

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

OF THE

EUROPEAN-CONTINENTAL PROVINCE

TO THE

SYNOD 2020



STATUS: 31 January 2020

Pages 43 - 45 contain personal data for whose publication on the Internet the Moravian Church ECP has no consent.

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The designation brother/sister or Mr. / Mrs. is based on the use on the respective location or institution.

PREAMBLE

The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church (ECP) presents its report to the synodal meeting 2020 in Neudietendorf. It covers the period from the synodal meeting in 2018 to the deadline of 31st January 2020.

Naturally, this report cannot give a comprehensive picture of all the fields of work and subdivisions of the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church. Representatives of almost all communities, institutions and areas of work are present at the Synod. They can be asked and report themselves. This report focuses on the Provincial Board's accountability, but also aims to highlight important developments and challenges.

In our time, which is characterized by individualization and secularization, we as church invite to reflection on God and to lived fellowship. In a pluralistic society we are looking for fundamental values and a common path. In the age of digitalisation we want to meet each other personally, but also use the opportunities of digital technology to network, to address people and to pass on the gospel. The challenge of preserving creation in the face of the climate crisis means that we too are putting our working methods to the test. At the same time, we have the impression that the administrative demands placed on us from outside are constantly increasing and binding more and more forces, from data protection, health and safety at work to tax legislation in our various countries. We often have to realize that the resources available to us are limited, so that sometimes it seems hardly possible to do justice to everything.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank all the sisters and brothers who, together with us, have taken up the many challenges and who, through their commitment as volunteers, as pastors and as staff members in the administration as well as in the institutions and businesses, have made our church an inviting, liveable and lovable community.

Some topics polarize - even among ourselves. We are looking forward to an open exchange among ourselves. Fortunately, we are not alone in this, but we may place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ and ask for his presence and guidance.

In this sense, we wish all members of Synod a good preparation for the forthcoming synodal meeting.

Benigna Carstens
Raimund Hertzsch
Michael Schmorrd
Heide -Rose Weber
Johannes Welschen

Bad Boll, Herrnhut, Zeist in January 2020

ON THE SYNODAL TOPIC OF NETWORKING

"Networking" has been a hallmark of the Moravian church, since long before the management outlined its vision of the European Continental Province (ECP) in 2027: "Strong centres - a connecting network...". Zinzendorf was a great networker. The daily watchwords were invented to establish and maintain the inner connection between the Moravians over great distances. "Diaspora workers" or itinerant preachers visited scattered individuals and groups. The reports from the mission helped to share in sorrow and joy. In the Unity Prayer Watch one experiences oneself until nowadays in a chain of solidarity and stands up for one another. Networking was and is indispensable for a small church of sisters and brothers living far away from each other.

The Provincial Board has made "**networking**" one of its flagships in its work on the future shape of the ECP. When faced with polarisation, tendencies towards separation and isolation, the question of how people experience connectedness is also socially relevant.

At the same time, traditional networking elements of the Moravian Church no longer seem to work. This applies to the work in the regional congregations and the work of local congregations in their surrounding region. In the past, the networking consisted largely of travel. Small groups and individual members and friends were visited. Today, the question is how effective such visits are, whether the high effort is worthwhile and how networking can be done today.

Nor is the cohesion of the worldwide *Unitas Fratrum* (Unity) no longer an unshakable fact. Technically, it has become easier to maintain contacts with brothers and sisters in other Provinces of the Unity. However, the unity of the Unity is challenged by as dividing perceived cultural differences and theological differences.

Clear seems to be: For the Moravian Church to be a viable network of connected people, both between the Provinces and within the EBU, the use of modern media as well as meetings at eye level are needed. Examples of the latter were the meeting on the subject of the Moravian Church and slavery at the beginning of November 2019 in the Dutch conference centre of Mariënkroon¹ and the South North Conversation between the ECP and the South African Province initiated by the Zeister Mission Society (ZZg).²

In almost all areas of church life, digital networking now plays an increasingly important role. Beginning with Public Relations, whose daily bread is networking, through the various administrative divisions to the Synod - and last but not least in the youth work. The Working Group on Digitisation will present the first results to the Synod. However, it is not yet possible to say conclusively whether digitisation will promote sustainability, as the Synod assumed in 2018, or whether it will lead to an increased consumption of resources.

Networking is not an aim in itself. It is about inspiring and supporting each other in what the mission statement describes: To be followers of Jesus Christ in treating each other as brothers and sisters and to shape life on this earth in his spirit.

¹ See page 12.

² See page 20.

This applies far beyond the own community. The cooperation with other churches - lately increasingly with the Evangelical Methodist Church³ - has practical reasons and is at the same time rooted in the conviction that in our secularized environment we can only witness God's love together.

Networking in this sense is fundamentally missionary, since it teaches to see all people as brothers and sisters. Connected by Christ, we are on our way throughout the world building networks of connectedness - with all.

ENTIRE PROVINCE

Following the success of the Jan Hus Sermon Prize 2015, a sermon prize was offered for the second time in 2018 in the two major regions of the ECP: the **Schleiermacher Sermon Prize**. Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834), an important Protestant theologian, had been influenced by the Moravian Church in his youth. On the occasion of the award ceremony on the Day of Prayer and Repentance 2019, a conference was held in Herrnhut under the direction of Br. Peter Vogt. The purpose of both events was to make Schleiermacher better known within and outside the Moravian Church and at the same time to perceive elements of his theology that are still relevant today. This includes, for example, Schleiermacher's efforts to translate the contents of the christian faith into the language of his time and to address people who are sceptical about the faith.

Among the inspiring events that can be experienced in the EPC are the various **meetings at the Herrhaag**. For some time now, this has included the "Family Festival", which was initially launched as a private initiative. In the meantime it has been classified by the Provincial Board as an event of the Province. The 2019 festival with the theme "Flying and Arrive" also included elements of a workshop on future for the Moravian Church. Since then, the request of many participants in the workshop to appoint a representative or officer for family work in the ECP has been on the table of the Provincial Board.

From the beginning Herrnhut and other congregations were also destinations for (pious) tourists. Since the Synod of 2018, interest in the cultural heritage of the Moravian Church has increased. It all began with the idea that Herrnhut should be included in the World Heritage List. This resulted in a lively debate within the municipality of Herrnhut about the pros and cons of such an application. The Provincial Board considers such a cultural-tourist interest in the Moravian Church to be, in principle, an opportunity to communicate to others what is important to us. In October 2018, the Provincial Board issued a statement explicitly endorsing the **World Heritage application** and committed itself to a strengthening of guest work. Almost at the same time, activities of the historians Dr. Matthias Donath and Dr. Lars Dannenberg began. In 2018 and 2019 they organised two conferences on the topic of "Herrnhut settlements".⁴ The aim is an association in which congregations, local authorities, associations and individuals jointly promote cultural tourism around the cultural heritage of the Moravian Church. At the end of January 2020, a meeting with historians was held to discuss fundamental questions about the relationship between the Moravian Church and tourism.

³ See page 23.

⁴ See page 25.

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of **Christoph Blumhardt** in Bad Boll. Several events, including commemorative speeches at the grave in Blumhardt's cemetery, a Blumhardt conference in the Protestant Academy, a festive service with the bishop of the Protestant Church and a staged reading commemorated Blumhardt, who, in addition to his leadership position in the Kurhaus, was the first Protestant pastor to be a member of the Württemberg state parliament for the SPD from 1900 to 1906.

From 1852 to 1919, Johann Christoph Blumhardt and his son Christoph Blumhardt worked as pastors in the Kurhaus in Bad Boll, where they ran a well-known spa. Christoph Blumhardt's descendants handed over the Kurhaus to the Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine in 1920 in order to continue the spiritual care of the patients in the spirit of Blumhardt. This also involved the transfer of larger estates. This was the beginning of the work of the Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine and the Herrnhuter Siedlung in Bad Boll, whose 100th anniversary will be celebrated in 2020.

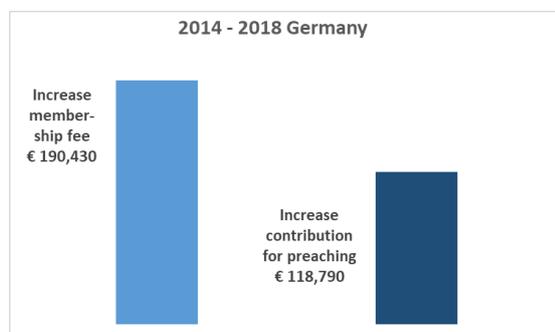
The Synod of 2016 has decided to change the **system of unity contributions and contributions for preaching**. This was part of the financial action plan to achieve balanced budgetary outcomes and a step towards the objective that the Synods have repeatedly confirmed for many years: The congregations as a whole bear the personnel costs in the preaching service themselves (Resolutions 33/1998, 40/2004, 25/2014).

According to the resolution of Synod, the congregations in Germany pay a contribution for preaching from 2017 to 2021, which increases by € 24,000 per year, and further increases due to collective wage agreements and changes in numbers of staff. Congregations in the Netherlands will pay € 36,000 more per year from 2017 to 2021. For the Netherlands, it was planned to recalculate the annual increase of contribution for the individual congregations from 2019 onwards on the basis of current membership statistics. However, valid membership statistics are not yet available. For this reason, the distribution of contributions as set out in Resolution 20/2018 will be maintained until 2021.

The congregations in the Netherlands and in Germany have launched a motivation campaign in which they approached their members and asked for an increase in the membership fee in order to be able to shoulder the higher contributions for preaching resp. unity. The campaign was supported by texts for church services, videos, a youth film and various other actions.

In both regions, there was a significant increase in membership fees.

In Germany, the membership fees in 2014 amounted to € 1,076,399.10 and in 2018 to € 1,266,829.16. The contributions for preaching rose from € 874,209.93 in 2014 (unity contributions from membership fees and church tax reimbursement plus allocation of personnel costs and other payments) to € 993,000 in 2018.

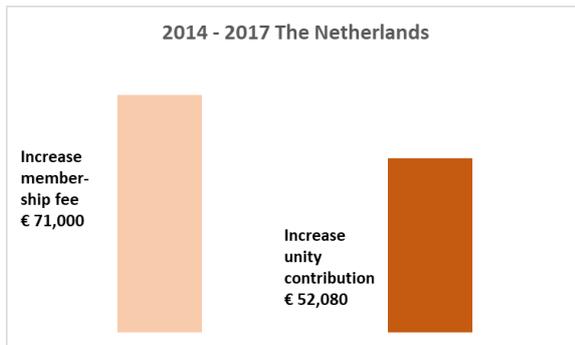


In addition to the membership fees, the church tax refunds rose between 2014 and 2018 by 55,750 €. Until 2016, half of the increase was paid as a unity contribution, since 2017 the entire increase (€ 38,240) remains in the congregations.

The forecast of the increase of the contribution for preaching for the German congregations is 2019: 94.000 €, 2020: 71.000 €, 2021: 52.000 €. From 2020 onwards, the contributions for preaching will increase more than the previous additional income from the membership fees. It is therefore necessary that new actions are taken and members are regularly reminded of increases in membership payments. On 25th of May 2019 a workshop on the topic of non-payers was held in Frankfurt/Main.⁵

Synod 2016 also adopted a simplified **scale for calculating the membership fees** for members in Germany. It is based on disposable income. This scale did not prevail. A calculation program "contribution calculator", which was written by brother Wilfried Schmidt, was made available for download on the homepage of the European Continental Province.

Synod 2016 decided that the membership fee in the Netherlands will increase from 2 % to 3 % from 1 January 2017. In 2014, the general contributions (kerkelijke bijdrage) were 404,300 € and in 2017 479,300 €. The unity contributions (uniteitsbijdrage) for all congregations in the Netherlands rose from € 302,600 in 2014 to € 404,820 in 2018. The comparison of the development of the membership fees and the unity contributions of the congregations in the Netherlands is as follows:



Data for 2018 for the Dutch congregations are not yet completely available.

The forecast for the increase in the unity contribution for the congregations in the Netherlands is: 2018: € 50,140, 2019: € 36,000, 2020: € 36,000, 2021: € 36,000. This means that the surplus will probably be used up in 2019 unless a substantial increase in revenues is achieved. The first round of the motivation campaign in the Netherlands was successful. Here flyers were produced, videos of interviews with members were produced and church services on the topic were held. The motivation campaign must be continued in order to be able to raise the ever increasing unity contributions. Currently, the meetings of the coordinating steering group are being resumed.

The congregations were asked by the Provincial Board for feedback on their experience with the decisions on the contributions for preaching. The evaluation will be presented at the Synod 2020.

⁵ See page 9.

Demography is making itself felt in the **service of ordained ministers**. Since Synod 2018, two young theologians and one theologian have been ordained to be Deacons of the Moravian Church and have begun their ministry in a congregation. In the same period one ordained sister and two brothers retired or will retire immediately after the Synod 2020. In all likelihood, however, it will be the last time that the balance of entries and retirements in the service of ordained ministers in the European Continental Province will look so balanced. For until Synod in 2022, another four retirements are in the pipeline and only one vicar is currently preparing for the service as a minister.

In Germany, only one other Moravian student of theology is currently in contact with the Provincial Board. It was all the more important that in the Netherlands three sisters with Surinamese background decided to **study theology**, but Sr. Vallery Linger died in July 2019. There is also an increasing interest in theological education at the HBO level (in Germany this corresponds to the Fachhochschule level and qualifies for the function of a pastoral worker according to the rules of the ECP). Three female students are currently undergoing such training.

What is to be done?

On the one hand, the study of theology and the ordained ministry should continue to be actively promoted. Here, of course, congregations and ministers are called upon first. At the same time, however, the question of the study of theology and other professions needed in the church is a recurring theme at the so called Youth Workshops. In addition br. Peter Vogt supervises a network of students preparing for variant professions and calls them together once a year for a Study Seminar. Students from other churches can also get to know the Moravian Church and their work here. These study weeks are of high theological quality and (also due to the participation of Dutch students) have become much more international in recent years. The service of the Moravian Church is also promoted on the Facebook sites of the ECP.

There are also sisters and brothers in the European Continental Province who do not have the possibility of an academic education, but who are suitable for acceptance into the service in a congregation. In order to provide this target group with a way into the ministry as an ordained minister, a small working group (Br. Stefan Bernhard, Br. Peter Vogt and Br. Welschen) has begun to work out a set of rules and regulations, which have meanwhile been adopted by the Provincial Board and are currently being tested.

Finally, brothers and sisters who are in parish ministry in another church, as well as pastors who are not members of the Moravian Church, but with whom contacts have existed for some time, are approached about the possibility of moving into the ministry of the Moravian Church. Despite these efforts, it will not be possible to avoid vacancies. Still this is very difficult for the congregations. Particularly in the regional communities, one cannot imagine that the network of far-flung living sisters and brothers will work without an ordained minister.

