

# 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



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
**Chairman of PEC**

### I am Moravian...

“What kind of church is the Moravian Church? I have never heard of it.”

I am sure that like me, you have been asked this question many times. I am also sure that, like me, you would have struggled to answer this question clearly and precisely. Even though there have been some publications on Moravianism, there has not been any specific document/curriculum to comprehensively address this question until quite recently with the publication of *Our Moravian Treasurers*.

The objective of this article is to educate and empower us to share our Moravian identity.

Knowing who are as Moravians is fundamental to us being able to embody the distinctiveness of the Moravian Church among other churches and in the world.

This legacy must be passed along as it represents the cloth from which we are cut and how we are to live our faith. In this first article I will look at three facets of the Moravian identity, rooted in the teachings of John Hus – the central place of the Bible, the relevance of the gospel, and the power of the Spirit of God.

The spiritual forebear of the Moravian Church was John Hus (Jan Hus). He was a Priest in the Roman Church of the day. He was devoted to his calling and to his God. As Priest, he saw many excesses that ran counter to the requirements of the Bible which is our rule of faith. He was not quiet about his convictions and called the church back to the teaching of the Bible. The church was very powerful and would not allow a lowly Priest from Prague to disrupted its carefully curated system. Hus was targeted and eventually burnt at the stake on July 6, 1415. He had opportunities to backtrack on words spoken during sermons, on ideas written in his books, and on doctrines that he believed. Each opportunity to contradict the Bible and the ways of God was rejected. Hus died because he had a high view of Scripture.

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January, 2023

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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

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### *I am Moravian... cont'd from page 1*

The central place of the Bible is one of the beliefs of Hus and his. As those whose beliefs are based on Hus' teachings, Moravians believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. Inerrant does not mean that there are no dictational or production errors. The inerrancy of the Bible means that the message of the Bible is true and that we can live by it. The Bible was not sent verbatim from heaven. The mind and ways of God were spoken through human agents who in turn wrote. Once fallible, human agents were involved in the production of the Bible, there would be some error. Notwithstanding, we believe that the message of God to humanity remains unaltered. This view of Scripture allows us to believe the "Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the only source of our life and salvation; and this Scripture is the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum and therefore shapes our lives" (Moravian Church Unity Office, 2019, p. 71).

Even with a high view of scripture, there is the understanding that context affects how some people read and interpret the Bible. "The interpretation of Scripture should be guided by heart and mind, piety and rationality, doing and thinking" (Moravian Church Unity Office, 2019, p. 73). Our Daily Text is a natural outgrowth of the central place of Scripture. Reading Scripture daily exposes the believer to the word which can change hearts and lives. Rather than develop theological statements to govern the church and the life of faith, the Moravian Church relies on the Scripture to give direction on how the church best represents the kingdom of God on the earth and how we live out our commitment to Jesus.

The identity of the Moravian Church is further fleshed out in the application of the gospel to daily life. In John Hus' time when many could not read the Bible, Hus's ministry made the Bible relevant. He helped people to understand that the Bible spoke to them. Hus established himself as a Priest who empathized with the oppressed. The political and social realities were somewhat hierarchical. The masses in Prague were unhappy with the oppression from the authorities of the time. They felt their rights abused and felt neglected by the political and religious systems. Hus's messages championed their cause based in the truth of Scripture. He wrote in the vernacular the language

of the people, so that the laity could understand and respond. He was seen as one of the people. In a time when clergy were part of the upper class, this was revolutionary.

This was also the posture of the missionaries who came to the Caribbean in the earliest part of Moravian missions. The missionaries attempted to identify with those who were enslaved or relegated to the lower echelons of society. There was an understanding of being among the people so that the needs of the people could be better understood and addressed. Admittedly, it was not perfect. However, this was the strategy employed by God when Jesus was incarnated. Jesus came as a baby and grew up in the culture. He was as much a Jew as any other Jew and "was in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus spoke the language of the people and therefore started a revolution that changed the hearts of people to follow the true and living God. Ministry must be incarnational and that is at the heart of the Moravian Church.

