



# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

*(Built by Slaves – 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



*But my God shall supply all your need according  
to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:19 KJV*

"SEEK GOOD, NOT EVIL, THAT YOU  
MAY LIVE. THEN THE LORD GOD  
ALMIGHTY WILL BE WITH YOU,  
JUST AS YOU SAY HE IS. HATE EVIL,  
LOVE GOOD; MAINTAIN JUSTICE IN  
THE COURTS. PERHAPS THE LORD  
GOD ALMIGHTY WILL HAVE MERCY  
ON THE REMNANT OF JOSEPH."  
AMOS 5:14-15 NIV

Sunday, October 13, 2024

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

*Welcome: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. We extend a sincere welcome to all to worship today, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. We come rejoicing into his presence. Welcome.*

*Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris*

*(Manse: 246-546-0344)*

*Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince*

*Church Office/Pastor's Study: 246-425-4011*

*Email: [sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com)*

*Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164*

**WATCHWORD:** Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.  
*(Hebrews 4:14)*

**Provincial Theme 2024:**

*"SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion"*



## ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11, 12

Leader: Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Congregation: *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*

Opening Hymn: 467 – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 90:12 – 17

Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Offertory Hymn: 361 – “Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: “Thanks, Thanks, I Give You Thanks”

Greetings, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Song:

Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: Amos 5:6 – 7, 10 – 15

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17 – 31

Choir Anthem – “Above All”

Sermon – *Rev. David Ince*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn of Reflection: 356 – “You have all my future in your hands”

Benediction & Postlude



Visit our Website at <http://sharonmoravian.info>; Visit our Facebook Page and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. These are means by which we can connect to our brothers and sisters, and get the word out on what’s happening in the church. Like us; Follow us; Re-post us.



## Prelude

## Introit – Choir

### Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11, 12

**Leader:** Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

**Congregation:** *I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.*



## Opening Hymn: 467 –

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;

Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.



## Prayer & Lord's Prayer



### Responsive Reading: Psalm 90:12 – 17

12. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
13. Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.
14. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.
16. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.
17. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.



## Offering of Tithes, Gifts & Ourselves

**Offertory Sentence:** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Offertory Hymn: 361 –

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,  
However dark it be!  
Lead me by thine own hand,  
Choose out the path for me.

Smooth let be or rough,  
It will be still the best;  
Winding or straight, it leads  
Right onward to thy rest.

I dare not choose my lot,  
I would not, if I might;  
Choose thou for me, my God,  
So shall I walk aright.

The kingdom that I seek  
Is thine; so let the way  
That leads to it be thine,  
Else I must surely stray.

Take thou my cup and it  
With joy or sorrow fill,  
As best to thee may seem;  
Choose thou my good and ill.

Not mine, not mine the choice  
In things or great or small;  
Be thou my guide, my strength,  
My wisdom and my all.



### **Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**



### **Offertory Doxology:**

#### **Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks**

*Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks  
For all you've done  
I am so blessed, my soul is at rest  
O Lord, I give you thanks.*



### **Greetings, Celebrations & Notices**



## Adoration in Song:

### **Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place**

Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Omnipotent Father of Mercy and Grace  
Thou art welcome in this place

Lord in Thy presence there's healing divine  
No other power can save Lord, but Thine

Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Omnipotent Father of Mercy and Grace  
Thou art welcome in this place

Fill all the hungry and empty within  
Restore us, oh Father revive us again

Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place  
Omnipotent Father of Mercy and Grace  
Thou art welcome in this place

*Terry MacAlmon*

### **I Surrender All to You/I Give Away (Medley)**

I surrender all to you  
Everything I give to you  
Withholding nothing  
Withholding nothing (x2)

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me  
I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

Here I am  
Here I am  
Here I stand

Lord, my life is in your hands  
Lord, I'm longing to see  
Your desires revealed in me  
I give myself away

I give myself away  
So You can use me  
I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

Take my heart  
Take my life  
As a living sacrifice  
All my dreams all my plans  
Lord I place them in your hands

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me  
I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

My life is not my own, to you I belong  
I give myself, I give myself to you (X2)

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me  
I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

I surrender all to you  
Everything I give to you  
Withholding nothing  
Withholding nothing (x3)



### **Ministry of the Written Word:**

#### **First Scripture Reading: Amos 5: 6 – 7, 10 – 15**

6. Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.
7. Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,
10. They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.
11. Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.
12. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.
13. Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.
14. Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.
15. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.



