

MORAVIAN MOMENT #35...

The roles of the Superintendent and Pastor in the Organizational Structure of the Moravian Church

Having had a pictorial view of the Organizational Chart of the Moravian Church, the question must be asked, where does the Superintendent and Pastor fit into the Chart? What are their roles and function? Are they significant in the scheme of things?

The role and function is pivotal to the effectiveness of the Conference. The Superintendent is head of the Church in the Conference or District. He or she leads both the Island Conference and the Executive Board. He or she is appointed by the PEC (Provincial Elders Conference) to have oversight over everything that takes place in the Conference. All members of Staff are accountable to the Superintendent, who gives guidance as to the direction of the Conference.

The Superintendent has the responsibility to call meetings of Island Conference and shall preside over such meetings. He or she shall have the right to suspend action on any resolution which, according to his or her judgment, is contrary to the spirit and regulations of the Church, and to submit such a resolution at the first opportunity to the PEC for decision. He or she is the official correspondent with the PEC in all church affairs in the Conference. In addition, he or she is the representative of the church to the Government and carry on all necessary negotiations with the same.

Finally, the Superintendent is accountable to God, to the Conference and to the PEC.

Where does the Pastor fit into the Organizational Chart?

The administration of the congregation is vested in the Pastor in conjunction with the Board of Elders, the Board of Stewards and the Church Council. The Pastor is leader of the team at all times, except when he or she delegates responsibility to someone else.

The Pastor as leader of the local congregation is Chair of the following: Church Council, the Joint Boards and the Board of Elders.

In addition, the Pastor is Ex Officio member of the Board of Stewards, with the power to call meetings of the Board at any time. **Paragraph 89 of the Book of Order states in part, “In addition to the powers of the Chairman or Minister or Lay Pastor to call a meeting of the Board of Stewards at any time, he shall do so on the written request of at least 2/3 of the members of the Board of Stewards”.** The Pastor plays such an important role in the Structure of the Organization, that no decision taken by the Board shall be implemented before the Chair has first consulted with the Pastor. **Paragraph 83 of the Book of Order states in part, “In the event that the Pastor is absent from a meeting, no decision taken shall be implemented before the Chairman has first consulted with the Pastor”.**

Finally, the Pastor is accountable to God, the Congregation, the Superintendent and the Island Conference. The responsibility for the effective running of the congregation is that of the Pastor. Due respect must be paid to the Servant of God.