

Minutes of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee

Chicago, Illinois
June 20-22, 2006

Members present: Otto Dreydoppel, Patty Garner, Bob Hunter, Carlyle Samson, Michael Trice

Members absent: Judy Garber, Ron Rinn

Staff and visitors attending: Adam Bost, Ruben Duran, Craig Settlage, Will Sibert

Gathering and Celebration

Members of the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee who arrived in a timely manner met in caucus and for discussion at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chicago O'Hare, at 8:00 PM CT on Tuesday, June 20, 2006.

Members and friends of the Committee joined the community for worship in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center, 8765 Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois, at 8:30 AM CT on Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

The Committee convened in **business session** at 9:30 AM in the Human Resources Training Room on the 6th Floor of the Lutheran Center. Michael Trice moderated the meeting. In the absence of our regular secretary Ron Rinn, Otto Dreydoppel was appointed recorder.

Bishop Kingsley Lewis led in **opening devotions.**

Minutes of the December 1-2, 2005 meeting in Winston-Salem were reviewed and approved.

Participants engaged in a round of **“catching up”** and personal sharing.

Mini-Reports from the December Meeting

1. Alaska and the U. S. Virgin Islands fall within the geography of the ELCA but are separate provinces of the Moravian Unity. A ruling from the Secretary of the ELCA suggests that the **Alaska and Eastern West Indies Provinces** can be incorporated into the Lutheran-Moravian relationship of full communion simply by adopting the “Following Our Shepherd” resolutions. Otto Dreydoppel has been in e-mail correspondence with Peter Green and William Nicholson of the Alaska Moravian Church. The hope and expectation is that they will do so at their next provincial synod in January 2007. Kingsley Lewis will bring the resolution to the EWI synod meeting in August 2006.

2. Otto Dreydoppel has set up a “**Blackboard**” site for the Coordinating Committee on the Moravian Theological Seminary computer system. Later in the meeting Otto will do a tutorial on using Blackboard.
3. The Committee met in a telephone **conference call** on April 6. Regular conference calls might allow us to allocate resources better and meet face-to-face on a different schedule than the one we’ve maintained thus far.
4. The ELCA Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations sponsors an annual **Jan Term course** on “The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World.” Two spaces have been reserved for Moravian students in January 2007. The PECs (Bob Hunter) and the Board of World Mission (Will Sibert) will designate those students and provide financial aid. Otto Dreydoppel can arrange for the students to receive academic credit through Moravian Theological Seminary if it is desired.

Meeting the Needs of Small Churches

Ruben Duran, the ELCA director for development of new congregations, met with the Committee and presented a Power Point on “Leadership for Transforming Congregations.” He also led a discussion on the practice of “coaching” in Christian ministry. Michael Trice summarized the concept: “A mentor tries to impart wisdom to the protege. A coach gets the best out of the player.”

The Committee took a lunch break at 12:00 noon.

Ministries Between Moravians and Lutherans

Over lunch, Craig Settlage, the ELCA director for rostered and authorized ministry, talked to the Committee about ways and means for providing pastoral service in congregations too small to support a full-time ordained pastor. The ELCA has a program to train and equip “Synodically Authorized Ministers,” who are lay pastors. The Moravian Church finds itself in similar situations in many places, and there are possibilities for collaboration.

Craig also spoke about various health and wellness programs supported by the ELCA. One is an initiative to encourage Lutherans to walk more for the sake of health and well-being: “Here I Step.”

Shared Ministry in Alaska

While the Committee was still at the lunch table, we were joined by Michael Keyes, bishop-elect of the Alaska Synod of the ELCA.

Alaska Moravians are located primarily in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, while Alaska

Lutherans are found mostly on the Seward Peninsula. Thus, except for Anchorage and Dillingham, Moravians and Lutherans are on different ground. There also is an ethnic and linguistic divide. Moravians are Yup'ik. Lutherans are Inupiaq. Nonetheless, Moravians and Lutherans in Alaska face similar issues: teen suicide, alcoholism, threats to the subsistence lifestyle, global culture impinging on traditional culture, climate and land change. Spring comes a week earlier each year, the permafrost is melting, and polar bears drown because they can't find the ice floes.

Bishop Keyes has proposed a "Rainbow" program which would create a "cadre" of high school graduates from Inuit villages attending Pacific Lutheran University together. This is important because people from Native villages in Alaska face severe culture shock when they go "Outside." Having a group who share the same or similar culture might ease the sense of dislocation. It was suggested that Moravian young people might also participate.

It is the hope and recommendation of the LMCC that representative(s) of the Alaska Synod of the ELCA and the Alaska Province of the Moravian Church might participate in the Committee's deliberations. Even more important will be for Moravians and Lutherans to meet and collaborate in Alaska. "If we don't get together up there," said Bishop Keyes, "then it doesn't matter what happens down here."

Sustaining Our Shepherds

At 2:00 PM the Committee gathered back around the conference table. Ron Rinn joined the meeting by telephone and reported on the "Sustaining Our Shepherds" (SOS) pilot program led by Patty Garner in Winston-Salem. This is a lectionary-based clergy support group, which asks formational questions. It began with a retreat and met for nine weeks starting in mid-February. The first group was made up of five pastors, among them Lutherans, Moravians, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. The group is now in hiatus for the summer, but the members have covenanted to keep meeting. The hope for the next year(s) is to continue the program and to add groups. A grant writer is being sought to find scholarship money. Harvey Huntley, with whom Ron had planned to work, may no longer be available. Ron will try to "get up with him" (aka, make a contact with him) and then report back to the Committee. Thrivent might be a good funding source. Kathy Hunt is the person to start with there.