#### **Second Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 17 – 31**

17. And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?
18. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.
19. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.



20. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.
21. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
22. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.
23. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
24. And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!
25. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
26. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?
27. And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.
28. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.
29. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,
30. But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.
31. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.



### Choir Anthem – “Above All”



Sermon – – *Rev. David Ince*



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Hymn of Reflection: 356 –

You have all my future in Your hands, in Your hands  
I bid you take over all my life, Lord.  
My dreams, aspirations, all my best Jesus Lord.  
My hopes, my fears, in Your Hands

*In your hands, Lord, I place today, tomorrow.  
In your hands, Lord I surrender all.  
In your hands, I commit my joys, my sorrows;  
In your hands, Lord, I surrender all.*

Keep walking beside me every night, every day  
And giving me courage for the fray, Lord.  
I need You to guide me every step of the way,  
Forsake me not, Lord I pray.

You place many duties in my hands, in my hands;  
And shaping my future is my task, Lord  
On You I depend, Lord, for the power; this I ask;  
That all make sense in Your hands.

So Lord I am trusting everything to Your hands,  
And then I keep praying for our land, Lord.  
To labour with others for the best, Jesus Lord,  
Our all I place in Your hands.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



## Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. We extend a sincere welcome to all to worship today, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. We come rejoicing into his presence. Welcome.*



*Today: Joseph Corbin & Keith Roberts*

*Advanced: Hilda Williams & Orrin Williams (15<sup>th</sup>), Donna Greenidge (16<sup>th</sup>), Kenrick Hinkson, Asha Jones & Justina Lowe (19<sup>th</sup>)*



### MORAVIAN BIRTHDAY SONG

With Thy presence, Lord, our Head and Saviour,  
Bless them all we humbly pray;  
Our dear heavenly Father's love and favour  
Be their comfort every day.  
May the Holy Ghost in each proceeding,  
Favour them with his most gracious leading;  
Thus shall they be truly blessed,  
Both in labour and in rest.



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

† Today: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.

† Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre

#### THIS WEEK

† Tuesday: Women's Fellowship – First & Third Tuesdays: In Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

† Wednesday: Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.

† Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

† Saturday: Prayer Meeting – Saturday before Communion & Third Saturdays in Sanctuary at 6:30 a.m.

† Next Sunday: WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

† Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.

† Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre



## Activities in the Month of October 2024 – Women’s Fellowship Month:

- ✚ **Women’s Fellowship Month. Activities for the month:**
  - Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 5th, 5:00 p.m. at Calvary.
  - Exhibition – Saturday, 12th, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Duncan C. Moore Centre (Sharon).
  - Women’s Fellowship Sunday (Conference-wide) – 20th
  - Women’s Fellowship Rally – Sunday, 20th, 4:00 p.m. at Bethlehem.
  - Quiz – Monday, 21st, 7:00 p.m. online.
  - Candlelight Service – Sunday, 27th, 5:00 p.m. at Clifton Hill.
- ✚ **Missionary Festival at Dunscombe – Sunday, 13th, 8:00 a.m.**
- ✚ **The Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 26th, 6:00 am.**
- ✚ **Missionary Festival at Sharon – Sunday, 27th, 9:30 a.m.**
- ✚ **Missionary Festival at Calvary – Sunday, 27th, 9:30 a.m.**