Another distinctive of the Moravian Church is our openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Jan Hus said, 'I preached the sacred Scriptures—not I, but principally the Holy Spirit.' The renewed Moravian Church under the leadership of Zinzendorf was solidly based on the Holy Spirit. We have rehearsed the events of August 13, 1727 continuously so it is very familiar to most. The Spirit of God visited our spiritual forebears and reshaped the trajectory of the church. Those who were once at odds were now at peace. Rather than focus on personal agendas, the kingdom agenda was the singular focus. The Holy Spirit invaded their space, reshaped their hearts and passion, and made room for us in this time and season. Five years later, missionaries were in St. Thomas, then Danish West Indies.

The work of the Holy Spirit sometimes is a point of contention because the movement of the Spirit of God is usually dynamic. At the same time, not all dynamic movements are energized by the Holy Spirit. Having to discern what is and is not authentic, creates uncertainty and skepticism among many. It is important that we understand that the movement of the Holy Spirit is vital to the life of the church and do what is required to ensure we are consistently open to the working of the Holy Spirit.

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## *I am Moravian... cont'd from page 2*

The foregoing distinctives have shaped this church over the years. Over time, their influence has been challenged by personal preferences and cultural norms. As we consider our identity as Moravians, we must look back at the experiences that God used to craft this Christian community so that we can continue on that trajectory of the call of God on this church. For sure, there are new revelations and new paths that the Spirit opens for the church. New paths do not erase the effects of the formative experiences. They should be seen as pillars from which we launch to serve to present age.

Our identity as Moravians is formed by the central place of the Bible, by the application of the gospel to daily life, and openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We will explore other formative distinctives of the Moravian Church in next month's article.



## **Appointment of Superintendent**

The Provincial Board announces the appointment of Rev. Nigel Daniel as the Superintendent of the Moravian Church, Tobago Conference, effecting January 1, 2023. Congratulations to Bro. Daniel on his appointment.

Let us pray for Bro. Daniel and family as he continues to serve in this office. May the Spirit of God instruct him and teach him as he leads the people of God and witnesses to the enabling power of God.



## **New Year Greetings From the Chairman of PEC**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.

On behalf of the Provincial Elders Conference (the PEC) I greet you warmly and expectantly at the beginning of 2023. It does not seem that it was so long ago that I shared a similar message at the beginning of 2022. However, here we begin another journey of 365 days not know what lies ahead but only that "God is all sufficient for the coming year."

Long before that hymn, the prophet Isaiah, speaking as the oracle of God in chapter 54: 10 said, "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

As we come to 2023, let us lean hard on God's unfailing love and live into the covenant of peace. We will need God's love and peace to enable us to conquer the challenges that face out Province. Coming out of the 33rd Provincial Synod, we heard of declining membership, declining finances, uncertainties with pension fund and staff shortages. That reality must be seen in light of the other reality that our God can do immeasurably more than we can possibly ask or think. These challenges must also be seen in light of your sterling commitment to God in Jesus Christ. We must believe that God has gone before us to make a way where there seems to be no way.

In 2023, we must position ourselves to draw from the resources of heaven. Our Provincial Theme for 2023 forces us to dig deep and draw from the fountain head. The theme for 2023 is SHIFT: Reclaiming our Identity, Renewing our Purpose and Re-igniting our Passion. In every way, God is bidding to be more intentional about our commitment and witness.

While we explore the Provincial Theme, we will also follow through on the divine command to be disciples while also making disciples. Now more than ever we need to be a church that meets our neighbours where they are and live the way of Jesus before them.

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In 2023, we must do big things, like fix the pension scheme so that none of our pastors retire being uncertain of pension payments. We must also look for alternate ways to support the ministry so we can help more people. We have done big things before and through the enabled grace and provision of God, we will do them again.

The Provincial Board looks forward with hope believing that God will do amazing things in 2023. This is not blind hope; it is Christian hope in the God of love and compassion, the God of the covenant. Let us step out in faith and leave the rest to God. As we move into this new year, let us commit to working together as one body, remembering that Romans 12:5 says that we are members of one another. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us that a threefold cord is not quickly broken. We will do big things as we work together.