A staffing of congregations with two theologians, as was common in the past in larger congregations, will be the exception in the future, not only because of financial but also because of staff shortages.

In Albania and Sweden, younger brothers and sisters are also undergoing theological training. For them too, ways should be found to enter into service in the Moravian Church

REGION GERMANY

"How do we reach our distant members?" This question is asked by ministers in local congregations, regional congregations and societies. It is about members with whom contact is in danger of being lost or has already been lost. On the one hand, these are sisters and brothers who live far away from a centre, a local church or another meeting place of members and friends of the Moravian Church. Usually there is an inner distance to the spatial distance. One is involved in a local Protestant congregation, has a strenuous job that does not leave much room for long journeys to meetings, also one's family requires time.

But even in the middle of local congregations there are members who are no longer reached by ministers or other co-workers. A small group from several parishes, together with Srs. Weber and Carstens, focused on the financial aspects of the project. "Networking with non-payers" was the title of a workshop in Frankfurt/Main on 25 May 2019, and the advice of speaker Jörg Beurer from the Karlshöher Diakonieverband was challenging: "Don't ask (first) for their money, make the removed members of your church sisters and brothers again."⁶ Interested congregations, for whom Frankfurt was too far away, were offered the opportunity to hold a similar workshop in their own region.

As indicated in the introduction, the need for personal visits by ministers in the regional congregations seems to have decreased. It has not yet been explored what modern forms of communication can do for the cultivation of personal relationships, for pastoral care and for identification with one's own church. It is clear, for example, that an internal e-mail distribution list can be used to send invitations to events, information about deaths and other news to a larger circle of church members at short notice. Some congregations are already using these channels successfully.

Finally, all congregations in Germany are affected by the fact that the generation of members who, after the Second World War, as young adults and adolescents consciously turned to the faith and to the Moravian Church as their church, is now around ninety years old. Thus the number of departures from this group, which is most closely identified with the Moravian Church, is increasing. It is already clear that this will have serious implications for the ECP, both in terms of its spiritual direction and its community life, and also financially.

If you want to know more about what is happening in the congregations, read the very instructive annual reports. Three congregations should be mentioned here as examples.

The first to be mentioned is the congregation of **Nord Rhein-Westfalen** (NRW). As the German Protestant Kirchentag (DEKT) wanders through the Federal Republic of Germany, every two years a congregation faces the task of hosting the Kirchentag. At the 14th Kirchentag in Dortmund in 2019, the congregation of **NRW** with its 2018 ordained minister Christian Herrmann and its scattered members took up this challenge. Due to the lack of an own hall in Dortmund, the traditional Sternecafé became a communicative Star Picnic in the Tremoniapark. A further highlight was the Love Feast with guests from Tanzania and Alaska. Church members from NRW also took part in the ECP's watchword and mission stand in the exhibition halls.

⁶ See page 7.

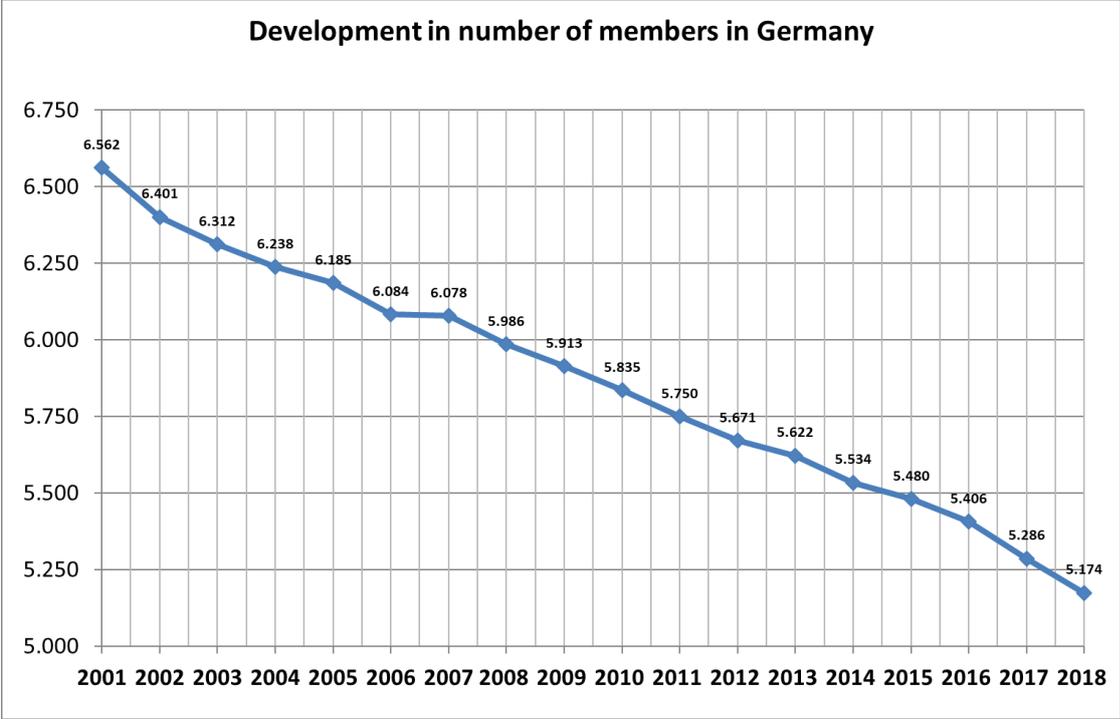
A highlight in the life of the congregation of **Königsfeld** was the inauguration of the newly designed Zinzendorfplatz on October 3, 2019. However, the planning and execution of the re-design of the square had been accompanied by tough discussions and even hostilities, including members leaving the church. The disputes revolved primarily around the felling of the vast majority of old trees on Zinzendorfplatz, which was necessary for the planned redesign. The Provincial Board was asked to exert influence on several occasions, but declined to take a position on the content, as it considers such decisions to be a matter for local bodies. The whole process made it clear that an improvement in the culture of debate is urgently needed also within the Moravian Church.

Collaboration with other Churches is increasingly important for the Moravian church. The congregation of **Hamburg** is one of several congregations with local partnerships. The desired continuation of the close cooperation with the Winterhude-Uhlenhorst parish was the subject of conversations between the Provincial Board, active members of the congregation and the team of pastors in September 2019, and an updated version of the Uhlenhorst Concordie from 2003 was put into effect in a service on 12 January 2020, thus affirming the community between the Hamburg congregation of Moravian church and the local Lutheran parish for the future.

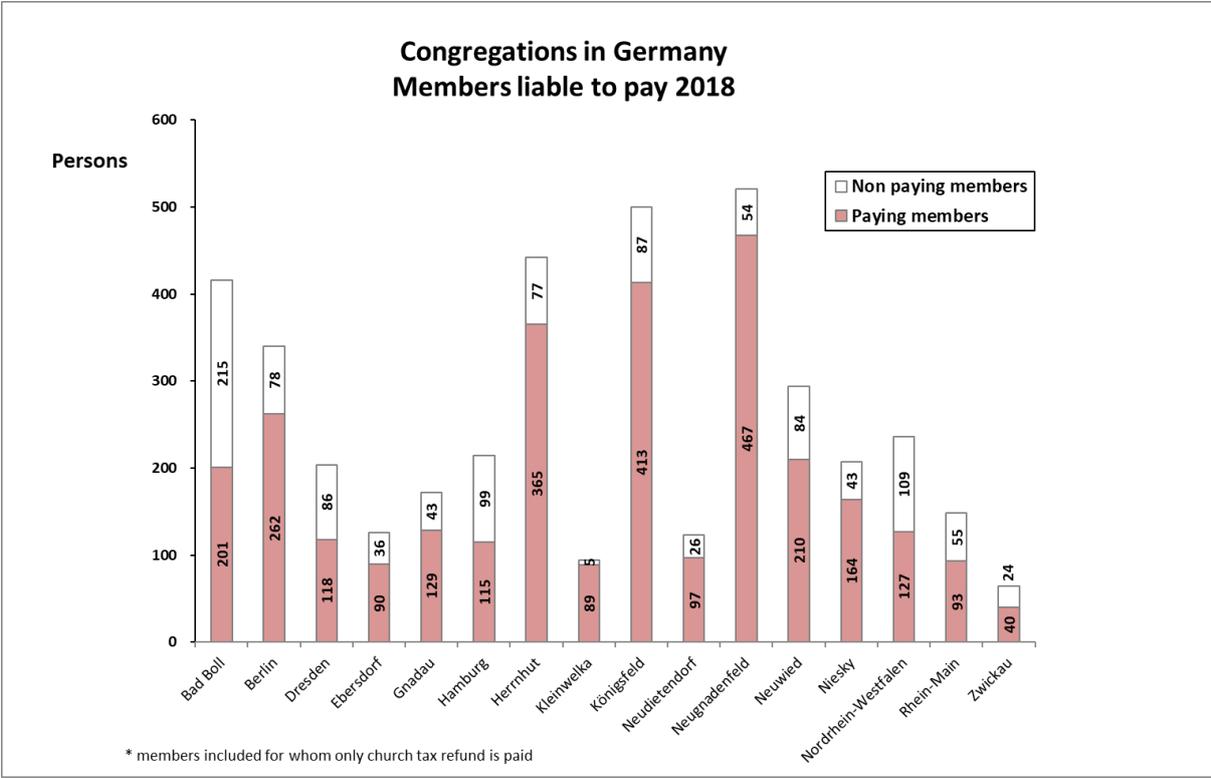
Statistical data on the congregations

Germany

The number of members of all German congregations has fallen by an annual average of 2% since 2016. On 31 December 2018 there were 5,174 members.



Of the 5,174 members, 4,101 persons are liable to pay membership fees. 2,980 members pay a membership fee. 1,121 members (27% of all members liable to pay membership fees) do not pay a personal membership fee. In addition there are 562 members under 18 years of age. About 500 members did not confirm their membership.



The Provincial Board has started to think about the question of the form of membership of the future and has engaged in a strategic discussion with the Intersynodal Finance Committee on the appropriate response to new social developments.

REGION NETHERLANDS

The period between the Synods of 2018 and 2020 was marked for the Moravian Church in the Netherlands, among other things, by three unexpected departures, each of which in its own way led to shock and uncertainty.

Br. **Mark de Vos**, minister of the Utrecht congregation and member of the board of the Zeister Zendingsgenootschap (ZZg), was killed in a traffic accident on the way to the synod in Herrnhut. Apart from the consequences for the congregation in Utrecht,⁷ this departure was also a serious shock for all the congregations in the Netherlands, since Br. de Vos was the youngest of the ministers.

⁷ See page 13.

Br. de Vos was involved in various projects of the church province: in the motivation campaign "De EBG dat ben ik", in the preparation of a guideline for action in cases of sexual abuse in pastoral relationships, as well as in the theological accompaniment of the supra-regional youth work. In this respect he was a real bearer of hope for the Moravian Church. His untimely death hurts all the more.

In July 2019 the theology student Sr. **Vallery Linger** died. She was not only a very committed student who motivated other women to study theology. She was also the editor of the dagteksten (Dutch edition of the Watchwords) and also helped to accompany the national youth work. Her death was linked in the social media to her homosexual orientation and the question whether she could have been ordained by the Moravian Church. Some of the comments were very hurtful, but brought the question of how to deal with (sexual) diversity in the Moravian Church back on the agenda. Sr. Linger, too, was a bearer of hope with regard to the future of ministry and her death was a setback.

Between these two deaths, Br. **Sietze van Wijngaarde** died in December 2018. He was a member of the Dutch Finance Committee, which assists the Provincial Board in auditing the annual accounts of the congregations. In this committee he was the only retiree and therefore had a large part of the committee work. It took until the second half of 2019 for the committee to be reconstituted so that it could resume its work.

A second theme that (again) occupied the congregations in the Netherlands was the theme of the relationship of the Moravian church to the history of the transatlantic slave trade and **slavery in Surinam**. The planning and implementation of the conference in Mariënkroon, which took place in the framework of the conciliar process⁸, and a symposium in Amsterdam, which was organised by the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Amsterdam, the Evangelical Brethren Church of Amsterdam Stad en Flevoland and the Nederlands Instituut Nationaal Slavernijverleden en Erfgoed (NInSee), at which Br. Welschen reported on the way the Moravian Church deals with the history of slavery.

Many congregations have great difficulty in finding enough candidates for the **elections for the Council of Elders**. Two developments, among others, play a role here: on the one hand, people are less and less willing to commit themselves to voluntary work for a longer period of time. It is easier to find volunteers for specific short-term projects. Secondly, the responsibility (also in the economic field) is growing, at least people experience it this way. Many church members shy away from this responsibility. Certainly, the rising average age of the congregations and the increasing professional demands of younger members also play a role. Therefore, it must continue to be a joint project of the congregations (and the Centrale Raad) to find and qualify suitable candidates for the Council of Elders.

Perhaps it also has to do with this increasing pressure that conflicts within Councils of Elders are becoming more frequent. The Provincial Board is frequently asked to mediate or even solve the problems.

Three congregations have experienced special developments, which will be mentioned in this report:

⁸ See page 19/20.

The congregation of **Noord-Holland**, which consists of four (now very small) centres (Alkmaar, Haarlem, Hoorn and Zaandam), is looking for a new form of congregational life that is more sustainable than the present one. A central role will be played by whether the members' feeling of belonging to *one* community can be strengthened. During a first presentation of the plans to a specially convened general meeting of the congregation, there were considerable protests from members. As a result, the Council of Elders decided to slow down the process a little and initially implement two measures in particular: the centralisation of the administration and the holding central churchservices every month.

After the death of Br. Mark de Vos, the congregation of **Utrecht** has shown astonishing resilience. In this situation, in which the church unexpectedly lost a minister in active service for the second time in a short time, church members stood by each other in their grief and again and again discovered gifts that they could put at the service of the church. Thanks are also due to Br. Theodor and Sr. Almut Clemens, who used half a year of their retirement to support the congregation. In the meantime a new beginning could be made with the appointment of Sr. Rhoïnde Mijns-Doth to the congregation.

The congregation of **Zeist is still** very busy with its properties. In addition to the (financially significant) commitment to the maintenance of the listed houses on the "Pleinen", it is currently building a new residential complex, in which the rents should be (a little) lower than on the pleines. A highlight in the reporting period for the congregation was certainly the anniversary year "250 Years Church Hall". The congregation commemorated its history with lectures, concerts and festive services (always with an eye on today's developments and requirements). The texts of the lectures were published in a book in summary.

In the **diaspora there is** a conflict with the "Landelijke Hindostaanse Begeleidingsgroep". On the one hand, the Steering Committee cancelled the collaboration with the minister Br. Erik Jan Stam and maintained this position until the beginning of 2020, although the Provincial Board repeatedly announced that it would continue to hold on to Br. Stam as a minister for the entire diaspora. On the other hand, the Provincial Board repeatedly asked the Steering Committee to explain how it intends to improve the financial situation of LHBC (in 2018 there were only 27 paying members) so that it can once again pay its contribution to the Province in full.

