

**REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD**  
**OF THE**  
**EUROPEAN-CONTINENTAL PROVINCE**  
**OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
**TO**  
**SYNOD 2024**



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*The designation brother/sister or Mr./Mrs. depends on the usage at the respective location or institution.*

## INTRODUCTION

In the days when we members of the Provincial Board are preparing the report about our actions since the last Synod Meeting, war is raging. After almost two years, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has frozen into a trench war. The war in Gaza triggered by the brutal raid of Hamas, claims many victims every day. People are also dying in wars in Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Myanmar and many other countries, not least Afghanistan. And although the first snow was falling on time in Herrnhut in 2023, we know that glaciers are melting worldwide, deserts are expanding, islands are disappearing, species are dying out, and drinking water is becoming a rare commodity. We watch helplessly as the money urgently needed for climate protection flows into the arms industry. Democratic states too are increasingly restricting the basic rights of refugees - and the number of countries with governments whose motto is "Our people first!" is growing. We do not comment on each of these topics as Provincial Board. In the case of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, we have issued a statement. This is because the resulting discussion concerns a central element of our faith: our enduring bond with Israel. And with the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, we are taking care of a diaconal work of the worldwide Moravian Church, for which we are responsible as a European-Continental Province.

In view of the many threats to humanity, it can seem absurd to keep busy with a very small, outdated church. The preoccupation of a church with itself for its own sake is misguided in any case. Nevertheless, I believe that the motto for 2024 (1 Corinthians 16:14) will bring us out of the paralysis that can afflict us in view of the situation of our planet and our church: "Everything you do, be done in love." Everything in love! Nothing new really. And yet, let's spell it out again! In the traditional fields of work of our church: Sunday and Song services, prayer meetings, in our work with children, young people and families ... "Everything in love" is also a good motto for a protection concept against sexualized violence, for occupational health and safety, diaconal institutions, for schools and, last but not least, for considering what the future structure of our Unity Province as a whole should look like. Under this motto, there is room for fair discussions, for listening to each other and to experts and for clear decisions. What we shape in line with the motto of the year will not be irrelevant, not for our members and not for people beyond our church. Because when we do everything in love, we do not stop at ourselves, but get involved where it is necessary.

The Provincial Board's report to the Synod on its 2024 Synodal Meeting does not mention much about love. But at this point we would like to assure you that what the Church Order describes in § 1400.2 for the Synod also applies to the work of the Provincial Board:

*It conducts its negotiations in responsibility before the Lord. It is their will that the church be built up in all things and grow in the One who is the head, Christ. It gives an account before Him of its life and work in the church and, by asking His will, makes its decisions on spiritual and practical questions of congregational life. Its deliberations should be conducted in a spirit of brotherly love and openness.*

Benigna Carstens  
Raimund Hertzsch  
Heide-Rose Weber  
Johannes Welschen

Bad Boll, Herrnhut, Zeist in January 2024

## ON THE WAY TO THE 2027 ANNIVERSARY

Do everything in love! This call also fits in with the process we have undertaken under the motto "Reconciliation goes on". We started with an issue of the Herrnhuter Bote magazine and the 2023 Ministers Conference and with an impulse at the Unity Synod. We want to take five steps at the various levels of our church between now and the 300th anniversary of the celebration of Holy Communion on August 13, 1727. Firstly, we want to **recognize** what is. This includes rediscovering reconciliation through Jesus Christ as the basis of our faith. It includes recognizing where reconciliation work is needed in our lives as individuals, in our congregations and in society. To recognize whether love and community remain dead words because unresolved conflicts poison the atmosphere. Fortunately, there is a lot of experience with this inside and outside our church. That is why we call the second step on this path **learning**. It is great that we can join the learning community of many Christians on the "Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation and Unity", to which the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches has invited. Perceiving and learning, both will be on the agenda at the planned English-language conference "Reconciliation Goes On" in November 2024. We also invite congregations, schools and institutions to participate in this journey with their own activities.

The third step, **connecting**, recalls the prehistory of August 13, 1727, in which mutual obligations such as the "Brotherly Agreement" in May 1727<sup>1</sup> played a role. This can include looking at our Church Order, Mission Statement, Code of Conduct and other regulations and asking to what extent they commit us to a way of life that serves reconciliation between people and between people and nature, or whether we should supplement them. Of course, we are also planning to **celebrate** in 2027, a celebration with many brothers and sisters from our worldwide church and from all generations. And since the Lord's Supper is at the center of this anniversary celebration, we want to deal with the topic of the Lord's Supper in various ways in the run-up to the event. Finally, the fifth step points beyond 2027: those who have experienced reconciliation want to **share** this experience **with others**. Soon after August 13, 1727, brothers (and soon sisters too) from Herrnhut set out to invite enslaved people in the Caribbean to reconciliation through Jesus. August 21, 2032 is already looming on the horizon of the 2027 anniversary, when we will look back on 300 years of the mission of the Moravian Church. This anniversary too can be for us reason to rejoice and reason to reflect anew on the past and present of our church. We are confident that this is what we will experience in the future: **Reconciliation goes on**.

## ENTIRE PROVINCE

In recent years, the need for a critical examination of the **mission history** of the Moravian Church has become urgent. With regard to the role of the Moravian Church in the history of colonialism and slavery, new insights have been gained that make a more differentiated view on mission history necessary. Among other things, it has been proven that missionaries of the Moravian Church brought not only objects but also human remains from mission areas to Europe. The exact circumstances must now be researched in detail.

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<sup>1</sup> The Brotherly Agreement was drawn up to promote the peace of the "Moravian" community at Herrnhut. Today Moravians endeavour to establish their fellowship in keeping with its spirit (<https://www.moravians.net/en/about-us/14-beliefs/16-brotherly-agreement>).

With regard to the involvement of the Moravian Church in the history of slavery, it is a special challenge for our province, but also a special opportunity, that our members include a large number of descendants of enslaved people from Suriname. At the same time, we are also the successors of the missionaries of the 18th and 19th centuries. This places a special responsibility on us today to describe the history of the mission, which until now has been described almost exclusively from the perspective of white Europeans, from the point of view of these two groups and above all from the perspective of the enslaved people. In doing so, the ambivalences must be clearly identified. The intercontinental working group "Historical review of the history of slavery" has set itself this task. At the suggestion of this working group, the historian Maurice San-A-Jong has been commissioned by the ECP to undertake the first research project on the role of the Moravian Church in the history of slavery in the Netherlands in the period 1828 - 1873. He is being supported by experienced academics and is working in contact with the major research project "Church and Slavery" at the Protestants Theologische Universiteit and the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. The project has experienced some delays but is making good progress. Mr. San-A-Jong also participated in the Intercontinental Symposium of the Raad van Kerken Nederland.

The Provincial Board is committed to ensuring that the process of reviewing injustices that have occurred in the history of the mission, which has already begun in dealing with the history of slavery, is also initiated with regard to other aspects of the mission. In March 2023, an initial statement was issued together with the board of the Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH). It highlights problematic aspects and addresses the critical review that has begun. The Moravian Church is also represented on the advisory board for the new exhibition at the Ethnological Museum in Herrnhut by the brothers Theodor Clemens and Peter Vogt and by sister Carstens.

As already announced in the interim report for Synod 2023, the Provincial Board is working intensively on the question of how sufficient **employees** can be found **for ministry** in the coming years and how the structures in ministry and in the congregations need to be adapted to a situation of increasing shortages in this area. In Germany, *one* theology student is about to take his exams and has announced that he wants to do a vicariate in the Moravian Church. After that, there are currently no more students of theology. In the Netherlands, we have one female vicar in the vicariate accompanying her studies, as well as two students who are in the Bachelor phase. The Provincial Board is convinced that new paths into the ministry are necessary. This is also evident from the fact that most of those interested in theological training already have another profession and are in mid-life.

In 2022, there were a number of reappointments and new appointments in **the ministry** in Germany. The three newly appointed female ministers and the two ministers with roots in the Netherlands and the USA make the teams more female and more international. From their previous professional stations, they bring with them skills from - among other - diaconia and teaching. At the same time, they symbolize the diversity of individual paths into the ministry that the European Continental Province will increasingly be confronted with in the coming years. The 2022 Synod has called for working groups in view of the looming shortage of young people for the ministry (Gemeinhelferamt). One working group for each of the major regions has begun its work.

In the Netherlands, the working group continued its work on a profile for the ministry, discussed it with the Predikantenberaad (Pastors' Council) and submitted it to the Provincial Board for approval. The working group has called on the parishes to hold a "roepingszondag", a Sunday on which the call to serve the church should take center stage. Among other things, liturgical material has been developed for this purpose. Work has also continued on an advertising campaign. The "roepingszondag" is to take place on (or near) February 4, 2024 and, if it is accepted in the parishes, will be repeated in the coming years.

Even before 2022, a Dutch-German working group was working on guidelines for suspected cases of **sexualized violence** (cross-border behaviour, sexual abuse). As the framework conditions in Germany and the Netherlands are very different, a working group led by Ms. Silke Hansen from the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg - Silesian Upper Lusatia has been working on a **prevention concept** since 2023. At the same time, Sister Katharina Rhe, together with Sister Jill Vogt one of the confidants from the group of ministers, is undergoing further training. The members of the Commission for Cases of Sexual Abuse meet twice a year to delve deeper into the topic. The aim is for the Moravian Church to be experienced as a safe space by ensuring that all of its employees and volunteers are familiar with the topic of abuse of power and sexualized violence and how to prevent it.

In the Netherlands, the persons of trust Sister Wil Codrington and Sister Christine Welschen are working under the title "Meldpunt Veiligere EBG" to offer training for congregations and work areas to increase awareness of power structures that promote sexual abuse. The aim is also to increase confidence in dealing with specific complaints. Both are currently also undergoing further training on these topics. At the end of January, a consultation of all persons involved in this topic at the Moravian Church in the Netherlands was organized. In particular, the guidelines (protocol) for dealing with (suspected) cases were discussed.

## REGION GERMANY

The **300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Herrnhut** was of supra-regional significance. An entire year of celebrations was organized and attracted hundreds of visitors. This meant an enormous effort on the part of the employees of the Herrnhut congregation, who had to manage the renovation of the church hall and the World Heritage application at the same time. The Unity Archives - including the international archivists' conference - guest work and the ECP's public relations work also contributed. The ECP Youth set a special highlight in the anniversary year with the MoMo festival. The youth representatives succeeded in attracting a large number of young people and young adults to work on the design, content and organization of this ambitious project.

As decided at the 2022 synodal meeting, the **Zwickau Moravian Church** was **dissolved** at the end of 2022. As Zwickau fellowship, the brothers and sisters will continue to be looked after by Sister Kerstin Hartmann from Ebersdorf. The decision of the Zwickau congregation to give up its independence was primarily based on the fact that the ageing active members of the congregation were finding it increasingly difficult to meet the requirements of the church constitution for an independent congregation (with a board of elders, financial administration, etc.).

