



Office of the Unity Business Administrator

MESSAGE TO THE UNITY

To the members of the worldwide Moravian Church, we greet you in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Chief Elder.

The Unity Board met in Kigoma, Tanzania, 6 to 11 May, 2014, and we were welcomed by the Lake Tanganyika Province, which provided wonderful hospitality. Many of us arrived by way of Burundi, where the Moravians also welcomed us with great enthusiasm. We rejoice that our Savior continues to bring growth to many provinces. The Moravian Church in Zambia, formerly a Mission Province, was received as a Unity Province. Burundi was recognized as a Mission Province, Iringa (Tanzania) and Eastern Congo are new Mission Areas, and Angola and Ruvuma-Njombe were recognized as Prospective Mission Areas.

As we listened to reports we had no doubt that Moravians continue the tradition serving those often neglected by others. Provinces continue to minister to refugees, and in Africa some present-day growth is a direct result of Moravian work during times of civil conflict and genocide. Around the Unity congregations and provinces supplement what governments provide in education and health services. Social justice is a priority, especially confronting gender violence and caring for victims of HIV/AIDS.

Some provinces have business enterprises to provide employment and generate funds for mission, including several environmental projects. One province has an avocado project, another "Efforts in Trees." The delegate from South Africa made a special presentation to other delegates on how to establish effective business enterprises. And, of course, the Moravian Church Foundation reported of substantial income for theological education and projects from its many business enterprises.

Provinces continue to share leadership. A Czech Moravian serves in Peru, a Danish couple serves in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a Swiss volunteer is in Tanzania, and many youth are engaged in volunteer service, especially through the American provinces' "Antioch Servant" program.

Are the Unity and its provinces facing difficulties as we expand our horizons in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord? Yes, just as individuals and congregations do. We rejoice in steps toward reconciliation brought about by the Holy Spirit in some areas (reconciliation is possible!) and we still wait for such steps in other areas. But often it is in our mistakes that we find God's guidance and grace. Furthermore, in the midst of difficult conversations we as Unity Board members have found both mutual respect and mutual guidance.

We find great joy and privilege in our service and we remain in prayer for continued growth in numbers, ministry, and dedication to our Lord.

Unity Board of the Unitas Fratrum
Kigoma, Tanzania, 10 May 2014