



THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCE (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

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THE MORAVIAN CHURCH • Northern Province

To: Pastors of Moravian Congregations and Ministries of the Northern Province

Re: **Unity Prayer Watch – December 1-22, 2023**

"A never-ending prayer....I wish we would have thought of that!" An ecumenical colleague expressed those words to me, speaking in reference to our Unity Prayer Watch. It's easy for us as Moravians to take for granted this ancient practice of our faith. Joining together with our world-wide Moravian family, we are able to be in conversation with God not only every day of the year, but literally every hour and minute. It's humbling to think, that at any given moment, whether it be one of blessing or sorrow, someone from our faith family is in prayer for the world and all of us within it. It's actually a gift we give not only to the world, but an honor given to our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ.

As we continue in this sacred tradition, a list of prayer topics are included which cover the needs and celebrations of our Moravian provinces across the globe. We invite you also to pray for your own local and personal matters for which you wish to lay before our Savior.

As in the past, we have the privilege of praying for the world during the month of December. The enclosed calendar assigns a specific day to your congregation; many of you share the day with another worshipping community. Please feel free to find ways to invite your flock to pray – silently or out loud – alone or in groups – in person or virtually – so that the offering of prayers uttered by Moravians remains constant and faithful.

We share a day with our brothers and sisters in Peru, a developing province in the Moravian Unity currently under our support. December 22 will be a day they will have the opportunity to live out this wonderful act of faith in collaboration with us.

Thank you for carrying on this act of our faith, which joins us together as the worldwide Unity – a gift to us from God. Thank you for embracing our world, our Moravian Church, and all of creation within the blessings of "never-ending prayer."

Rev. David E. Bennett
President
Provincial Elders' Conference

October 4, 2023

Unity Prayer Watch - 2023

For the Worldwide Moravian Unity – its 27 Unity Provinces, 2 Unity Undertakings, 5 Mission Provinces, and 16 Mission Areas and these other Unity wide ministries we pray for:

- the Unity Committee on Theology;
- the Unity Mission and Development Board;
- the Unity Women's Desk and Unity Youth Desk;
- the 2 Unity Undertakings: the Unity Archives; and the work at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah, Palestine;
- the ongoing partnerships of the worldwide Unity, given the very differing cultures and circumstances;
- the Unity to remain faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission;
- the fellowship of believers within the Unity and with those who are not part of the Unity; and
- those serving the worldwide Unity.

For the Unity Board, pray for...

- the members of the Unity Executive Committee, and the Unity Board Administrator, Rev. Jørgen Bøytler.

Unity Provinces

For the Alaska province, pray for...

- the congregations, fellowships, outreach ministries and their pastors;
- the work of the outreach of the seminary in Bethel, Alaska;
- PEC President Clifford Jimmie;
- forgiveness and healing for the people affected by the division in the church;
- more ordained pastors.

For the America Northern province, pray for...

- the 85 congregations and 3 emerging ministries that they may be agents of change in their communities;
- the PEC president, David Bennett and the other members of the Provincial Elders' Conference: Melissa Johnson, Bruce Nelson, David Jones, Susan Dreydoppel, Keith Gohdes, Ruth Ricketts and Ralph Wanamaker, Jr. , as they serve the church through leadership and administration;
- the ministry of our agencies: the Archives, the Provincial Women's Board;
- our Interprovincial Agencies: the Board of World Mission, Moravian Theological Seminary, the Interprovincial Board of Communication, the Music Foundation, the Moravian Ministries Foundation;
- our Camp and Conference Centers – VanEs, Mt Morris, Camp Hope, and the mid-states camping program;
- our senior living facilities: Marquardt Village, Moravian Manor, MorningStar Senior Living, Moravian Care Ministries;
- the many commissions and task forces of the province; and
- renewed passion and commitment to the gospel through Healthier Congregations initiatives.

For the America Southern Province, pray for...