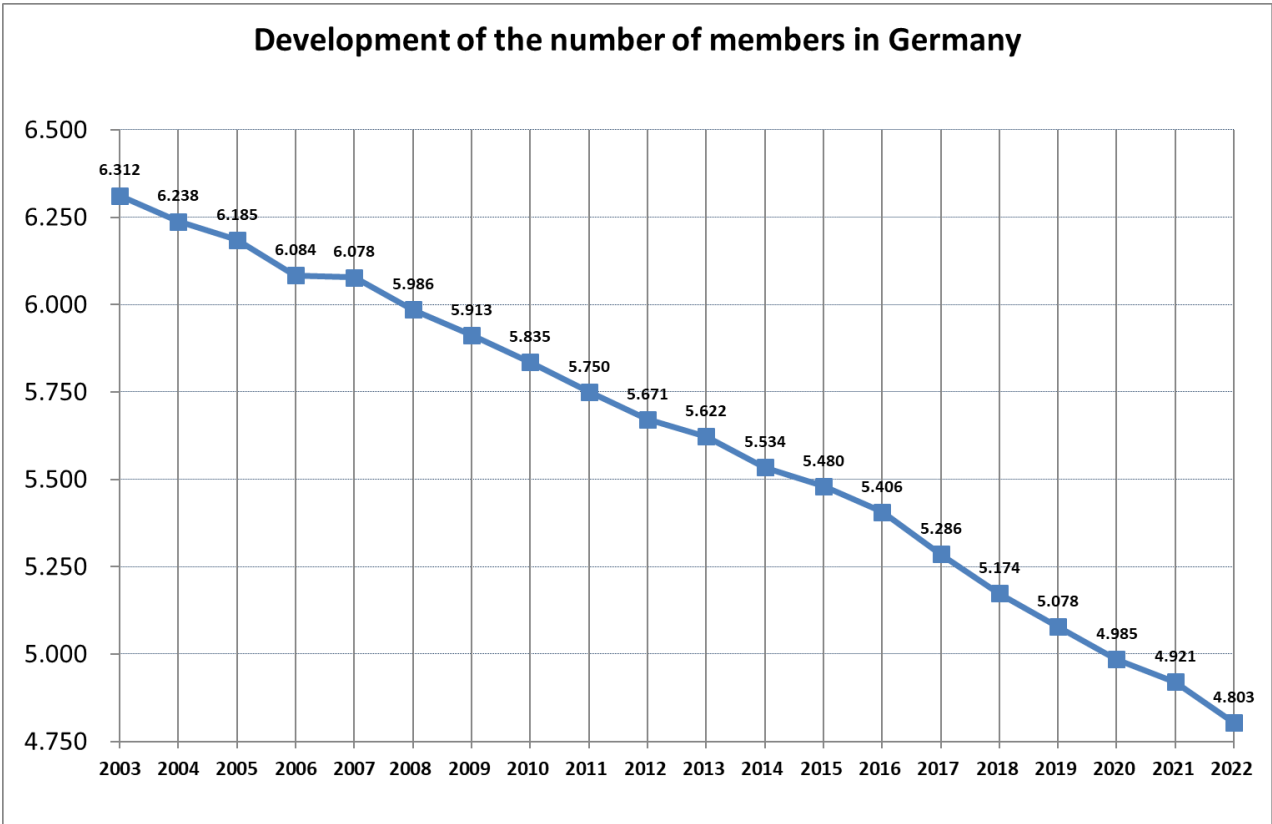
Similar difficulties also became apparent in other congregations during the 2023 elections for the board of elders and synod. Small local congregations and regional congregations appear to be the most affected. It appears to be necessary to think and act towards fundamentally different congregational structures. The Working Group “Future” of the German Conference has made its way there.

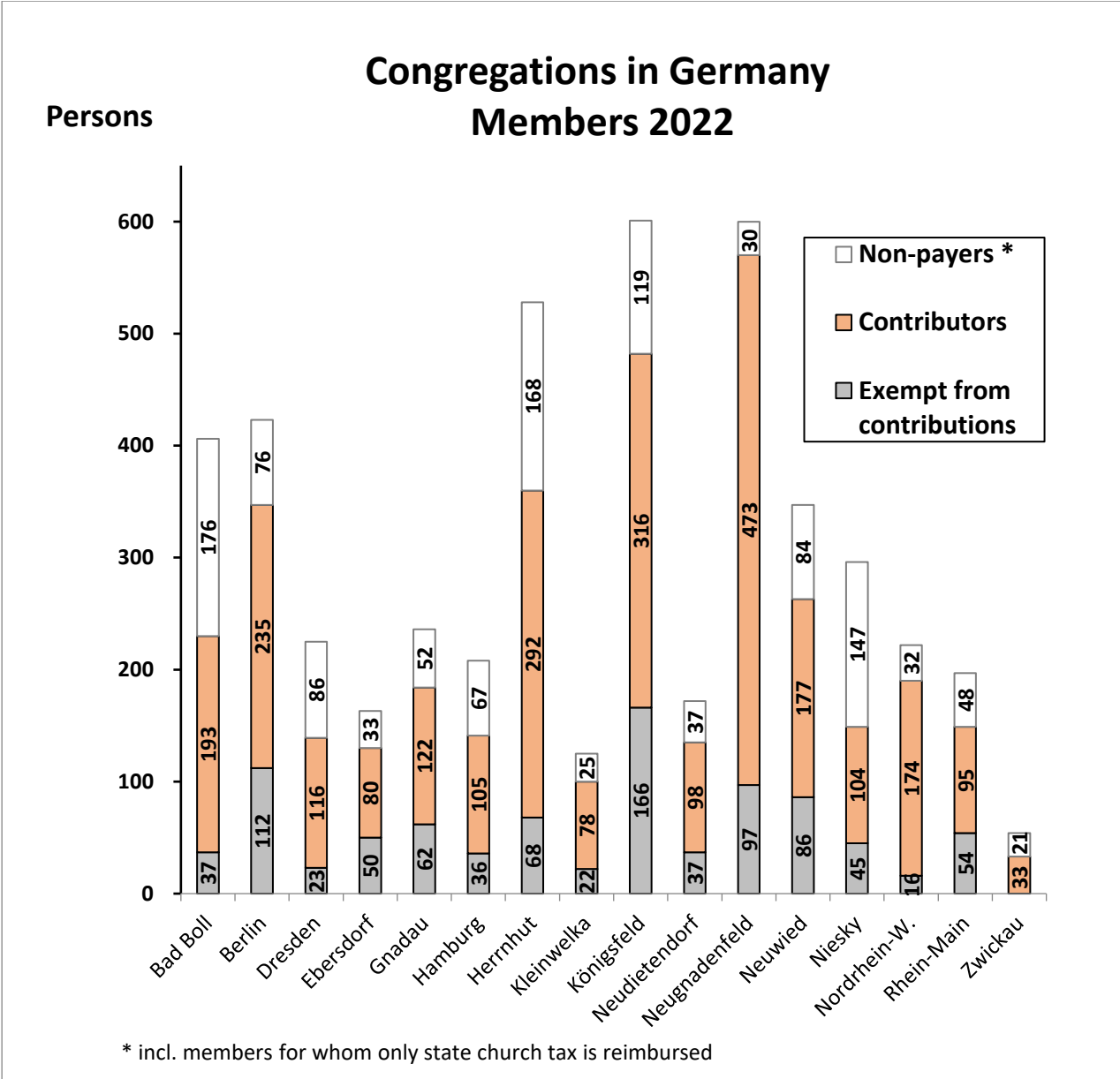
Another challenge for congregations is that there are now more and more **vacancies** after the removal of one minister until the appointment of a new one, due to the lack of ministers. Based on regulations in other churches, the Provincial Board has decided on a handout to provide guidance for congregations at such times.

The trend that the number of members falls by an average of around 1% each year continues. In the last 20 years, the number of members has fallen from 6,312 (31.12.2003) to 4,803 (31.12.2022).

One reason for the decline is demographic change. More older members are dying than new members are being baptized. This sometimes has serious financial consequences for the congregations, as the older members are often the most loyal payers of the church contribution. But every year, some sisters and brothers also leave the church, sometimes in response to a request to pay the church contribution. In some congregations, removals are made if there is no contact with a member over a long period of time and no contributions are paid.

Of the 4,803 members on 31.12.2022, 3,892 are liable to pay contributions. 2,691 members have paid a church contribution. 1,767 members are double members.





New contribution tables were adopted by Synod 2022. Flyers with the tables were printed and sent to the congregations. There has not yet been any valid feedback as to whether this has led to an increase in church contributions.

At the 2022 German conference (Deutsche Konferenz), a process for **necessary changes in the Moravian Church**, accompanied by an external expert, was called for. Initially intended primarily as a process of structural change, it should also focus on content. The Provincial Board agreed to this, and an experienced advisor has been found in Mr. Reinhard John, Dresden. The Workgroup Future with almost 20 brothers and sisters is working intensively on this. Previous work results, for example from the future workshops in 2015 and 2016, and current research are being included. It is clear that an exchange with the bodies in the Dutch region should take place as soon as possible. The situations in the small regions of our province are so different that possibly necessary structural changes can only be discussed locally.



## REGION NETHERLANDS

A special event for the congregations in the Netherlands was the **consecration of Sister Rhoïnde Mijns-Doth** as a bishop of the Unitas Fratrum in the church of the Zeist congregation. Although this consecration was of course an event for the entire province and was also attended by bishops from other provinces, Sister Sarah Groves and Brother Renold Pansa, the Dutch congregations also experienced it as "their celebration". The limited space in the church hall made it necessary for only a number of delegates from each congregation to be present. However, many people in different countries were able to take part in this event via the livestream.

Another special event for many members in the Netherlands and the congregations was the apology (excuses) from the Prime Minister of the Netherlands in December 2022 for the Dutch government's involvement in **slavery** and the King's request for forgiveness on July 1, 2023. This day also marked the start of the year of remembrance proclaimed by the government. Various congregations had already organized events to deal with the history of slavery on the way to July 1, 2023, and are continuing to organize discussions, lectures and excursions. The working group "Heilzame Verwerking van het Slavernijverleden voor Wit en Zwart", founded by the congregation Amsterdam-Stad en Flevoland, the Lutheran congregation of Amsterdam and other institutions, was transformed into a foundation in the fall of 2023, which also wants to carry out and support activities throughout the country.

During a meeting of the Centrale Raad in October 2023, the observation was made on the occasion of **elections to the council of elders** in many congregations that it is very difficult to find candidates for this governing body of the congregation. At the meeting, the delegates from the congregations discussed the possible reasons for this. Demographic change plays a role here. The congregations have many older members. Younger people are difficult to convince to get involved in the congregation. In particular, "young retirees" often want to commute between Suriname and the Netherlands, are then in the tropics during the winter months and are therefore unable to participate continuously in the work of the council of elders. However, the consequences of the pandemic, which have still not been overcome, also play a role. The active part of the congregations has become significantly smaller. This also became clear during the research into the renewal of song licenses for the congregations - the average attendance at church services has decreased noticeably in all congregations. The complaint that it is not possible to interest young people in the congregation or to keep them in the congregation has been heard for many years, but the situation is becoming more threatening with regard to the future of the congregations. The Beziinningsdag of the Centrale Raad in January 2024 was therefore dedicated to a conversation between the generations.

The central membership file (Scipio-Online) has not yet been corrected by all congregations. While the figures for the small congregations in particular appear to be reliable, the Provincial Board's impression is that the large membership figures for the two Amsterdam congregations in particular are still far from reality. It is precisely because of the large number of entries that a structural adjustment of the database is difficult. For this reason, the existing membership figures do not yet provide a basis for a fair calculation of congregational contributions.

