

Concerned Moravians Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2019
Rural Hall Moravian Church

The Concerned Moravians meeting was held at Rural Hall Moravian Church and opened by Dick Joyce with welcome, prayer, and a 10 minute video first shown at the Winston-Salem Prayer Breakfast of May 3, 2016.

Johnnie Tayloe followed Dick with words of thanks to David and Elizabeth Lancaster and their crew of Rural Hall Moravian Church for providing delicious refreshments. He then thanked band members from around the Moravian community for lending their talents to play a beautiful band prelude before the meeting.

An announcement was made about Franklin Graham's Decision America, Tar Heel State Tour of 8 NC cities. The tour runs through mid October. The closest location to us is in Greensboro on October 9. All events are FREE and Marcia Phillips provided advertising materials for promoting this tour in our individual churches.

Johnnie Tayloe offered some personal comments about being a Concerned Moravian. The concern is not just about Resolution 14, but is about what has happened since Synod 2018, such as: the decrease in congregational attendance due to members leaving the Moravian Church and seeking Bible based teaching elsewhere, the decrease in giving to the point that churches cannot meet their obligations, the deafening silence of pastors and leaders in confronting and talking about this issue with their congregations, and more.

Johnnie then brought us up to date on the latest documents that have been uploaded to the website, www.concernedmoravians.org.

- August 2019: article to Moravian Magazine by Dick Joyce that was rejected by the editor.
- August 14, 2019: Letter from Southern Province PEC to Pastors, Boards, and Membership
- August 26, 2019: Southern Province Bishops' Pastoral Letter
- Letter by Bishop William H. Love (Bishop of Albany, NY) of the Episcopal Church
- September 2019: Concerned Moravians Newsletter
- September 25, 2019: Special Edition of the Provincial Ties

The next items brought forward by Johnnie were T shirts being sold as a fundraiser by Anthony's Plot and using the artwork of Ben Wildflower. Check out AP Facebook page and the art of Ben Wildflower and make your own decision.

Updates around the Province:

- New Philadelphia in September had a church council vote to change the language on their marriage policy. The vote split was about 50/50, so the change did not pass.

- Reading the Bible Together event at Fries Moravian
- Home Moravian will have a church council vote in November

As we make plans for a 501 3c for non-profit status, officers are needed. Please let us know if you are willing to be an officer.

Dick then introduced our Guest Speaker, Stu Epperson, Sr. to bring us words of encouragement, and he succeeded! Just a few highlights of his talk...

Stu, Sr. told us a little of his life growing up in Ararat, VA. He then encouraged our efforts by telling us that the issue we are going to battle against is not same sex marriage, but the authority of scripture. The Bible is the target. Academia has entered the church. The Spirit of God is within us as Concerned Moravians and we have been called for "such a time as this." He told us to picture ourselves as the little Dutch boy with his finger in the dike holding back the water, to pray with all our hearts, to be strong, and to defend the Bible. At the end of his talk, he advised us that his foundation is donating \$5.000 to our cause.

A 5 minute video, shown at the Fifth Annual Community Prayer Breakfast of May 1, 2018 and prayer closed out the meeting.

Attendance at this meeting was 74 CM members and 12 band members. We collected in offerings \$1175.00. Thank you all so much!

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tayloe