

UNITY NEWSLETTER

Message from the President



On behalf of the Unity Board, I greet you in the name of our Chief Elder, Jesus. May the New Year find each of us doing what the Master commands and may we continue to be faithful stewards of that which has been entrusted to our care.

We are at the beginning of a New Year filled with its many challenges and yes, opportunities. 2009 was indeed a year when many Provinces had to make budgetary adjustments given the global financial recession which continues to over-

shadow the world. Most, if not all, of our Provinces had to implement various austerity measures in light of the reduction of income to finance the different ministries and programmes of the church. Some Provinces had to cut expenditure significantly and restructure their administrative apparatus.

It is imperative that as we move forward, we seek to be even more prudent with the income at our disposal. Now is the time for consolidation and prudent management of our resources. Notwithstanding the daunting tasks ahead, we must continue to defy the odds and do extraordinary things knowing that we are servants of an extraordinary Master, Jesus, our Chief Elder.

Brothers and

sisters, as we launch into this New Year, may we seek to be steadfast in faith and endurance. He who has led us thus far has promised to be faithful to us even to the end of time.

The Old Testament Daily Text for January 1, 2010 is a good reminder to us:

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.
(Colossians 3:16)*

May God grant unto you His choicest blessings for the New Year as we allow His word to dwell within us!



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Salutations

We thank you for the support throughout 2009 and look forward to the partnership throughout 2010. We wish again to salute and say thanks to Sr. Lindsey Newens for her sterling contribution to the Unity.

Application for Business Administrator

We are still receiving applications for the position of **Unity Business Administrator**.

Applications should be sent to the Unity Board's president at:

moravianchurch@cwjamaica.com

Unity Board Meeting

The next Unity Board (UB) meeting is October 1-8, 2009. It will be held in Calgary, Canada. The Canadian District of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, will host the meeting on behalf of the American Region. Further information will be sent to UB members.

Unity Prayer Day Offering 2010

The Unity Offering this year will go towards the multi-purpose Musical Training Centre in Costa Rica.

Unity Synod 2009

The memory of the Unity Synod still lingers. At the Synod, there was a good balance between the experienced and inexperienced Unity synodals. The Synod procedures were in the capable hands of Brother Abel Appel from the South African Province. All delegates received copies of the Minutes and Resolutions of the Synod. The Synod Resolutions have been posted on the Unity's website: www.unitasfratrum.org

Unity Budget

We are appealing to all Provinces to make timely contributions to the Unity Budget. Please make every effort to remit the Provinces' contribution in a manner that shows the Provinces' commitment to the Unity and its obligations. There are some Provinces that are in arrears with their Unity Assessment. We are appealing to these provinces to indicate the plan they have for honouring their obligations.

Unity Mission & Development Fund

As was decided at the Synod, the new name for the **New World Witness Fund** is now the **Unity Mission and Development Fund**. Already, the fund has been depleted as the grants being paid out are not keeping pace with the contribution that should be coming from the Provinces. This is, therefore, a special appeal for us to be mindful of the work, particularly the Mission areas and Unity Undertakings, that we support when we make our contributions to the Fund.

World Council of Churches

Norwegian Theologian and Pastor, the Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, 48, was elected the 7th General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) by the Central Committee of the WCC at its meeting in August 2009. He assumes office in January 2010 with the retirement of Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, Methodist Pastor and Theologian from Kenya.



Rev. Fykse Tveit Photo by WCC/Peter Williams

Moravian Church Foundation



Bros Paul Gardner (left) and MCF Chair, Johan Stam

Brother Johan Stam of the Netherlands was elected as the new Chairman of the Moravian Church Foundation (MCF) at its Annual Meeting that was held in Suriname in October. The Foundation expressed its gratitude to Brother Mike Kensenhuis who served the Foundation for thirty-two years. As a Unity, we also want to express to Brother Mike our profound appreciation for his contribution in making the Moravian Church Foundation a viable entity.

Additionally, we wish to say thanks to the other retired members of the MCF Board, Brothers Hans Beat Motel, Vincent Richards, and Sister Itika-Hilda Mafwenga. We wish the best for the new members and wish for them a productive tenure on the Board as they serve the Unity in this special way.



From left to right: Brothers David Roth, Mike Kensenhuis and Johan Stam

News from Across the Unity

The Southern Province-USA

The Southern Province is preparing for a Provincial Synod in September, 2010. The province will be implementing a new provincial structure which was approved at a special Synod last September. An Implementation Steering Committee has begun work on the new structure.

For more information visit: www.moravianstructure.org.

The Moravian Church in Congo (Mission Province)

The Vice President of the Unity Board, Brother Frieder Vollprecht visited the Moravian Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo in November, 2009. His visit coincided with the Synod at which Brother Tshimanga was re-elected as Chairman and Brother Kasonge as vice-chairman. In addition to the members of the Provincial Board and the Executive Board, the chairpersons of the six Districts were elected. The MCC has presently twenty (20) ordained ministers. During the inter-synodal period, the Unity Board will consider a recommendation for the MCC to be a Unity Province.

Malawi (MCM)



Evangelism is the backbone of the church and is being taken seriously in the MCM. Every congregation is obliged to conduct several gospel rallies depending on availability of resources during the year. These gospel rallies have contributed to the numerical growth of the church. Furthermore, the church has bought mountain bikes for Pastors and Evangelists to enhance communication with members and other persons.

Suriname Province

The Mission work in French Guyana is under the supervision of the Suriname Province. Fifteen (15) new members were admitted to the congregation in the Mission in French Guyana in December, 2009. The congregation has more than one hundred members and has recently found a place on which a new congregation will be built. The members request the fervent prayers and financial assistance in their effort to build a place of worship.