

New Moravian Worship Resource Exploration Committee Survey for Pastors, Church Musicians, and Members of Music & Worship Committees

The Provincial Elders' Conferences of both Northern and Southern Province have asked us to explore the current usage of the *Moravian Book of Worship* to help determine whether it may be time to begin work on a new worship resource for the Moravian Church in North America.

The Moravian Church was the first Protestant church to produce a hymnal (1505). The ancient *Unitas Fratrum* produced hymnals at an amazing rate, often in the face of persecution when they had to dismantle and move their printing presses. The renewed church in Germany also produced hymnals very often – sometimes several hymnals or supplements within less than a decade! Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf wrote, “The hymnal is a kind of response to the Bible, an echo and an extension thereof. In the Bible one perceives how the Lord communicates with people; and in the hymnal, how people communicate with the Lord.”

The 20th century in America is rare in Moravian history in only producing 3 hymnals – 1923, 1969, and 1995. Work on the 1995 *Moravian Book of Worship* began with a survey of congregations and pastors in 1985, and the hymnal committee was appointed in 1987; thus it took 8 years to produce the hymnal, once the committee was formed and started to work. The 1995 book was never intended to be a long-lasting book; the committee saw it as a transitional book, to lead the Moravian Church in North America into the 21st century, since we had no idea what this century might bring. However, if our recommendation is to produce a new hymnal or worship resource, and the 2018 synods approve it, the next one is likely to come out in 2023-2025 – thus making the 1995 *Moravian Book of Worship* almost 30 years old!

Throughout our Moravian history, even in times of most uncertainty, financial difficulties, distress and even persecution, it seems that periods of spiritual revival and awakening, and mission activity, are often accompanied by a flourishing of new liturgies, hymns and worship songs. In the Moravian Church in North America, we are witness to widespread creative energy in missions, and in new songs and liturgies. It's a great time to explore what our congregations are using now, and what they see as the needs for Moravian worship through the middle of the 21st century! Thank you for contributing!

About you and your congregation:

1. Your congregation's name and location:	
2. Your role (pastor, church musician, member of music & worship committee)	
3. Number of years in this congregation:	
4. Number of Moravian congregations you have served:	
5. Average worship attendance in your congregation:	
6. Is the 1995 <i>Moravian Book of Worship</i> a primary worship resource for your congregation?	

7. What does your worship in your congregation look like?

	Most weeks	Once or twice a month	Less than once a month	Almost never
Does your congregation sing from printed hymnals?				
Do you project words and/or music on a screen (or wall)?				
Do you print words and/or music in the bulletin?				

8. Music Creation

	Yes	No
Do you read music?		
If not, would you like to learn?		
Have you ever written a hymn, song, or poem that you'd like to share with brothers and sisters in the Moravian world?		
Would you attend a hymn/song writing workshop?		
Have you ever been to a Moravian Music Festival?		

9. What other resources do you use for congregational song and liturgy?

	Most weeks	Once or twice a month	Less than once a month	Almost never
Other published hymnals				
Worship and liturgy websites				
Songs and/or liturgies created by individuals in your congregation				
Secular Music				
Film or Video				
Drama				
Lectionary				

10. What instrument(s) are used to accompany congregational singing in your congregation?

	Most weeks	Once or twice a month	Less than once a month	Almost never
Organ				
Piano				
Guitars or worship band				
Trombone choir, brass choir, church band				
Handbells				
Recorded music				
Other instruments (please specify)				

11. How useful in your congregation is each of the following portions of the Moravian Book of Worship?

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful
Liturgies				
Psalms and Canticles				
Hymns				
Indexes				

12. What areas or topics do you find missing or under-represented in the Moravian Book of Worship?

13. What are your favorite characteristics of Moravian hymnody (please include the title of the hymns you are thinking of)? Things like theology (describe), music (list specific characteristics you like), etc.

Think about your congregation's sense of identity and the Moravian Book of Worship.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all
14. How important is using a <i>Moravian</i> worship resource to your congregation's sense of identity?				

15. What is the relationship between your congregation's worship and its sense of mission?

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16. If a new Moravian Worship Resource were to be created, which of these other resources would be most helpful?

	Very useful	Somewhat	Not very useful	Not at all useful
app for phone or tablet				
recording of the tunes (with or without voices)				
more detailed indexes				
recorded (spoken) prayers				
podcast				
information about the composers and text authors				
the story behind the songs				
art to accompany songs or scriptures				
other (please specify)				

17. Any additional comments?

Please return your completed survey *by July 1, 2017*, to:

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