The current figures (as at 01.01.2024) are as follows

EBG Amsterdam-Stad en Flevoland	4084
EBG Amsterdam Zuid-Oost	1604
EBG Haaglanden e.o.	481
EBG Noord-Holland	505
EBG Rotterdam Centrum	939
EBG Utrecht	311
EBG Zeist	490
Diaspora	166
Total	8580

### SMALLER REGIONS

Br. Hertzsch traveled to **Switzerland** several times a year to meet with the pastors and to take part in meetings of the various committees. One focus was on the upcoming retirements. Unfortunately, following the cancellation at short notice of a pastor who had already been appointed, it has not yet been possible to find a successor for sister Elsbeth Kaiser in Zurich. Br. Volker Schulz took over responsibility for the fellowship for the time being. The work in Geneva has developed well. Sister Winelle Kirton-Roberts started to establish an international Moravian Fellowship in 2019. Well-attended church services are held every second week, which are also broadcast online, and numerous new contacts have been made. Regular meetings with the leaders of the Don Camillo community have further strengthened the warm bond and good cooperation. The work in the House of Religions also plays an important role thanks to committed brothers and sisters. The congregation in Basel continues to be successful in appealing to all generations. Together with the Herrnhut Mission in Switzerland and Mission 21, the relationship with brothers and sisters of the worldwide Moravian Unity are fostered regularly, for example on Tanzania Sunday.

In September 2022, Br. Hertzsch visited the congregations of Gothenburg and Stockholm in Sweden together with Sr. Almut and Br. Theodor Clemens. Church activities take place almost daily in the congregation's rooms in the center of **Gothenburg**, which are also attended by many young people. All age groups are reached through the variety of activities on offer. Br. Mats Linde, together with other employees and the committed board, has initiated many new church activities that have a strong impact.

In **Stockholm**, new employees are being sought for both the ministry and for the work on the boards of the foundations. Br. Klas Lindberg will retire in 2024.

The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village and the Moravian congregation of **Christiansfeld** in Denmark was celebrated on August 13, 2023 with numerous guests, including representatives of the Danish royal family. Br. Hertzsch took part in the celebrations on behalf of the Provincial Board and the HMM board.

It was with great joy that Dena Fortuzi was ordained on September 18, 2022 as the first local pastor of the Moravian Church in **Albania**. The congregations have a great impact and continue to reach many young people. In Lezhe, new work was started, primarily with Sinti and Roma families. The Moravian Church in Albania celebrated its 30th anniversary with many international guests on June 17, 2023. The kindergartens in Pogradec, Elbasan and Burrel continue to be supported by HMM.

Unfortunately, no delegate from the **Estonian Moravian Church** was able to attend the extraordinary synodal meeting in 2023. However, a short illustrated report from the annual meeting of the congregations on the 10<sup>th</sup> Summer Day in Urvaste gave the synod members an idea of the life of the Estonian brothers and sisters. After 2019, a meeting between German and Estonian families will take place for the second time in summer 2024.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible for the head of department to organize a visit to Latvia in recent years. In the meantime, Br. Martin Theile has agreed to maintain contact with Latvia even after his retirement.

Br. Gundars Ceipe, whose work in Latvia continues to be supported financially, has sent the following report:

The last few years have been very difficult in many respects, but overall, they have proved to be very favorable and successful for the **Moravian Church in Latvia**. This applies above all to the recognition and understanding of the Moravians and their importance in Latvian society. This change is due to several circumstances. In 2020, a book about the Moravian Church, its theology and traditions was published. This was followed by a cycle of weekly radio programs "The Moravian Heritage" on Latvian Christian radio, which ran for three years. There were also broadcasts on Latvian Radio 1 and other radio stations, as well as on television. In the spring of 2022, the President of Latvia and the Minister of Culture opened an exhibition dedicated to the Moravians in the Latvian National Library, which was visited by many thousands of people over the course of a year and a half. We have held traditional Moravian meetings in various places in Latvia, and together with the Evangelical Alliance of Latvia we have been organizing conferences on the theme of 500 years of the Reformation in Latvia for seven years. During this time, the Moravian activities in Kurzeme have intensified and there are new impulses in other parts of Latvia, e.g. in Jaunlaicene and Jaunpiebalga.

Overall, our activities are proceeding as usual:

Meetings are held twice a month in Riga, in the Lutheran Church of Misiones and in the roof of the Latvian National Library. Regular meetings are held in the meeting house in Ringi, in the meeting house in Cimza and in Smiltene. The Christian David School continues to work actively and ecumenically as usual, and new teachers and staff have also joined. A joyful event was the recent Lantern Festival in Riga, an Advent light festival for children and families. It took place again for the first time after a break of several years. In some cases, our work has been affected by the pandemic and the health problems of active employees. But new co-workers are appearing again, and the work of the Kingdom of God can continue under the care of the Savior and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow him!

## FIELDS OF WORK

The composition of the **Youth Work** team in the **German region**, consisting of three youth coordinators, has changed since the 2022 synodal meeting, as has the responsibility within the Provincial Board. In this context, the desire arose to develop a Concept for Work with Young People in the ECP (Germany region). Initially started in the circle of youth coordinators and Provincial Board members, the participation of young people significantly broadened as the process progressed. In January 2024, five young volunteers took part in a workshop lasting several days under the moderation of Sven Scheffels, who works with children and young people in the Neugnadenfeld congregation.

The **Youth Work of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands** is organized by the two youth coordinators together with the Landelijke Jeugd Raad (LJR). This is still very small. It consists of four young people, but they are very active. Some time ago, they developed a format for church services for young people (Praise and Worship Night). The last event at the end of November in Amsterdam was attended by around 30 young people. Other events include Movie Night and the Back-to-school Barbecue. A career orientation day for young people is planned. The LJR also takes the opportunity to take part in nationwide activities such as the Zeister Zendingsfeest and the Centrale Raad, where it presents its youth work. The two youth workers are still responsible for the two camps in May (one for young people aged 12 - 16, the other for children aged 4 and over). Last year, there was a fundraising campaign in the congregations for the first time in order to keep the costs of these camps affordable for families.

Since 2021, Sister Anne Schulze (Bad Boll) has been responsible for developing **work with Families** in the German-speaking region. With 25 percent of her time, she creates offers for families. The beginning was not easy, partly because the various ideas for online family events only reached a small number of people. As the same applies to the newly conceived family camps, consideration is being given to extending the circle of invitees beyond the congregations of the Moravian Church. One response to the cost increase in the youth guesthouses is the offer of a child subsidy. This enables families to make a lower contribution to the costs of participation in an easy way. The resulting deficit is borne by the ECP. It remains to be evaluated whether this child subsidy encourages more families with a smaller budget to register for family camps. An active support group advises and supports Ms. Schulze in her work, which is still a work in progress.

The **Sister's Work** is characterized by regular regional and nationwide meetings. In 2022, the 13th European Sisters' Meeting took place in Woltersdorf near Berlin, led by an international team of sisters, in which Sister Susanne Gärtner shouldered most of the organizational work.

There was a change in the team of Sisters' Representatives for Germany in March 2023. Sisters Johanna Albrecht (East), Margit Lessing (Southwest) and Renate Majewski (North) maintain contact with the network of sisters through sister letters and occasional online meetings. The two annual nation-wide sister meetings - Sisters' Workshop and Sisters' Seminar - took place again in their usual strength after the corona-virus break.

In the Netherlands, the sister's circles are a mainstay of congregational fundraising, for example through the sale of food after Sunday services. One of the nation-wide gatherings that are once again being celebrated with great participation following the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, is the Candlelight Vigil on 1st Advent. At the time of the synod meeting, the sister's circles will be preparing for their anniversary celebrations in October 2024.

The Centrale Broederraad EBGN, the umbrella organization of the **Brethren groups** in the Moravian congregations in the Netherlands, is still looking for a chairman. However, many of the local Brethren groups make a significant contribution to the life of their congregations. However, the demographic process of an ageing church is also clearly noticeable here.

**Church music** has a high priority in the Moravian Church. Nevertheless, many congregations no longer have a weekly Song Service, choirs are outdated in some places and liturgical features cannot be maintained, for instance the brass choir accompanying funerals.

The tradition of central **choir meetings** could not yet be resumed. As a substitute, there were various meetings of several choirs as well in Netherland as in Germany in 2023. The enthusiasm was great, so that such meetings will also take place in 2024. Another highlight of the choir work in the Netherlands was the consecration of Rhoïnde Mijns-Doth, which attended singers from other choirs as well as choirs from the congregations of Utrecht and Zeist.

In addition to a large number of singers from Herrnhut and the surrounding area, sisters and brothers from the neighboring Moravian congregations also took part in the large Christmas Oratorio project in Herrnhut 2023 under the direction of cantor Christiane Rönsch. The "Singing and Hiking" leisure activities in Herrnhut and the men's choir weekend at Herrnhaag continue to be a stable element among the church music offerings for the whole province.

Unfortunately, a gospel project planned for the Deutsche Kirchentag 2023 in Nuremberg did not materialize. However, Br. Niels Fischer is planning to resume the gospel workshops as a province wide musical activity for the youth.

The idea of making recordings of the German Moravian hymnbook notations available for congregational gatherings without organists has not yet been realized. Br. Fischer is busy re-setting movements from various hymnbooks, including Aria Singi, and adapting them to today's singing habits. Another time-consuming undertaking by Br. Fischer is to compile statistics of all the verses sung in more than 2000 Sunday services and on feast days in the individual congregations over the last two years. The results could, among other things, provide information as to whether the publication of a new Dutch hymnal of the Moravian Church would be useful for the congregations.

The **brass choir work** under the musical direction of Br. Jens Bauer and with its theological chair Br. Michael Salewski has had several highlights in recent years. In 2023, the 38th Moravian Brass Festival took place in Berlin. Also in 2023, brass players from our province took part in the international Brass Band Festival in South Africa. These international meetings, as well as the impressive series of concerts in the anniversary year of the Neuwied brass choir and performances by Moravian Brass, show how important brass work with its intergenerational commitment is for our church.

The 2022 Synod meeting took place in the first weeks of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Women who had fled from there and found temporary shelter at KOMENSKÝ gave an impressive account of their experiences. There was a great willingness to accept refugees in Central Europe. At the same time, **refugees** from other war and civil war countries - including Afghanistan and Syria - came under pressure. Deportation orders into inhumane situations are increasing. The Moravian Church Coordinator for Migration and Refugees (German region), Br. Stephan Theo Reichel, is mainly active in Bavaria, but has also advised and supported several of our congregations that granted church asylum.

The **intersynodal working group on the conciliar process** launched the "Online Oasis" format in the past period. It offers brothers and sisters who are active for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation the opportunity to exchange views on burning issues and strengthen each other between the annual conferences. In 2023, the annual conference dealt with a new theological concept for working for creation under the title "Paradising". At the same time, the aim was to find ways to make the Checklists for Sustainability, which were recommended by the 2018 Synod and have since been revised, more visible and attractive in our congregations and administrations.

To implement resolutions 11 and 12 of Synod 2022 in the area of social responsibility, a province-wide work group on **climate protection** was established. On suggestion of the work group, the Provincial Board, with the approval of the Intersynodal Finance Committee, has adopted funding programs for the congregations, according to which 75% of the costs for energy consulting and potential analysis for photovoltaic systems and also 75% of the costs for implementation measures for energy-efficient refurbishment and for the installation of photovoltaic systems are subsidized. Congregations in Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland are eligible to receive a maximum of €5,000 for the analysis and €50,000 for the measures. The own properties of the Moravian Church can also be supported. Financing is provided from the Future Fund. At the time of writing, three congregations are in the implementation phase for photovoltaic systems. In order to anchor the topic of climate protection more broadly in the awareness of the congregations, the congregations were asked to nominate contact persons. Several meetings have already taken place between the contact persons for the German congregations and the Dutch congregations, during which valuable suggestions were passed on to each other. The topic of participation opportunities for members is currently being discussed.