- the 54 congregations and 9 Fellowships that form our Province;
- For the Provincial Elders' Conference: Neil Routh, President, Deborah Aboudara, Christy Clore, Dion Christopher, Keith Kapp, Riddick Weber, and Andi Williams
- The Commission on Ministry – Lane Sapp, Director
- The Commission on Congregational Development—Rebecca Craver, Director
- development of new and emerging ministries: The Table and The Rev. Fran Saylor, Estamos Unidos and The. Rev. Angelica Regalado-Cieza, The Dwelling and The Rev. Emily Norris
- plans for continuing an annual “Moravian Day of Service” which began in 2019;
- our focus on the Moravian Essentials: God creates, redeems and makes us holy; we respond in faith, love and hope;
- leadership development: candidates for ordination, pastors and board and ministry leaders;
- congregations facing financial challenges;
- openness and creativity as the province reviews its organization and considers new definitions and models of communities of faith (congregations & fellowships);

- faithfulness to God's invitation to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed with our neighbors and around the world;
- the Provincial Women's Board, Moravian Team for Cultural, Ethnic and Racial Reconciliation, and the Provincial Support Services Board;
- the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South; Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church; Laurel Ridge Moravian Camp and Conference Center;
- candidates for the ordained ministry to be called by the Holy Spirit into the service of the Church; and
- candidates for service as Church Educators to be called by the Holy Spirit into the service of the Church; and
- our partnership with Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry.

For the Costa Rica province, pray for...

- the ongoing work to energize youth ministries;
- the leadership inspired by a conference in Panama to bring together regular Bible studies with pastors and youth from around Latin America;
- more commitment, along with thanks for the brothers and sisters who do continue to carry on.

For the Czech province, pray for...

- the congregations, ministers, the provincial board and its chairperson, Bishop Petr Krasny;
- the Blahoslav Secondary School;
- continued reconciliation of the two groups of Moravians;
- the focus of congregations on the needs of the society around them and for the resources for their projects; and
- the Roma congregation named *Nevo Dživipen* and their congregants, the ongoing mission work in Poland;

For the Democratic Republic of Congo province pray for...

- the congregations, pastors and evangelists, as well as the teachers for the Theological faculty;
- the provincial board and its chairperson Bishop Moise Tshimanga; and
- safety and effective witness in situations of conflict arising in the region.

For the Eastern West Indies province, pray for...

- the congregations and fellowships scattered in ten islands under five different governments;
- the provincial board and its chairperson, Algernon Lewis;
- mission efforts in Tortola, Grenada and Haiti;
- the opportunity for closer ties between this province and the North American Provinces; and
- the continued work of rebuilding following hurricane damage

For the European Continental province, pray for...

- the congregations, fellowships and outstations in 8 different countries that form the province;
- the provincial board and its chairperson, Rev. Raimund Hertzsch;
- the many refugees who have been coming into Europe and helped by the church, speaking a word of "encouragement against hatred";
- the extension of the work in the Baltic countries, in particular Estonia;
- the continued influence of the Losungen (Daily Texts) with a printing of more than 1 million copies;
- the ministries of the German Mission Board (HMH), ZZg of the Netherlands, Mission 21 in Switzerland, and the mission outreach in Stockholm and Latvia;
- the ministry of the Danish Mission Board and the mission staff in Christiansfeld; and
- continued mission outreach in Albania, Latvia, Cottbus, Germany and East Germany.

For the Great Britain and Ireland province, pray for...

- the congregations, the provincial board and its chairperson, Roberta Hoey;
- new vision and new expressions of church and God's blessing on our small churches as they work and witness in an aggressively secular civil society;
- the students preparing for pastoral service;
- the involvements of the British Mission Board in North India, Jamaica, Tanzania, and Nepal; and

- the two independent Moravian Schools, their students, staff and governors.

For the Guyana province pray for...

- growth in our province and congregations through greater commitment to God's teachings and to the church;
- the promise of the worldwide Moravian Unity to remain steadfast in the preaching and practice of the Word;
- those who are in need and underprivileged, and the wherewithal to provide for them and respond to their needs;
- persons/pastors ready and willing to share the Good News of God's Mercy and His love; and
- God's protection and provision in every circumstance, even when there seems to be no way.

For the Honduras province, pray for...

- the congregations, pastors, and lay pastors; the provincial board and its chairperson, Angel Yuperel;
- movement towards reconciliation between the Province and the Mission Province to continue;
- the mission outreach to the Garífuna, Belize and Tawahkas;
- the radio outreach program;
- the medical program and the Ahuas Clinic;
- theological education through the Bible Institute in Puerto Lempira;
- the Alas de Socorro aviation ministry to find a new direction; and
- strength and wisdom as they confront ongoing division within the church and the effects of drug-trafficking and violence in their country.