On the basis of resolutions 20/2016 and 23/2018, the congregations in the Netherlands have started a process that should lead to a coordinated membership registration within the framework of the churchorder. This has also been achieved. The practical design of these agreements however are encountering considerable problems, especially in the large congregations. In the opinion of the Provincial Board, this situation also has to do with the fact that the rules of the Moravian Church are based on a free-church idea of membership, in which the members consciously see themselves as members with rights and obligations. But in the Dutch- Surinamese congregations this is contrasted with an understanding of membership that is strongly influenced by the concept of a people's church. The attachment of some brothers and sisters to the Moravian Church only becomes concrete at certain central points in their biography.

Entries in the membership file on the occasion of the baptism of children, confirmation or a pastoral contact often do not lead to active membership and this does not end when one registers in another congregation (within or outside the Moravian Church). This makes the situation unclear, especially in the large congregations. The people's church understanding of membership is probably also a legacy of the cooperation of the Moravian Church with the colonial authorities in Suriname in the 19th century, when enslaved people had to be baptized in order to be set free. In this respect this question is also connected with the history of slavery.⁹ As a result, Dutch statistics are still not comparable with those of German congregations. Within the Netherlands, too, there are still major distortions.

Statistics (preliminary):

Community	Total	Percent	Paying	Percent
EBG Amsterdam Stad	3523	47,3%	240	6,8%
EBG Amsterdam <u>Zuid Oost</u>	1457	19,6%	171	11,7%
EBG Haaglanden	431	5,8%	103	23,9%
EBG North Holland	455	6,1%	84	18,5%
EBG Rotterdam	805	10,8%	196	24,3%
EBG Utrecht	252	3,4%	149	59,1%
EBG Zeist	419	5,6%	223	53,2%
Diaspora	107	1,4%	119	111,2%
Total	7449	100,0%	1285	17,3%

The table makes it clear that the registration of members in the communities and especially in the diaspora is not yet complete

Paying members:

As of 2018. Members who have paid the minimum membership fee of 180 € per year or are exempt from the Council of Elders.

SMALLER REGIONS

At least twice a year Br. Hertzsch travelled to **Switzerland** to visit the fellowships and to participate in meetings. Two topics were in the foreground: During an advisory group meeting in the House of Religions in Bern, a discussion process on questions of interreligious dialogue according to Resolution 3/2018 was initiated. Impulses for the future of the Moravian Church in Switzerland and the Basel fellowship, which were presented by the Provincial Board, formed the basis for a discussion with the Board of Elders in Basel about medium-term perspectives. During the Pastors' Retreat in October 2019, brother and sister Roberts from the Eastern West Indies Province were welcomed to our province. Sr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts has been working in the team of Moravian pastors in Switzerland since December 2019 and has taken on tasks mainly in French-speaking Switzerland. She lives with her family in Geneva, where her husband Mikie Roberts works at the World Council of Churches.

⁹ See page 12.

There were meetings and communication with representatives of the congregations in **Scandinavia**, especially during conferences. Br. Klas Lindberg and Br. Jørgen Bøytler informed regularly about the work in Stockholm and Christiansfeld. For autumn 2020 a journey of Br. Hertzsch together with Br. Theodor Clemens to Gothenburg and Stockholm is planned.

In June 2018, the Moravian Church in **Albania** celebrated its 25th anniversary. Br. Hertzsch travelled to Tirana together with representatives of several mission societies. He took part in the celebrations and in a subsequent visit to the parishes of Burrel and Pogradec. Through the project cooperation of HMM with some locations of the Moravian Church in Albania, contact is maintained regularly and we are grateful for the warm fellowship with the Albanian sisters and brothers.

Sr. Dena Fortuzi will be the first local pastor of the Moravian Church in Albania after her forthcoming graduation.

Following severe earthquakes in autumn 2019, the communities in Albania made a major commitment to providing emergency aid to the people in the affected areas. The measures were supported through the mission societies of the Moravian Church.

One of the concerns of the Provincial Board is to intensify contacts with the sisters and brothers in **Estonia** (Eesti Evangeelne Vennastekogodus). Under the leadership of Br. Ingo Gutsche, a meeting camp in Estonia was organised in July 2019. The meeting with the motto "CROSS-roads" continued the intensive youth meetings of the nineties. At the same time, it was open to participants who had no previous relationship with the Moravian Church or the Christian faith in general. Also in 2019 a travel group of the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe led by Br. Andreas Tasche, visited Estonia and a service of the brothers and sisters in Tallinn. The extent to which such meetings enliven contacts with the Estonian Moravian community as a whole remains to be seen. The Ministers Conference (MC) was able to welcome Estonian participants for the first time in 2019 with Br. Lui Rimmelg (Hiiumaa) and his son Joel. In keeping with the theme of the MC "Conversation", it became clear how important it is to have a trusting conversation between brothers and sisters of different regions of our province and their different theological coinages.

In October 2018, Br. Martin Theile, who on behalf of the Provincial Board has supervised the work in Latvia, and Br. Welschen, who is responsible for this work in the Provincial Board, together visited Latvia. This was just before the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Latvia in November 1918, and various persons in the network of the Moravian Church stressed the importance of the work of the Moravian Church in this process of nation-building. There was a meeting with the Riga Bible Circle and extensive discussions with Br. Gundars Ceipe. Also the Christian David School was visited again. The Sunday service was celebrated with the school community. If the "network" is an important structural element of the Moravian Church in the past, present and future, then the work of the Moravian Church in Latvia is a good example of this, because the network goes beyond the group of members in the formal sense. Br. Volker Schulz, as Bishop, also regularly visits Latvia for pastoral talks. The fact that he is learning the Latvian language is to be reported with thanks.

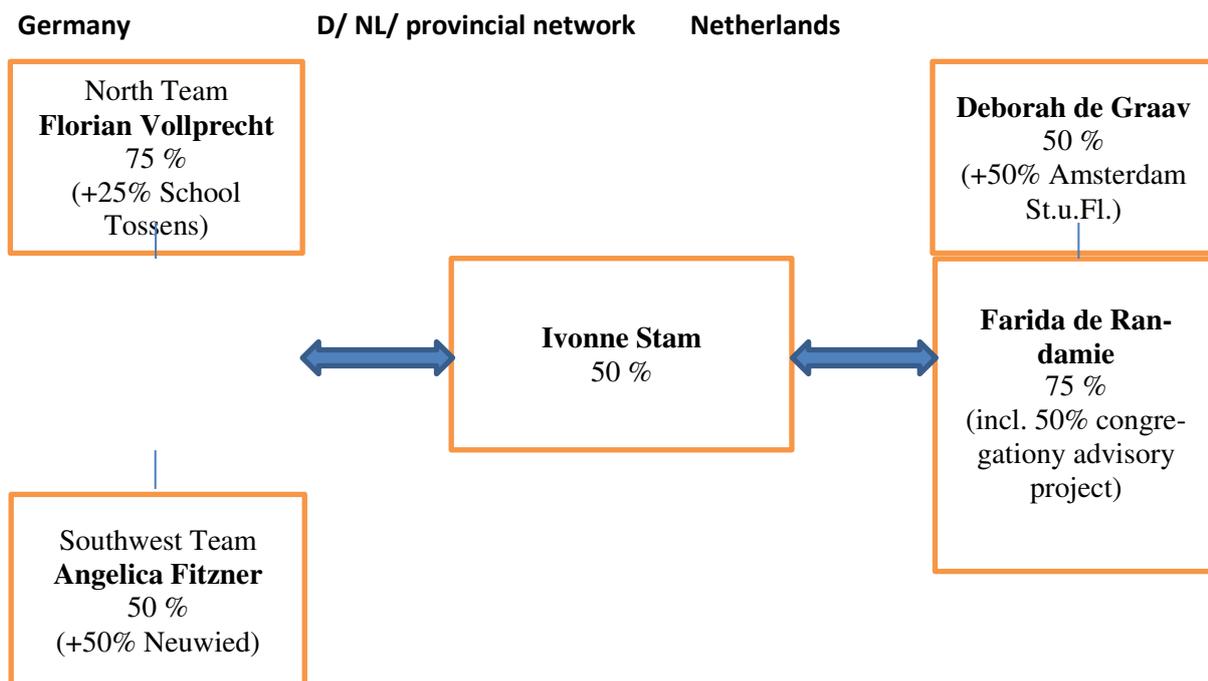
FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Youth work is in the process of increasingly networking on a provincial and international level. Important bases for this are the changes to the Church Order in the section on youth (§§ 1606-1608 Church Order) adopted by the Synod and the representation of the youth of each country of our Province in the Synod (§1403 No. 3b Church Order).

Not for every country of our Province has it been possible to actually send a young person to the Synod. This shows in an exemplary way that the participation of young people at all levels of our church needs great attention and must be further improved. Not everywhere are our structures willing and able to offer young people open spaces and take up their suggestions. But this is the precondition for giving young people a home in our church. Passing on the faith to the next generation is a core missionary task and an important future topic for our church.

The Provincial Board has stepped up its efforts in this direction and has noticeably increased its youth work staff. Besides the goal of international networking, for which Sister Ivonne Stam is especially responsible, the main focus was on strengthening the connection with schools, which offer another important field of work for children and young people besides the congregations.

At present, the organisation chart of full-time youth officers in supra-regional youth work, insofar as they are employed by the ECP, is as follows:



In addition, there is a newly created position at the local level, which links the youth work of the congregation of Königsfeld with the youth work at the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld, as well as part time positions in the congregational youth work in Herrnhut and Neugnadenfeld.

The basis for province-wide networking is the annual international working meeting of youth workers, which also involves the British province. It took place in Albania in 2017, the United Kingdom in 2018 and Germany in 2019. An invitation to Basel, Switzerland, has been issued for 2020. Youth workers from Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Great Britain were present at the 2019 meeting in Berlin. A children's book project on the Moravian Church in the various countries of the world is being worked on, which will then be used as material especially for work with children. The meeting also serves as a central contact and planning level for joint activities. A festival in Herrnhut in the anniversary year 2022 is planned as an international meeting. The international youth camp, which took place in 2019 with 40 participants at the Herrhaag, serves the networking between Germany and the Netherlands in particular. Besides young people from Germany and Zeist, two participants from Almere were present.

The central body for supra-regional youth work in the Netherlands is the national youth council, on which unfortunately not all congregations are represented at present. The annual children's camp and the teenie camp are going well. What is currently missing is an offer for older young people. For the volunteers who work with children and young people in the congregations, the youth officers organise the national youth workers' day, which is mainly for training purposes. The project to advise and accompany the congregations in their congregational youth work, which was initially limited to two years has not yet been completed and has been extended. It is supervised by Sr. Farida de Randamie. For the project a support group was installed, to which Sr. Rita Harry, Br. Joel Eduards and Br. Welschen contribute.

In Germany, the "youth workshops" and other events of national youth work offer many young people a spiritual home, even if they do not have (any longer) intensive contact with a local or regional church, e.g. at their place of training. Youth work in Germany has drawn up its own statutes, which describe its structure and working methods. Great attention is paid to the issue of prevention of sexual assault. At the 2019 autumn workshop, the possibilities of career opportunities within the Moravian Church were also discussed, in order to attract young people to the church's fields of work.

In the **Sisters' work** of both large regions of the European Continental Province it is easy to see what the strategy picture means: "connecting network - inspiring events". The sisters strengthen the connection with each other through their website, email exchange and various other digital media. From time to time, the Sisters in Charge send a pastoral and at the same time informative letter. In addition, meetings are held at regular intervals. These are inspiring as they combine current and life themes with biblical impulses and special accents from the theology and history of the Moravian Church. In 2019 Sr. Carstens was able to participate in a nationwide day of reflection of the Dutch women's work. Organised by the Centrale Vrouwenraad, this event had a particularly festive character on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of this umbrella organisation of Dutch women's work. In 2019, the legal form of the Centrale Vrouwenraad was changed from a foundation to a non-entity association within the Moravian Church. In the Centrale Vrouwenraad, representatives of the sister groups from all the congregations work together. The sister groups play an important role in the life of the Dutch congregations and take on many practical tasks.

Brothergroups (groups of men in the congregations) exist in almost all Dutch congregations. The umbrella organisation is the **Centrale Broederraad EBGN**. He supports the broedergroepen and organises an annual Brothers' Day. A common idea of the Broederraad and the Provincial Board is to organise a European Conference of Brothers in 2022 with the involvement of the other European Provinces - parallel to the long established European Conference of Sisters. This conference should, among other things, strengthen the idea of organised work of the brothers in the other regions and provinces. Due to the resignation of the chairman Br. Marcel Doorjé, a delay in the planning has occurred. After the election of the new chairman, Br. Imro Arlaud, the process should continue.

Singing and making music together is one of the central elements of the Moravian Church. After the choir meeting planned for 2018 in Amsterdam-Zuidoost had to be cancelled, a new attempt will be made in 2020. In view of the high hotel prices in Amsterdam, deliberations between the congregation and the Provincial Board focused, among other things, on the possible need to cover deficits. In the future, too, consideration must be given to how choir meetings and wind ensemble days can continue to create identity and radiance under changed conditions. The Pentecost 2019 brass day in Neuwied was such an inspiring event, especially due to the great commitment of many volunteer sisters and brothers, and also due to the mixture of young and old.

As commissioner for **church music** (15%) Br. Niels Fischer is also looking for ways to motivate more young people for the choir meeting in Amsterdam. There are certainly young singers, in 2019 they had a remarkable performance as the gospel choir "Moravian Stars" at the Kirchentag in Dortmund, conducted by Br. Fischer. Cantor Alexander Rönsch, the second commissioner for church music (15%), also places special emphasis on musical work with children and young people in his parish work in Herrnhut. There is a good chance that both commissioners will work together to recruit younger singers for community choirs and choir meetings. Furthermore, the orchestra workshop Unitas Musica in Dresden under the direction of Br. Karl Friedrich Winter is organized annually on a voluntary basis and is a great enrichment for all participants as well as for the host congregation. The leadership of the male choir weekend at the Herrnhag in 2019 was also attended by cantor Alexander Rönsch together with the honorary cantor Christiane Mebs.

The **work with refugees** has become quieter since the synodal meeting of 2018. Nevertheless, there was once again a large church asylum: with the support of the Herrnhuter Diakonie, the congregation of Gnadau hosted a family of ten from Iraq from March to July 2019. And also in Herrnhut a young woman with two children was accepted for a few months. Since 2016, a total of seven congregations and communities of the Moravian Church have granted church asylum to about fifty refugees from Cameroon, Iraq, Eritrea, Syria and Afghanistan. For the communities concerned, this meant an enormous investment of time and energy and at the same time enrichment. Almost all guests in church asylum are now recognised as refugees by the Federal Office for Flight and Migration (BAMF). The situation for refugees in European countries like Italy, Romania and Bulgaria or in countries of origin like Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq has not improved. However, the BAMF now only gives a positive decision on dossiers in exceptional cases. It also regularly threatens to increase the period within which a refugee must be transferred to another EU country from six to eighteen months. This discourages congregations from deciding to grant church asylum to those at risk. If one follows the developments in Syria, on the Greek islands, in Turkey and in North Africa, it becomes clear that there can be no talk of an "all-clear" signal.