The JobRad scheme is now available for administrative and church staff in Germany and the Deutschlandticket will be available as a JobTicket from 2024. The hope is that as many employees as possible will use environmentally friendly means of transportation. In 2023, there were 15 flights by the Moravian Church and 16 flights by HMM. In 2022, there were only 2 and 11 flights respectively. The Moravian Church paid €374.21 as compensation payments to the tree nursery project of the Light of Hope School in Dzaleka Camp in Malawi.

## UNITY AND MISSION

Since the 2016 Unity Synod, greater emphasis has been placed on maintaining good relationships within the **worldwide Moravian Unity**. It has become obvious how important it is to build trust through personal encounters so that discussions can take place in a good atmosphere in the committees of the worldwide Unity, even on controversial topics. The combination of the chairpersonship of the board of HMM with the Provincial Board department II has proved its worth, as there are close relationships with the church leaders in the provinces in which projects are supported by HMM.

Following the interruption caused by the Covid pandemic, numerous overseas trips have been undertaken again, especially in the months before Unity Synod. Guests from various Unity Provinces visited Herrnhut and other congregations during a meeting of the Unity Board, which took place in Liberec, Czech Republic, in May 2022. Further encounters took place during the events marking Herrnhut's 300th anniversary. Around twenty members of the Moravian Church from different Provinces met during the Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe and celebrated a worship service together in Königsfeld. During a trip in January 2023, Br. Hertzsch visited numerous brothers and sisters in three Provinces of the Moravian Church in Tanzania. In March, Br. Hertzsch accepted an invitation to meet with representatives of the Czech Unity Province in Liberec. In May 2023, Br. Welschen and Br. Hertzsch took part in the consultation with the Surinamese Provincial Board and representatives of ZZg in Paramaribo (Suriname). The annual meeting of HMH in July 2023 was attended by the chairmen of the Tanzanian Provincial Boards of the Southern, Southwestern and Eastern Provinces. In addition to the regular meetings of Unity committees, such as a meeting of the Unity Mission Development Board in Mt. Morris, Wisconsin (Moravian Church in America, Northern Province), Br. Hertzsch was also a member of the steering group for the establishment of a Moravian Unity Cultural Heritage Foundation. Immediately after the Unity Synod, the Provincial Board of the British Province was a guest in Herrnhut, where a joint meeting also took place with brothers and sisters from the Czech Mission Province.

The good working relationships between the **mission organizations** of the Moravian Church continued to be cultivated. Meetings of the Moravian Mission Council took place online and on the fringes of the Unity Mission Development Board meeting. The close cooperation in projects and encounter programs leads to good coordination, mutual support and many synergy effects. The participation of the Moravian Church in the work of the umbrella association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW) as well as in the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), the Württembergische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Weltmission (WAW) and other organizations for ecumenism and mission is important for the work of HMH and for the Moravian Church. Br. Hertzsch was re-elected to the EMW board and the EMS Mission Council.

Good relations with the management team of the **Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center** in the West Bank were maintained on an ongoing basis, primarily through regular meetings via video conference. The director of Star Mountain, Ranya Karam, took part in the Unity Synod in South Africa. Since the cruel attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023 and the ongoing violence in Gaza, the work on the Sternberg has also been severely impaired, but was able to continue after a brief interruption. In view of the great suffering and the fear of the future, the Sternberg is a sign of hope and peace for many people. The Provincial Board issued several statements on the situation in the Middle East and was confronted with numerous inquiries about the commitment of the Moravian Church in Palestine. The Provincial Board does not see its special solidarity with the Jewish people as contradictory to its responsibility for Star Mountain and its concern for the people who are enduring unimaginable suffering in the Palestinian territories. Unfortunately, planned trips to the region could not take place. This also affected a trip for students of the Zinzendorf schools to Israel and Palestine, which was planned for February 2024. Instead, joint seminar days were organized for the three schools in Germany.



From September 4 to 10, 2023, the **Unity Synod** took place in Cape Town, South Africa, under the motto "Many Cultures, One Witness". In addition to Br. Hertzsch, the two delegates elected by the Synod, sister Damaris Enkelmann and sister Lilian Stuger-Kembel, took part as representatives of the European Continental Province. The conference took place in a good atmosphere. It was evident throughout that the unity of the church was a major concern for all delegates. Different opinions, cultural influences and different theological insights were not primarily perceived as a threat, but as an enriching diversity. Even when there were differences of opinion, it was possible to achieve good results in an objective and respectful manner. The synod also had a special quality because, beyond the necessary decisions, current topics such as the critical reappraisal of missionary history, reconciliation initiatives and practical climate protection were discussed constructively and common views were formulated. The proposal of the European Continental Province to review the Church Order for terms that are racist, discriminatory or no longer up-to-date was adopted. A working group will be tasked with this revision until the next Unity Synod in 2030. Wording to replace the term "race" in the Church Order was already drawn up by a committee during the Unity Synod and adopted by a large majority.

The last few years have been particularly significant for the **Unity Archives** in terms of its status as a work of the worldwide Moravian Church. The series of newsletters on the archive holdings relating to individual Unity provinces, which began in 2017 and can be read on the website, demonstrates the importance of the Unity Archives for the Unity as a whole. The aim of the Unity Conference of Archivists 2022, which took place October 10-17, 2022, was also to network archivists from the Unity provinces. The joint declaration led to the decision at the 2023 Unity Synod to set up an archive committee to network the archives of the worldwide Unity and further develop cooperation. Unlike in 2016, the funds for the Unity Archives were not cut when the budget was drawn up at the Unity Synod.

A second topic in the Unity Archives concerns digitization. This was, among others, also a demand 2016 Unity Synod. The archives are now technically well equipped for this, but staffing levels are still insufficient. Based on relevant experience, it was decided not to pass archive material on to third parties for digitization.

## ECUMENISM

Since July 1, 2022, Br. Johannes Welschen has been Deputy Chairman of the **Raad van Kerken Nederland**. His place in the General Assembly was taken over by Sister Sandra Oosterwolde. His place in the "Beraadgroep Geloof en Kerkelijke Gemeenschap" (Faith and Order) was taken by Br. Stefan Bernhard, who continues to be the deputy in the General Assembly. The Moravian Church was particularly involved in activities to mark the 150th anniversary of the actual abolition of slavery. These included a memorial service in the highly symbolic "Nieuwe Kerk" in Amsterdam, an international symposium with the participation of Surinamese researchers and scientists from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Curacao, Aruba and other islands), as well as a publication in which Sister Winelle Kirton-Roberts, among others, is represented with an article.



Sister Rhoïnde Mijns-Doth continues to chair the **SKIN** Foundation (**Samen Kerk in Nederland**), an organization of and for churches of immigrants and international churches. Thanks in part to SKIN's constant lobbying, these churches are now increasingly being recognized in ecumenical discussions. SKIN is a partner organization of the Raad van Kerken Nederland and participates in the plenary sessions of the Contact in Overheidszaken.

The Moravian Church continues to be represented by Sister Jill Vogt in the **Association of Christian Churches in Germany** (ACK). Sister Vogt also took part in the ACK's 40th anniversary celebrations and the subsequent members' meeting. The central Day of Creation, initiated by the ACK and organized in Saxony together with the diocese and the Protestant regional church, was celebrated in Herrnhut on September 1, 2023. The organization was mainly in the hands of the ECP, the Moravian Church in Herrnhut and the Protestant church district, with broad ecumenical participation.

In the **Association of Evangelical Free Churches** (VEF), in which the Moravian Church has guest status, it is represented by Sister Elke Hasting in succession to Brother Theodor Clemens. As in the World Day of Prayer Committee, the first meeting in November 2023 was characterized by intensive discussions about the war in Palestine and Israel triggered by the terror of Hamas.

During the reporting period, there was significantly more controversial discussion at the **EKD Church Conferences** than before due to the current hot topics. There were initially the issue of arms deliveries to Ukraine, the invitation of a climate activist and the speed limit for business trips decided by the synod. In addition, the Church Conference dealt with the topic of sexualized violence at every meeting, including the form of cooperation with the affected by abuse and the Scientific research Forum published in January 2024. All of these topics are also important for the Moravian Church - and we benefit from being able to participate in the discussions through our guest membership in the Church Conference.

After the **meeting** of church leaders of the **Evangelical Methodist Church (EmK)** and the **Moravian Church** in 2022 could only take place in a shortened form as an online meeting, the brothers and sisters met again in person in 2023 at the Schwarzenshof meeting and educational center (near Rudolstadt / Thuringia). The two churches had not set themselves a theological theme this time. Rather, the aim was to inform and question each other about processes that are currently taking place in both churches. The review of the history of slavery in the Moravian Church played just as much a role as the process of dealing with the different views on human sexuality in the EmK. The painful aspects of both processes were also shared. Renewal and future processes of both churches were discussed. Both churches plan to invite each other to another such consultation in 2025. At the heart of the relationship is the trusting cooperation and mutual awareness of both churches. The work in the EmK congregation Cottbus by Br. Ingo Gutsche from Haltestelle Cottbus has led to an interlocking of personnel. In other areas, there is mutual support for individual projects.

## **MORAVIAN DAILY TEXTS**

The change in the editorship of the **Daily Texts** from Br. Erdmann Becker to Br. Friedemann Hasting resulted in a one-year vacancy in this important office. Br. Becker thankfully supervised the dozen volunteers who were involved in editing the 2024 edition of the Watchwords, which meant a considerable logistical effort.

The Watchwords app has been further developed. Among other things, the daily Bethlehem impulses were added to it. Many app users welcomed this while others would like the Watchwords app without any interpretation. At the two annual meetings with the Watchword publishers, the further development of the Watchword editions, including the app, is also discussed. This is because the number of users of the Watchwords app is slowly but steadily increasing, while sales of the book editions of the Watchwords are decreasing by a few percentage points year on year. One exception is the “Losungen für junge Leute” (Watchwords for Young People), which have even sold out several times despite an increase in circulation. We are therefore pleased that the change in the editorial team for the Losungen für junge Leute from Ms. Elisabeth Heckmeier to Ms. Friederike Schulte has been a success. We have not yet succeeded in attracting more young sisters and brothers of the Moravian Church to the editorial team. Another important area of the Watchwords work is the support of translators and publishers of non-German editions by Dr. Christine Moritz in the Bad Boll office. The sale and dispatch of foreign-language editions is carried out from Herrnhut. Finally, Sister Veronika Ullmann has taken over both the sometimes arduous but often pastoral communication with readers of the Watchwords and the important task of proofreading after the end of her ministry in the vacancy of the Berlin congregation in September 2022.

The **Dagteksten** are published as a Dutch edition of the Daily Texts by the Moravian Church in the publishing house Jongbloed Media. The Dutch manuscript is compiled by Sister Sandra Oosterwolde as editor, together with an editorial team that selects the third texts. In recent years, this group has become much more female and more contributors from the Dutch-Surinamese community have been found. Unfortunately, sales continue to decline in the Netherlands too. An advertising campaign by the publisher has not yet materialized despite several discussions.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING**

There was also a change of personnel in the Public Relations Department (Germany). In this context, responsibility in the Provincial Board shifted from Department II to Department IV. Br. Erdmann Carstens, who had held the position of Public Relations Officer for over ten years, was able to hand over his duties to two successors in a job-sharing arrangement: Brother Christian Flöter (75%) and brother Andreas Herrmann (25%). So that in public relations work, for the first time, it is possible to deputize each other. One of the first challenges for the new team is the long-planned changeover of the Herrnhuter Bote from a subscription magazine published six times a year to a quarterly members' magazine. The hope is that this will lead to greater identification with the Moravian Church.

Overall, the results of the **Fundraising Department** are encouragingly stable. During the Covid period, there was even a significant increase in donations. Fears that donations would fall significantly due to price increases, inflation and the war in Ukraine have not been confirmed so far.

