

Report to the 2023 Synod of the  
Moravian Church—Northern Province  
from

**The Moravian Archives**

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**Highlights since 2018:**

In 2018, our mission statement was revised to better reflect the variety of activities of the Archives: *The Moravian Archives collects and preserves records and historical materials of Moravians in North America and makes them available to the public. It is the official repository of the records of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province. The Archives fulfills its mission through archival processing, research services, education, publications, and public programming.*

In 2021 the Archives' board took a critical look at the bylaws of the Moravian Archives. Bethlehem Area Moravians (BAM) had expressed the desire to make the process of appointing members to the Archives' board more flexible. The proposed changes to the bylaws were approved by both the PEC and the BAM board. Because the composition of the Archives' board is also regulated by par. 605 of the Book of Order, a proposal was submitted to Synod to revise this paragraph. The revised par. 605 will provide a more adequate framework for the work of the Moravian Archives and will better regulate the accessibility of the records of the church. After Synod, the proposed bylaw changes will be submitted to the PEC and to the BAM board for their final approval.

A bequest received from the late Richard Spear in 2017 enabled us to expand our staff: Kaitlin Trainor was hired as processing archivist and Jonathan Ennis as digital archivist. During the inter-synodal period we were able to process many collections (such as the records from the District Boards, various congregations, and agencies of the church). During the past years we have digitized several of our collections, thus providing online access to our holdings. We are now also able to receive electronic records from our congregations, boards, and institutions and preserve these for the future.

Again, the Moravian Archives received prestigious federal grants: from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to preserve and digitize selected records from the Eastern West Indies Province, and from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to digitize the records the Labrador Province held by the Moravian Archives. We also received grants from the Larger Life Foundation and the Society for Propagating the Gospel to replace the HVAC system and grants from Bethlehem Area Moravians for the bi-annual Conference on Moravian History and Music.

Our regular work is to assist researchers and to catalog and process the collections. In addition, many people request information online or by telephone. We serve a large number of non-Moravians, for whom their experience with the Moravian Archives is sometimes their only but always important encounter with the Moravian Church.

A large number of volunteers help us cataloging our book collection, indexing church registers (Moravian Roots), cataloging memoirs, deeds, and photographs, making protective housing for fragile books and manuscripts, and setting up for events.

The Archives continues to host various lectures and other programs, such as a German-English *Singstunde* (together with Moravian Music Foundation and Central Church). Our annual German Script Course, which has been taught since 1971, remains popular. We are now offering most of our lectures and workshops in a hybrid (online and in-person) format, thus reaching many more people outside of the Lehigh Valley.

In our gallery we presented the following exhibits since the last Synod: "Sing O Ye Heavens" on Moravian music and instrument making (prepared together with the Moravian Music Foundation); and "Zinzendorf in America" (sponsored by the Consulate General of Germany in New York).

Archives' staff participates actively in professional organizations such as the American Society for Church History, the American Historical Association, the Society of American Archivists, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.

In October 2022 the Archives' staff participated in the conference for Moravian archivists, hosted by the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany.

We continue to publish the *Journal of Moravian History*, a joint publication of the Moravian Historical Society and the Moravian Archives. Archivist Paul Peucker's book on early Herrnhut and the origins of the Moravian Church was published in English and German in time for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut.

In 2010, a fund for scholarships in memory of previous archivist Br. Vernon Nelson was established. During the past years, the Rev. Vernon H. Nelson Memorial Fund has provided several grants to researchers as a contribution toward their expenses relating to their research at the Moravian Archives.

7% of our annual operating budget of \$547,945 (2022) comes from the Provincial budget (\$39,068). During 2022 the total support from the Moravian denomination was \$73,986.56 for general operating. This includes financial support from the Northern Province, Bethlehem Area Moravians, the Larger Life Foundation, the Society for Promoting the Gospel. The amount of \$73,986.56 comes up to 13.5% of our operating budget. We are happy to be able to fulfill our mission as the denominational archives without putting a heavy burden on the church's budget. The remaining funding comes from the Friends of the Archives, from endowment income, from grants, from program income, and from sales in our gift shop. By raising additional income the Moravian Archives is able to play a larger role in the church, in the community, and in the academic world. The Friends of the Archives have donated a total of \$302,866 during the years 2018-2022.

Since the last synod records from the following congregations, institutions, and agencies have been transferred to the Moravian Archives:

*Advent Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • Board of World Mission • Calvary Moravian Church, Allentown, PA • Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • Church of the Redeemer, Dublin, OH • College Hill Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • East Hills Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • Edgeboro Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA • Emmaus Moravian Church, Emmaus, PA • First York Moravian Church, York, PA • Gracehill Moravian Church, Gracehill, LA • Great Kills Moravian Church, Staten Island, NY • Lancaster Moravian Church, Lancaster, PA • Lititz Moravian Church, Lititz, PA • Main Street Moravian Church, Northfield, MN • Middle States Moravian Women's Board • Reading Moravian Church, Reading, PA • Schoeneck Moravian Church, Nazareth, PA • Sharon Moravian Church, Sharon, OH • St. Paul's Moravian Church, Upper Marlboro, MD • Unionville Moravian Church, Unionville, MI • Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church, Staten Island, NY • Waconia Moravian Church, Waconia, MN • York Covenant Moravian Church, York, PA*

respectfully submitted,

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Archivist

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