

Minutes of the Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee Meeting
Old Salem, North Carolina
October 9-11, 2006

Members Present: Bob Hunter, Will Sibert, Kingsley Lewis, Carlyle Samson, Ron Rinn, Patty Garner, Judith Graber, Michael Trice, Otto Dreydoppel (in and out)

Members Absent:

Visitors:

Session 1: October 9, 2006

Bob Hunter convened the meeting of the Lutheran/Moravian Coordinating Committee at 2:15 pm and welcomed Will Sibert (Board of World Missions, Moravian Northern Province). Ron provided the opening devotions.

The Agenda was reviewed for the three day meeting. Patty Garner is to join the meeting later today as will Judith Graber. Michael Trice will come tomorrow, October 10th. Otto Dreydoppel will be going “back and forth” between our committee meeting and the Moravian/Episcopal Dialogue meeting.

A general discussion took place over a number of topics:

- resources needed to continue conducting our charge/mission, both financial and human;
- new church mission starts and church planting; the Alaska tree suicide project;
- the AIDS in South Africa Project,
- “coaching” and mentoring for church development; and
- the cross ties we can make between ELCA and the two Moravian Provinces.

The committee joined the Moravian/Episcopal Dialogue team for Evening Prayer in the chapel of Home Moravian Church.

Session Two: October 10, 2006

Michael Trice welcomed the committee members and opened the meeting. Bob Hunter had the devotions from the Moravian Daily Texts.

We reviewed the Agenda for today and discussed the conference calls held on April 6th and September 7th, 2006. Minutes were very helpful from the conference call and while we miss the “face-to-face” gathering we still accomplished what we needed to do. It was also helpful to have Bishop Elect Michael Keyes of the Alaska Synod, ELCA with us at our last meeting in Chicago. Will Sibert has attempted to make contact with Bishop Keyes on various topics where we might work together in that part of the country. It was agreed that we should continue with the conference calls.

There was a correction to the Minutes: Kingsley Lewis was present at the meeting. For future meetings we will try to have Minutes recorded by an outside resource so all members can fully participate. The Minutes from both meetings were reviewed and corrected—only our “official” meetings Minutes will be published on our Web site.

The committee members gave some personal up-dates when Otto and Judith joined the meeting. After a short break the group reconvened and began discussion on our proposed projects.

Mission: Joint new church starts/revitalization

- President David Wickman of the Moravian Northern Province was in Chicago in June when he and Michael Trice discussed mission starts. Wickman asked “What are you doing to make a critical difference in the life of our churches?”
 - Kingsley Lewis earlier had suggested that the committee ask Ruben Duran to come to the Caribbean to discuss training mission developers. Michael Trice volunteered to contact Duran and coordinate a meeting with Lewis and Carlyle Samson.
 - Bob Hunter and David Guthrie of the Southern Province will attend an ELCA training session for interviewing mission developers.
 - A discussion ensued on how we go about identifying, training and equipping potential mission developers. One on-going strategy would involve:
 - 1) identifying sites
 - 2) identifying appropriate persons for training
 - 3) conduct training sessions for mission planting
- An additional question was raised as to how this committee might request an inquiry into a new mission start in the Advance, NC area which would be a cooperative “start.”
 - David Guthrie will contact ELCA NC Synod Assistant to the Bishop Phil Tonnesen who coordinates new mission starts.
 - Ron Rinn will contact both these men and see what can be done in this mission endeavor.
 - Will Sibert will draft a statement from our committee about this cooperative effort and send to the committee members.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch in the Salem College Refectory.

Social Justice: Judith Garber spoke on our efforts for social justice issues.

- The topic of addressing hunger issues was begun in the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly and was to move to the ELCA Regional level with cooperation with the Northern Province and the hope that some legislation in the various State and Federal bodies would come of this movement. At the ELCA Regional level (Region 8), it never got on track and nothing was accomplished. On the Lower Susquehanna Synod level some movement did occur and the hope is that when the Northern Province again has its Synod meeting they too would draft a Resolution to be sent to the elected officials to address issues of hunger.

- Moravians and Lutherans are members of Church World Service (CROP walk organizers) and we might use that avenue as well. Our focus perhaps could be move of advocacy on the congregational level rather than “hands on.”
- There is a “both/and” need here: raising issues on advocacy for the poor and hungry as public policy and also local fund raising and in-gathering of food.
 - Additional areas of raising awareness are the environment, peace and justice concerns as citizens by contacting elected representatives in government.
 - Another way to get issues before the public is website letter writing and the “passing along” of information to others for their support.
 - On the congregational level the question was asked, “What can our group do to partner with others in this endeavor?” Another issue for our committee is to become educated about what we are doing currently and might do together?
 - Areas of cooperative ministry are:
 - Christian Churches Together (with its 85 million Christians in North America) is a new avenue to channel our ministry efforts and Michael is on their Steering Committee.
 - Christians United in Christ
 - Lutheran Disaster Response
 - Moravian Disaster Response
 - Lutheran World Relief
 - Moravians and Lutherans are working together in Katrina relief in the Gulf coast area.
 - We need to have a unified mailing list to make each other aware of what is being doing or could be done. As a long term project we could share Social Statements and see how we compare.
- As a result of this discussion:
 - Michael will be in contact with the ELCA office in Washington and ask they send email list to Will Sibert for a “vetting” process to see where there is mutual support.
 - We should also bring to our next meeting the current Social Statements of each body so that we might review them together. Judy Garber will get these together for us.