The 2019 level was reached again even after the special effects of the Covid period. Nevertheless, it is necessary to continuously develop the work of the donations department. In the area of Major Donor Fundraising in particular, steps were taken to gain new supporters for the work of the Moravian Church beyond the existing circle of regular donors.

In 2022, the **Graf-Zinzendorf-Stiftung** received substantial cash funds and a property, which was sold, from an inheritance. This significantly strengthened the foundation's financial base. Half of the bequest was earmarked for the work with the Moravian Daily Texts and was paid out to the church. These additional funds can be used to expand communication with the readers of the Daily Texts in the coming years. In addition, the Graf-Zinzendorf-Stiftung will again distribute between €15,000 and €20,000 in grants for projects of the congregations, of the Unity Archives and HMH in each of the years 2022 to 2024.

**Public relations work in the Netherlands is still** understaffed. It is carried out in cooperation with the department in Herrnhut. In the Netherlands, there is a Facebook channel, a website and the digitally published EBGNieuws. Unfortunately, this newsletter could only be published three times in 2023 for the aforementioned personnel reasons. A renewal of the website is currently being considered.

## DIACONIA AND SCHOOLS

**Diaconia** and church belong together. This becomes visible again and again, for example at the Diakonie's annual festival in Herrnhut or when the dining room of the Maria Heide House in Gnadau is the winter church; when volunteers in Königsfeld bring residents of the Christoph Blumhardt House into the church hall or during joint activities with the kindergartens in the various congregations, even if they usually have different providers today. Because most of the diaconal institutions have been in independent foundations for years, in the EMMAUS deaconess institution in Niesky and the Herrnhuter Diakonie Foundation, these will present their own reports to the synod. The Provincial Board continues to work on the boards of trustees of both foundations. During the reporting period, the consequences of the pandemic, the energy crisis and the personnel situation were frequent topics. The Herrnhuter Diakonie Board of Trustees was also busy for a time with the change in the office of the Theological Board from Br. Volker Krolzik to Br. David Heuckeroth. Br. Heuckeroth represents the Moravian Church in the Conference of Protestant Churches for Diakonia and Development, Sister Sonja Rönsch in various regional committees of the Diakonie.

The Moravian Church is directly responsible for the KOMENSKÝ guest and conference house in Herrnhut and the schools in Königsfeld and Tossens. The following table provides a rough overview of the key personnel and financial data:

Dependent institutions and schools	Balance sheet total		Total income		Annual result		Balance sheet result		Subsidy ECP	
	Economic data								Included in the annual result	
	31.12.2022 T€	31.12.2021 T€	2022 T€	2021 T€	2022 T€	2021 T€	2022 T€	2021 T€	2022 T€	2021 T€
KOMENSKÝ Herrnhut	1.268	1.337	942	624	69	-67	113	-22	90	89
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	9.052	9.255	12.270	11.595	540	258	0	0	238	188
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	954	1.011	2.900	3.097	-113	-183	-92	-113	297	217

Dependent institutions and schools	Employees		Places	Occupancy 2023	Management
	31.12.2023 Heads	Average full-time equivalents			
KOMENSKÝ Herrnhut	17 employees 5 temporary staff	10,75	87 beds	43%	Thomas Przulski
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	177	124	945 School 55 Boarding school	---	from 1.02.2022 Erdmuthe Terno Tobias Banholzer 06.05.2021 - 31.01.2022 Helmut Hertnagel (interim) Tobias Banholzer
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	42	28,3	289 pupils	---	from 01.08.2023: Bernd Maibaum Dennis Kittel Dr. Thomas Siemon 01.09.2022- 31.07.2023: Melanie Rummel Jens Schüßler Ilona Seebeck Dr. Thomas Siemon 01.02.2022-31.08.2022 Manuela Heuthaler

The number of overnight stays at the **KOMENSKÝ** guest and conference house has stabilized again since the end of the coronavirus pandemic. The last phase of the extensive ban on accommodation and hospitality lasted until 3 March 2022, after which there was a kind of catch-up effect. The occupancy rate in 2022 was 11,718 overnight stays (persons) and 7,064 room nights, which corresponds to an occupancy rate by room of 46%. This was an increase of 165% compared to 2021, including the accommodation of 56 Ukrainian refugees in March 2022 with 518 overnight stays. In addition, 217 day events with 4,752 day guests took place. In 2023, the number of overnight stays fell to 10,096 and room occupancy was 43%. In contrast, the number of day events rose to 267 with 6,512 day guests.

Overview of the development of occupancy figures:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total number of overnight stays	10.978	5.995	6.210	11.718	10.096
Overnight stays Room			4.277	7.064	6.523
Room occupancy	41,67%	23,21%	27,90%	46,08%	42,55%
Day guests	6.147	3.511	2.685	4.752	6.512
Day events	203	116	142	217	267
Employees (+ temporary staff)	13 (+5)	13	14 (+4)	14 (+7)	17 (+6)
Full-time employ- ees	8,5	8,0	8,25	9,5	10,25

Energy and food prices have risen disproportionately in the last two years. In addition, the VAT relief for catering with the reduction from 19% to 7% will cease to apply from 2024. The minimum wage will also increase, resulting in higher personnel costs. All of this means that prices will have to be raised significantly in 2024. It must be observed how this affects the occupancy rate.

Plans to build KOMENSKÝ junior, an overnight accommodation facility for young people, adjacent to the south of the KOMENSKÝ site, have so far been regrettably rejected by the monument protection authorities. The project should nevertheless be pursued, as there is a need for simpler overnight accommodation for groups.

Contacts between the three **Zinzendorf Schools** Königsfeld, Tossens and Herrnhut have continued to develop in recent years. Since the Covid pandemic, several meetings have taken place between the Zinzendorf Schools in Königsfeld and Herrnhut, which were attended by the head teachers, public relations staff and teachers from the religion and music departments. Numerous ideas for stronger networking between the schools were discussed. Concrete ideas were developed, particularly with a view to the 300th anniversary of the Moravian schools in 2024. One of the highlights of the anniversary year will be a joint concert in Herrnhut in September 2024. The individual schools are also planning their own events. A new website will present numerous schools in the provinces of the worldwide Unity and bring them into contact with each other. The schools of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands and the Johann Amos Comenius School of the Herrnhuter Diakonie will also be involved in the anniversary year.

When Sr. Erdmuthe Terno took up her position as principal at the **Zinzendorf Schools Königsfeld** in February 2022, responsibility in the Provincial Board moved from Department IV to Department II. The school pastor, Br. Christoph Fischer, resumed his duties in fall 2023 after a long illness. Together with the school management and interested members of staff, relationships with other Moravian schools and international contacts are maintained. Cooperation with HMM has intensified. The Zinzendorf Schools' great commitment to supporting refugees from Ukraine should also be highlighted. The number of students is currently very good, meaning that the financial result is also stable. The school management conference, which consists of the heads of the individual sub-schools, the boarding schools and the overall school management, works together with great commitment and continuously takes steps towards further school development, quality management and profile enhancement. Sr. Weber and Br. Hertzsch attend meetings of the extended management conference and other committees several times a year. Brother Hertzsch is a member of the advisory board.

The new school management team at **Zinzendorf School Tossens** works well together. The team attaches particular importance to attracting pupils. At the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year, the number of pupils was only 289. This will again result in an additional subsidy requirement of €350,000 from the Moravian Church in 2023. The Intersynodal Financial Committee has expressed concerns about the financial burden. There are contracts with the municipality and the district for the operation of the school. The Provincial Board believes it is important to use the term of these contracts and to do everything possible to achieve financial stabilization. Negotiations are also underway regarding a reform of state funding for private schools in Niedersachsen, which is likely to lead to an increase in financial aid. The district of Wesermarsch and the municipality of Butjadingen increase their subsidy for the years 2023 and 2024, and the Protestant Church in Oldenburg will also provide a subsidy for the years 2024 to 2026. The Oldenburg regional church has also provided an additional pastor, who will focus on looking after Ukrainian pupils.

An advisory board has been set up, in which the mayor, the district pastor, the chairpersons of the support group, the parents' council and a representative of the elementary school participate and support the school management in the school's development. The school is interested in closer links with the Moravian Church. A group from the congregation Noord-Holland visited the school and held a joint workshop with pupils and teachers on the subject of colonialism and slavery. The mayor and local politicians also visited the school to discuss current issues with the pupils. In addition to being certified as a biosphere school in cooperation with the Nationalpark Wattenmeer, the school was recently recognized as a cultural school. A sponsored run following the example of the Evangelische Zinzendorfschulen Herrnhut is in preparation.

The **two elementary school of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands** (Basisschool Crescendo in Amsterdam-Zuidoost and Comeniusschool in Zeist) are both under the supervision of a school association, which is formed by the respective council of elders. They are only indirectly under the supervision of the Provincial Board. After a difficult period after the resignation of the principal and problems on the board, Crescendo now has a new director in Mr. Dwight Wielingen and a new board since 1 January 2023. The school is located right next to the Wi Eegi Kerki church building of the Amsterdam-Zuidoost Moravian Church and is closely linked to the life of the congregation.

Unlike the two Zinzendorf Schools in Tossens and Königsfeld, the **Zinzendorf Schools Herrnhut** are not directly under the responsibility of the Provincial Board, but are under the umbrella of the legally independent school foundation of the Moravian Church. In addition to Br. Hertzsch, Br. Michael Schmorrd continues to serve on the foundation's board of trustees on behalf of the Provincial Board. Following the completion of the new school building a few years ago, the new gymnasium was inaugurated in spring 2023. The ambitious sustainability concept of the construction projects places very high demands on those involved. An aim is to achieve gold status in the assessment system for sustainable building (BNB). For several years now, the number of students enrolling has been significantly higher than the school's capacity. The Christian orientation as a school of the Moravian Church is clearly recognizable in the school profile. A wide range of musical training is now just as much a part of the educational focus as the interdisciplinary program Ethics and Responsibility in Business and Diaconia as well as the many choices offered by the Christian education department. The charity run for education, which raised the highest amount to date of around 20,000 euros in 2023, takes place every year. Part of the results go to Star Mountain and other HMM projects. There is great interest in the internationality of the Moravian Church.

The expansion of the school to include another type of secondary school education has proved successful. As in Königsfeld and Tossens, the aim is to achieve a high degree of permeability between the different types of school. Due to the growth of the school, it became necessary to revise the management structures of both the schools and the foundation board. An advisory board was set up for this purpose, of which Br. Hertzsch is a member. The school management was broadened by the appointment of a second level. With the retirement of principle Undine Bensch, a change in the overall pedagogical management is imminent.

## COMPANIES, PARTICIPATIONS, ASSET MANAGEMENT

Following the merger of Comenius-Buchhandlung GmbH with Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH on June 1, 2021, the Evangelische Brüder-Unität is still the sole or co-owner of three GmbHs with the following key data:

Company	Employees		Share capital T€	Participation EBU in %	Management
	31.12.2023 Headcount	Average full-time equivalents			
Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH Herrnhut	207	196,84	130	100,00%	Oskar Scholz
Klimatechnik GmbH (asset management) Neuwied	1	0,2	215	33,33%	Wolfram Kaul
Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH Neuwied	10	8,68	61	95,00%	Dennis Müller

Company	Balance sheet total		Total income		result		Dividend ECP from annual financial statements	
	31.03.2023/ 31.12.2022 T€	31.03.2022/ 31.12.2021 T€	2023/ 2022 T€	2022/ 2021 T€	2023/ 2022 T€	2022/ 2021 T€	2023/ 2022 T€	2022/ 2021 T€
Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH Herrnhut Financial year April 1 - March 31	26.641	24.210	29.025	24.676	4.705	3.973	1.882	1.986
Klimatechnik GmbH (asset management) Neuwied Financial year = calendar year	833	878	57	53	-16	21	10	10
Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH Neuwied Financial year = calendar year	709	668	1.119	1.156	62	46	5	0

The demand for Herrnhut stars remains high. The product range is gradually being expanded to include floral decorations and wooden products with Herrnhut stars. Since June 1, 2021, the bookshop Comenius-Buchhandlung with its branches in Herrnhut and Görlitz and the associated publishing house have been part of **Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH**. This resulted in an expansion of the business area. The high turnover increased again by 8.98% in the 2023 financial year. The bookshop's share of sales amounted to 6.1%.

