



MORAVIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Provincial Elders' Conference

459 South Church Street • Winston-Salem, NC 27101-5314
(336) 725-5811 • (888) 725-5811 • fax: (336) 723-1029 • pec@mcsp.org

April 10, 2023

The Rev. Luke Bell
1477 Gentry Farm Rd.
King, NC 27021

Dear Brother Luke,

It came to the attention of the Provincial Elders' Conference that you are being identified as the Pastor of Bethabara Moravian Church. This is not the case.

We are receptive to receiving your re-application to ministry in the Moravian Church. Given your resignation from the Moravian ministry in June 2002, re-entry into pastoral leadership includes a similar process used for individuals seeking to be candidates for ordained ministry.

While there is not a requirement for attending seminary for an applicant seeking re-entry, the PEC does require the applicant to be interviewed by the PEC. In addition, the applicant is expected to undergo a psychological assessment. Following this assessment, the applicant meets with the Commission on Ministry. Upon its recommendation, the PEC gives final approval for re-entry.

As with all Moravian clergy, the applicant must be willing to live and serve within the stated expression of faith and practice found within the the Ground of the Unity statement and the Covenant for Christian Living.

Once the application process has been completed, the applicant is expected to reaffirm his or her Moravian ordination vows in a service of public worship.

Your letter of resignation, from June 2, 2002, is attached. This remains your status until you have completed a new application process. The PEC asks that you cease preaching and offering pastoral leadership at Bethabara Moravian until this is resolved and your status as a pastor in the Moravian Church can be established anew.

Please contact me for next steps.

Rev. Dr. Neil Routh – President
Provincial Elders' Conference
Moravian Church, Southern Province

cc: Joel Sapp – Vice-Chair of Board

The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh President • The Rev. Christy Clore, Vice President • Andi Williams
The Rev. Dr. Dion T. A. Christopher • Deborah Aboudara • Mr. Keith Kapp • The Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber
The Rev. Dr. David Marcus, Assistant to the President

Monday June 3, 2002

Provincial Elders' Conference
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province
Drawer O. Salem Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Dear Dr. Sawyer and members of the PEC,

Thirteen months ago I began ministry as the appointed pastor of Mizpah Moravian Church. Prior to starting at Mizpah, I explained to the PEC that I hoped to remain a Moravian minister until retirement.

This has been a busy and blessed year in getting to know, love and serve the wonderful folks that make up this congregation. It was understood by all parties involved that at the end of one year an evaluation would be made by the PEC, Joint Board, and me, to see if there was a "good fit" before a call was issued.

However, due to recent positions taken by the PEC concerning theological and doctrinal issues, chiefly in regard to the Person and work of Jesus Christ, the Chief Elder, I find no support for ministry as a pastor in the Moravian Church. Therefore, I feel called to bring to conclusion my ministry at Mizpah Moravian Church and the Southern Province by respectfully submitting this letter of resignation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" and "B".

Cc-Mizpah Joint Board members