All churches and also the Moravian Church are challenged to continue to deal intensively with the topic of flight, the causes of flight and the reception of refugees. It is therefore good that Br. Stephan Theo Reichel, as commissioner for refugee work, also does political work through the association "matteo", of which the Moravian Church is a member, for example by working together with others to ensure that deportations to Afghanistan are suspended.

In the ECP's mission statement is the **Conciliar Process** with its three aspects: justice, peace and the integrity of creation. 2019 was the year of climate protection. Fraternal youth also demonstrated on Fridays instead of going to school. The initiative sChOOL for Future was developed at the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld. By signing the appeal Churches for Future, the ECP stood behind the young people who are calling for a radical change in the careful use of resources. During the reporting period, a number of steps were taken towards greater sustainability.

In the follow-up to resolution 13/2018 on **digitisation**, a supra-regional working group has first of all dealt with how the immense paper consumption around the synod can be reduced by the increased use of digital means. For the Synod 2020 a cloud will be established in which the documents for downloading are stored centrally. Currently, the processes in the administrative locations are being examined with regard to possibilities for further digitisation. The working group meets exclusively via Skype.

A process to evaluate and improve **sustainability** was initiated in the ECP's administration. A working group has been set up to review the individual areas of administrative action, e.g. business travel, buildings, procurement, cleaning, heating, energy, IT, etc., from the point of view of sustainability and to draw up proposals for improvement in cooperation with the specialist departments. The travel regulations stipulate, among other things, that business trips are to be checked for necessity and that the most ecological means of transport is to be chosen. Management and administration have adapted their working methods. Videoconferencing is replacing face-to-face meetings and bus and train are being used more frequently than air and car travel. On the other hand, the attempt to use recycled paper in the administration failed because of the administrative regulations, which stipulate that only acid-free paper may be used due to the requirement of permanent archivability. On the meadow behind the university store in Bad Boll, native wild flowers are used to increase the feeding possibilities for wild bees and butterflies. The building stock, many of them from the 18th century, also remains a challenge. Improvements can only be achieved step by step, especially when investments are made anyway. The aim is to ensure that sustainability criteria are taken into account from the outset in all important decisions.

At the regional conference on the **Conciliar Process** 2018 in Bad Boll, another hot topic was discussed: how to deal with "Mother Earth" as a whole - and specifically with land consumption and land theft, rents and leases, and the attitude of the Moravian Church towards the topic. Sr. Heide-Rose Weber introduced the participants to the way in which the Moravian Church deals with its real estate holdings. There are also sisters and brothers who, in the face of usurious rents and housing shortage, demand that income from real estate ownership be completely renounced. This in turn would be contrary to the Directorate's action plan for a balanced budget, which on the contrary provides for - moderate - increases in rental and leasing income.

In 2019 a conference on the theme "The Moravian Church and the history of slavery" was held for the second time as an annual conference within the conciliar process. The focus of the conference, for which the Centrale Raad was responsible, was not on the historical facts, but on how it is possible today to meet each other as "free sisters and brothers" at eye level. The conference dealt, among other things, with the taboos surrounding "Winti". It was important to many participants that this religion with its many African elements be openly informed and discussed about in the Moravian Church. In addition, the past of the Moravian Church during the time of slavery is to be scientifically examined once again: The Provincial Board intends to award a research grant for this.

UNITY AND MISSION

In September 2018 Br. Hertzsch attended a meeting of the **Unity Board** in Winston-Salem and Bethlehem, USA. Reports of continuing divisions in the Moravian Church in Honduras and Alaska and of political tensions in many provinces were received with concern. Especially the situation in Nicaragua has escalated further since then and has had a considerable impact on the Moravian Church.

The next meeting of the Unity Board will be held in September 2020 at the invitation of the Czech Unity Province.

Relationships with other Unity provinces were cultivated in many ways. The discussions and deliberations in a good atmosphere during the Unity Board meeting as well as the All Tanzania Partner's Consultation (ATPC) in Arusha in October 2018, which took place for the first time since 2015, should be emphasized. On the initiative of ZZg, delegates from the South African and the European Continental Provinces met in autumn 2019 for a South North Conversation near Cape Town, which enabled an intensive acquaintance with each other's cultures, parish situations and forms of church work. Before the meeting, Br. Hertzsch, together with Br. Friedrich Waas and Sr. Peggy Mihan, visited the Wupperthal Mission Station, where at the end of 2018 a devastating fire had destroyed most of the village. In discussions with the pastor and other local leaders, possibilities for further support from the mission organizations were discussed.

In February 2019, the Directors of the British and European Continental Provinces met in Leeds to get to know each other better, to exchange views on the work of the Provincial Boards and to share spiritual reflection. The special relationship with the Unity Province of Surinam is also cultivated through regular meetings. In March 2020 a consultation with the church leadership of the Surinam Province will take place in Zeist, in which Br. Welschen and Br. Hertzsch plan to participate.

Relations with Tanzania are mainly characterised by the longstanding close cooperation with HMM. There are particularly good relationships with the Southern Province, South West Province, Eastern Province and Rukwa Province. On the occasion of the inaugurations of new buildings for educational projects, Br. Hertzsch travelled to Songea and Namtumbo in the Southern Province of Tanzania, to Zanzibar, to Zambia and Malawi, and in each case meetings were held with the members of the church leadership.

In May 2019, Br. Hertzsch was a guest at the Synod of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, to which the Czech Mission Province belongs.

Once a year there is an exchange between the Provincial Board and the leadership of the **Czech Mission Province**. The Mission Province had to cope with a heavy loss due to the departure of Br. Jiří Polma, the minister of the congregation of Železný Brod, in March 2018. The smallness of many congregations and the lack of young people for the ordained ministry make the outlook uncertain. The Partner Community Day between German and Czech congregations on 21 September 2019 in Herrnhut was experienced as a connecting event.

The good cooperation between the **mission societies** of the Moravian Church has led to further project partnerships, from which, for example, the Light of Hope Primary School with a children's centre in the refugee camp of Dzaleka / Malawi and also the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre in could benefit.

The meetings of the **European Mission Council**, to which ZZg, BDM, FEBS, Herrnhuter Mission in Switzerland (Mission 21), British Mission Board and HMH are invited, as well as the North American mission organization Board of World Mission, the Moravian Women's Desk and the Moravian Church Foundation, took place in Zeist in 2018 and in Basel in 2019. We are very grateful for the close cooperation with Mission 21, which has become even more intensive after Jochen Kirsch became director in September 2019.

The cooperation of the Provincial Board in the umbrella association of the Protestant mission organisations in Germany EMW and in the Mission Council of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) was characterised by far-reaching changes. In the EMW there was a change of both the Chairman and the Director. A strategic planning process lasting several years, led to a reorientation of the EMW and to changes in the statute. The Moravian Church will be represented at the General Assembly by only one person (instead of four). However, the seat on the board of directors will most likely remain. Also in the EMS, both the Chairman and the General Secretary changed. A meeting of the EMS Mission Council took place in June 2019 at the Johann-Ludwig-Schneller-School in Lebanon, where Br. Hertzsch had the opportunity to get to know the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut and the work of the Protestant churches in Lebanon and to have numerous encounters with ecumenical participants.

The rehabilitation centre for people with intellectual disabilities on Star Mountain is a joint responsibility of all the Unity provinces, but the European Continental Province is responsible for the management and supervision of the centre. This function is performed by HMH's management board. Twice a year, meetings are held with the management team of Star Mountain. In between, the HMH office is in constant contact with the director and other employees on Star Mountain.

With the new management team, which has been working under the leadership of Director Ranya Karam since autumn 2017, work on Star Mountain has developed well. The stable management and some structural changes allow to concentrate on the actual core tasks and contribute to a good atmosphere. After a period of difficult transformation processes, it is now possible to focus on the quality of the programmes. Professional training of employees and cooperation with external experts and institutions ensure a modern education and improve the quality of therapeutic work.

It remains difficult to finance the personnel costs for the Star Mountain programs. The institution relies on the fact that by far the largest part of its budget is covered by donations and subsidies, even though the self-generated income has increased continuously due to the successful work of the Star Mountain team, especially by increasing the number of accommodations and by the sale of agricultural products from the vocational training programme. Since most funding organisations only provide short-term support, the search for new donors remains a permanent task.

Nevertheless, it was possible to initiate extensive construction measures with the help of international support programmes. The outdated electrical system was completely renewed and the capacity increased. The renovation of the old kindergarten building, which no longer met today's requirements, could begin. At the same time, a new multi-storey building was erected, which will also be used for the inclusive kindergarten.

There have been significant improvements in the use and appearance of the outdoor area. Additional parts of the Star Mountain property were cultivated for agricultural use. In autumn 2019, the forest experts Br. Matthias Clemens and Mr. Volker Kreisig (church forest administration in Saxony) took part in the work meetings at Star Mountain to assess the condition of the forest and to develop recommendations for forest management, fire protection and planting of the areas not yet used, as well as to train the staff responsible for forest and garden maintenance.

The identity of Star Mountain as a Unity Undertaking was strengthened by meetings and contacts. On behalf of HMM, Br. Niels Gärtner held training courses for the Star Mountain staff several times a year and strengthens links with regional ecumenical partners. The common commitment of the Moravian mission societies has led to a greater attention for Star Mountain in the worldwide Unity. In May 2020, a meeting of the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB) is scheduled to take place at Star Mountain. Once a year, Br. Jørgen Bøytler takes part in the meetings with the management team.

For information about the extensive work of the **Unity Archives**, its user service, the annual projects, the work of the association including public lectures and publications etc., the website of the archive is recommended <http://www.archiv.ebu.de/startseite/>. A special note deserves the - like the website - German and English newsletter. For the international Moravian Church, the references in the Unity Archives to archival documents on the history of other Provinces of the Moravian Church are of particular importance. In 2018, the efforts of a major project sponsored by the German federal government for mass deacidification, the introduction of an insect monitoring system and extensive gutter renovation of the new archive building were the main focus of attention at the Unity Archives. In 2019, a follow-up project of mass deacidification for Daily Watchwords could be connected. The annual projects of the Unity Archives are also a success story with a high publicity value, which not only raise the necessary funds but also demonstrate the diversity of the collections. In addition to all the ongoing tasks of the full-time and voluntary staff of the Unity Archives, the formation of a **Working group on the archiving of electronic documents**. The Working group deals with regulating the handling of electronic data in the administration of the ECP uniformly to create that way the conditions for a takeover of hybrid and electronic files and data or databases into the Archives. Furthermore, the personnel and technical requirements for electronic Unity Archives must be created. This is the only way to avoid delivery gaps and ensure that the documents can be found and used. In addition, the Provincial Board repeatedly addressed the scarce staffing situation in the Archives. This is because, in addition to processing and preserving the archive records, the Archives not only look after users with a scientific interest, but also, on an annual average, almost as many people interested as tourists. This trend is expected to continue in connection with the anniversaries 2022 and 2027 and the World Heritage application of the town of Herrnhut.

ECUMENISM

In the past years Br. Welschen was a member of the Moderamen (Board) of the **Raad van Kerken** (Council of Churches in the Netherlands). There he represented the small non-episcopal churches, a group within the Council with a theological range from the Remonstrants to the Salvation Army. His term of office ended in September 2019. Br. Welschen has meanwhile been elected to the committee "Geloof en kerkelijke gemeenschap" (the theological committee of the Council). In SKIN (an umbrella organization of migrant churches and international churches), the Moravian Church continues to be active through Sr. Rhoïnde Mijns-Doth as president. The transformation of the association into a foundation was also accompanied (quite critically) by the Moravian Church. Various congregations participate in regional ecumenical bodies.

The affiliation of the ECP in Germany to the **Evangelical Church in Germany** (EKD) has practical effects in the area of occupational health and safety, among other things. Here the Moravian church uses the structures and the know-how available in the EKD, since the legal requirements would overtax it as a very small church. The situation is similar when it comes to dealing with sexual abuse or sexualised violence. Through its affiliation to the EKD, the Moravian church is on the one hand required to describe its own procedures for prevention and processing, and on the other hand it can use the independent contact point of Moravian church participates in the current discussion processes in the EKD, e.g. about digitalization, church labor law or the changed handling of church asylum by the authorities, etc.

The intermediate position of the Moravian Church between Free Churches and the EKD brings with it membership in various associations. The members of the Provincial Board are not able to work on all of them themselves. In the period under review, sr. Jill Vogt therefore continued to represent the ECP in the **Association of Christian Churches** (ACK) at national level. A whole range of ministers also work in the ACK on site or in the federal states, sometimes at board level. The statement of the Provincial Board against Right-wing Populism found interest in the Federal ACK, since this problem affects the churches across denominations.

The ECP is a guest member of the **Association of Evangelical Free Churches** (VEF). Br. Theodor Clemens represents the Moravian Church in the General Assembly beyond his retirement. Br. Christoph Hartmann is working in working group 11 Gospel and social responsibility and br. Erdmann Carstens in working group 2 Press and Publishing. It is important to the Provincial Board that the current debates, e.g. on migration, sexuality or the relationship to other religions, are also perceived in the free church sphere.

In September 2018 a consultation of church leaders from the **Evangelisch Methodistische Kirche** (EmK) and the Moravian Church took place for the third time. This time the EBU had invited to Amsterdam-Zuidoost. The themes of this meeting were: "Our churches as multicultural churches - enrichment and tensions" and "The self-understanding of our churches as missionary churches - what does it look like in the 21st century? The representatives of the two churches exchanged their experiences with different cultures in one church and to missionary approaches, met members of the Dutch Moravian Church and learned about the work of the Moravians in this multicultural part of Amsterdam.

The model of the House of Religions in Bern was also brought into the discussion by the Moravian delegation. Concretely, it was agreed to pay attention at the regional level to where cooperation between Methodist congregations and Moravian congregations is possible and meaningful, where the partners can help each other out with personnel and what significance the Reutlingen College, for example, can have for the training work of the Moravian Church. In the meantime a beginning has been made with the announced takeover of a Methodist pastoral position in Cottbus as part-time work by Br. Ingo Gutsche. Both churches continue to invite each other to conferences and synods.

WATCHWORDS

The cooperation with the Friedrich Reinhardt Verlag Basel in the publication of the **German-language watchwords** is also developing in a spirit of trust with Stephan Rüdüsühli as the new managing director. However, 2019 the Watchwords had to face a drop in sales of just under 10%. Although this rapid negative trend will not continue in 2020, it is clear that, as is the case with the members of the ECP, there is also a high level of uncertainty among the readers and -readers the proportion of the elderly and high aged is very high. Although the moderately increased sales of the Watchwords for Young People and the Watchwords as App will absorb some of the losses in 2020, it is realistic to expect further, possibly even larger, declines in sales of printed editions of the Daily Watchwords.

