

**Home Is:
Summary of Meeting One:
What Brought Us Together: Sunday, October 10, 2018**

Were you able to attend the first “Home Is...” congregational meeting in October? If not, we hope this summary will provide you with a good understanding of what we learned together. Summaries, however, are incomplete at best...so if you missed this meeting (or any of the others), please reach out to someone who was there if you have questions or just want to hear more.

Members were asked to reflect on and share responses to two questions:

1. What is the most powerful moment you have experienced at Home Moravian Church?
2. What are the values from these past experiences you want to carry forward into the future life of the congregation?

Approximately 130 members attended. The Team received, analyzed, and discussed the written responses collected at the end of the meeting.

In summary, members experienced powerful moments through the following:

- Sunday worship and Easter and Christmas celebrations were referenced by many participants.
- Our rich Moravian traditions including participation in rites (Weddings and Confirmation) and sacraments (Holy Communion and Baptism), and special services such as Lovefeasts and Holy Week Readings were also mentioned repeatedly
- Music in all its forms, the great hymns of faith, congregational singing, the power of the organ when played by an extraordinary musician, and the band playing on special occasions and at funerals were all sources of powerful experience for our congregation
- Personal contact from members at times of illness and bereavement, in the context of worship and church activities, and when one is exploring connection to Home Church as a visitor;
- Our funeral traditions, how deceased loved ones are honored through the funeral chorales, reading of memoirs and through dignified procession from the Church to God’s Acre;
- Interactions with others through activities such as *Gemeinschaft*, during fellowship retreats, Men’s and Women’s Fellowship, as part of Bible study, Sunday School, and while engaged in service to the community;
- Youth activities, mission camps, and the spiritual highs at Laurel Ridge;
- Loss, grief and subsequent renewal following the departure of Gerry Harris; and
- A range of other experiences such as trips to Israel, performance in plays, and specific kindness and comforts extended to members by our pastors.

The following represents a sample of the values that emerged from this host of experiences that members desire to bring forward into the future. They are:

- Sensitivity to and Awareness of the Presence of God
- Service to Others
- Understanding and Acceptance
- Steadfastness in Difficult Times
- Community and Loving Embrace of Strangers
- Connection
- Hope, Purpose, and Assurance
- Beauty
- Passion for Christ
- Love of Music
- Deep Remembrance of our Predecessors and Ancestors
- Friendship Among Members
- Relationship with God and Others
- Faith in Action
- Courage to Hold Fast
- Courage to Change
- Caring Without Judgment
- Forgiveness
- Openness and Outreach to and Inclusion of Others
- Family
- Unity
- Love