

Small Group Fellowship Consideration  
Individual Participation in a Moravian Fellowship

Spring 2023

Dear Small Group Fellowships and Individual Christians,

A partnership with the Moravian Church as a Moravian Fellowship will provide you and your small group a place to commune. There are no direct fees to start a Fellowship, just support from other Moravian Fellowship groups of like-minded Christians. Your future is yours - we are here to help you, not dictate your path. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, <sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

**Ecumenical Partners**

The Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America shares full communion relationships with many ecumenical partners including: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Churches in full communion do not need to agree on every doctrinal point, but are understood to have enough in common to worship together. In practice, this means that members of these denominations can easily participate in the common ground offered by a Moravian Fellowship.

As a small group or individual member of a Moravian Fellowship we encourage everyone to retain a Church membership, a church of your choosing. Dual membership makes receiving sacraments easy, keeps long-time friendships connected, while enjoying spiritual growth through Moravian experiences and traditions.

The Moravian Church of America, Southern Province wishes to offer a partnership with you and your small faith-based group as you navigate and plan your future. Through our nearly six centuries (since 1457) of existence and since the great reformation of our Church almost 300 years ago (1727), we have opened our hearts and shared our support to all those seeking a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are willing and able to support you with a desire to enhance, not change, who you are as a person or as part of a Community of Faith.

**Our partnership with you means:**

**Your Pastoral Care:**

- Small Group Fellowships do not have paid clergy. Therefore, we recommend joining and attending a local church to receive Pastoral Care.
- As a faith-based group – Your fellow members of a Fellowship are there to pray with you and for you.
- As part of a small group Fellowship, you are surrounded by people that know you and want to spend time with you.

- Because this is a small group, you are important, your voice is heard and when you are not in attendance, you are missed.

### **Your Worship and Personal Experience**

- Freedom to have a say in your group's experiences.
- The blending of your past worship experiences with Moravian traditions as desired.
- How you gather, what you study, and the way you engage is up to you and the group.
- Scripture is revealed to everyone through our actions.
- Music you know from the Moravian Book of Worship, other hymnals, including readings, seasonal celebrations and more.
- The introduction of Moravian traditions such as Lovefeast celebrations, Holy Week Readings, Easter Sunrise service.
- Missions opportunities are part of the Fellowship, managed by the group, and are an important part of the Moravian Church.

### **As a Moravian Fellowship (Church/Worship Group)**

- Fellowships pay no annual Provincial Share (apportionments) to receive support from the Moravian Church of America, Southern Province and fellow Moravian groups.
- Fellowships meet in homes, online, and other sites welcoming to the group.
- Fellowships govern themselves with support from the Province and the Global Moravian Unity.
- Fellowships create their own Constitution (governing) documents.
- Fellowships may send delegates to Provincial Synods (conferences) by invitation.
- Fellowships may be the size of a small group or as large as a full church congregation.
- Opt-out, should the desire to take another path, leaving a Moravian Fellowship may be done by letter of intent.

As Moravians we are here to support you, to strengthen you, and to care for you - we will never judge you.

We are happy to meet with you, to listen to your vision and desires, to discuss the advantages of partnering with the Moravian Church, and to provide access to resources to better inform you and your small group on the possibilities. You do not need to go this alone.

A partnership as a small group Fellowship has the potential to provide a safe place for you as it brings comfort and familiarity to your personal worship experiences.

Thank you,



Rev. Dr. Neil Routh  
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