The committee joined the MED group for conversation.

Session Three: October 11, 2006

Bob Hunter opened the meeting with readings from the Moravian Daily Texts.

HIV/AIDS: Kiarissa Joemath, a Salem College student, joined the committee meeting to tell us about opportunities in South Africa to work with HIV and AIDS.

- Kiarissa distributed a facts sheet from her mother in Genadenal, SA addressing the HIV and AIDS problem in SA which affects everyone on some level: social, economic and spiritual. A most helpful discussion ensued on how the Church might address these issues.

- This committee will put together an email to the various groups/individuals working on this issue in the Lutheran and Moravian churches. Otto will post this on the Blackboard as information and Patty will compose the email letter and send to the committee members.

Miscellaneous/Future charges of the Committee:

- Perhaps we should have someone from the Northern Province who does similar work as Bob Hunter or another contact person work with Judy in the areas we have discussed. President Wickman should be asked to identify such an individual. We might also make a suggestion that we need to address the same concerns raised by Wickman in the June meeting in Chicago. Otto will contact President Wickman and ask about the availability of Wanda Weidman in this capacity to come to the meeting in June.
- We would like to look at bringing in an emerging church leader from the Lutheran and Moravian bodies—perhaps a second year or senior in seminary with the hope that these persons would embrace this work in the future. Otto works with intra-seminary groups so he can help us identify these individuals; we ought to consider someone from the Alaska area.
- In the future we will include/invite all our Lutheran and Moravian Resource contacts in our conference calls, meetings and Minutes and other appropriate correspondence: Craig Settlage, Ruben Duran, Will Sibert, David Guthrie.
 - Bob Hunter and Michael Trice will write the EWI, Northern, Southern, and Alaska Provinces and the ELCA heads requesting staffing help on the committee and seek out young persons for this work.
- Patty Garner intends to rotate off the committee after the June, 2007 meeting but will remain connected to our work as a resource person for the SA AIDS project and SOS.
 - We also thank Patty for all she has contributed to our work, especially the development of the Sustaining Our Shepherds project/program for clergy nurture and faith enhancement and formation.
- We rejoice that the EWI adopted the Full Communion Agreement at their Synod meeting August 11-19, 2006 and thank Kingsley Lewis for his part in that action. He will send the committee members the Resolution which was adopted.
- At the EWI Synod some concern was raised and debated about the homosexual issues under discussion in the ELCA. The question was raised there about how a change in the ELCA policy might affect the Moravians in the EWI.
- We will hold until June a fuller discussion on shared ministry in Yukon-Kuskokwin Delta, Alaska and the desire to send students to Pacific Lutheran University.
 - Will reintroduced the discussion on teen suicide issues in Alaska and Labrador.
 - ELCA resource folks should be included in the conversation; Rebecca Larson and Rafael Malpica should be contacted for this; Will and Michael will do this for us.
 - This committee envisions the Board of World Mission of the Moravian church and the ELCA to be engaged in addressing this concern (Ethnic Specific Strategies ELCA and Alaska Ministry Initiatives Moravian church)

- This concern is two pronged: student scholarships in the Seward Peninsula, and Children and Youth in Alaska and Labrador (suicide issue). Will is going to stay with this project for the committee and be in contact with Michael.

Next meeting dates:

- March 7th Conference Call at 2:00 pm CST
- June 25th to 27th Chicago, 6:00 pm with 2:00 pm conclusion on the 27th
- October 9-11 Bethlehem PA.

Otto led us through a review of Blackboard and some of the photographs taken at the June meeting in Chicago. Go to: <http://Blackboard.Moravian.edu> . Log in user name SEMGUEST 64

Resolutions and encouragements:

1. It was moved by Judith Garber that the LMCC send a letter to the Eastern West Indies expressing our thanks to God for their action in voting to approve the Agreement, Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion between the ELCA and the Moravian Church in America. Motion was seconded by Patty Garner. *Approved*

2. Kingsley Lewis moved, “LMCC wishes to encourage the Moravian/Episcopal Dialogue Committee to continue the good work they have done to seek full communion and pledge our prayers and any insights which might be helpful to their process.” Motion seconded by Judy Garber. *Approved*

3. Carlyle Samson moved and Patty Garner seconded the motion that, “The LMCC wishes to express to the heads of the Northern, Southern, East West Indies Provinces of the Moravian Church and the ELCA the following request: that they identify young people to participate in our on-going mission and that there be renewed effort for partnership between the Northern, Southern Province and Alaska Province.” *Approved*

Summary Statement

As a committee we are shifting our primacy focus to specific projects having built relationships and developed strategies for mutual ministry and accountability.

The original Sustaining Our Shepherds group will continue meeting on a weekly basis beginning in December and a new pilot group will be started by Patty Garner. It is hoped that this new group will include clergy from different denominations as is the current pilot group. Also Patty Gartner has been asked to introduce SOS in the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. The East West Indies Province is the next place to be offered the opportunity for training and implementation of SOS in 2007. Identifying and training folks to start a new group is the next step. The ELCA should seek ways the good offices of Tammy Divine could introduce this into ELCA seminaries and First Call Theological Education. With the Lutheran and Episcopal Agreement the ELCA should find ways to tie into the Credo program of the Episcopal Church. Ron Rinn will seek to introduce SOS into the North Carolina Synod First Call Theological Education group he will be leading

for the next two years. Bob Hunter will be asked to attend the training for First Call Theological Education in the North Carolina Synod and Judith Garber will raise this possibility for Region 8.