of

hardwork interspersed with times of relaxation and fellowship, of getting to know brothers and sisters from many different places and backgrounds, of moving more closely towards being the mutually accountable, inclusive body of Christ that we aspire to be.

Sisters Winelle Kirton-Roberts and Jeanette Smith-Barry, along with Brother Cortroy Jarvis will represent the Eastern West Indies Province at this Synod. In addition, Bishop Kingsley Lewis will represent the Bishops at the Synod.

Please lift up the Unity Synod in your prayers, that Synod might indeed discern God's mission through our Moravian Unity and that, through Synod, the wider church may be truly blessed.

**MORAVIAN NAMED BY  
PRESIDENT OBAMA TO KEY  
POSITIONS.**

On May 1, 2009, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Wilma A. Lewis, as Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral Management, Department of the Interior.

Wilma A. Lewis is Chair of the Board for Moravian Theological Seminary and is also a board member of Faith Moravian Church in Washington, D.C. She has extensive litigation experience with federal trial and appellate complex civil litigation, including class actions as well as internal investigations. Lewis served as Managing Associate General Counsel with Freddie Mac from October 2007 to December 2008 and was a partner at Crowell & Moring from June 2001 to September 2007. She served as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia – the first woman appointed by the President to serve in that capacity – from January 1998 to April 2001.

During her tenure, she led the largest U.S. Attorney's Office in the country, with responsibility for most federal and local criminal investigations and

prosecutions, and most federal civil proceedings on behalf of the United States in the Nation's Capital. From April 1995 to January 1998, she served as Inspector General for the U.S. Department of the Interior – the first African-American to hold that position – where she oversaw investigative and audit activities designed to ferret out fraud, waste and mismanagement in Department of the Interior programs and operations. Lewis' public service also included her tenure as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia (1986 – 1993), where she attained the position of Deputy Chief of the Civil Division, and as Associate Solicitor for the Division of General Law at the U.S. Department of the Interior (1993 – 1995).

Before entering public service, Lewis served as an Associate in the General Litigation Group at Washington, D.C. law firm of Steptoe & Johnson (1981 – 1986). Lewis is a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association and is also admitted to practice before the U.D. District Court for the District of Columbia, the U.D. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. In 2003, the Harvard Law Bulletin featured Lewis as one of 50 female graduates of Harvard Law School who have used their legal education "to take them to extraordinary places." Lewis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from Swarthmore College in 1978, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1981. She is a native of the U.S. Virgin Islands. (*Taken from the June 2009 edition of The Moravian*)

Sis. Wilma A. Lewis is also a member of the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas, USVI. The Province extends heartiest congratulations to her and extends God's richest blessings in this new appointment.

## Installation Services

A number of pastors were installed to their new positions to fulfill their calls on Sunday July 05, 2009.

In Trinidad, the Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher installed The Rev. Adelyn Mgonella as Pastor in the team Ministry at the Rosehill, Memorial and Lanse Noire congregations; the Rev. Adrian Lewis as Associate Pastor in the team Ministry at the Rosehill, Memorial and Lanse Noire congregations; Pastor Liselle Roberts as Minister of Christian Education and Associate Pastor in the team Ministry at Rosehill, Memorial and Lanse Noire congregations. In addition, the Rev. Selvin McMilan was installed as Pastor of the Chaguanas congregation. This service was held at the Rosehill congregation.

In Tobago, the Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts installed Pastor Cherice Job-Lewis as Pastor of the Buccoo and Black Rock congregations and Pastor Nevin Lewis, as Pastor of the Montgomery congregations. This service was held at the Montgomery congregation.

In Antigua, the Rev. Nigel Daniel installed the Rev. Junior Sean Roberts as Associate Pastor of the Spring Gardens congregation. This service was held at the Spring Gardens congregation.

## Flags! Flags! Flags!

All Synodals are kindly asked to remember to bring along a small national flag of the Conference you are representing. These flags will be used at the opening service of synod especially when Conferences are introduced. This service will be televised live on ZIZ Television.



The Eastern West Indies Province offers its congratulation to our three Theological Students who recently graduated from the United Theological College of the West Indies.

Sister Liselle Roberts received the following awards:

- An award for High Academic Attainment
- Student's Association award for the Student of the year.

Sister Cherice Job-Lewis received an award for High Academic Attainment

Brother Nevin T. Lewis received the following awards:

- An award for Academic Excellence
- An award for Leadership
- An award in Ethics and Urban Ministry
- An award for excellence in Contemporary Theology
- An award for excellence in Church and Development

In addition, Bro. Nevin Lewis was Co-Valedictorian at the graduation exercise.

## Consecration

Brothers Vankys Isaac and Winston Jones will be consecrated as Presbyters by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis on Thursday July 16, 2009 at the 29th Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province to be held in St. Kitts. The Service will be held at the Bethesda Moravian Church in Cayon Village at 7:00 p.m.

Let us remember them in our prayers.



## Birthday Greetings for the month of July is extended to:

Sis. Ida Brown	3
Bro. Winston Chase	8
Bro. Neilson Waithe	10
Bro. Ralph Prince	11
Bro. Colbourne Walters	14
Sis. Francis John	15
Bro. Kirk Barker	21
Bro. Dion Christopher	23
Sis. Earlene Simmons	25
Bro. Andrew Roberts	28
Bro. Rudolph Roberts	28
Sis. Althea Pearline Jarvis	29



## Anniversary Greetings for the month of July is extended to:

Bro. Colin and Sis. Anique Matthew	4
Bro. Nigel and Sis. Belinda Daniel	6
Bro. Neilson & Sis. Vera Waithe	7
Bro. Willard & Sis. Lynda Prout	14
Bro. Jeremy & Sis. Moyia Francis	19
Bro. Devon & Sis Stacey Mannix	21
Bro. Andrew & Sis. Geraldine Roberts	22
Bro. Mikie & Sis. Winelle Roberts	24
Bro. Rowan & Sis. Earlene Simmons	24
Bro. Walton & Sis. Angela Frederick	26
Bro. Sean & Sis. Paula Roberts	30