

**\*If you are chosen by Church Council as Unity’s Synod delegate, you will be asked to sign this covenant.**

**Moravian Church in North America, Southern Province  
2022 Synod Delegate Covenant**

As a duly elected delegate to the Synod of the Moravian Church of America, Southern Province, I do covenant to work with all brothers and sisters in love before the Savior we serve. That covenant binds me to adhere to the rules of Synod, a sacred gathering to discern the direction of our Province and provide for its mission. In doing so, I accept that:

Synod delegates are called out of the congregation because of the character of their Christian living and the depth of maturity in our relationship with Christ, and with brothers and sisters in their congregations and Province. I understand that it is expected that this maturity will give me insight to discern the direction God desires for the Moravian Church Southern Province. As such, I am sent with prayers and with guidance of the Spirit to use my gifts and maturity to think about and respond to the matters at Synod of my own conviction. I respect and adhere to The Book of Order, which states that:

In representing the interests of their electors or their office, members of Synod must not lose sight of the interests of the Province and of the Unity as a whole. Members of Synod vote according to their own conviction and are not bound by instructions of their constituents given beforehand. [Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum #403]

I understand that Synod is where we legislate our policies and that can encompass all areas of church life. I understand and accept, however, that it does not address forming new doctrine [Unity Synod].

I value that Moravian confederal government has led our Church’s decisions since 1741, when the Synodal Conference of Moravian leaders decided Christ should be the chief elder of the Church. In this union, we deliberate, discuss, and confer in making decisions as a community. I am confident that Christ continues to guide our decisions today and will come to Synod to find governing responsibility and authority in conference with Him and fellow delegates.

As a brother/sister in Christ, a Moravian, and a Synod delegate, I affirm key tenets of the *Moravian Covenant for Christian Living*, as adopted in 1727 at the time of our church’s spiritual renewal, with revisions approved by the Southern and Northern American Provinces in 2001, and I covenant to follow them as we serve the church as Synod delegates:

- “We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in

our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God.”

- “We believe that God in Jesus Christ calls his people out of ‘every race, kindred, and tongue,’ pardons them beneath the Cross, and brings them into a living fellowship with himself. We regard it as a commandment of our Lord to bear public witness to this and to demonstrate by word and deed that we are one in Christ.”
- “Because we hold that all people are God’s creatures (Genesis 1:27) and that he has made of one blood all nations (Acts 17:26), we oppose any discrimination based on color, race, creed, or land of origin and declare that we should treat everyone with love and respect.”

As a delegate to the Synod, I will consider the impact of my words and actions before, during, and after all interactions. I will be mindful of my impact on the group. I will respond respectfully to those whose opinions and thoughts differ from my own, recognizing that their life journeys have provided different experiences and as a result, different views. I vow to create an atmosphere that is safe for all my sisters and brothers so that they can openly take risks, share ideas, and develop their understanding without concern of it being shared outside the context of Synod. Toward that end, I commit to respect the privacy of each delegate and not share personal notes or conversations from Synod that could harm fellow children of God serving at Synod.

I understand and accept delegate responsibilities and expectations to:

- Pray before and during Synod for God’s leading and direction for the Province.
- Invest preparation time to understand the process of Synod, including parliamentary procedures and voting.
- Be familiar with current policies and statements of the Province (SP Book of Order) and the Unity (Unity Book of Order).
- Read and reflect on reports and information from the boards and agencies of the Province.
- Become knowledgeable about nominees for elected offices and membership on boards.
- Attend and participate in the pre-Synod gathering of delegates for orientation.
- Take an active part in Synod itself, including worship; total group sessions for business, elections, and consideration of resolutions; and participating in a smaller working group.
- Share, interpret, and help implement the results of and direction set by Synod.