A donation from the Dr. Wandel Foundation made it possible to send 2000 Watchwords for Young People in 2019 to congregations of different churches to use them in their confirmation groups. This project, which was very labour-intensive for both the staff of the Comenius bookshop and the department for Public Relations of the Moravian Church was well received. A follow-up project is planned for 2021.

Due to limited resources, the correspondence with readers of the watchwords can currently only be covered insufficiently. In the future, the Directorate plans to appoint a contact person trained in biblical theology and pastoral care for the exchange with readers of the Watchwords and thus to use the Watchwords even more as a means of communication. In the future, the daily "Bethlehem" impulse on the Watchwords and/or the teaching text will be integrated into the Watchwords APP in order to get into conversation with people about important topics of faith.

Uncertain is the future of the Watchwords Readers' Conference, which had to be cancelled due to a lack of participants. The 2020 conference is planned in collaboration with the editor of the Watchwords for Young People, in the hope of reaching out to younger people.

A complex field of work is the support of the Watchwords' editions in other languages, which is mainly done from Herrnhut. There were no major movements, such as expenditure in other languages.

After the death of Sr. Vallery Linger,¹⁰ a new editor of the **dagteksten**, the Dutch edition of the Watchwords, could be found relatively quickly in Sr. Sandra Oosterwolde. Nevertheless, the already tight schedule came under pressure once again.

In December 2019 agreements were made or renewed with the editorial committee, e.g. the priority of the 2004 Bible translation over other translations and the decision to use mainly songs as third texts. The circulation of the Dutch edition has never been very high. The number of copies sold in the Netherlands is also falling from year to year. At present, between 9,000 and 10,000 copies are sold, 6,000 of which are sold in the Moravian congregations.

¹⁰ See page 12.

In meetings with the publishing house "Royal Jongbloed", advertising measures and any special editions to be produced, including an app, were discussed. The main aim was to broaden the readership of the dagteksten. One result of the joint reflection, which was, however, in the end, solely the responsibility of the administration of the Moravian Church, was the Presentation of the Dutch version of the 290th edition of the Watchwords in the museum "Catharijneconvent" in Utrecht, where the President of the "National Synod", Rev. Gerrit de Fijter, explained his special relationship with the Watchwords.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

For both **public relations work** and fundraising, new methodological and conceptual paths must be taken in order to reach new and younger target groups in addition to the existing clientele. Opportunities for communication and interaction are increasingly expected instead of mere information. It was therefore decided that print media would continue to be published in high quality, but that modern media and forms of communication would also be developed.

When Ms Tina Hentschel took up her duties on 1 October 2018, a **social media concept** was implemented. Since 1 January 2019, we are reporting on Facebook about the work of the Moravian Church and the Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH). An editorial conference is held once a month via Skype, which is attended by three members of the Provincial Board, the public relations staff, the head of the fundraising department and a youth worker. The common social media presentation of the Moravian Church and HMH, which was intended from the outset, has proved its worth. The diversity is perceived and welcomed and already stands out well from comparable performances. The follower and click numbers are pleasingly high. It has been shown that despite the different media and styles, synergy effects are also created for websites, newsletters or print products. The next step will be the launch of an Instagram site on 1 March 2020. An expansion of the appearance to include other social media is being discussed. Twitter would be particularly suitable for the Moravian Daily Watchwords. Preparations for the **Herrnhut anniversary** in 2022 and the application for inclusion of the town of Herrnhut in the UNESCO World Heritage List are becoming increasingly important for the public relations staff. On the subject of tourism and marketing, Br. Erdmann Carstens gave the keynote speech at a network conference in Königsfeld.

Another major project that requires great human and financial resources is the redesign of the website. A new appearance is necessary above all to optimize the Internet presence for mobile devices.

An overview of the numerous design and layout tasks at the two German administrative locations was drawn up and a plan of responsibilities and outsourcing of some tasks was drawn up. A corporate design manual is being prepared and is to be in force by May 2020.

The reduction in the frequency of publication of the Herrnhuter Bote from ten to six issues per year has led to a reduction in the workload of the public relations officer, which was urgently needed in view of new areas of responsibility.

Particularly challenging are the extensive preparations for major events involving public relations. These included the Katholikentag (convention of catholic churches in Germany) in Münster and the Protestant Kirchentag in Dortmund. Preparations have begun for the 2021 Ecumenical Kirchentag.

Br. Carstens' participation and partly leading responsibility in numerous ecumenical as well as Moravian committees takes a lot of time, but it proves to be important and fruitful. The close cooperation with the fundraising department in joint meetings held twice a year and in the daily work is currently going well despite the great distance between the two German locations, but it must be consciously maintained.

HMH's public relations work was redesigned with the retirement of Br. Andreas Tasche on 1 January 2020. Br. Niels Gärtner took over most of Br. Tasche's responsibilities as public relations officer, supported by a team. We are very grateful that Br. Tasche will continue with a partial assignment to research and write the texts for the HMH newsletter.

Public relations is still an underdeveloped area in the Netherlands. He is mainly covered in the administration in Zeist by Sr. Renée Wezel and Br. Welschen, who both look after this area in addition to their main tasks. The members' magazine for the Netherlands is EBGNieuws, but it is published exclusively in digital form and can be subscribed to free of charge. It is mainly a newsletter in which few articles for discussion appear. Parallel to the Herrnhuter Bote, two years ago the (planned) publication frequency was reduced from 10 to 6 issues. However, it is currently not possible to actually publish these six issues. In 2019 there were only four editions (partly due to the extensive preparations for the conference in Mariënkroon). Also the website and the Facebook account are only maintained if possible. This is not a satisfying situation. At present, however, the necessary increase of employees cannot be financed by the Provincial Board and the public relations work in Herrnhut is not in a position, either in terms of language or time, to provide public relations work for the entire Province. Nevertheless, EBGNieuws in particular benefits from the articles in the Herrnhuter Bote and the newsletter of the "Herrnhuter Missionshilfe". For the establishment of a fundraising in the Netherlands, the Provincial Board has set up a 25% position as of April 1, 2018. Unfortunately, by the end of the reporting period, no significant progress had been made in this direction. The reasons for this are still to be investigated. However, the Moravian Church in the Netherlands joined the "Inter-Kerkerkelijke Commissie Geldwerving", which carries out the "Kerkbalans" action, through which the participating churches together call on their members to give their contribution to the preservation of the church. Action 2020 will be closely monitored in the hope that the congregations of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands will actively participate in the action 2021.

There have been considerable changes in the **fundraising** department. At the beginning of 2019, Ms. Linda Hiller ended her work as head of the department. After a few months of vacancy, the position could be filled again on 1 July 2019 with Mr Raphael Henkel, who, with his specialist training and experience in the church sector, has very good qualifications and is already providing new impetus for the further development of the fundraising department.

In the summer of 2018, Mr. Achim Bazlen was hired and commissioned to set up the legacy fundraising department. In cooperation with the churches of Baden and Württemberg, the proven "What remains" concept was adopted and adapted to the needs of the Moravian Church and HMH.

Dr. Christine Moritz has been working in the department since August 2019. She is an expert for the development of the new field of philanthropy (mayor donor fundraising)
These steps serve the further development of the fundraising department and the long-term stabilisation of the donation work.

The **Graf-Zinzendorf-Stiftung** as a support foundation of the Moravian Church is still in the process of being established. It is led by a honorary board of directors consisting of Br. Helmuth Filschke, Br. Wolfgang Rückert and Br. Hans-Michael Wenzel. In 2019, the Foundation was able to announce funding for the first time, so that the congregations, the ECP with its fields of work and HMH were able to submit funding applications. This was made possible by a successful donation mailing from the fundraising department in Bad Boll, which raised a large sum of money for the foundation. The income from the foundation capital, which amounted to approximately €90 thousand on 31.12.2018, would have been far from sufficient for this purpose. In fact, at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 9th, 2019, it was possible to decide to support six projects: two projects from congregations, three projects from the working areas of the ECP and one project from HMH in cooperation with the School Foundation of the ECP, so that no applicant went away empty-handed. In addition, the Board of Directors of the Foundation was authorised to provide a subsidy for the choir meeting in Amsterdam if required. The foundation is also in a position to announce a grant in 2020. Due to the requirement for prompt use of funds, the donations received must be promptly allocated to funding purposes. However, a permanent inflow of donations in this amount to the Graf-Zinzendorf-Stiftung cannot be expected. Rather, in future the focus must be placed more strongly on the acquisition of endowments in order to strengthen the foundation's capital and generate sustainable returns for the funding objectives. As a fundraising tool of the ECP, the Foundation can be particularly interesting for people who are thinking about their will.

Since 2018, the Moravian Church and its congregations have been experiencing a growing interest in the touristic features of the Moravian settlements. First of all, the municipality of Herrnhut intensively dealt with the question of whether it could positively respond to a World Heritage application by the city of Herrnhut. In 2019, the idea of forming an association to promote cultural tourism in relation to the historic settlements of the Moravian congregations was put to the congregations and the management of the municipalities. The Provincial Board was involved in both processes. In doing so, the Provincial Board underlined the opportunities that tourist interest offers for the communication of central contents of the Moravian Church, but also sees risks.

The **guest work** in Herrnhut, led by Sr. Erdmute Frank, will be in charge of the upcoming anniversaries 2022 and 2027 as well as the World Heritage application of the city of Herrnhut challenges. This was taken into account by employing as successor for Br. Norman Matjeka Sr. Ilka Geisler in 2018 and additionally Sr. Myong Hee Hong in 2019, as Korean Christians are increasingly interested in Herrnhut. For the topic of tourism, the guest work will be strengthened by a 50% position from mid 2020.

DIACONIA AND SCHOOLS

The following overviews show important key data of the schools of the European Continental Province and the guest houses.

Dependent Entities and Schools	Employees		Places	Occupancy 2018	Management
	31.12.2018 heads	average FTE			
KOMENSKÝ Herrnhut	12 employees 9 temporary	8,06	87 beds	35,3%	Thomas Przyluski
Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein Ebersdorf (until 31.08.2019)	---	---	38 beds	40,4%	until 31.08.2019: Irene Pöhlmann
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	155	117,7	925 school 58 boarding school	---	ab 01.08.2019: Dr. Beate Biederbeck Tobias Banholzer bis 31.07.2019: Johannes Treude Tobias Banholzer
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	49	34,0	435 pupils	---	from 01.08.2018: Melanie Rummel Jens Schüßler Ilona Seebeck Dr. Thomas Siemon until 31.07.2018: Andreas Diercks Jens Schüßler Dr. Thomas Siemon Andrea Turmann

Dependent Entities and Schools	Total Assets		Total Earnings		Annual Result		Balance Sheet Res.		Subsidy ECP included in annual result	
	31.12.2018 T€	31.12.2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€
KOMENSKÝ Herrnhut	1.770	1.941	694	673	-44	-31	0	27	90	79
Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein Ebersdorf (until 31.08.2019)	---	18	88	141	8	0	8	0	0	27
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	8.455	8.119	10.358	10.447	105	578	0	0	180	178
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	1.512	1.673	3.391	3.544	-34	75	-19	98	86	80

The **Diaconia** remains an important part of the Moravian Church, even after the Gnadauer Anstalten have been transferred to the Herrnhut Diaconia, all the diaconal institutions formerly under direct EBU sponsorship have become independent foundations. For this reason, it was important to the Provincial Board that, on the occasion of an amendment to the statutes of the Herrnhut Diaconia in 2018, it should be noted that it will continue to have two voting representatives on the Board of Trustees. Br. Schmorrdede brought the position of the EBU into the process of appointing the new commercial director of the Herrnhuter Diakonie.

The **Diakonie working group** includes the board members of Herrnhuter Diakonie and EMMAUS and the director of the Christoph-Blumhardt-Haus Königfeld. The AG Diakonie met annually. The working conference of the diaconal institutions of the Moravian Church planned for 2019 in Niesky with the working title "culturally sensitive care" unfortunately had to be cancelled due to other workload of the participants and will hopefully be made up for.

During the reporting period, a hospice with twelve places was built at the **EMMAUS deaconesses' institution** and opened in November 2019. The care for dying people and their relatives has been one of the core tasks of the deaconess institution EMMAUS in Niesky from the very beginning.

The outer skin of the Abendfrieden nursing home was completely renovated. The installation of a new elevator and air conditioning of the house are planned for 2020/2021. The occupancy rate of the nursing home is very good and the team of employees is stable.

The façade of the daycare building was also renovated in 2019. The cooperation with the local congregation of the Moravian Church, as well as with the other Christian churches in the city, is gratifying and ensures that more children in day care centres are able to join the congregations.

From September 2020, the school for nursing care for the elderly in Bautzen will offer general nursing training (merger of the training courses for nursing care for the sick, elderly and children). Since the recruitment of nursing staff is a key task for all social institutions, EMMAUS takes on the enormous restructuring process.

The members and friends of the Emmaus Community belong to the soul of the deaconesses' institution. With their prayers, their donations and their voluntary commitment, they play an essential role in shaping the charisma of EMMAUS. This also includes carefully arranged church services, concerts, exhibition openings and celebrations.

The **Herrnhuter Diakonie** (HD) Foundation is active in the care of the elderly and disabled, in education, hospice and palliative care as well as in child and youth welfare in Herrnhut with Zittau and Löbau, in Kleinwelka, in Hohburg with Wurzen and in Gnadau.

2019 was marked by drastic changes: Br. Stephan Wilinski, who had been the commercial director for many years, left the foundation on 31 July and took over management responsibility at Diakonie Osnabrück. Mr. Michael Hellerling, the new Commercial Director elected by the Board of Trustees, took up his duties on November 1.

The foundation was shaken by the unexpected death of Br. Peter Tasche, who had been in charge of the Herrnhut Adult Housing since 2008.

The nursing homes Maria-Heyde-Haus Gnadau, Dora-Schmitt-Haus Kleinwelka and Anna-Nitschmann-Haus Herrnhut as well as the deaconry ward and day care in Herrnhut continued to develop positively and are integrated into the local congregations.

Disability assistance in the Herrnhut and Hohburg regions was challenged by the Federal Partial Participation Act. Although the intended strengthening of the users' autonomy and the increase in quality standards are to be welcomed, implementation will lead to a bureaucracy that is difficult to manage.

The area of help for children and young people in the David-Zeisberger-Haus in Herrnhut is challenged by a strong increase in young people with behavioural problems.

The Johann Amos Comenius School in Herrnhut can celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2020. The Integrative Kindergarten Senfkorn in Herrnhut is closely connected with the local Moravian congregation of as is the Kindergarten in Gnadau. The Gnadauer Kindergarten celebrates its 160th anniversary in 2020.

