

MORAVIAN-EPISCOPAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

MAY 18, 2016

In attendance: Steven Miller, Wayne Burkette, Margaret Rose, Jonah Kendall, Janel Rice, Maria Tjeltveit, Blair Couch

Pre-Meeting:

Margaret mentioned that she was in Portland, Oregon, with the United Methodists-Episcopal Theological Dialogue. This led to a discussion of United Methodist relationships with Moravians and Episcopalians, and how our denominations are related to the world-wide bodies of which we are a part.

Issue of whether the Rt. Rev. Blair Couch, who is replacing David Schattschneider, is coming on as co-chair or just as a member. Concerned that we need a Moravian co-chair. Who should follow up? Wayne volunteered that he will follow up with the Rev. Betsy Miller.

Meeting:

Blair led us in prayer.

Review of minutes. No corrections.

Agenda: Document of Orderly Exchange from Southern Province
 The Episcopal Church's new appointment process
 Moravian-Presbyterian Covenant/Full Communion Celebration, in Madison
 Refugees
 Moravian FAQs

Document of Orderly Exchange and Transfer from Southern Province

We affirmed this document.

Question of whether Northern Province knew that the SP had created this, and whether it had been discussed/voted on at the NP PEC meeting just ended. Janel will follow up with The Rev. Betsy Miller.

“On loan” term used in SP for someone serving temporarily. E.g. United Methodist pastor serving a year in a Moravian Church. If services is extend, then the clergy person would transfer into the Moravian Church. There is a Lutheran serving in a Moravian church in Emmaus, PA.

We thought that the Episcopal Church should have a similar document (not everything is covered in the Orderly Exchange document which focuses more on Transition Ministry process). Margaret will look into who that document should be sent to for approval, since SCEIR (Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations) no longer exists. Probably the Executive Committee.

We discussed the issue of clergy in exchange having **voice and vote** at synods (MC) and conventions (TEC).

Moravian Church: Decision of PEC of SP a while ago to give voice and vote to clergy “on loan”. Applied at the last synod to an intentional interim at Home Church (Lutheran) given both voice and vote at synod. They grant voice and vote related to institution rather than to the person (so the pastor “on loan” had voice and vote because he represented Home Church). Don’t know if we have that same in NP. Blair thinks may have had voice and vote in NP also. The Book of Order says “all pastors under appointment or call to full time service” get voice and vote. *[Wayne—could you clarify if that is the quote and whether it is from the Book of Order?]*

Episcopal Church: people have a voice and vote by being in an order (lay order or clergy order) but not just because of function. You must be “canonically resident” to vote. Clergy in exchange would be “licensed to officiate” (like Episcopal clergy from other dioceses) and would have voice but no vote. Some confusion currently, from diocese to diocese, about whether they should have voice and vote, but it needs to be looked at from a canonical perspective.

We noted the differences between the kinds of synods/conventions that our Churches have based on our polity.

In the Episcopal Church, each diocese has a yearly diocesan convention. General Convention is every 3 years.

In MC NP, Eastern/Western/Canadian district synods closest they come to diocesan conventions. NP synod includes representatives from all of those districts. Exchange clergy would have voice and vote at all those synods.

Blair is now chairing the Credentialing Committee for the Unity.

Steven concluded this discussion saying it is good to discuss how we do mutual decision-making and discernment. Learning from each other about learning God’s will.

The Episcopal Church’s new appointment process

Margaret said that General Convention last year asked us to have a much broader search for those serving on ecumenical committees, dialogues etc. Have gotten many applications, including ones for work with the Moravians. They will be approved at Executive Council. Very interesting and successful way to get word out. Have people to replace Josephine Hicks. Either one or two places not filled so may have one or two more members.

Wayne said that they have one position on SP that needs to be filled. A lay person to fill in for Liz Leonard if she cannot continue. David Guthrie is following up

Moravian/Presbyterian Full Communion celebration, in Madison, June 5, 2016

Margaret reported that we are having an Episcopal Church presence at the Moravian-Presbyterian Full Communion celebration. Bishop Steven Miller is going for the TEC. There was some discussion about the use of the term “Covenant” with “Full Communion” in the agreement, but it appears to be the same thing.

<http://www.moravian.org/news-a-media/new-and-events/moravian-church-presbyterian-church-u-s-a-to-celebrate-covenantfull-communion-agreement/>

Maria mentioned that she hoped that Moravian-Presbyterian agreement, since the Moravian Church’s has bishops, would act as a bridge for the Episcopalians and Presbyterians in their dialogue, where the issue of bishops is a challenge.

Refugees

Maria said that Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is considering expanding into the Lehigh Valley (Allentown, Bethlehem, PA area). Given the interest in refugee ministry expressed by the Northern Province at our September meeting, this might be a good opportunity to work together, if EMM does begin a ministry here.

Moravian FAQs by Janel Rice

Janel ran it by professors at Moravian Seminary. They thought it looked good. Could add more resources.

“Typical Order” of worship is descriptive but could be different in various congregational settings

Remove the bold type asking where to buy the Book of Worship Manual. Everything available through Interprovincial Board of Publications and Communications

Jonah will work on a companion document for TEC. Steven will help provide consultation for him.

It would be helpful if Moravian members would send some questions to help guide Jonah

We agreed that the target audience for the FAQs is clergy. (*Finding Our Delight* is for the general church.)

Blair said she has the have most questions about conducting an actual worship service because the Episcopal Church is so much more liturgical, especially around the Eucharist. She said it is daunting.

Maria said that all the music that Moravians have to sing is daunting to Episcopalians who don't read music. She was assured that you don't need to be able to sing to conduct Moravian worship.

Misc:

Wayne will be representing the Moravian Church at the consecration of a new bishop in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, on October 1.

Next meeting:

At our Sept. meeting we had agreed to meet October 11 to 12 to overlap with Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) /US and Canada (It is a 4 way meeting with US and Canadian Episcopalians and Lutherans). Have to check on availability of dates and funding.

Blair said it would be very helpful for the NP with the Canadian District (includes only Alberta)

Margaret will check out where the meeting is and whether it makes sense for us to meet this way.

If not, we will do a Doodle poll to see about a different meeting date. Meet in person when we need to do something.

N.B. The LECC found that meeting face to face every 18 months worked best with the denominational budgets.

N.B. This current report from the LECC indicates different meeting dates than what we had understood:

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/lutheran-episcopal-coordinating-committee-issues-report>

Steven closed the meeting with prayer.