For the Jamaica province, pray for...

- the congregations, pastors, the provincial board and its chairperson, Phyllis Smith-Seymour;
- for healing of the province through recent turmoil;
- the camping and evangelistic programs;
- the opportunity for closer ties in mission with the North American Board of World Mission;
- the United Theological College of the West Indies, where Jamaican and EWI Moravian pastors are trained; and
- mission outreach in Haiti, in collaboration with the EWI Province.

For the Malawi province, pray for...

- the provincial board and chairman, Henry Mwakibinga;
- the furtherance of evangelism to reach out to more people;
- increased ability to receive and care for refugees from Burundi and DR Congo; and
- the furtherance of social and economic activities to the poor people of Malawi.

For the Nicaragua province, pray for...

- the many congregations, the Provincial Board and its chair, Evenor Manzanares;
- a resolution to the conflict dividing the church, and wisdom for leaders to find a lasting, peaceful, solution;
- the social development ministry of ADSIM, that it deals with the many challenges of the social ills it faces;
- the medical and public health programs being developed in Bilwaskarma;
- new outreach efforts in the interior region of Matagalpa; and
- resolution of political violence and the wide-reaching impact of this conflict.

For the South Africa province, pray ...

- for the government to end the corruption which is crippling their economy;
- for the executives of the provincial board for all of the challenges they are facing;
- to bless our church programs and projects;
- to thank God for our Unity and for the working spirit in our province; and
- to thank God for his intervention in the financial affairs of our province.

For the Suriname province, pray for...

- the congregations, the provincial board and its chairperson, Rev Noel Adonis;

- 70 primary and advanced elementary education schools, three homes for the elderly, five children's home, three boarding schools, and youth ministries;
- the evangelistic work in French Guyana, and in the Hinterland where there is a mission hospital; and
- the theological education program.

For the Tanzania Eastern province and Zanzibar mission area pray for...

- the congregations, its members along the coastal region and provincial chairperson, Saul Kajula;
- the lack of employment for youth;
- the growing mission efforts in Zanzibar; and
- the faithful witness of Moravians within a strong Muslim area.

For the Tanzania (Lake Tanganyika) province, pray for...

- the congregations, pastors and evangelists, and Chairman Charles Katale and other leaders in the church;
- the construction of the Kaliua Secondary School;
- upgrading the clinic building for the Ichemba dispensary; and
- the resources to deal with the many refugees, some of them Moravian, coming in from Burundi and The Congo.

For the Tanzania (Northern) province, pray for...

- the congregations and evangelical mission centers, the provincial board and chair, Isaac Siame;
- the MCNT synod and discernment in selection and then consecration of their first Bishop;
- proposed leadership training at all levels; and
- opportunities to move into remote areas to share the Gospel.

For the Tanzania (Rukwa) province, pray for...

- the church members to know their roles as members;
- salaries for church workers to be found and paid in a timely manner;
- education for more evangelists and pastors (women and men);
- running of the existing projects effectively for the benefit of the church; and
- thanks for unity among Christian members and leaders, the growth of the church, and members who know their roles to and for the church.

For the Tanzania (Southern) province, pray for...

- a resolution for the conflict between MCT –SP and Kyela;
- total unity and true unity for Christians in Tanzania;
- the work in South Sudan;
- the two Synods in 2018; and
- thankfulness for peace, improving economic status and the increasing number of pastors and Christians.

For the Tanzania (South-West) province, pray for...

- the congregations, outstations, pastors, the provincial board and its vice-chairperson, Br. Sichone;
- the potential development of a Mission Province in the Mbozi region;
- the teachers and students at TEKU University in Mbeya;
- the continued challenges of poverty and HIV/AIDS; and
- the threat of losing church property due to high land taxes.

For the Tanzania (Western) province, pray for...

- the congregations, outstations, pastors and evangelists, the provincial board and its chairperson, Rev. Emmanuel Mtunda
- the hospital and its staff in Sikonge, along with the dispensaries, including the one in Tabora;
- church-run schools of Bishop Kisanji, Lusangi and Ussoke;
- the significant poverty, especially in the rural areas, due to unemployment, bad weather, and inflation;
- supervision of mission areas in Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda; and
- mission among the Sukuma people and the Muslim.