The Ambulant Hospice Service for the Löbau-Zittau region celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019 with an ecumenical celebratory service. About 90 volunteer hospice attendants work there together with four full-time coordinators.

The hospice and palliative advice centre in Zittau, which was opened in 2017, is active throughout Eastern Saxony. The Siloah Herrnhut Hospice has existed for a good 12 years. From summer 2020, twelve seriously ill, dying people will also find loving reception, competent care and pastoral support in the newly built inpatient hospice in Bischofswerda.

The SAPV team Upper Lusatia is active in specialized outpatient palliative care (SAPV) in cooperation with three DRK district associations.

The shortage of skilled workers is a concern in all areas. We are urgently looking for committed Christian university and technical college graduates in educational or nursing professions.

At all locations the facilities are part of the local church communities, in Herrnhut, Kleinwelka and Gnadau of the local brother communities, in Hohburg, Wurzen and Bischofswerda of the Lutheran communities. We are happy about these lively relationships.

The development of **KOMENSKÝ** - Guest and Conference House of the ECP continues to be positive. Although growth has slowed down somewhat, with slightly fewer overnight stays in 2019 than in the previous year, there were more day visitors instead, so that turnover and the number of overnight stays calculated to reflect both increased slightly overall. Due to increased maintenance, in particular the necessary replacement of a gas boiler, a higher grant from the ECP was required in 2019. Positive indicators are the growing proportion of regular guests (groups and individual travellers), the high proportion of international groups (meetings/conferences of Christian organisations) and the acquisition of new (conference) groups, including from the non-church sector. The average length of stay of guests tends to decrease. In order to counteract this, the range of services offered by the guest house was expanded, especially in the areas of service, additional travel services (arranging guided tours etc.) and kitchen. In order to be able to equip upscale celebrations and banquets at conferences, the staff in the kitchen was increased. While the share of individual travellers is increasing (also due to membership and marketing through the Association of Christian Hoteliers (VCH) and online platforms), some groups of guests (disabled people, family holidays) are declining.

The granting of generous subsidies from the LEADER programme made it possible to build a new Herrnhut garden house with a pergola based on a historical model, which significantly enhances the outside area. The continuation and redesign of own conferences of the ECP as well as the development of suitable services for new target groups (low-cost services for children and young people, better equipment and services for "hotel guests") remain challenging. In the future, consideration is being given to creating group accommodation of a simpler standard on the adjoining site to the south, which was returned to the ECP after a tenant moved out, in order to reach other target groups (especially children and young people, school classes and families). The conceptual development and positioning of the house is the focus of the head of the institution Br. Thomas Przyluski as well as the Provincial Board.

Statistics

	2017	2018	2019
Overnight stays	11.180	11.208	10.978
Day guests	4.846	5.327	6.147
Calculated overnight stays	14.088	14.404	14.666
Catering days	10.397	10.965	10.683
Overnight stays per bed	128	129	126
Room occupancy	42,33 %	41,51 %	41,67 %
Employees permanent (+ temporary staff)	10 (+ 8)	10 (+ 8)	13 (+ 5)
EBU grant	78,500 EUR	EUR 90,000	EUR 149,000

The "**Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein**" (guest house) has been operated by the Moravian Congregation of Ebersdorf since 01.09.2018. Before the takeover, the building was upgraded in terms of fire protection. The last 12 months of operation by the ECP were hard, as it was very difficult to secure the staffing due to the long-term illness of one of the employees. Not least because of the resulting reduction in personnel costs, no subsidy was required from the ECP budget in the short year 2018. Since then, the Provincial Board has been doing its utmost to support the Ebersdorf Congregation in running the house. Thus, the camps and events that have been carried out by the ECP in the "Rüstzeitenheim" will continue to take place. A grant will be awarded until February 2020 to cover the costs of a staff member of the ECP to remain in the house until that date.

Nevertheless, the operation of the house is a challenge for the congregation, in which it is assisted by the support association.

Due to the construction work in Herrnhut and the change of headmaster in Königsfeld, the schools were so heavily busy that a meeting of the **Working Group on Moravian Schools** was not possible. Cooperation between the schools took place mainly on a bilateral basis and in contacts between individual specialist groups. Br. Hertzsch took part in meetings and events of the Arbeitskreis Evangelischer Schulen in Deutschland (AKES), a workgroup of the protestant schools in Germany, and tried to establish contacts with other schools of the Moravian Church in different countries. The Moravian schools are a high priority in the work of the Provincial Board. Nevertheless, due to the heavy workload of all its members, it is not possible to provide intensive attention to the schools and to make further progress in strategic and conceptual considerations. Discussions on the future structure of the Provincial Board are therefore considering the establishment of a school desk officer's officer.

On the board of trustees of the **Zinzendorf Schools Herrnhut**, the Provincial Board is represented by Br. Schmorrd and Br. Hertzsch. Despite great challenges, the new school building was completed at the beginning of 2019, so the demolition of the old school building and the opening of the new one could take place after the winter holidays.

On 28 March the inauguration of the new school building was celebrated in the Herrnhut church hall. Many guests had come, among them the Prime Minister of Saxony Michael Kretschmer. On several occasions, the Moravian Church supported the construction project with short-term bridging loans, as the disbursement of subsidies was repeatedly delayed considerably. The number of pupils has developed very positively. The pedagogical profile and the identity as a Moravian school were further strengthened. Especially pleasing is the rapid development of the musical work, which is strongly influenced by the church musician couple of the Moravian congregation, Christiane and Alexander Rönsch. Within a few years several choirs and instrumental ensembles were formed, which contributed considerably to the school services in the church hall. Developing an interest in the worldwide work of the Moravian Church also remains a common concern of the school and the Provincial Board. A donation race by the students in cooperation with HMM in spring 2019 raised the enormous amount of more than 17,000 Euros.

In February 2020, a trip to Israel and Palestine with students and teachers of the Zinzendorf Schools will take place for the third time, organized by Br. Hertzsch.

The Provincial Board was committed to supporting the **Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld** during the reporting years, which were marked by changes in the school management. After Br. Tobias Banholzer, the Head of Administration and Economics since 2016, had just become acquainted, the succession for Br. Johannes Treude, the Pedagogical Headmaster, who retired in 2019, had to be arranged. At the beginning of the year 2020 can be determined: The new Pedagogical Headmistress Beate Biederbeck is successfully familiarizing herself with the new school and setting new accents. There has also been a change of leadership in the boarding school. The new Head of the Boarding school, Br. Joachim Jünemann, who previously taught at the Zinzendorf schools, is keen to better integrate the school and boarding school. He is also open to stronger cooperation with the congregation Königsfeld. In order to develop this cooperation, the Provincial Board is recruiting a professional for the work with children and youth, who will offer activities for young people from the congregation *and* the Zinzendorf schools.

Due to its location without connection to a congregation of the ECP, it is not easy to shape the **Zinzendorfschule Tossens** in the spirit of the Moravian Church. Nevertheless, the school, which comprises a grammar school and a secondary school branch, has a clearly protestant profile. At present, it is still possible to find sufficient pedagogical staff. Unfortunately the school pastor Mrs. Dietgard Möllmann will leave the school this year. Since the summer of 2018, Br. Florian Vollprecht has been stationed in Tossens as youth worker with a partial assignment at the Zinzendorfschule. After his service as a school social worker proved difficult to reconcile with the scheduling requirements of supra-regional youth work, his task was changed so that he now helps to shape the social and spiritual life at the school. In this way the youth work of the Moravian Church is present at the school with offers such as star handicrafts during Advent, a theater trip to partner schools or a charity run. Here important contact work takes place. Children and young people are invited to participate in youth work activities. So this year again, students from Tossens will take part in a trip to Star Montain. In addition to the financial aid of the state of Lower Saxony, the school receives an annual subsidy of 280 T€ from the county. Further, the county, the municipality and the ECP each finance a deficit compensation of up to EUR 71.5 thousand a year. A balanced result was achieved in 2018.

The buildings are partly owned by the ECP and partly rented from the county. Funds from the Digital Pact have been announced. The change in the school management in summer 2018 could be handled very well, as two teachers from the school's own teaching staff were willing to take over the vacant positions. The school has very few administrative resources. The Provincial Boerd therefore supports the school management also by the fact that the data protection officer Br. Michael Schulze as well as the officers for occupational health and safety Mr. Karsten Voshage and Br. Simon Schulze are also working for the school.

In the **Netherlands**, two **primary schools** exist as schools with a Moravian profile. They are each run by a school associations consisting of the Council of Elders of the respective congregation.

Crescendo is the school of the Moravian congregation of Amsterdam-Zuidoost, the Comeniusschool, the school of the congregation of Zeist. Both congregations strive to create a lively relationship between the congregation and the school. This is not easy, especially in Zeist, because there are no members of the congregation working as teachers at the school and only a few students belong to the community of the brothers. In Amsterdam-Zuidoost the situation is different in this respect.

Crescendo had two important events to celebrate in the reporting period: First, the "founding director" Mr. Glenn Lashley resigned as he retired. His successor is Mrs Glenda Acton. The second event was the 25th anniversary of the school.

The Comenius School has also had a new director, Ms Hanneke Vermunt, since summer 2018.

COMPANIES, INVESTMENTS, ASSET MANAGEMENT

The European Continental Province is the sole owner or co-owner of five limited liability companies. The following overviews show the key data:

Company	Employees		Share capital T€	Shares EBU in %	Management
	31.12.2018 heads	average FTE			
Comenius-Buchhandlung GmbH Herrnhut	11	7,6	51	60,00%	Christiane Fiebrandt
Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH Herrnhut	144	136	130	100,00%	Oskar Scholz
Höpner Lacke GmbH Niesky until 23.03.2018	---	---	205	100,00%	until 23.03.2018 Christian Weiske
Klimatechnik GmbH (Asset Management) Neuwied	1	0,2	215	33,30%	Wolfram Kaul
Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH Neuwied	9	5,8	61	95,00%	from 01.01.2018 Dennis Müller until 31.12.2017 Klaus-Dieter Kaul

Company	Total Assets		Total Earnings		Result		Dividend EBU from fin. account	
	31.03./31.05. 2019 T€	31.03./31.05. .2018 T€	2018/ 2019 T€	2017/ 2018 T€	2018/ 2019 T€	2017/ 2018 T€	2018/ 2019 T€	2017/ 2018 T€
Comenius-Buchhandlung GmbH Herrnhut fiscal year 01.06.-31.05.	277	265	1.560	1.406	16	21	0	0
Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH Herrnhut fiscal year 01.04.-31.03.	17.411	15.060	16.620	14.980	2.849	2.428	1.414	1.215
Company	Total Assets		Total Earnings		Result		Dividend EBU from fin. account	
Economic data fiscal year = full year	31.12.2018 T€	31.12.2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€	2018 T€	2017 T€
Höpner Lacke GmbH Niesky (sold by 23.03.2018)	---	576	---	663	---	-39	---	0
Klimatechnik GmbH (Asset management) Neuwied	934	1.055	89	225	23	131	10	33
Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH Neuwied	528	505	936	809	2	20	0	0

Contrary to the general trend in the retail book trade, **Comenius-Buchhandlung GmbH** succeeded in increasing sales by 11% and, as in the previous year 2018, achieved a positive annual result. In the shop in Görlitz, sales of Herrnhut Stars increased continuously. The business in Görlitz increasingly distinguished itself by author readings with event character. In the Herrnhut store, the sales of daily texts to booksellers and wholesalers were increased. The insolvency of the most important wholesaler in Germany (KNV) at the beginning of 2019 did not have a significant impact on the results of the GmbH due to different payment terms in the daily text business. Both businesses received higher textbook orders from calls for schoolbook tenders of the district.

The publishing house of Comenius-Buchhandlung GmbH continues to publish the Moravian daily texts as a licensed production of the Moravian Church in America and in cooperation with a working group the Persian daily texts (Farsi). In 2018, the children's book "Der Graf, der aus dem Rahmen fiel" was published in its second, newly designed edition and, in cooperation with Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH, the second volume of the children's book series "Emmi and Jonas and the Christmas Story" was published for Advent 2019.

The annual results were left in the GmbH in order to accumulate funds for a basic renovation of the Herrnhut store and a move to Zinzendorfplatz in a planned visitor centre. There, barrier-free customer access and a contemporary presentation of goods could be implemented.

Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH's sales have also risen sharply again in the last two years, by 10.7 % in the 2017/2018 financial year and by 13.2 % in 2018/2019. Overall, sales are shifting from paper stars to plastic stars. The lighting has been completely switched to LED. The limited special editions of the small stars in special colours (2018 magenta and 2019 lime) are very well received. The products are sold via specialist partners in the retail trade with whom specialist dealer agreements have been concluded, as well as via direct marketing in the Internet shop, at Christmas markets, in the retail shop and in the show workshop in Herrnhut. The visitor centre on the company premises recorded around 68,000 visitors in the 2019 financial year. On 17 March 2018, the discovery and craft world for children was opened, which immediately enjoyed great popularity. School classes from the surrounding primary schools in particular take advantage of the offer to visit the manufactory. On 7 November 2018, the GmbH received the quality seal "family-friendly tourist leisure facility" from the Saxon Tourism Association. The family festival "Sterneland in children's hands" is now held annually on the company premises. Through the cooperation with the Dresdner Kreuzchor with large concerts at Whitsun in the Zinzendorfschloss in Berthelsdorf and during Advent in the Dresden Dynamo Stadium, the degree of popularity of the Herrnhut Stars could be further increased.

In order to be able to meet the further growing demand for stars and accessories, Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH requires additional storage and production space. In March 2019, a former post office distribution centre in Oderwitz was acquired, which will initially be used as a warehouse. On 4 May 2019, a decorative room was opened in the old office building on the company premises, where floral arrangements with the Herrnhut Star are manufactured and sold.

The company **Höpner Lacke GmbH** in Niesky has been in existence for 232 years and has borne the name Höpner Lacke for 135 years. Since 2015, high annual deficits have arisen as a result of massive slumps in sales, mainly caused by declining exports to Eastern Europe. As the retirement of the previous managing director Mr. Christian Weiske was imminent and a new managing director position could not have been adequately paid, it was decided to sell the company. On 23 March 2018, the married couple Bianca and Michael Schäfer acquired Höpner Lacke GmbH at a market value of 2 €. Schäfer couple entered into all loan liabilities of the GmbH to the European Continental Province. These amounted to €255 thousand. As a bridging allowance, the European Continental Province increased the additional existing liquidity loan of €150 thousand by €45 thousand. The loans have all been value-adjusted, but are being repaid on schedule to date. The Schaefer couple has initiated extensive sales promotion measures and changes to the product range structure. The company name is continued.

