



The Moravian Church

Virgin Islands Conference

Report on the Tortola Moravian Fellowship

to the Provincial Elders Conference of the

Moravian Church

Eastern West Indies Province



December 2015

Tortola Moravian Fellowship

Introduction



The Tortola Moravian Fellowship is located on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. The British Virgin Islands (BVI), are located in the Caribbean to the east of Puerto Rico. The British Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, along with over fifty other smaller islands and cays. The Tortola Fellowship is a part of the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference which consists of the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and Tortola.

The Fellowship was established in November 1993 with a mission to evangelize and expand the growth of the Moravian Church and to witness to God's people in the British Virgin Islands. It was attached to and received support from the Memorial Moravian Church St. Thomas for a number of years. Currently, the pastor of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship is the Reverend Alicia Ross-Floyd. The current membership stands at 13 with one inactive, one non-communicant, 2 children and 17 adherents.

Pastors who have served the Tortola Fellowship include: Rev. Dr. Charles Peters, Rev. Glenvil Gregory, Rev. Anique Elmes-Matthew, Rev. Vankys Isaac, Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts and Rev. George Bedford (Retired). After years of worshipping at various sites, under the leadership of Rev. Bedford, the Fellowship completed the first phase of construction. On November 11, 2012 it dedicated the building's first floor, which is the parking garage. This space is temporarily being used as the sanctuary and seats 100 persons. It has also been used for retreats. All of this was made possible by a donation of land by a faithful Moravian in 2007. The entire project is estimated to cost US\$1.0 million dollars. The first phase of the project cost approximately US\$300,000.00.

Mission

The Mission/Vision of the Tortola Moravian Fellowship is "To grow spiritually, build relationships, and bring changes in the community through diverse resources which ultimately will create a church for all people, through love and compassion, ministering and teaching the Word of God." Seeking to renew its mission, in April 2015, an assessment was conducted by Bishop Samuel Gray, at our request. This assessment was timely and insightful as it engaged the members of the Fellowship, former Pastors and the leadership of the Conference in evaluating the focus and mission of the fellowship, the talents and gifts of members, the challenges and opportunities, with a view towards meaningful growth and missions. To facilitate this process, a self-assessment was conducted.

Subsequent to the assessment, a questionnaire was developed to gather information that would better assist the fellowship to serve its members and the community. The Fellowship currently has several active ministries which provide spiritual guidance to the membership and critical support to the community. Additionally, the Fellowship's Steering Committee has identified several recommendations for implementation. Some have already been implemented and are current ministries such as the Dorcas Ministry and others noted below will be pursued in 2016 and beyond:

Current ministries

The current ministries of the Tortola Fellowship include the following:

Radio Ministry – Weekly broadcasts entitled the "The Voice of the Lamb" are aired on ZBVI, 780 AM at 7:30 a.m. Greater advantage is being taken of this public relations opportunity by sharing noteworthy events of the Fellowship and extending invitations to worship, programs and other functions.

Bible Study and Prayer meeting – Sessions are conducted weekly with some studies based on missions and outreach themes in order to support evangelism and church planting efforts.

Visitation – Visitations have resumed after overcoming participation challenges. The Fellowship is encouraged by its efforts and will endeavor to make visitation a priority.

Lovefeast – Missionary Lovefeast takes place annually on Tortola and is well supported by the Moravian Community on St. Thomas and St. John who journey to Tortola in large numbers for this event. Over the past two years, a March of Witness became an added feature. Future plans include attracting more local attendance and participation.

The Dorcas Ministry - The “Dorcas Ministry” was launched on December 6, 2015 with a focus on distributing care packages as well as information about the Fellowship to the community. This ministry will allow the Fellowship to reach out to the most vulnerable in the community. The items for the care packages are donated by members.

Social Activities – The Fellowship hosts several special and social events such as Friends & Family Sunday, Game & Movie Nights, picnics, etc. throughout the year to strengthen relations and to provide opportunities for fellowship among members and the community.

Future Plans

In faith we boldly move forward and outward with our ministry. We look forward to the implementation of the following activities and events in 2016 and beyond:

- 1) Launch Phase 2 of the construction – Erecting the sanctuary would create a permanent space for worship.
- 2) Erect a “Tortola Moravian Fellowship” sign on the main road to increase visibility and attendance.
- 3) Landscape and fence the current premises – Beautification of the premises will enhance the worship experience.
- 4) Construct a manse to house the resident pastor.
- 5) Resume Sunday school, acquire materials and train Teachers in order to strengthen the Christian growth and development of members.
- 6) Establish a Pre-School – This ministry would fulfill the need for loving and nurturing child care.
- 7) Adopt a School – This ministry will foster a closer working relationship with schools in the community.

“And though you started with little, you will end with much” (Job 8: 7 NLT).

The Tortola Fellowship of the Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference is truly humbled and grateful to be designated as the recipient of the 2016 Unity Offering. The funds will provide much needed financial assistance towards our construction efforts as well as to support the implementation of our proposed activities, programs and events for 2016 and beyond.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Eulencine Christopher
Superintendent