

Moravian Unity Youth Conference  
Youth Fulfilling Their Purpose In Christ  
“Revitalizing the Church Through Revitalizing The Youth”  
July 26<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004

The agenda for the conference was to achieve three different sets of goals. The first goal was to breakdown or overcome the cultural differences between the delegates and staff of the conference. The second find and or establish a place for the youth in the world wide Moravian Church and local provinces. The third create a collective voice for the youth of the world wide church.

We began working on the first goal as soon as we cleared customs at the airport in Jamaica. All the delegates were rounded up and taken to a nearby Moravian church to eat and wait for the rest of the delegates to arrive. It was amazing; we all had so much to talk about and so much in common with the other youth from around the world. One might think the only thing we had in common was that we were all Moravians but we sat at the church and shared stories about our trip there, our churches and provinces back home and our daily lives like we were all old friends merely catching up. The countries and Provinces represented there were: Germany, Holland, England, Northern Ireland, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Alaska, USA northern and southern provinces, South Africa, Trinidad, Tobago, St. Croix, Antigua, Guyana, Jamaica, and Tanzania.

We began the conference with long however interesting meetings where we shared our personal and provincial views on the youth that we represented and spoke about common problems all over the world. We all talked about where the youth should be placed in the church as a whole and the responsibilities that could be placed in there hands. We reached many conclusions, but the general idea was that the youth are not viewed as resources by the church but more so as a responsibility or even a burden. Many of the meetings grew heated over such topics but we remained God centered and it seemed that everything worked out in the end.

After the meetings the delegates viewed this as more of a social time, even though many of the meetings and devotions did not end until late at night, the delegates stayed up till all hours of the morning playing dominos or walking down the road to KFC; it was as though we had no boundaries between our cultures and societies.

Finally, the last of the goals on the agenda was to create a common voice for the youth of the world wide Moravian Church. As we reached the final meeting on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>, we all decided to elect a steering committee for the newly created Unity Youth Board and to help plan the next conference. Seven of the delegates were chosen by the all the delegates to be on the steering committee, the rest of the delegates were asked to remain as representatives for their province on the Unity Youth Board.

Even though the conference began kind of rocky and at times we didn't know what was going on, the Lord was with us and helped us begin the foundation for a truly great thing.

Sincerely,  
Justin Trivette  
Southern Province Unity Youth Board Rep.