The number of group tours has increased again following the coronavirus-related restrictions. The gastronomic offer, also in the outdoor area, is very well received.

In 2022, Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH celebrated its 125th anniversary. Special events were held, such as the Herrnhuter Kulturnächte (culture nights) with Ute Freudenberg, Karat, Tom Pauls and many more, and the family festival "Sterneland in Kinderhand". The book on the history of the Herrnhut star was rewritten by author Peter Ufer and presented at a festive event. Herrnhut stars in special sizes were installed in Dresden's main railway station, in the Saxon State Chancellery in Dresden and in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. The special editions of the stars (2022 pink, 2023 silver glitter, 2024 red glitter) are very popular, as are the paper star nature motif and paste star editions.

In 2023, the Comenius-Buchhandlung celebrated its 125th anniversary. In addition to a reading by Elisabeth Büchle and the offer to print bible verses as in Gutenberg's time, a poetry slam was held with pupils from the Evangelische Zinzendorfschulen. A Herrnhut Star of Literature was developed for the anniversary. This paper star is made from book pages that would otherwise be thrown away. The literature stars are unique and are only available in the branches in Herrnhut and Görlitz.

Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH acquired the neighboring site of the former Siegert carpentry shop. Expansion of production is planned there.

Increased material prices and labor costs, partly due to the minimum wage increase, have led to significantly higher prices. It is difficult to estimate whether customers will be able to bear further price increases.

On April 1, 2024, Mr. Oskar Scholz will hand over the management of Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH to Mrs. Katja Ruppert, who has been holding power of attorney for many years. Under the leadership of Mr. Scholz, Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH has developed into a flourishing company with a worldwide customer base, which significantly secures the economic basis of the Moravian Church through the payment of high dividends. The Provincial Board would like to thank Mr. Scholz warmly for his 20 years of successful work and his tireless commitment and wealth of ideas.

**Klimatechnik GmbH** operates exclusively in the rental and asset management sector. It is the owner of the business premises of Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH and another residential property. Rental income was increased. A reversal of impairment losses of around €8,000 was recorded for financial assets in 2021 and another impairment loss of around €32,000 in 2022.

The demand for wood-burning stoves remains high. **Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH** has stockpiled large quantities of stoves with foresight. This has made it possible to maintain delivery capability despite the shortage of materials and unpredictable delivery times since the coronavirus pandemic. Demand for gas stoves has fallen sharply since the start of the war in Ukraine. There is also less demand for pellet stoves, as the price of pellets has risen sharply. Many customers see a wood-burning stove as a risk hedging in case other heating media become unsafe. Existing tiled stoves and wood-burning stoves must be retrofitted by the end of 2024 in accordance with the Federal Immission Control Act. This will lead to a high level of incoming orders for conversions even beyond 2024. Since August 2023 the company employs an apprentice. The manager Mr. Dennis Müller is being trained in the field of heat pumps so that the range of services offered by Ofenbau des Brüderhauses can be expanded in the future.



For the sixth year in a row, the **forestry administration** had to harvest significantly more timber than the planned sustainable annual harvest of 5,500 solid cubic meters. The reason for this is the damage caused by the bark beetle. 10,800 cubic meters were felled in 2022 and 7,500 cubic meters in 2023. Due to the still high timber prices at the beginning of 2023, this led to high yields. However, the early felling will reduce future yields. There is a chance that the bark beetle damage will not be as high in 2024. Brother Matthias Clemens regularly leads chainsaw training courses and guided tours for guests. He provided the trees for the major donors project Jubilee Trees. The forestry administration used grants for felling damaged timber and repairing paths and has been participating in the 10-year "Climate-adapted Forest Management" funding program since September 2023. It is being monitored whether it will be possible to erect wind turbines over forest areas belonging to the Moravian Church in the future.

There are many buildings in the **building stock** of the Moravian Church that do not meet current energy standards. However, refurbishment is very expensive. In some cases, monument protection regulations prevent efficient thermal insulation. A three-family house in Strahwalde, Berthelsdorfer Str. 47, is currently being completely renovated for around €912,000 and equipped to the latest energy standards, with a heat pump and photovoltaic system. For financial reasons, not all buildings of the Moravian Church can be upgraded in this way. In a work group, guidelines for the evaluation and classification of the building stock were developed, which are to be used as a basis for a decision on how to deal with the church buildings. Important criteria are the significance for the identity, the structural condition and the economic efficiency. The decision-making aid is also to be made available to the congregations.

The installation of photovoltaic systems contributes to the generation of alternative energies and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The possibility of installing an agrivoltaic system on a plot of land in Gnadau is currently being examined.

A funding commitment from the "National wertvolle Kulturdenkmäler" monument preservation program was granted for the renovation of the roof of the Schwesternhaus ensemble in Kleinwelka. 90% of the costs will be covered. In addition, funding was applied for in the European INTERREG program in cooperation with Czech project partners. The Schwesternhaus ensemble was listed as one of the 7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites in Europe by the Europa Nostra organization in 2023. The Schwesternhaus Kleinwelka e.V. association has developed a utilization concept for the ensemble with the involvement of the Moravian Church, the congregation Kleinwelka and other partners.

The work group for the development of the Zinzendorfplatz 2 site in Herrnhut (former guest house corner) has met several times. A building for the Comenius-Buchhandlung, a visitor center for the town of Herrnhut and apartments are to be created on the site. A task definition for an architectural design has now been drawn up. The builder will be Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH.

The foundation **Abraham Dürninger Stiftung** (with participations) is active in the rental and leasing of real estate and in asset management. In 2022, high expenses incurred for the maintenance of buildings and rent losses, resulting in an annual loss of €36,916.77. In 2023, €5,000.00 was paid out to the Moravian Church and €5,800.00 to the congregation Herrnhut. The balance sheet total is €3,271,251.69. Following a change of shareholder at Dürninger GmbH Göppingen, the foundation received a distribution of €10,000. Inadequate heating as a result of efforts to save energy due to high energy prices has led to mould problems in several apartments, which will result in further high renovation costs in the coming years.

The company's 275th anniversary was celebrated in 2022. An archive day was organized together with the Unity Archive on 19 March 2022, and the anniversary itself was celebrated with a festive event on 10 September 2022. On October 24, 2022, a devotion was held at Abraham Dürninger's grave and the gravestone was professionally cleaned. A "Dürninger oak" was planted on the premises at Oderwitzer Straße 12. A beautiful illustrated book on the company's history was published.

Abraham Dürninger & Co. GmbH, which works in textile printing, generated a net profit of €128,694.69 in 2022. Workwear is currently in high demand. A follow-up audit for the ecological GOTS certification (Global Organic Textile Standard) was carried out in 2022. Customized textiles were provided for the MoMo festival. Herrnhuter Holzmanufaktur GmbH also generated a net profit again after the difficult coronavirus years.

## **BUDGET AND ASSET SITUATION**

The goal of permanently balanced or positive results in the **budget of the Moravian Church** has not yet been achieved. The consolidated balance sheet result in 2021 was positive at €121,715.67, but a balance sheet loss of € 252,128.86 had to be reported again in 2022. This deterioration was mainly due to a decline in income from donations and legacies, higher personnel expenses as a result of wage increases and an expansion in the number of employees, an increased subsidy for the Zinzendorfschule Tossens and higher depreciations on financial assets. Further details can be found in the management report.

Efforts will continue to be made to achieve the targets set out in the **action plan** for 2021-2025. These include reductions in administrative staff and church staff, as well as additional fundraising income, lower subsidies for KOMENSKÝ and savings on travel costs through more digital conferences. In particular, major donation fundraising has become well established and makes a significant contribution to securing high donation income.

The **forecast for 2023** assumes an accumulated loss of €267,360.00.

The **2024 business plan** is planned with an accumulated loss of €198,900.00.

Evangelische Bank's most recent rating result of 1a is in the green zone.

**Moravian Church**  
**Consolidated financial statements**  
**BALANCE SHEET as of 31.12.2022**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>	<b>31.12.2021</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>A. Fixed assets</b>		
<b>I. Intangible assets</b>	16.925,02	17.161,02
<b>II Property, plant and equipment</b>		
1. Land, land rights and buildings including buildings on third-party land		
a.) Properties with operational buildings	7.104.892,53	5.303.246,25
b.) Land with residential buildings	6.676.789,73	7.096.555,04
c.) Land without buildings	3.914.802,69	3.917.985,84
2. Technical equipment and machinery	80.292,04	89.711,04
3. Other equipment, operating and office equipment	847.279,65	835.912,40
4. Advance payments and assets under construction	94.704,65	2.235.415,87
	<b>18.718.761,29</b>	<b>19.478.826,44</b>
<b>III. Financial assets</b>		
1. investments	826.475,60	711.257,18
2. Securities held as fixed assets	1.677.755,79	1.641.985,64
3. Loans to congregations of the Moravian Church	152.926,88	151.935,90
4. Future fund	4.969.259,12	4.124.491,29
	<b>7.626.417,39</b>	<b>6.629.670,01</b>
	<b>26.362.103,70</b>	<b>26.125.657,47</b>
<b>B. Current assets</b>		
<b>I. Inventories</b>		
1. Raw materials, consumables and supplies	100.263,79	97.219,29
2. Goods	18.065,93	21.297,08
	<b>118.329,72</b>	<b>118.516,37</b>
<b>II. Receivables and other assets</b>		
1. Trade receivables	1.142.580,61	1.015.212,66
2. Receivables from companies in which participations are held	29,75	0,00
3. Other assets	1.426.687,06	1.719.434,87
	<b>2.569.297,42</b>	<b>2.734.647,53</b>
<b>III Cash in hand and bank balances</b>		
1. Cash desk	17.771,83	17.644,51
2. Bank balances	4.482.043,76	4.748.844,45
3. Fixed-term deposits and securities held as current assets	2.440.662,95	1.995.475,80
4. Deposits	17.660,74	17.943,32
	<b>6.958.139,28</b>	<b>6.779.908,08</b>
	<b>9.645.766,42</b>	<b>9.633.071,98</b>
<b>C. Prepaid expenses and accrued income</b>	25.674,25	51.960,42
	<b>36.033.544,37</b>	<b>35.810.689,87</b>