Members of the Provincial family, we were in this together. Let us go boldly trusting our God to make room for us as we Reclaim our identity in God, Renew our Purpose as a church, Re-ignite our Passion for the things of God.

A Joyous and Productive New Year to All.



### Quote of the Day

The best preparation  
for good work tomorrow  
is to do good work today.

Elbert Hubbard

## The Provincial Theme for 2023

The Provincial Theme for 2023 is: SHIFT: Reclaiming our Identity, Renewing our Purpose, and Re-igniting our Passion.

The Provincial Board has discerned that God is calling us to continue with the theme of S.H.I.F.T. for the coming triennium/inter-synodal period. The added pillars identified for this period enable us to dig into who we are as Christians and Moravians. The Book of Order 2020 along with the book Moravian Treasurers are valuable resources in making the S.H.I.F.T. real and personal. This also fits into the discipleship thrust in the Province.

For Lent 2023, all staff are called to use the three pillars of the Provincial Theme for the six Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday. These themes can then be explored further in Bible study to add more flesh to the bones.

Reclaiming our identity, renewing our purpose, and re-igniting our passion. Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others.

The hope is that at the end of 2023 our members will have:

- a) a greater understanding of their faith
- b) a better understanding of the biblical foundations of their faith
- c) be able to better articulate their personal faith
- d) be intentional about being the church
- e) be able to share that faith with others.

We will continue to work of the broad framework to guide this theme. In the meantime, all members of staff are asked to begin thinking through how we might get some of this ministry done in 2023 and beyond.

The Board looks forward to 2023 believing that there are great things up ahead as we go out into our communities to pastorally care for people and share the love of Jesus. Staff will need to work together so that the whole body benefits from all the gifts.

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*The Provincial Theme for 2023 continued from page*

**Please see the calendar of activities for 2023**

## **JANUARY**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

## **FEBRUARY**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

1-5 PEC and Superintendents Conference at Cashew Hill

LENT – February 26 – April 9 – Preaching series focusing on Provincial Theme and Discipleship

Good Friday Offering

## **MARCH**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

Unity Sunday Offering

Tech Training

24 Staff Development session – The Covid effect in pastoral ministry (Rev. Neilson Waithe)

26 – Theological Education Offering

## **APRIL**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

2 – Palm Sunday

9 – Easter Sunday

## **MAY**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

7 – Moravian Music Sunday

24-28 – PEC meeting Barbados

## **JUNE**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

29 – Staff Development

## **JULY**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

## **AUGUST**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

16-20 – PEC meeting Trinidad

24– Staff Development

## **SEPTEMBER**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

14-16 – Ministers Covenant Day

Widows' Offering

## **OCTOBER**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

18-22 – PEC meeting St. Kitts

## **NOVEMBER**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

30 – Staff Development

## **DECEMBER**

1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13).

Fraternally,

Reverend Algernon Lewis

Chairman of PEC



## **Church Humour**







### Birthday Celebrants January 15—31

Sis. Judy Winspeare-Philip 23  
Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith 29



### Birthday Celebrants February 01– 15

Sis. Adelyn Mgonela 03  
Bro. Cortroy Jarvis 07



### Ordination Anniversaries January 01– 31 & Feb 1-15



Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts January 10, 1995  
Bro. Daniel Mark January 13, 2019  
Sis. Elva Richards-Goodwin January 15, 2017  
Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd January 19, 2007  
Bro. Kirk Barker January 21, 2007  
Bro. Delroy Burley January 22, 2017  
Sis. Belinda Manswell-Daniel January 23, 2005  
Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis January 29, 1995

Sis. Onita Samuel-Warner February 04, 2014



### Condolences

- ♦ The Provincial family extends condolences to the following persons:
- ♦ Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris on the death of her Grandmother Sis Edwina “Stella” Baird. The service of thanksgiving took place on January 12, 2023 at Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Tobago.