## **NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

1. **Our Missionary Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2024 in the morning service. We hope to raise \$13,000 this year and we remind you of your Missionary Collection Boxes and Missionary Envelopes. Direct contribution can also be made and contributions in memory of loved-ones. Funds raised will go towards local missions, and to missionary endeavours across the region and the world through the various mission organisations of the Moravian Church.**
  2. **We are celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. We are grateful to those prepared for and participated in the Planting of a Mahogany Tree last Sunday. Thanks to Mr. Orlando Estwick for preparing the area with his backhoe, and to the Pastor and members of the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church for the gift of the tree.**
    - ✚ **Sharon Men Cooking – December 7, 2024**
    - ✚ **Anniversary Dinner & Gala – February 8, 2025, at the Hilton. Dinner – \$200.**
    - ✚ **Planting of a Time Capsule – February 9, 2025**
    - ✚ **Closing Service – February 9, 2025**
- ✚ **We have launched a “225 for 225” drive, in which we ask persons to donate \$225 or multiples of \$225 towards the continuing work of the church. You don’t have to give it all at once, you can fill the envelope over time and bring it in at your convenience. We look forward to your participation in our “225 for 225” drive. Envelopes are available for collection. For those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank,**

Warrens – 40274. You can also give via SurePay at a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. Pay to: *Biller – The Moravian Church, Account No – 1765-1768-0000, Name – Sharon Moravian Church.* A specimen of the envelope is displayed below.



3. From the Provincial Board (P.E.C.): Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.
  - ✠ The Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church convened its regular biennial meeting in Antigua from September 24 – 30, 2024. The theme of the Unity Board meeting was: *The Moravian Unity, steadfast in growth: Upholding identity, embracing new and established work amidst persecution and changing landscapes. The Worldwide Moravian Church is a growing church.*
  - ✠ There were twenty-eight Unity Provinces, Mission Provinces, and Mission Areas represented in person and two online, representing five Continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. The Moravian Church Foundation was represented by its new President Ms. Nonhlanhla “Anda” Nkosi. The Unity Women’s Desk representative for the Caribbean and Latin America, Sis. Veronica Sutherland-Ocnacuwenga of Jamaica, also made a presentation to the Unity Board. Many important issues were discussed, some of which will find their way into discussions at the congregational level.
  - ✠ Each region elected its representative to sit on the Unity Executive. They are Bro. Erord Simae Africa, Sis. Roberta Hoey – Europe, Bro. Neil Routh – North America, and Bro. Algernon Lewis – the Caribbean and Latin American. Sis. Roberta was elected President of the Unity Board and Bro. Algernon was elected Vice President of the Unity Board.
  - ✠ Let us continue to pray for the Unity (Worldwide Moravian Church).

**4. The assignment of Elders Districts is as follows:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ELDERS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Edgehill Rd., Near Sharon, Upper Jackson.</b>	<b>Sis. Ismay Straker</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Cane Garden, Cane Garden Park, Cane Garden New Development, Cane Garden Crescent, Cane Garden Heights.</b>	<b>Bro. Anthony Ifill</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lower Jackson, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Jackson, Browne’s Gap, Arthur Seat (W – West of Quarry Rd. to Warrens).</b>	<b>Bro. Edwin Sandiford</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Canewood Rd., Lears Corner, St. George, St. John, Christ Church, Brittons Hill.</b>	<b>Sis. Ismay Straker</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Bridgefield, Whitehall – St. T, Hopewell, Bloomsbury.</b>	<b>Sis. Merville Franklyn</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Jackson Terrace, Jackson Tenantry, Arsenal Playing Field Rd.</b>	<b>Sis. Carmel Downes</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Arthur Seat (East – Quarry Rd to Melrose Cnr.)</b>	<b>Sis. Ingrid Ibrahim</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Melrose, Arthur Seat (Central), Welches, Padmore Village.</b>	<b>Sis. Denise Grant</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Edgehill Terrace, Edgehill Heights, Shop Hill, Content, Spring Farm, Farm Path, White Hill Terrace, Hillaby.</b>	<b>Sis. Lelia Gibbs</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Eden Lodge, Under Lodge Hill, White Hall – St. M, Cave Hill, Grazettes, Codrington Hill, Spooners Hill, Green Hill.</b>	<b>Bro. Steven King</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Friendship Terrace, Lodge Hill, Rock Dundo Park, Farm Rd., Clermont, Lodge Terrace, Mahaica Gap.</b>	<b>Sis. Veronica Leacock</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Black Rock, Fitts Village, West Terrace, Oxnards, Wanstead Heights &amp; Gardens, Husbands, Hinds Hill, Thorpes, Holders Hill, Hoytes Village, Prior Park.</b>	<b>Sis. Cora Cumberbatch</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Warrens, Welches – North, Redman’s Village, Bagatelle, Baywoods, Bakers Woods, Mt. Brevitor.</b>	<b>Sis. Hazel Carter</b>