Next Meetings

The Moses Lectures in Moravian Studies will be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on Monday morning, October 9, 2006. The speaker is Dr. Alice Caldwell, a Lutheran cantor, who will address the theme "Moravian Music on a Mission." Moravian-Episcopal Dialogue will meet in Winston-Salem October 9-11, 2006. It was agreed that the LMCC will likewise meet in those same days: arrive in Winston-Salem on Sunday, attend the Moses lectures Monday morning, meet jointly with MED on Monday afternoon, have worship with MED on Monday evening, and then meet separately all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning, adjourning at 2:00 PM.

The LMCC will meet by teleconference in early March 2007 and come back to Chicago in June 2007. A likely schedule will be to begin with supper at 6:00 PM on Monday, June 25 and work through Tuesday, June 27, at 2:00 PM.

The Committee rose for a break from 3:10 PM to 3:35 PM.

Mini-Reports from December Meeting (continued)

- § **Health and Wellness** ELCA program initiative: Craig Settlage will contact Tammy Divine.
- § Judith Garber will be asked to address **social justice concerns** at the next meeting.
- § Raising awareness and **inviting each other**:
- § Continuing Education events can and will be posted in the “Announcements” page on Blackboard.
- § Bob Hunter has sent information about the Laurel Ridge mission camp to Judith Garber.
- § Michael Trice: “Bishop Hanson used to speak about the seminaries as the primary places for spiritual formation until he went to youth camp. That’s where young people are called and formed.”

New Business

Michael Trice has received a request for **scholarship aid** for Tuntufye Mwenisongole, a Moravian professor at Kisanji University in Mbeya, Tanzania, now pursuing doctoral studies in South Africa. This led to an extensive discussion of the politics and ethics of sending American dollars to support ministries and ministers in our affiliated bodies in other parts of the world.

The World Council of Churches will sponsor a **conference on “Cruelty and Reconciliation”** to be held in Geneva the first week in December 2006. Michael Trice asked for the names of Moravians who might make presentations there. Chris Wessels and Norman Bent were suggested.

Blackboard and Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Relations Website

Otto Dreydoppel demonstrated how to use the **Blackboard** program. This is a dedicated website for the LMCC maintained by Moravian Theological Seminary. We will post the documents of the Committee there and can work on them collaboratively. At future meetings we will call the documents up on Blackboard and project them on the screen. Blackboard will also allow us to communicate with each other in several ways, including group e-mail, discussion boards, and chat rooms.

Michael Trice conducted a virtual tour of the **Ecumenical & Inter-Relations website**. We spent some minutes viewing the PowerPoint program on “Ecumenism and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” which he and Melanie Gibbons produced.

The Committee stood in recess at 5:30 PM and adjourned to Gino's Restaurant for a delightful meal and congenial conversation.

The Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee reconvened at 8:30 AM CT on Thursday, June 22, 2006.

Patty Garner offered **opening devotions** based on the Moravian Daily Texts: “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22,23)

The schedule of **future meetings** was set and reviewed.

- § Conference Call: September 7, 2006 @ 3:00 PM ET
- § Meeting in coincidence with the Moravian-Episcopal Dialogue: October 9-11, 2006 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Moses Lectures on Monday morning, meeting with MED on Monday afternoon, LMCC sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, adjourn at 2:00 PM ET Wednesday
- § Conference Call: March 7, 2007 @ 3:00 PM ET
- § Meeting in Chicago: June 25, 2007 beginning 6:00 PM CT and ending at 2:00 PM CT on June 27
- § The Fall 2007 meeting will be in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Moravian-Lutheran AIDS Coordination in Africa

Will Sibert, executive director of the Inter-Provincial Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church (working on behalf of the Alaska, Northern, and Southern Provinces), led the Committee in a discussion of the possibilities for the ELCA and the MCA in working together on an outreach ministry to serve HIV/AIDS patients in Tanzania and South Africa, areas where the Lutheran Church is already active. The Southern Province and the Northern Province synods have each allotted \$5000 for this ministry. Patty Garner (chair), Kingsley Lewis, Ron Rinn, and Will Sibert will form a task force to work on this project. The Moravian Board of World Mission has an AIDS project, coordinated by Judy Harke, which can provide assistance.

The Committee took a break for refreshment 10:25 to 10:45 AM CT. Upon returning, members watched the second half of the **Power Point** on “Ecumenism and the ELCA.”

Adam Bost presented a **bulletin insert** which he has prepared on the Moravian-ELCA relationship.

Joe Young, ELCA director for community development services, met with the Committee to discuss the **sustainability programs** that he administers. He is also a key resource person in linking the EWI Province and the Caribbean Synod.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon. Carlyle Samson bade farewell to the group and left for the airport.

Otto Dreydoppel led closing devotions based on the prayers of intercession in the Moravian Daily Texts.

The Committee adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Otto Dreydoppel, Jr.
Acting Secretary