## BALANCE SHEET as of 31.12.2022

### PASSIVA

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
	€	€
<b>A. Equity</b>		
I. Capital	12.834.860,36	12.713.144,69
II Reserves	6.193.990,99	5.972.240,40
III Future fund	4.969.259,12	4.165.638,48
IV. Balance sheet result	-252.128,86	121.715,67
	<u>23.745.981,61</u>	<u>22.972.739,24</u>
<b>B. Special items from donations/inheritances not yet used</b>	869.438,12	319.380,79
<b>C. Special items from grants and subsidies for financing of fixed assets</b>	2.468.863,79	2.571.796,29
<b>D. Provisions</b>		
1. Pension provision	1.521.236,99	1.569.049,00
2. Other provisions	1.614.657,29	1.579.281,95
	<u>3.135.894,28</u>	<u>3.148.330,95</u>
<b>E. Liabilities</b>		
1. Liabilities to banks	2.342.301,78	2.650.662,83
2. Advance payments received for operating costs	850.337,13	969.697,43
3. Trade accounts payable	308.306,50	304.725,37
4. Liabilities to companies in which participations are held	2.549,29	0,00
5. Other liabilities	1.928.595,24	2.020.563,18
	<u>5.432.089,94</u>	<u>5.945.648,81</u>
<b>F. Deferred income</b>	381.276,63	852.793,79
	<u><b>36.033.544,37</b></u>	<u><b>35.810.689,87</b></u>

# Moravian Church

## Consolidated financial statements

### INCOME STATEMENT from 01.01.-31.12.2022

	2022 €	2021 €
<b>1. Revenues</b>		
a. Contributions for preaching	1.644.071,97	1.593.377,04
b. Flat-rate church tax refund	481.025,32	480.933,84
c. Watchwords licence fee	859.291,86	887.112,61
d. Accommodation (KOMENSKÝ)	685.440,54	372.944,55
e. Schools Tossens and Königsfeld	3.687.833,55	3.409.835,47
f. Grants for operating costs	10.467.219,91	10.482.847,97
g. Revenue from the sale of goods	115.006,94	94.720,67
h. Reimbursements (other and staff)	361.021,11	459.495,54
i. Income from auxiliary and subsidiary operations (forestry)	771.355,06	532.818,34
j. Rents and leases	2.148.698,33	2.089.530,97
k. Donations, collections	1.950.792,03	2.264.891,17
	<b>23.171.756,62</b>	<b>22.668.508,17</b>
<b>2. Other income</b>		
a. Reimbursements from insurance companies, etc.	128.977,19	164.623,18
b. Grants (without compensation)	138.967,86	45.205,01
c. Income from the reversal of special items	253.566,66	202.437,57
d. Income relating to other periods	0,00	546,57
e. Income from the reversal of provisions	20.687,16	313.873,66
f. Income from the reduction of value adjustments on receivables	13.214,85	94.679,10
g. Income from the disposal of fixed assets	283.015,51	46.335,56
h. Inheritances	192.718,13	440.770,49
i. Miscellaneous other income	67.689,05	142.692,50
	<b>1.098.836,41</b>	<b>1.451.163,64</b>
<b>3. Gross profit</b>	<b>24.270.593,03</b>	<b>24.119.671,81</b>
<b>4. Expenditure</b>		
a. Cost of raw materials, consumables and supplies and for purchased merchandise	-717.452,56	-515.074,35
b. Cost of purchased services	-1.152.944,69	-1.057.274,91
	<b>-1.870.397,25</b>	<b>-1.572.349,26</b>
<b>5. Personnel expenses</b>		
a. Wages and salaries benefits, other personnel expenses	-14.093.620,17	-13.854.262,89
b. Social security contributions	-2.672.494,95	-2.555.863,97
c. Expenses for pensions and retirement benefits	-963.502,79	-907.280,16
	<b>-17.729.617,91</b>	<b>-17.317.407,02</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT from 01.01.-31.12.2022

	2022 €	2021 €
<b>6. Depreciation</b>		
Depreciation of intangible assets of fixed assets and tangible assets	-1.196.472,21	-920.671,70
<b>7. Other expenses</b>		
a. Grants		
a.a. to congregations, missionary organizations and other institutions	-478.543,98	-533.629,17
a.b. Flat-rate church tax refund	-479.230,61	-479.144,66
b. Expenses for water and energy	-449.962,05	-411.475,76
c. Expenses for economic requirements	-22.463,79	-10.910,28
d. Administrative expenses	-810.251,11	-738.704,01
e. Maintenance and servicing of fixed assets	-1.616.667,73	-1.330.434,29
f. Expenses relating to other periods	-38.404,38	-23.753,09
g. Depreciation of receivables	-62.811,26	-39.446,70
h. Expenses from the disposal of fixed assets	-7.648,67	-125.421,75
i. Allocation to special items	-6,55	-56.397,29
j. Miscellaneous other expenses	-489.911,14	-358.759,07
	<b>-4.455.901,27</b>	<b>-4.108.076,07</b>
<b>8. interim result</b>	<b>-981.795,61</b>	<b>201.167,76</b>
9. Income from participations	2.002.780,43	1.990.582,22
10. Income from other securities and loans of financial assets	129.250,20	138.343,07
11. Other interest and similar income	22.994,84	56.865,32
12. Depreciation on financial assets	-319.035,92	-236.270,72
13. Interest and similar expenses	-65.963,11	-118.572,74
<b>14. Financial result</b>	<b>1.770.026,44</b>	<b>1.830.947,15</b>
<b>15. Earnings before taxes</b>	<b>788.230,83</b>	<b>2.032.114,91</b>
<b>16. Other taxes</b>	<b>-14.988,46</b>	<b>-15.906,13</b>
<b>17. Net loss/surplus for the year</b>	<b>773.242,37</b>	<b>2.016.208,78</b>
18. Allocation to earmarked reserves	-664.277,18	-1.171.148,73
19. Allocation to Future funds	-1.143.500,00	-1.147.500,00
20. Withdrawal from earmarked reserves	442.526,59	271.355,62
21. Withdrawal from Future fund	339.879,36	152.800,00
<b>22. Accumulated loss/profit of the financial year (offset against capital)</b>	<b>-252.128,86</b>	<b>121.715,67</b>

## PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY

The personal data listed here  
is not visible in this online version of the  
document for reasons of data protection.

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## **ENCLOSURE 1: MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL PROVINCE OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH FOR THE YEAR 2022 (CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)**

### **1. General conditions**

The European Continental Province of the Moravian Church is a Protestant church which regulates its own affairs independently (Church Order (KO) § 1000). In Germany it is a corporation under public law; in the Netherlands it is recognized as a church on the basis of Art. 2 BW II and registered with the Kamer van Koophandel. It sees itself as a community of service that serves its neighbor (§ 9 KO) and the world (§ 10 KO). It fulfills this mission by maintaining in addition to the church budget (unity administration including asset management and special-purpose operations) two Zinzendorf Schools in Königsfeld and Tossens as well as the KOMENSKÝ conference and guest house in Herrnhut,

The coronavirus pandemic had less of an impact in 2022. Some planned events were postponed again, while others were held in digital or hybrid form, including the Synod in March 2022. The Intersynodal Financial Committee was able to hold its two meetings as face-to-face events. The extensive ban on accommodation and hospitality for the KOMENSKÝ conference and guest house was lifted from 4 March 2022. Donations decreased, but are still above the pre-corona level of 2019.

### **2. Annual result**

The consolidated financial statements of the Moravian Church show a net profit for the year of EUR 773 thousand (2021: EUR 2,016 thousand). The accumulated loss amounts to EUR 252 thousand (2021: accumulated profit of EUR 122 thousand). It is offset against capital. The EUR 1,243 thousand decline in earnings compared to the previous year is mainly due to a decrease in donations of EUR 314 thousand and legacies of EUR 241 thousand as well as lower income from the reversal of provisions of EUR 293 thousand. In addition, higher personnel expenses as a result of pay rises and an increase in the number of employees of EUR 348 thousand as well as higher depreciation on financial assets of EUR 83 thousand compared to the previous year had an impact on the annual result.

### **3. Earnings situation**

Income from the congregation's contributions for preaching increased as planned by EUR 51 thousand to EUR 1,644 thousand (2021: EUR 1,593 thousand). As in the previous year, the flat-rate church tax refund amounted to EUR 481 thousand (2021: EUR 481 thousand).

The daily texts licence fee fell by EUR 28 thousand to EUR 859 thousand (2021: EUR 887 thousand). The number of copies of the 2022 edition sold in Germany fell by 1.9 % to 524,837 copies, including 23,588 apps, and in Switzerland by 1.3 % to 42,487 copies sold.

The forestry administration's income increased by EUR 239 thousand to EUR 771 thousand (2021: EUR 533 thousand) due to a repeated increase in the volume of timber harvested as a result of another very dry year and severe bark beetle infestation. The repeated above-plan high volume of timber harvested will reduce earnings opportunities in the coming years.

Even in the third year of the coronavirus pandemic, there was still an extraordinarily high willingness to donate among the population. Donation income fell by EUR 314 thousand from EUR 2,265 thousand in 2021 to EUR 1,951 thousand. However, this amount is still higher than in the pre-corona year 2019 with EUR 1,792 thousand. A further decline in donations must be expected in the future, also against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the development of energy prices.

At EUR 193 thousand, inheritances were EUR 248 thousand below the previous year's figure of EUR 441 thousand.

As a result of the aforementioned developments, total revenue and other income increased by EUR 151 thousand to EUR 24,271 thousand (2021: EUR 24,120 thousand).

There was also income from participations in the amount of EUR 2,003 thousand (2021: EUR 1,991 thousand). This mainly includes dividend payments from Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH of EUR 1,986 thousand (2021: EUR 1,974 thousand) and Klimatechnik GmbH of EUR 10 thousand (2021: EUR 10 thousand).

Personnel expenses rose by EUR 412 thousand to EUR 17,729 thousand (2021: EUR 17,317 thousand), mainly due to the increases in collective wage agreements. The total number of employees, converted into full-time equivalents, was 253.12 (2021: 244.43).

Grants to congregations, missionary organizations, schools, the guest house and other institutions amounted to EUR 479 thousand (2021: EUR 534 thousand).

EUR 1,617 thousand (2021: EUR 1,330 thousand) was spent on maintenance. Attempts were made to catch up on maintenance measures that were delayed in the previous year due to restrictions on the availability of materials and tradesmen's services and out of caution during the coronavirus pandemic.

Income from securities and loans held as financial assets amounted to EUR 129 thousand in 2022 (2021: EUR 138 thousand). Depreciations on financial assets amounted to EUR 319 thousand (2021: EUR 236 thousand).

EUR 1,144 thousand (2021: EUR 1,147 thousand) was transferred from the dividend from Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH to the Future fund and EUR 842 thousand (2021: EUR 827 thousand) was left in the church budget. In 2022, EUR 65 thousand was withdrawn from the Future fund for the BG online digitalization concept and EUR 76 thousand for vicar training.

The results of the individual dependent entities are as follows:

Entity	Annual result 2022 EUR	Annual result 2021 EUR	Balance sheet result 2022 EUR	Balance sheet result 2021 EUR
Unity administrations with property management and forestry management (church budget)	273.195,66	2.003.124,55	-273.313,07	304.814,86
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	539.894,16	252.498,28	0,00	0,00
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	-113.430,41	-183.057,64	-91.502,01	-161.129,24
KOMENSKÝ	68.534,47	-66.517,82	112.686,22	-22.366,07
Consolidation	5.048,49	10.161,41	0,00	396,12
<b>Result of consolidated financial statements</b>	<b>773.242,37</b>	<b>2.016.208,78</b>	<b>-252.128,86</b>	<b>121.715,67</b>

The Zinzendorf Schools Königsfeld generated a net profit for the year of EUR 540 thousand (2021: EUR 252 thousand). The number of pupils rose from 970 to 989. 55 places were occupied in the boarding school (2021: 61 places). Demand from pupils from China continues to decline. School fees increased by EUR 315 thousand to EUR 3,576 thousand (2021: EUR 3,261 thousand). State subsidies were increased and rose to EUR 7,219 thousand (2021: EUR 6,997 thousand). The subsidy from the Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden amounted to EUR 536 thousand (2021: EUR 549 thousand) and the subsidy from the Moravian Church amounted to EUR 188 thousand (2021: EUR 187 thousand). The secondary school has been growing with a second track of classes since the 2020/21 school year. Due to the additional employees required for this and the increases in collective wage-agreements, personnel expenses rose by EUR 360 thousand to EUR 9,575 thousand (2021: EUR 9,215 thousand). EUR 282 thousand in compensation payments were received as part of a land swap with the municipality of Königsfeld im Schwarzwald.