**5. We have resumed the “Basket of Hope” ministry. Each Sunday you are invited to make contributions of non-perishable food items, which will be distributed to those in need. Contributions can be made during the offertory hymn. We are appealing for volunteers to provide the needed management and helping-hands for this ministry. Please let the Pastors know of your interest.**

**6. We are thankful for your financial support.**

**✠ We do need your ongoing support so that we can maintain our ministry, our facilities and paying property insurance. So we ask for your continued faithfulness in giving as you are able.**

**✠ You are reminded that labelled envelopes can be dropped into the slot in the front door of the Manse.**

**✠ Generally, those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank, Warrens – 40274. You can also give via SurePay at**

a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. At SurePay you can make payments anonymously to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0000, Name: Sharon Moravian Church*), or if you need your donations recorded for tax purposes and you have a box of envelopes; make payments to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0-[your 3-digit envelope number], Name: Your Name*). Visit [www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary](http://www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary) for these details.

7. Our radio broadcast ministry Moravian Voice has been on the air for some 32 years, since Wednesday, July 18, 1990. We rejoice that we have been able to offer this ministry and we are thankful to all our listenership and all who hosted and provided content over the years. We are thankful to our congregations which faithfully sponsored the programme.
- ✝ We invite you to tune in for inspiration and information to enable you in your Christian walk and service.
  - ✝ Moravian Voice will also be available on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/moravianvoice/](http://www.instagram.com/moravianvoice/)) and the YouTube Channel of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference (<https://youtube.com/c/TheMoravianChurch-BarbadosConference>).
  - ✝ You can email your comments and requests to: [moravianvoice@gmail.com](mailto:moravianvoice@gmail.com)
  - ✝ Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.



## The Past 225 Years

26. As we celebrate 225 years on this site, we need to pause from time to time and recognise the various people who have laboured in our vineyard. In this Breast Cancer Month, we pray for our Breast Cancer survivors, our casualties, our undiagnosed, and their families and friends. We pray that one day a cure can be found.



## PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Bro. Tyrone Waithe, Sis. Vernice Alberta Osbourne*
2. The Sick/Recovering:  
‡ Of our congregation: *Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Zelia Kellman, Sis. Shanna King (USA)*
3. World Peace



## AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ‡ Offering Envelopes for 2024 – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a box of envelopes and thereby seek to faithfully support the work of the church. Please request that a box be provided for you if none has been provided as yet.
- ‡ Missionary Collection Boxes for 2024 – If you had a box last year, please collect it from the Vestry. If you desire a box for the first time, please inquire at the vestry after worship or at the Church Office.
- ‡ Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15
- ‡ Books:
  - ▣ Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker – \$25; Provocation – \$20.
  - ▣ Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914 – \$50.
  - ▣ Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than Water – \$35.
- ‡ Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.



## Provincial Theme 2024:

***“SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion”***

***“Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others. — Chairman of PEC***







# Moravian Church Barbados Hosts

## “Youth Mix, Match & Mingle”

Friday, November 1, 2024  
D.C. Moore Centre  
6-8 PM

Come test your skills in:

Board Games, Video Games,  
Treasure Hunts and More!

Light refreshments will be on sale.

Office of the Unity Board Administrator



Antigua, 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2024

## **Message to the Unity, ultimo September 2024.**

The Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church convened for the regular Unity Board meeting 2024 in the Caribbean Island, Antigua, Eastern West Indies Province (EWI).