For the Zambia province, pray for...

- the congregations, ordained ministers, pastors, evangelists, the provincial board and its chairperson, Chipson Mayembe;
- the development of capital projects to bring income into the church; and
- the goals to further spread the gospel within Zambia.

Mission Provinces

Mission Province of Burundi, pray for. . .

- theological training at all levels;
- scholarships for further studies for an oncologist to deal with cancer in women, and another to specialize as a clinical psychologist to deal with trauma healing;
- a vehicle for field upcountry supervision; and
- thanks that the general security situation has improved, and the growth of the church, both spiritually and in number.

Mission Province of Cuba, pray for...

- the national board and president Rev. Tania Sanchez;
- guidance for the leadership of the Church in Cuba to deal with difficult situations;
- different groups now meeting, with ordained ministers and lay pastors;
- the growing outreach of the Comenius Center;
- efforts for land and produce development to help their church communities; and

Mission Province of the Czech Republic, pray for...

- God's guidance for their PEC;
- for us to be humble so we can be His tool to touch our neighbors; and
- permission from the State Department of Education to permit the Blahoslav High School and the funds to purchase a building for the school.

Mission Province of Honduras, pray for...

- the congregations, pastors, provincial board and its chairperson, Morlin Perez;
- ongoing efforts toward reconciliation with the Honduras Province;
- the Bible Institute in Ahuas, its leadership and students, and the 3 students taking additional on-line theological training through a seminary in Costa Rica; and
- new mission outreach.

Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador, pray for...

- the congregations, the provincial board chair, Sarah Jensen, and all leaders of the province;
- opportunities for theological education and the preparation of new leaders and pastors; and
- the four established congregations in Happy Valley, Makkovik, Hopedale and Nain and several smaller groups of Moravians in Postville and St. John's, Newfoundland.

Mission Areas

1. Moravian Church in Belize, pray for...
 - work in communities with a growing membership; and
 - theological training for leaders in the church.
2. Moravian Church in Eastern Congo in Sud Kivu and Katanga (DR Congo), pray for...
 - congregations, ordained ministers and evangelists;
 - the Uvira Orphans Center;
 - the mission station for Pygmies; and
 - release from the wars they have experienced.
3. Moravian Church in French Guyana
4. Moravian work among the Garífuna people in Honduras, pray for...
 - the churches and pastors in this region.
5. Moravian Church in Haiti, pray for...

- continued support for pastors training at United Theological College in Jamaica; and
 - development of reconstruction plans for a national headquarters building.
 - Continued rebuilding efforts following an Earthquake and Hurricane
6. Moravian Church in Iringa (Tanzania South West)
 7. Moravian Church in Kenya, (Western Tanzania)
 8. Moravian Church in Kiwele (Western Tanzania)
 9. Moravian Church in Peru (America North), pray for...
 - its national board and president, Rev. Ana María Huamán Dávila;
 - growth in the house churches and resources to continue renting space;
 - further development of leadership and income-generating projects; and
 10. Moravian Church in Ruvuma-Njombe (Tanzania Southern)
 11. Moravian Church in Rwanda
 12. Moravian Church in Sierra Leone (America South), pray for...
 - the high school and the hope for finding qualified teachers;
 - new outreach to share the gospel in nearby villages;
 - a new computer and science lab for the school; and
 - the new national steering committee elected in 2020, and for discernment in writing the first draft of a book of order to further its development as a Mission Area
 13. Moravian Church in South Asia (British), pray for...
 - the school in Rajpur under the leadership of Rev. Thespall Kundan and new leadership with his retirement;
 - the ministry and school in Ladakh under Rev. Elijah Gergen and new leadership with his retirement;
 - the translation project in Ladakh; and
 - the ministry in Nepal under Revs. Shanti and Vani Pradhan.
 14. Moravian Church in Uganda
 15. Moravian Church in Zanzibar (Eastern Tanzania), pray for...
 - the church members and the primary school; and
 - the need for an administrative office and houses.

Prospective Mission Areas

1. Angola
2. Mozambique
3. South Sudan

Other Prayers

For your nation, pray for...

