



August 27, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Moravian Congregations in the Northern and Southern Provinces:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Creator; Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord, and Chief Elder; and the Holy Spirit who sustains and blesses us. Greetings from the 20th Inter-Provincial Bishops' Conference at Mt. Morris, Wisconsin where bishops residing in the Northern and Southern Provinces have been meeting for study, prayer, and discussions of issues facing our church and clergy.

Pastoral letters from bishops after previous conferences have identified the challenges which were being faced by our Moravian Church and other denominations throughout our nations. We all see the polarization which divides us: competing economic systems, treatment of immigrants, racism, and Christian nationalism. We wonder what the future will bring.

We lament that couples, families, congregations and communities have found it almost impossible to talk about this situation without it becoming volatile and divisive. We further lament any attacks by national leaders on the sovereignty and dignity of other nations, causing alienation, deeper resentments and fear, and wider divisions among all people in our world.

We ask, "What can I do?" or "What can the church do?" Perhaps what we should be asking is "What does God want us to do?" We begin with prayer, asking God for guidance, courage, and wisdom to help us move forward toward

greater communication and understanding. Perhaps the next step is for the Church to be an example by initiating shared mission and dialogue between people with divergent viewpoints. Most of our congregations have individuals on both sides of these and other issues, yet they break bread together. What if we would invite people with different political perspectives to gather for a time of mission and dialogue? The time of mission unites us in the ministry to which Christ has called us; and the shared dialogue is a time to listen and learn from one another; and to be held in light of the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23 - “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Each congregation is unique, and how this process would occur in each church will be different. As bishops we are available and willing to assist you in this ministry of mutual service and understanding. Please let us know how we can be of help. We encourage and challenge the Joint Board or Unified Board and the pastor(s) of each of our Moravian Congregations to consider how our members might become more understanding of each other; and the church might serve as an example for our communities.

“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Love”

Our Lamb Has Conquered, Let us Follow Him!

Blessings and Peace,

Bishops of the Northern and Southern Province

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