The theme of the Unity Board meeting was: *The Moravian Unity, Steadfast in Growth: Upholding Identity, Embracing New and Established Work Amidst Persecution and Changing Landscapes*. The Worldwide Moravian Church is a growing church. In particular, it was noted that Christians in new Mission Areas show a desire to establish Moravian Churches in various countries. In some parts of the world, the Christian Churches, including Moravian Churches face challenges due to difficult political and religious restraints. The world is changing, and Moravians face the changing landscapes of unrest, economic factors and at times lack of freedom of religion and unjust economic realities. However, we also rejoice in the fact that in many parts of the world, the Moravian Church enjoy the freedom of religion and worship.

At the Unity Board meeting, a large majority of the members of the Unity Board were present, although a few members missed the meeting, mainly due to visa issues.

The Unity President and the Unity Board Administrator offered reports on the ongoing work in the Moravian Unity, as did also all the provinces and other entities of the Unity. This included 25 Unity Provinces, 8 Mission Provinces and some 12 Mission Areas along with more 10 Prospective Mission Areas. It was a valuable experience for the Unity Board to receive the reports, because they contained useful information on the work done on Unity level and in the provinces. The reports contribute to building unity among the provinces and the Unity at large.

Several resolutions from the Unity Synod 2023 were dealt with, including new Mission Areas of the Unity, Practical Creation Care, support from Moravian Church Foundation (MCF) to the Unity, Unity statistics including the concept of membership. The Unity Synod Resolution concerning *Unitas Fratrum Apologetic Efforts for its Complicity in the Institution of Slavery* was dealt with in great respect for the topic. It is the mind of the Unity Board to engage in research work, revealing insights in the institution of slavery within the Moravian Church. This endeavor must include independent scholars from both sides of the Atlantic including external as well as Moravian scholars. It is felt particularly important that the narrative in a 21<sup>st</sup> century understanding is established by contributions from both the Caribbean and the

European/North American perspective as well as the African. Along with other Unity Synod Resolutions, the Unity Board had valuable in-depth conversations on these topics.

Reports from Unity Undertakings and Unity committees were shared and discussed. The Unity Committees include the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT), the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB), the Unity Youth Committee (UYC), the Women's' Desk (UWD) along with the Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation (MUCHF). As directed by the Unity Synod 2023, a Unity Archives Committee (UAC) was formed. The report of the Unity Women's Desk prompted a fruitful discussion concerning the role of women and men in the Moravian Church. This topic will be dealt with by relevant entities in the Unity. A report from MCF was received with gratitude for the ungoing support from MCF to the Unity. The support is invaluable for the Worldwide Unity.

The report of the Unity Youth Committee was received with gratitude. The Unity Board was encouraged by the work of the youth of the Unity.

The Unity Board was informed about the very difficult situation at Star Mountain (SMRC), due to the conflict in Israel, which also has a strong impact on the West Bank. However, the SMRC staff is determined to continue with the operation of Star Mountain, whereby the institution is a witness of service to disadvantaged people amidst the turmoil of the present situation.

The financial situation of the Unity with some emphasis on arrears, which for some provinces have been accumulated over the years, was discussed. A covenant expressing the shared desire to reducing and finishing the arrears of Provinces to the Unity was agreed upon, including an agreement to write off debts incurred in the period from 2014-2016. Moreover, it was agreed that full annual payment of Provincial Unity Contributions of some provinces will mean writing off 20% of older arrears. It was a challenging discussion, but it revealed a common desire among the provinces to seek solutions in mutual solidarity. It was underlined that the norm still is that all provinces pay their Unity contributions according to the annual budget.

The representatives of the Region were named in regional meetings. They are:

African Region: Br. Erord Simae, Tanzania Rukwa Province

American Region: Br. Neil Routh, American South Province.

Caribbean and Latin American Region: Br. Algernon Lewis, Eastern West Indies Province.

European Region: Sr. Roberta Hoey, British Province.

Sr. Roberta Hoey was elected President of the Unity Board, while Br. Algernon Lewis was elected Vice President of the Unity Board.

The Unity Board gives thanks to our Chief Elder for a Unity Board meeting held in a true spirit of love and understanding. To God be the glory.



Br. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Board Administrator.