- the president of the United States, Joe Biden; the prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau; and all elected officials as they seek to govern, that they might lead with justice and concern for the poor and those without voice;
- courageous and faithful witness against racism, bigotry, and oppression;
- ecumenical relationships: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Episcopal Church, and the United Methodist Church with whom we are in full communion; the Covenant Agreement with the Presbyterian Church (USA) with whom we are discussing the orderly exchange of clergy; the ongoing dialogue with those churches of the Reformed Tradition; the CUIC (Churches Uniting in Christ) where the Moravian Church Northern Province is a full participant and in relationship with the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal Church U.S.A., International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church; our work with Christian Churches Together (CCT); Elizabeth Miller who serves as our volunteer ecumenical officer;
- increasing peace, mutual respect and harmony, particularly in areas experiencing protracted violence and fear;
- the issues of health care, violence, racial tensions, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and poverty (to name a few) that impact the people of our continent and our faithful response to people of great need, and
- the world in which we live and our commitment to be careful stewards of the land, water, and air.

For your province, pray for people:

- the members of District Executive Boards - Eastern: Melissa Johnson, Earl Goulbourne, Lauren Grady, Darrell Johnson, Tammy Lavoy, and Jackie Pasquinnelli, Bonnie Robertson & Naomi Solomon; Western: Bruce Nelson, Courtney Bauder, Nancy Chandler, Cindy Fahney, Amy Gohdes Luhman, Kerry Krauss, and Cheryl Lovlien; and Canadian: David Jones, Rick Beck, Bob Hawkesworth, James Lavoy, and Brandon Salzyzn.

- provincial and district staff members: Karen Buchholz, Brenda Cahill, Marie Coutts, Tammy Curcio, Sylvie Hauser, Johanna Heft, Sharon Hergenrother, Sue Koenig, Jeffrey Long, Jacquie Petko, Mark Santore, June Sterling, Andrea Stremich.
- staff of the Interprovincial Board of Communication: Mike Riess, Jill Bruckart, and Sue Kiefner; the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America: Chris Spaugh, Laura Watson, Kara Yates, and Vince Holbrook;
- the Moravian Music Foundation: Bruce Earnest, Christopher Ogburn, Erik J. Salzwedel, Johana Diaz & Jan Harke.
- the Board of World Mission as the vision for mission around the world is integrated with the vision of local mission within your community. Pray for the staff: Justin Rabbach, Angelica Regalado Cieza, Chris Giesler, Susan Adams, Sylvie Hauser, and Rex Knowlton;
- the Bishops residing in our province: C. Hopeton Clennon, M. Blair Couch, J. Christian Giesler, Paul A. Graf, Michael Johnson, Douglas H. Kleintop, Amy Gohdes Luhman and Kay Ward, as they pray for the work of the church and provide counsel for our pastors;
- the clergy of our province as they minister in settings as diverse as congregations, ecumenical agencies, prisons, and hospitals;
- candidates for the ordained ministry to continue to be called by the Holy Spirit into the service of the Church: Byrnes Craig, James Joniec, Jesmina Meade, Jodi Heim and for God to call additional souls to serve the church through ordained ministry;
- the retired clergy and their spouses; and
- the countless lay people who give of their time and talent on numerous boards, committees, and task forces.

For your province, pray for...

- the congregations and ministries of our province that we would be faithful to God's invitation to join God at work in our neighborhoods and around the world;
- passion for sharing the gospel in word and deed;
- increased health of our congregations through the seven characteristics: purpose, community, mission and service, spiritual formation, worship, leadership, and stewardship;
- our educational institutions: Moravian College, Moravian Theological Seminary, Moravian Academy, and Linden Hall;
- our retirement communities and all who serve through them;
- our conference and camping programs, including interprovincial ministry among young adults and youth;
- Moravian Open Door ministries in New York City, and C.A.R.D.; and
- other provincial institutions and the ministries they offer on our behalf.

For your congregation, pray for...

- discernment of God's leading for how your church participates in God's ongoing work;
- your joint board and program committees;
- your pastor(s);
- members and those involved with the life and witness of the congregation;
- those with special needs (such as the ill and the home-bound);
- ministries of worship, music, spiritual formation and nurture, outreach and evangelism, and social justice;
- organizations of the congregation;
- local ecumenical and community programs; and
- your neighbors near and far.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now"

Philippians 1:3-5