

GLOSSARY OF TERMS SPECIFIC TO THE MORAVIAN CHURCH

Agapen love feasts held before Holy Communion

Ältesten-Conferenz elders' conference, charged with supervising the spiritual affairs of a congregation or district

Ältester/in elder/eldress

Anbeten prostration; meeting where worshippers prostrated themselves in adoration

Arbeiter/in laborer in full-time employment of the church

Aufseher-Collegium college of overseers; in North Carolina, the board of supervisors, later trustees. This board was composed of the brethren of the elders' conference plus several reliable brethren from the married and the single brethren's choirs. It ranked second in authority to the elders' conference.

Besucher visitor (official position within choir)

Brüdergemeine Moravian Church or Moravian congregation of the brethren; equivalent to *Brüder-Unität* when referring to the church as a whole, sometimes referred to as the "Unity"

Bund covenant

Chor choir; group in the congregation whose members are of the same sex and marital status, except for the children's and the married persons' choir. According to Peucker, the word comes from the Greek *chorus*, meaning "group." Another etymology claims a root in the French *corps*. Zinzendorf defines the choirs as "orders and groups that are formed by persons of one's gender and marital status" (see "Eventualtestament," 1738, qtd. in Peucker, *Herrnhuter Wörterbuch*, 18).

Chorarbeiter/in choir laborer; usually an individual appointed to spiritual leadership within a choir

Chordienner/in choir warden/warden. In its broader sense this term was used to designate a church official, including an ordained minister in pastoral service. In the 1740s, however, it more frequently signified individuals in charge of temporal affairs, the wardens or supervisors of a congregation or choir. But in a more restricted sense it could also apply to a sacristan. The official college of *Diener*, the *Diener Collegium*, was as a rule presided over by the warden of the congregation.

Chorhelfer/in choir helper; person responsible for the spiritual life of the members of a specific choir. In the eighteenth century, this person was always a member of the choir in which he or she was the helper (even in the children's choir).

Chorversammlung choir meeting

Chorviertelstunde choir quarter hour; short services for each specific choir

Classen classes; group within a choir that fit together well in certain ways (usually according to the degree of spiritual progress) so that their pastoral conversations could be best directed

Curatores curators; men appointed as financial and legal advisers and representatives of the widows' and single sisters' choirs in the *Aufseher Collegium* and the *Helfer Conferenz*

Departement administrative division

Destination calling

Ebereligion marriage theology

Erweckungsprozess spiritual awakening

Fremden-Diener guide for strangers; brother or sister who took care of visitors from outside the congregation and ensured their proper behavior in the Moravian settlement

Gemein-Arbeiter minister

Gemeindirection board of the congregation; distinct from the board of the worldwide church

Gemeine congregation (local) or church (general)

Gemeinhelfer minister or pastor of the congregation but not necessarily its stated preacher

Gemein-Ordnung church order; rules of the congregation

Gemeinort church settlement

Gemeinversammlung congregation meeting

Gesellschaften/Sozietät companies; small groups of two or three brethren or sisters well suited to meet together with the choir helper for pastoral conversations

Gesellschaftthalter/in company leader

Haus-Diener/in house warden; worker serving the single brethren's or single sisters' choir house

Haus-Ordnung rules of the (choir) house

Heimgang home going or death

Hospitäler homes, especially for elderly widows and widowers

Kinder-Schwester sister who works with the children as both a teacher and overseer

Lebenslauf memoir; written first-person account of one's own life, frequently framed by the comments of the choir helper

Ledige Wärterin single persons' attendant

Liebesmahl love feast; informal liturgical meeting in which tea and buns are served to celebrate the communal care of the choir or congregation, always accompanied by music, singing, and announcements

Meister master. Especially important in the single brethren's choir, the master was a craftsman or tradesman to the apprentices in the choir and hence added another layer of both supervision and tutelage.

Ortsgemeine settlement congregations

Pedilavium foot washing

Pilger- und Streitersache pilgrims and militants. A central idea of Zinzendorf's theology from the 1730s is that the missions, and Bethlehem itself, were founded to support the "pilgrims and militants" marching onto the fields of battle against Satan and under the command of Jesus Christ.

Plan plan; overriding mission or aim of a choir member (frequently fulfilled in the mission field, on a farm, or with children)

Prediger ordained minister of the church

Procurator-Ehe marriage by proxy, where the earthly husband stands in for Christ

Saal hall in which religious services are held

Singstunde singing meeting; short service, originated in 1727, during which individual verses of hymns are sung that are connected through a theme or Bible text and form a kind of sermon in song

Sprechen Speaking; pastoral conversation, usually carried out individually but also in small groups (especially among the older girls and boys) prior to Holy Communion

Stuben-Aufseher/in room overseer

Stuben-Schwestern room sisters

Stuben-Vorgesetzte(r) room leader

Stubenwächter room watch; brother or sister appointed to ensure rules are adhered to in the dormitories

Synodalverlaß Harmony (Results) of the Synods; refers primarily to the post-Zinzendorf synods of the 1760s, 1770s, and 1780s and contains various regulations and principles

Unitäts-Ältesten-Conferenz Unity Elders' Conference

For a full explanation of terminology specific to the Moravian Church in German, see Peucker, *Herrnhuter Wörterbuch*. See also Crews, *Moravian Meanings*. For an extended examination of the role of offices within the Moravian Church of the eighteenth century, see Wollstadt, *Geordnetes Dienen*.