Your prayers are requested for Sis. Joefield-Parris and family as they mourn the death of their family member.



- ♦ The family of the late Mrs. Andrea Charles-Browne who died on December 25, 2022. Sis. Charles-Browne served on the Provincial Board from 1996-2001 and was a member of the Ebenezer (Estridge) Moravian Church in St. Kitts and the Battle Hill Community Moravian Church in Union, New Jersey, USA.

The funeral service for Sis. Andrea Charles-Browne took place on Friday, January 13, 2023 at Ebenezer Estridge Moravian Church in St. Kitts.

Please remember in prayer, Sis. Andrea’s husband Dave and their children Daveda, Andrae, Phoenetia, Ezer, and Angelina.



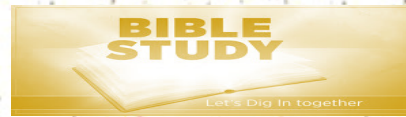
- ♦ The Rev. Liselle Roberts on the death of her father Mr. Fulton Roberts of Tobago. Mr. Roberts died on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Please pray for Sis. Liselle Roberts and family in their time of grief and loss.





ALL the words listed below are in this “**Stronger Together**” 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**.



Apostles,	Firstchurch,	Prayer,
Body of Christ,	God's plan,	Sacrifice,
Common union,	Habit,	Same spirit,
Community,	Heavy books,	Shareholder,
Cover,	Important,	Shortcomings,
Don't neglect,	Lifestyle,	Stir up,
Easier,	Love others,	Time,
Encourage,	Many membered	Withstand
Faith,	Oneness,	
Fellowship,	Pillar,	

- Which animals in the Bible speak directly to a human?
  - spider and camel
  - A snake and donkey
  - A horse, snake, and goat
  - Animals can't speak, so..
- Who does the Bible say were on the earth, “when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them”?
  - The Priesthood of Melchizedek
  - The Golden Ones
  - The Nephilim
  - Stormtroopers
- Around midnight, when Paul and Silas were in jail praying and singing hymns to God, and the rest of the prisoners were listening to them, what happened?
  - Fire consumed the jail door
  - A violent earthquake
  - Thunder from heaven
  - The prisoners said, “Hey, will you please keep it down?”
- What two trees does the Bible mention were in the middle of the Garden of Eden?
  - The tree of love and the wishing tree
  - The tree of light and the tree of dark
  - The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
  - A partridge and a pear tree
- Which book in the Bible contains the story of the Witch of Endor?
  - Ruth
  - 1 Samuel
  - Revelation
  - Solomon and the Sorcerer's stone
- Genesis 6:3 says “Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be \_\_\_\_\_.” How many?
  - Seventy years
  - Five hundred years
  - Hundred and twenty years
  - Not long
- Who is the first person the Bible says God caused them to “fall into a deep sleep”?
  - Adam
  - Noah
  - Abram
  - Rip Van Winkle
- Which book in the Bible does the summoned spirit of a dead human speak to a living person?
  - Esther
  - Philemon
  - 1 Samuel
  - The Book of Spirits
- In which book in the Bible does a king decree the animals not eat food or drink water and for them to be covered with sackcloth?
  - Leviticus
  - Jonah
  - Judges
  - The Book of Poor Farming For a Kingdom
- How many stones for his sling did David bring with him when he went out to fight Goliath?
  - 1
  - 5
  - 3
  - He filled his pockets with as many stones as he could

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



# 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.

*Good Works*

*Mystery Answer*

- Bible Trivia Answers*
1. Genesis 3:1(CEV), Numbers 22:28(NIV)
  2. Genesis 6:4 (NIV)
  3. Acts 16:26(NIV)
  4. Genesis 2:9(NIV)
  5. Samuel 28:3-7(NIV)
  6. Genesis 6:3(NIV)
  7. Genesis 2: 20-22(NIV)
  8. 1 Samuel 28: 15(NIV)
  9. Jonah 3:6-8(NIV)
  10. 1 Samuel 17:40(NIV)