The net loss for the year at Zinzendorfschule Tossens amounted to EUR 113 thousand (2021: EUR 183 thousand). The number of pupils fell from 335 to 309. As a result, financial aid from the state of Niedersachsen fell to EUR 1,939 thousand (2021: EUR 2,230 thousand) and school fees to EUR 112 thousand (2021: EUR 149 thousand). As in previous years, the material cost subsidy from the district of Wesermarsch amounted to EUR 280 thousand. The subsidy granted by the district and the municipality of Butjadingen to cover deficits remained unchanged at EUR 71.5 thousand each. In addition to its subsidy of EUR 71.5 thousand, the Moravian Church provided liquidity assistance of EUR 200 thousand. The school received donations of EUR 25 thousand (2021: EUR 56 thousand) from fundraising activities. There is still a liquidity loan from 2021 of EUR 150 thousand, which has not yet been repaid.

From 11/11/2021 to 03/03/2022, the KOMENSKÝ guest house was for the most part closed for accommodation and catering due to the coronavirus pandemic. After that, normal operations were for the most part possible. Occupancy (occupancy rate by room) increased from 28% in 2021 to 46%. Income from accommodation increased by EUR 311 thousand to EUR 684 thousand (2021: EUR 373 thousand). The subsidy from the Moravian Church amounted to EUR 90 thousand (2021: EUR 89 thousand).

#### **4. Asset situation**

Total assets amounted to EUR 36,034 thousand as at 31/12/2022 (31/12/2021: EUR 35,811 thousand). Property, plant and equipment decreased by EUR 760 thousand to EUR 18,719 thousand (31/12/2021: EUR 19,479 thousand). This was offset by acquisitions of EUR 439 thousand, depreciation of EUR 1,187 thousand and disposals of EUR 12 thousand, resulting in a corresponding reduction in tangible assets. Receivables and other assets decreased by EUR 165 thousand to EUR 2,569 thousand (31.12.2021: EUR 2,735 thousand). Financial assets increased by EUR 996 thousand to EUR 7,626 thousand (31/12/2021: EUR 6,630 thousand) and cash and cash equivalents by EUR 178 thousand to EUR 6,958 thousand (31/12/2021: EUR 6,780 thousand). The Future fund amounted to EUR 4,969 thousand as of 31/12/2022 (31/12/2021: EUR 4,124 thousand).

After offsetting the accumulated deficit of EUR 252 thousand, equity amounts to EUR 23,746 thousand (31/12/2021: EUR 22,973 thousand). The equity ratio is 65.9% (2021: 64.2%) The economic equity ratio (equity plus special items) is 75.2% (2021: 72.2%).

## **5. Financial situation**

Liabilities decreased by EUR 514 thousand to EUR 5,432 thousand (2021: EUR 5,946 thousand). One loan with a residual value of EUR 14 thousand was repaid early at the end of the fixed interest period. The other loans will be repaid as scheduled.

## **6. Investment report**

A total of EUR 448 thousand (2021: EUR 1,353 thousand) was invested in tangible and intangible assets in 2022. Of this amount, EUR 9 thousand (2021: EUR 13 thousand) was invested in intangible assets, EUR 5 thousand (2021: EUR 987 thousand) in land and buildings, EUR 254 thousand (2021: EUR 296 thousand) in technical equipment and operating and office equipment and EUR 181 thousand (2021: EUR 57 thousand) in assets under construction. At the Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld, expenses of EUR 2,232 thousand were capitalized following the completion of the renovation and extension of the Spangenberg building.

## **7. Opportunities and risks**

In accordance with the action plan for the years 2021 - 2025 to achieve a balanced budget, efforts will continue to be made to implement savings in personnel costs in the area of administration and preaching service. In August 2022, the Provincial Board was reduced from five to four people. Savings will be implemented through new task assignments during staff changes or retirements.

The action plan also focuses on generating additional fundraising income and further reducing the subsidy for KOMENSKÝ.

The number of members of the Moravian Church in Germany was 4,803 on 31/12/2022 (31/12/2021: 4,921 members). The reduction trend continues. Many members are elderly. 86 members passed away in the reporting year.

There are still no valid membership statistics available in the Netherlands. However, it can be assumed that the number of members is falling here too and that the average age of active members is high.

At the synod in March 2022, the new contribution tables for the Germany region were approved and will apply from 2023. It is hoped that the simple handling will encourage members to review and increase the contributions they pay to the congregations. This will put the congregations in a better position to pay their contributions for preaching to the Moravian Church.

The financial development of the schools will continue to be closely monitored.

At the Zinzendorfschulen in Königsfeld, the introduction of a second track in the secondary school has led to an increase in pupil numbers. The grammar school offers an attractive choice thanks to two nine-year courses and one eight-year course. Demand remains high. The vocational grammar schools were able to increase their student numbers again. Only the vocational schools for social pedagogy and social work and the vocational schools for business and home economics are experiencing a decline in demand. In the case of the latter, a prompt decision must be made on whether to continue. They try to meet the declining boarding school occupancy by advertising measures and contacting agencies in other European, Asian and South American countries.

The school management has been complete again since February 2022. Further expansion of the school's regional area is hardly possible due to the limited access to public transport.

The district's medium-term forecast for pupil numbers at Zinzendorfschule Tossens is around 300 pupils. The aim is to exceed this figure by recruiting pupils from the state schools in order to be able to operate economically. Important steps have been taken to increase the attractiveness of the Zinzendorfschule: a school development process has been initiated, social work has been installed at the school, the school has been certified as a biosphere school by the National Park Authority Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer and is on its way to becoming a cultural school. The school management team will be restructured for the 2023/24 school year and streamlined from four to three people. Contacts with the public, the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Oldenburg and with local authorities have been strengthened. An advisory board was appointed, in which important multipliers for the school participate. In the first half of 2023, additional liquidity assistance of EUR 250 thousand was provided to the Zinzendorfschule Tossens. The municipality of Butjadingen and the district of Wesermarsch have each increased their subsidies for the school by EUR 17 thousand. The Moravian Church is endeavoring to maintain school operations despite the difficult financial situation.

Occupancy at the KOMENSKÝ guest house remains at the same level as before the coronavirus pandemic. The number of guests is expected to increase further, also in connection with Herrnhut's expected recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The pricing system will be more differentiated and individualized. The offers for family celebrations have become very well established. Considerations regarding outdoor catering will be continued, as will the preliminary planning for the expansion of the offer to include a low-cost overnight accommodation option for groups from the target group of younger people, for whom no adequate offer can be made to date.

Demand for Herrnhut stars continues to be significantly higher than planned. However, rising material prices and personnel costs are reducing profits, as the higher production costs can no longer be fully passed on to prices in the future. To mark the 125th anniversary of the Comenius-Buchhandlung in 2023, a "Star of Literature" will be published and sold exclusively in the bookshop's stores. The special editions are very popular, but there are increasing incidents of collector's items being resold by private individuals at extremely inflated prices. Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH is planning to expand the production area and to spread out the outdoor catering on the neighbouring property.

There is still a very high demand for wood-burning stoves and heating stoves at Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH. The supply of materials for stoves is no longer reliable. Attempts are being made to avoid bottlenecks by increasing stocks. Due to the retrofitting of wood-burning stoves required by the Federal Immission Control Act, a high order backlog is expected for several years to come. In Klimatechnik GmbH, an annual distribution of EUR 10 thousand is also expected in subsequent years in line with the shareholders' distribution strategy.

## **8. Risk report on financing instruments**

The Moravian Church does not use derivative financial instruments for its financing or for the partial or permanent investment of liquid funds.

Other financial instruments that could potentially mean a concentration of default and liquidity risks for the Moravian Church are mainly financial assets, cash and cash equivalents and receivables. These risks are countered by effective liquidity management and prompt receivables management.

## **9. Sustainability Report**

In the reporting year, the Synod of the Moravian Church passed several resolutions on sustainability and climate protection. It has set itself the goal of becoming a climate-neutral church by 2030. The congregations are asked to implement one specific measure each year on the path to greater sustainability.

Air travel is now normally avoided for business trips, particularly within Europe. Where these are indispensable, a climate compensation payment is made. In 2022, this amounted to EUR 20 for a total of four flights. Business trips are now also made by public transport wherever possible. The promotion of JobRad leasing for employees was decided and will be implemented in 2023.

A supra-regional climate protection work group set up by the synod is looking into the possibilities of generating renewable energy and energy-efficient renovations. It has designed a funding program to finance potential analyses for photovoltaic systems and energy consulting at 75%, up to a maximum amount of EUR 5 thousand, and the implementation of measures for energy-efficient refurbishment or the generation of renewable energy in the congregations at 75%, up to a maximum amount of EUR 50 thousand per congregation. The funds are provided from the Future fund. The possibility of setting up ground-mounted photovoltaic systems on suitable properties belonging to the Moravian Church and thus producing own solar power is to be investigated.

In addition, a network of contacts from all congregations has been established on the topic of climate protection. The topic of sustainability is anchored there in regular meetings and examples of actions for more sustainable action are passed on.

## **10. Current topics**

In 2022, the congregations continued to receive support for the purchase of digital technology for streaming and presentation. EUR 11,748.44 was paid out. The BG online team continues to consist of a content coordinator and a technical coordinator with close links to the social media officer and IT as well as a mobile team. The services offered by BG online, e.g. regular broadcasts of church services, after-work meetings or workshops on video production, strengthen the network between members who often live far away. A calendar on the website of the Moravian Church provides information about the extensive online offerings. The idea of offering online pastoral care is being pursued.

In 2022 EUR 28,205.10 was spent on research into the history of slavery in the Moravian Church. Slavery was formally abolished in Suriname in 1863. The enslaved people had to continue to work as contract laborers on the plantations for another 10 years before slavery was effectively ended. Primarily in the Netherlands, in 2023 will be celebrated the 150th anniversary of the de facto abolition of slavery. Various research projects and reappraisal events serve the purpose to provide an additional picture from the perspective of enslaved people and their descendants to the traditional mission history of the Moravian Church and the long-term structural effects. The topic of Human Remains - the transportation of human remains, in which Herrnhut missionaries also were involved - is also currently being researched. These topics, which will continue to be dealt with more intensively in the coming years, will lead to permanent higher expenditure.

## 11. Forecast

The planning for 2023 envisages a net loss of EUR 674.4 thousand and an accumulated deficit of EUR 248.6 thousand in the church budget.

Herrnhut/Bad Boll/Zeist, August 31, 2023

signed Benigna Carstens - Heide-Rose Weber - Johannes Welschen - Raimund Hertzsch  
Provincial Board of the Moravian Church

The **organisation chart** shows the employees assigned to the individual departments by area of work. The Provincial Board explicitly thanks all employees who perform their tasks at their respective positions with great competence and extraordinary dedication. Without the often high level of commitment of the employees, it would not be possible to cover the wide range of tasks of the Moravian Church as a church with worldwide connections.



## Enclosure 2

# Organisation chart ECP administration

by Departments, status January 2024



EVANGELISCHE  
BRÜDER-UNITÄT  
HERRNHUTER BRÜDERGEMEINE



Orte: ■ Herrnhut ■ Bad Boll ■ Zeist ■ Other