## Installation of a Transitional (Interim) Pastor

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

***For he is our peace, who has made us all one.***

So then we are no longer strangers and aliens.

***But we are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,***

Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

***In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.***

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

***To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.***

Dearly beloved, we are assembled to install Jeff Coppage as Pastor of the Fairview Moravian congregation, upon appointment to this holy office by the Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Moravian Church, at the request of the Joint Board of this congregation. The period between permanent pastorates is a time to review, reflect, and reassess the life, witness and mission of the congregation with a view to the future. The Provincial Elders’ Conference and Joint Boards have asked Brother Coppage to fulfill the duties of pastor during this time and to lead the congregation as you continue to prepare for the service of a called pastor.

(The pastor being installed shall stand.)

Jeff, do you promise in the presence of the Head of the Church and of this people that, by God’s grace, you will endeavor in accordance with your ordination vows to carry out faithfully all your duties as pastor of this congregation, being careful at all times to conduct yourself as an ordained servant of Christ?

***I do.***

(The pastor continuing under call to the congregation shall stand)

Will you, Jeff and Victoria, support and strengthen each other as you serve this congregation and proclaim the gospel of Christ? Will you, following God’s guidance, together seek to discern the gifts and needs of this congregation and work to strengthen its ministry?

**We will**.

(The members of the Board shall stand.)

Do you, the officers of this congregation, now receive Jeff Coppage as pastor and shepherd of this flock?

***We do.***

Do you promise to respect, to pray for, and work with Jeff in defending and upholding the doctrine and discipline of the church? And do you promise to provide him with appropriate emotional, spiritual, and financial support as he serves among you?

***We do.***

(The members of the congregation shall stand.)

Will you, the people of this congregation, now accept Jeff Coppage as your pastor? Will you encourage, respect, and pray for him as together you proclaim the Kingdom of God in this community?

***We will.***

As you covenant with each other and with God in this hour, I charge you the people of the Fairview Moravian Congregation, to remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, they are the ones who bear much fruit.” Likewise, I charge you, Jeff, to remember the words of our Lord Jesus to Peter: “Do you love me? Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.”

In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Chief Elder of the Church, and by the authority of the Provincial Elders’ Conference, I declare Jeff Coppage to be duly installed as pastor of the Fairview Congregation.

*(Continued)*

Let us pray.

(All shall kneel or sit while the officiant calls upon the Triune God to bless the pastor, the congregation, and the Church Universal. After the prayer, all shall stand and the officiant shall extend the right hand of fellowship to the newly installed pastor [and the pastor’s family] while the congregation sings:)

Hymn 432 alt. T. Cantionale Germanicum

We bid you welcome in the Name of Jesus, our exalted Head.

Come as a servant; so he came – we shall receive you in his stead.

Come as a shepherd; guard and keep this fold from all that fosters sin,

and nourish lambs, and feed the sheep, the wounded heal, the lost

bring in.

Come as a teacher, sent from God, with his whole counsel to declare.

Our souls encourage with the Word, while we uphold your hands

with prayer.

Come as a messenger of peace, filled with the Spirit, fired with love;

God bless your work, your strength increase, and guide us all to

heav’n above.

*(The service continues as the liturgist directs.)*