Klimatechnik GmbH is active exclusively in asset management and rents out land and buildings. Due to the general interest rate trend, income from financial investments has been declining for several years. One apartment was sold in 2017. This led to a high net profit for the year with an unusually high dividend payment. Now the Klimatechnik GmbH is still the owner of the company building of the Ofenbau des Brüderhauses GmbH and a small apartment in Bendorf. This is to be sold when the tenants will change. The course of business in 2018 and 2019 is regular. For future years, an annual dividend of € 30,000 is targeted. Of this amount, € 10,000 is allocated to the European Continental Province according to its share in the share capital.

At **Ofenbau des Brüderhaus GmbH**, the change in management from Br. Klaus-Dieter Kaul to Mr. Dennis Müller took place on 01 January 2018. Mr. Müller had previously been employed in the company for nine years as a stove fitter. Br. Klaus-Dieter Kaul continued to support the furnace construction with a consultancy contract. This agreement was prematurely terminated as of 30 September 2018. In 2018, sales in kiln construction rose by 17 % due to retrofits as a result of the legally required replacement of old systems. Therefore, a balanced result was achieved despite the settlement for the consultancy contract. The annual results remain in the company to accumulate necessary reserves. Business development in 2019 was very restrained. It was not until the last quarter that the order trend was positive again.

The **forest administration of the Moravian Church** manages 730.7 ha of forest areas of the ECP and 9.1 ha of forest areas of the Herrnhut Congregation within the framework of church asset management. Through two acquisitions the area could be increased by approx. 4.5 ha in the reporting period. The past two years have been an extraordinarily difficult and labour-intensive time for the forest administration. Storms and in particular the intensive bark beetle infestation as a result of the prolonged drought caused considerable damage to the forest and all efforts had to be made to contain the damage. It has proven to be a good idea not to be dependent on external companies, but to be able to intervene directly with own employees. Because of the processing of damaged wood and the resulting increase in felling, 2018 was a very successful year in economic terms, with a net profit of almost € 124 thousand. Due to the oversupply of damaged timber, however, timber prices have fallen sharply, so that, although a high level of felling was again required due to the damage, only a significantly lower net profit can be expected in 2019 from an economic point of view.

In the next few years, logging must be significantly reduced to ensure sustainability. In addition, increased care and afforestation work is needed to repair the damage and prepare the forest for the challenges of climate change, so that significant surpluses can hardly be expected. In addition to the sale of timber, the forestry administration's results are also boosted by the forestry manager Br. Matthias Clemens' forestry services for parishes and private forest owners, chain-saw courses and the photovoltaic system on the forestry administration's buildings. Also the forest administration supports the guest work by maintaining the sculpture path in the Herrnhut Forest and by guided tours offered by Br. Clemens.

There were some changes in the **property portfolio** during the reporting period. In Herrnhut, a further section of the EBU's former horticultural site was sold to Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH, which intends to expand its existing premises on the neighbouring site. Through a legacy of the Br. Albrecht and Sr. Uta Kessler, the ECP receives a condominium on the Königsfelder Bergstrasse. Due to the decision of the local authority of Königsfeld to designate industrial sites on the outskirts of the town for a food discounter and a drugstore, negotiations are currently being held between the ECP and the local authority on a land swap. A part of the outdoor sports grounds of the Zinzendorf schools is to be exchanged for a plot of land directly adjacent to the school campus, which is suitable for the construction of a sports hall, with financial compensation.

In the area of leasehold contracts, ground rent income was increased for a large proportion of the contracts in the reporting period due to the value assurance clauses in the contracts. In Kleinwelka, the garden area of the former girls' home was divided into five building plots and fully developed. The building plots are now being marketed as hereditary building rights. Due to the closure of the Treff discount market, the existing ground lease contract with Edeka in Königsfeld is being called into question. A fundamental redevelopment of the area, including the houses at Zinzendorfplatz 5 and 6, is expected here.

The rents for residential space were reviewed and adjusted throughout 2019 on the basis of the rent index. The general letting situation in the houses of the Brothers University can still be considered good. In the Brüderhäuser Neudietendorf there was a major change due to the departure of a care provider for assisted living with several residential units. The associated extensive renovation work and new lettings were quickly implemented with the help of the local property management.

The majority of the rental properties are in good condition. Individual houses with listed buildings and a clear need for renovation are challenging. Especially for the Widow's House in Ebersdorf, the north wing of the Niesky Brothers' House and the Brothers' House in Kleinwelka, no economically viable renovation and utilisation solutions have yet been found.

For the Kleinwelka Sisters' Houses, the first steps in roof sealing and half-timbered repair work were carried out, which were made possible by financial support from the State Office for the Preservation of Monuments. Further applications for subsidies have been submitted in order to preserve the building substance. Parallel to this, the association "Sisters' Houses Kleinwelka e.V." was founded on 23 November 2019 with the participation of the University of the Brothers, the Kleinwelka Brotherhood and the Herrnhuter Diakonie. The aim of the association is the restoration and revival of the sisters' houses. The support received and promised from local and state politicians is also pleasing.

The leasing of agricultural land is stable. Rent increases were agreed for all leases due for renewal.

The Abraham Dürninger Foundation is a legally independent special fund of the Evangelical Brethren University and the Evangelical Brethren Church of Herrnhut. The foundation's assets consist of real estate and company investments. According to its statutes, the Foundation uses its income to support the Brotherhood of the Brethren and the Herrnhut Brotherhood through annual contributions. As in previous years, these amounted to €5 thousand for each of the beneficiaries in 2018 and 2019. The foundation is managed by a honorary board of directors consisting of Br. Reinhard Hertzsch, Br. Albrecht Kittler and Br. Imanuel Vollprecht. The supervisory body for the foundation is the Dürninger Committee consisting of representatives of the management and the Council of Elders of the Herrnhut Brotherhood. The balance sheet total of the foundation amounted to approximately € 3.15 million as of 31.12.2018. In 2018, the foundation generated a net income of EUR 22.5 thousand, which was transferred to reserves. In particular, the renovation of the headquarters in Herrnhut is a challenge for the future. For the textile printing plant of Abraham Dürninger & Co. GmbH, which is a 100% subsidiary of the foundation, a new company building is currently being constructed in the core area at Oderwitzer Straße with an investment sum of approx. 4.6 m € on the basis of a ground lease agreement concluded with the Abraham Dürninger Foundation.

BUDGETARY AND ASSET SITUATION

The **financial action plan** was set up in November 2015 by the Provincial Board with the approval of the Intersynodal Financial Committee and was confirmed at Synod 2016. The goal was to save € 410,000 over the next five years in order to achieve balanced budgets. The subsidy for personnel costs in the public service in Germany was reduced by € 72,000 in the years 2017-2019. In addition, the congregations bore the collectively agreed increases in personnel costs. In the Netherlands, the unity contribution increased by € 108,000 from 2017 to 2019. The costs for the training of the vicars are covered by the Zukunftsfonds. The capacity utilization in KOMENSKÝ has been continuously increased. The subsidy for KOMENSKÝ was fixed at 90,000 € (2014: 189,600 €). The "Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein" in Ebersdorf was handed over to the Brüdergemeinde Ebersdorf on 01 September 2018. The reduction of travel expenses for meetings of the Provincial Board will continue. Staff positions were cut in the archive and in the university administration. Positions of employees on long-term illness leave were only partially refilled. The preaching staff positions in the congregations of Ebersdorf, Zwickau and Forst were reduced, the staff position at the Herrhaag was converted. For the properties, rent adjustments to the average local rent were made in a three-year cycle in 2016 and 2019. As of October 2019, € 437,600 has been achieved from the action plan. However, the annual collectively agreed salary increases and other cost increases contribute to the fact that the actual coverage gap is closing much more slowly. The collectively agreed increase in personnel costs between extrapolation in 2019 and the economic plan 2020 amounts to € 147,900. The reductions in subsidies for the congregations are estimated to continue until 2021.

The **consolidated annual financial statements 2018** of the unity administration, property management, forestry management, Zinzendorfsschulen in Königsfeld and Tossens, KOMENSKÝ and Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein Ebersdorf end with a net loss for the year of € 88,616.00 and a balance sheet loss of € 218,75.57. Compared to 2017, the net result for the year deteriorated by €869 thousand and the balance sheet result by €160 thousand. The contribution for preaching of the congregations increased by €112 thousand, while donations received rose by €118 thousand. In contrast, school and home fees in Königsfeld were €164 thousand lower, income from the daily text sales was €20 thousand lower and €88 thousand fewer inheritances than in 2017. €100 thousand in donations for specific purposes were passed on to the Association of Friends and Sponsors of the Herrnhuter Kirchensaal e.V. for renovation and €91 thousand to the Evangelische Zinzendorfsschulen Herrnhut for the new school building. Maintenance increased by €209 thousand, personnel expenses by €303 thousand. Further details and explanations can be found in the management report in the notes.

The **extrapolation for 2019** on the basis of the half-year figures shows a net profit of € 179,200, but an accumulated deficit of € 116,900. The business plan for 2019 had still assumed a balance sheet loss of € 65,200. At €152 thousand, personnel costs are higher than estimated. In addition to higher than expected wage increases, the scope of supraregional youth work was expanded and part-time positions for inheritance fundraising and major donor fundraising were created. The latter should lead to higher income from donations and bequests in the medium term.

The **economic plan for 2020** ends with a net profit of 57,400 € and a balance sheet loss of 147,900 €. This loss corresponds to the increase in personnel costs under the collective agreement.

Attempts to achieve consolidation will continue.

BALANCE SHEET as of 31.12.2018

ASSETS

A. Fixed assets

I. Intangible assets

Industrial property rights and similar rights and assets
and licenses to such rights and assets

17.303,02

1.508,02

II. Tangible assets

1. Land, land rights and buildings
including buildings on third-party land
 - a.) Land with business premises
 - b.) Land with residential buildings
 - c.) Land without buildings
 - d.) Buildings on third-party land
2. Technical equipment and machinery
3. Other equipment, furniture and fixtures
4. Advance payments made and assets under construction

6.461.849,39

6.907.897,45

6.939.150,94

7.068.688,95

3.726.493,45

3.699.469,45

1,00

1,00

90.318,04

94.263,55

610.910,10

522.775,95

38.253,73

70.145,17

17.866.976,65

18.363.241,52

III. Financial assets

1. Investments
2. Loans to companies with a
participation relationship
3. Securities held as fixed assets
4. Loans to congregations of the Herrnhuter Brüdergem.
5. Other loans
6. Future fund

688.422,39

703.046,87

277.137,63

331.033,38

2.299.538,52

2.702.727,58

183.614,81

195.073,33

40,00

40,00

1.885.250,18

1.491.338,48

5.334.003,53

5.423.259,64

23.218.283,20

23.788.009,18

B. Current assets

I. Inventories

1. Raw materials and supplies
2. Goods

92.086,55

92.159,30

18.656,90

14.296,20

110.743,45

106.455,50

II. Receivables and other assets

1. Trade receivables
2. Receivables from companies with
a participation relationship
3. Other assets

961.952,35

875.681,61

0,00

1.090,64

1.428.570,22

873.574,73

2.390.522,57

1.750.346,98

III. Cash on hand and bank balances

- 1 Cash desk
2. Credit balances with banks
3. Fixed-term deposits and securities held as current assets
4. Custodial deposits

17.835,25

18.350,27

6.939.793,68

5.287.974,20

553.561,25

2.967.814,66

26.985,16

28.666,22

7.538.175,34

8.302.805,35

C. Accruals and deferred income

10.039.441,36	10.159.607,83
47.923,82	55.046,19
33.305.648,38	34.002.663,20

BALANCE SHEET as of 31.12.2018**LIABILITIES**

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
	€	€
A. Equity		
I. Capital	13.241.065,36	13.299.879,64
II Reserves	6.072.947,47	6.336.599,60
III. Future fund	1.885.250,18	1.491.338,48
IV. Balance sheet result	-218.875,57	-58.814,28
	20.980.387,44	21.069.003,44
B. Special items from unused Donations / Inheritances	344.275,76	995.690,69
C. Special items from grants and subsidies for financing the fixed assets	2.485.409,16	2.644.142,12
D. Provisions		
1. Pension provision	1.780.948,91	1.771.966,90
2. Other provisions	2.214.966,90	2.361.210,82
	3.995.915,81	4.133.177,72
E. Liabilities		
1. Liabilities to banks	2.195.011,55	2.596.738,11
2. Advance payments received on operating costs	874.613,03	769.819,23
3. Trade accounts payable	277.155,04	231.765,62
4. Liabilities to companies with a participation	284,61	172,17
5. Other liabilities	1.348.143,72	807.343,78
	4.695.207,95	4.405.838,91
F. Accruals and deferred income	804.452,26	754.810,32
	33.305.648,38	34.002.663,20

INCOME STATEMENT from 01.01.-31.12.2018

	2018	2017
	€	€
1. Revenues		
a. Contributions for preaching	1.401.125,03	1.289.017,00
b. Flat-rate church tax refund	480.278,83	468.213,21
c. Daily Texts licence fees	887.416,39	907.672,48
d. Accommodation (KOMENSKÝ and Rüstzeitenheim	579.129,95	594.583,77
e. Schools in Tossens and Königsfeld	3.685.559,89	3.849.628,93
f. Grants for operating costs	9.436.075,03	9.430.262,81
g. Internal sales	0,00	0,00
h. Revenue from the sale of goods	78.538,14	70.968,14
i. Reimbursements (other and staff)	328.310,00	406.919,06
j. Income from auxiliary and subsidiary operations (forestry)	384.665,24	370.972,88
k. Rents and leases	1.985.006,82	1.994.282,04
l. Donations, collections	1.862.975,41	1.745.266,05
	21.109.080,73	21.127.786,37
2. Other income		
a. Reimbursements from insurance companies, etc.	90.073,88	156.432,89
b. Grants (without compensation)	65.045,49	48.584,12
c. Income from the release of special items	791.116,26	158.902,96
d. Income relating to other periods	18.882,69	89.775,06
e. Income from the release of reserves	47.310,25	29.160,95
f. Income from the reduction of value adjustments for doubtful accounts	26.844,67	15.357,66
g. Income from the disposal of fixed assets	13.133,30	17.329,49
h. Inheritances	19.075,89	106.599,48
i. Miscellaneous other income	42.098,12	123.711,97
	1.113.580,55	745.854,58
3. Gross profit	22.222.661,28	21.873.640,95
4. Expenditure		
a. Cost of raw materials and supplies for purchased goods	-673.361,29	-688.851,82
b. Cost of purchased services	-933.460,31	-919.454,39
	-1.606.821,60	-1.608.306,21
5. Personnel expenses		
a. Wages and salaries aid, other personnel costs	-12.953.479,19	-12.962.960,94
b. Social security contributions	-2.310.163,46	-2.062.381,96
c. Expenses for pensions and retirement benefits	-1.023.880,13	-958.893,15
	-16.287.522,78	-15.984.236,05
6. Depreciation		
Depreciation of intangible assets of fixed assets and tangible assets	-994.504,41	-997.106,71

INCOME STATEMENT from 01.01.-31.12.2018

	2018 €	2017 €
7. Other expenses		
a. Grants		
a.a. to congregations, missionary organisations and other	-1.224.885,68	-371.805,89
a.b. Flat-rate church tax refund	-479.422,27	-467.810,40
b. Expenses for water and energy	-357.790,01	-410.966,58
c. Expenses on economic needs	-13.499,52	-12.024,03
d. Administrative expenses	-737.700,96	-786.442,10
e. Maintenance and repair of fixed assets	-1.202.179,30	-993.428,37
f. Expenses relating to other periods	-18.459,32	-55.230,59
g. Depreciation of receivables	-165.014,92	-85.991,62
h. Expenses from the disposal of fixed assets	-8.748,30	-69.175,34
i. Miscellaneous other expenses	-349.571,29	-447.628,32
	-4.557.271,57	-3.700.503,24
8. Interim result	-1.223.459,08	-416.511,26
9. Income from participations	1.254.849,28	1.317.882,70
10. Income from other stocks and loans of financial assets	102.624,39	108.243,31
11. Other interest and similar income	86.548,13	61.808,83
12. Depreciation of financial assets	-139.075,43	-119.108,45
13. Interests and similar expenses	-165.041,25	-166.842,44
14. Financial result	1.139.905,12	1.201.983,95
15. Earnings before taxes	-83.553,96	785.472,69
16. Other taxes	-5.062,04	-5.230,00
17. Net loss for the year/Surplus	-88.616,00	780.242,69
18. Transfers to appropriated reserves	-114.600,88	-716.273,13
19. Allocations to Future Fund	-515.000,00	-630.824,87
20. Withdrawals from appropriated reserves	378.253,01	290.216,16
21. Withdrawal from Future Fund	121.088,30	217.824,87
22. Accumulated deficit of the financial year (offsetting against capital)	-218.875,57	-58.814,28

ENCLOSURE 1: Status Report of the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church for the year 2018

1. General conditions

The European Continental Province of the Moravian Church is a Protestant church, which regulates its affairs independently (Church Order (KO) § 1000). In Germany it is a public corporation; in the Netherlands it is recognised as a church on the basis of Article 2 BW II and registered with the Kamer van Koophandel. It understands itself as a community of service, which stands in the service of the neighbour (§ 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 schools (Königsfeld and Tossens) as well as guest houses (KOMENSKÝ and, until 31.08.2018, Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein Ebersdorf).

2. Annual result

The consolidated financial statements of the European Continental Province closes 2018 with a net loss of EUR 89 thousand (2017: net income of EUR 780 thousand). After the formation of reserves for earmarked donations (EUR 3 thousand), for the Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld (EUR 105 thousand) and the Zinzendorfschule Tossens (EUR 6 thousand), the release of reserves for used earmarked donations (EUR 38 thousand), redevelopments and releases in connection with internal subsidies for capitalised redevelopments in the amount of depreciation (EUR 290 thousand), loyalty payments (EUR 50 thousand) and the allocation of EUR 394 thousand to the Zukunftsfonds (future fund), the balance sheet loss amounts to EUR 219 thousand (2017: 59 thousand), which is offset against the capital.

3. Earnings situation

Revenues and other income increased by EUR 349 thousand to EUR 22,223 thousand (2017: EUR 21,874 thousand). This includes EUR 632 thousand in income from the reversal of special items for an earmarked inheritance for the Diakonissenanstalt EMMAUS, which will be used to finance the construction of the new EMMAUS hospice and is included under other expenses. Other income fell by a total of EUR 283 thousand.

The development of the individual types of income and expenses is partly in the opposite direction.

Income from the contribution for preaching and unity contributions rose to EUR 1,401 thousand in 2018 compared to EUR 1,289 thousand in 2017. According to a 5-year plan, the congregations in Germany and in the Netherlands will continue to pay higher contributions for preaching and unity until 2021.

In the year under review, the congregations continuously were supported by a motivation campaign to solicit increased membership fees from their members.

The number of members in Germany fell from 5,286 (as of 31.12.2017) to 5,174 (as of 31.12.2018). The forecast for the next 10 years also assumes decreasing membership numbers. For the Netherlands, nationwide membership statistics are currently being developed.

In the year under review, income from daily text licenses for the 2018 daily text year fell to EUR 887 thousand (2017: EUR 908 thousand). The sales figures for printed daily text editions had fallen by 2.7%. For the 2019 daily text year, sales figures continued to decline, while the number of sold daily text apps increased again. In total, the decline in Germany is 9.8 % and in Switzerland 2.3 %.

Revenue from school fees for the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld and Tossens fell by EUR 164 thousand due to the declining number of pupils in both schools, while state and church subsidies for the schools remained almost unchanged at EUR 9,436 thousand (2017: EUR 9,430 thousand).

Income from donations increased by EUR 118 thousand to EUR 1,863 thousand (2017: EUR 1,745 thousand). Inheritances decreased by EUR 88 thousand to EUR 19 thousand. In 2018 and 2019, EUR 632 thousand will be paid out to the deaconesses' institution EMMAUS from an earmarked inheritance. Thus, a total of EUR 853 thousand more charitable income was passed on to external recipients than in the previous year. This includes EUR 91 thousand for the new construction of the Evangelische Zinzendorfschulen Herrnhut and EUR 99 thousand for the church hall in Herrnhut.

Income from participations was EUR 63 thousand lower than in the previous year and was EUR 1,255 thousand.

Operating expenses were kept stable (2018: EUR 1,607 thousand, 2017: EUR 1,608 thousand)

The increase in personnel costs by EUR 304 thousand to EUR 16,288 thousand (2017: EUR 15,984 thousand) is mainly due to collective wage increases. The number of employees, converted into full-time equivalents, fell by 1.69 to 251.33.

At EUR 1,202 thousand, maintenance costs were EUR 209 thousand higher than in the previous year (2017: EUR 993 thousand).

Income from securities continued to fall due to the low interest rate phase. In 2018 they amounted to EUR 103 thousand (2017: EUR 108 thousand)

Depreciations on financial assets amounted to EUR 139 thousand (2017: EUR 119 thousand). At the time of reporting, however, almost half of the losses had been recovered.

The allocation to the Future Fund is calculated from the amount of the dividend of Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH exceeding EUR 700 thousand. These are EUR 515 thousand for the year under review. In 2018, the costs for the vicar's training and the preachers seminary (65 TEUR) and the costs for the implementation of social media (5 TEUR) were withdrawn from the Future Fund. The amount for losses from the ongoing asset management of the Future Fund (EUR 51 thousand), caused by necessary devaluations of securities, was also withdrawn. The Future Fund is intended as a risk provision for a threat to the existence of the European Continental Province, for financial emergencies and to finance future projects.

The results of the individual dependent entities are as follows:

Entity	Annual result 2018 EUR	Balance sheet result 2018 EUR	Annual result 2017 EUR	Balance sheet result 2017 EUR
Unity administrations with property management and forest management (church budget)	-110.746,44	-190.887,62	234.936,96	-99.573,68
Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld	105.251,89	151,94	578.391,59	-608,41
Zinzendorfschule Tossens	-34.379,38	-18.501,08	75.743,00	97.677,40
KOMENSKÝ	-44.028,29	123,56	-30.902,02	26.665,94
Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein	7.786,59	7.786,59	274,51	274,51
Consolidation	-12.500,47	-17.548,96	-78.201,35	-83.250,04
Result consolidated financial statements	-88.616,00	-218.875,57	780.242,69	-58.814,28

The decline in the annual result of the Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld to EUR 105 thousand (2017: EUR 578 thousand) is mainly due to the decline in the number of pupils, especially boarding school occupancy and the discontinuation of the summer language course. The subsidy from the Evangelical Church of Baden amounted to EUR 685 thousand (2017: EUR 665 thousand), the subsidy from the ECP was EUR 180 thousand (2017: EUR 178 thousand). The net income for the year was transferred to revenue reserves.

The Zinzendorfschule Tossens recorded a net loss for the year of EUR 34 thousand (2017 net profit of EUR 76 thousand). The decrease is mainly due to the decrease in revenues and grants from school operations by EUR 150 thousand (2018: EUR 3,390 thousand, 2017: EUR 3,540 thousand), which could only be partially offset by savings in the personnel area (2018: EUR 2,960 thousand, 2017: EUR 3,018 thousand). The subsidy from the ECP amounted to EUR 86 thousand.

In the KOMENSKÝ guesthouse, the subsidy from the ECP amounted to EUR 90 thousand compared to EUR 79 thousand in the previous year. Income from accommodation rose by EUR 17 thousand to EUR 512 thousand (2017: EUR 495 thousand). The occupancy by room fell to 41.51% (2017: 42.33%).

In 2018, no more subsidy of the ECP was paid for the "Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein" (2017: TEUR 27). The Rüstzeitenheim was handed over to the congregation Ebersdorf on 01.09.2018.

4. Financial position

The balance sheet total as of 31 December 2018 was EUR 33,306 thousand (December 31, 2017: EUR 34,003 thousand). The reduction is based on scheduled depreciation of property, plant and equipment and a lower level of financial assets and cash and cash equivalents.

After offsetting the accumulated loss of EUR 219 thousand, equity is EUR 20,980 thousand (2017: EUR 21,069 thousand). The equity ratio is thus 63.0% (2017: 62.0%). The economic equity ratio (equity plus special items) is 71.5 % (2017: 72.7 %). As of 31 December 2018, the Future Fund comprises EUR 1,885 thousand (2017: EUR 1,491 thousand)

5. Financial position

Liabilities to banks from loans decreased by EUR 402 thousand to EUR 2,195 thousand (2017: EUR 2,597 thousand). Loans are repaid as scheduled. Solvency was assured at all times.

6. Investment Report

A total of EUR 532 thousand (2017: EUR 693 thousand) was invested in property, plant and equipment and intangible assets in 2018. Of this amount, EUR 4 thousand (2017: EUR 247 thousand) was attributable to real estate, EUR 282 thousand (2017: EUR 169 thousand) to technical equipment and office furniture and equipment, EUR 245 thousand (2017: EUR 277 thousand) to assets under construction and EUR 19 thousand (2017: EUR 0) to intangible assets.

7. Opportunities and risks

At Synod 2018 the strategy European Continental Province 2027 was discussed in detail. The Provincial Board was asked to continue working on the strategic plan.

The underlying picture

Strong centers
A connecting network
Inspiring regional and international events

also serves as a guide for the ongoing decisions of the Provincial Board. In order to ensure the future viability of the European Continental Province, the further pursuit of the financial action plan to achieve balanced annual results is an important basis.

The implementation of the action plan was continued in the year under review. The following objectives are to be achieved in the period 2016 to 2021:

EUR 120 thousand	Reduction of the subsidy requirement of German congregations
EUR 120 thousand	Reduction of the subsidy requirement of the Dutch congregations
EUR 30 thousand	Increase in income from property management
EUR 40 thousand	Savings in unity administration (personnel, travel and consulting costs)
EUR 100 thousand	Reduction of the deficit of the guest houses

Halfway through the term, major implementation steps have been taken on all points. The increases in the contributions of the congregations in the regions of Germany and the Netherlands decided on at Synod 2016 were implemented in 2017 and 2018. For their part, the congregations have raised more membership fees from their members through a motivation campaign.

This enabled the higher burden to be largely refinanced. It has to be observed whether the further increases in the following years can still be financed by the congregations. In the economic plans for 2019, the higher contributions were budgeted by the congregations. The congregations are always given new ideas for further work on the motivation campaign.

In order to increase income from property management, rent increases are implemented every three years until they are in line with local average rents, the next time in 2019. In addition, rents are set at the local comparative rent for new leases.

The savings in the management of the Unity include staff reductions and a reduction in the number of face-to-face meetings of the Provincial Board through the use of video conferencing.

The need for subsidies for the guest houses has more than cut in half. The increased occupancy rate of the KOMENSKÝ guesthouse and conference centre is continuing. The operation of the "Rüstzeitenheim Sonnenschein" has been taken over by the local congregation Ebersdorf on 01.09.2018. The transitional period is supported by the European Continental Province through a grant.

The costs of the vicar's training with the preacher seminar will be permanently paid from the Future Fund.

The measures will be continued as planned in the following years.

In the Zinzendorfschulen Königsfeld, there is still a need to halt the decline in the number of pupils and to increase the number of boarders again. In the case of vocational grammar schools, competition has increased significantly due to the opening of a new social science grammar school in the neighbourhood. However, the demand for secondary school places is unbroken. It is being examined whether the Middle School can again be set up as a two-tier system. For a school building, the addition of an attic floor for a new learning campus is planned, which is supported by federal and local government subsidies. In order to implement the fire protection requirements and maintenance work, repair measures will continue to be carried out in accordance with the multi-year renovation plan.

The new contract to subsidize the Zinzendorfschule Tossens with the district and the municipality secures the financing in the medium term. An attempt is being made to meet the decline in the number of pupils by raising the profile of the school in terms of content.

At both schools, efforts are being made to strengthen the inner connection with the European Continental Province through a permanent personal presence. The Zinzendorfschule in Tossens is home to a member of the national youth work team who is also available for offers in the school. In Königsfeld, the position of a joint youth worker for the local congregation and the Zinzendorf schools has been advertised.

The new building of the Evangelische Zinzendorfschulen in Herrnhut under the auspices of the School Foundation of the European Continental Province was supported by an appeal for donations and by a guarantee and liquidity loan. The new school has now been occupied.

At Herrnhuter Sterne GmbH there is still a very high demand for stars. Additional land was acquired to establish the necessary capacity for production and storage facilities. The play and handicraft area for children, which was built last year, has been very well received. Christmas street decorations are being installed in several cities. A lively cooperation with artists and choirs, e.g. the Dresdner Kreuzchor, is developing.

Ofenbau des Brüderhaus GmbH has completed its first business year under new management with a positive annual result. Due to the sale of a residential property, Klimatechnik GmbH was able to make a higher dividend than in previous years.

The European Continental Province continues to be active in the work with refugees, through direct support of individual refugees, but also by assisting the congregations in carrying out church asylum. The commissioner for refugee work advises the European Continental Province and the congregations.

8. Risk report on financing instruments

The European Continental Province does not use derivative financial instruments either for its financing or for partial or permanent investment of liquid funds.

Other financial instruments that could potentially result in a concentration of default and liquidity risks for the European Continental Province are mainly financial investments, cash and cash equivalents and receivables. These risks are countered by effective liquidity control and effective and prompt receivables management.

9. Forecast

The plan for 2019 provides for a net profit of EUR 66 thousand for the church budget and a balance sheet loss of EUR 65 thousand after withdrawals and allocations from or to reserves and allocations and withdrawals to the Future Fund. For the following years, the aim is to achieve balanced balance sheet results.

Herrnhut/Bad Boll/Zeist, 31.07.2019

signed Michael Schmorrdde - Heide-Rose Weber - Johannes Welschen - Raimund Hertzsch
- Benigna Carstens

