What is the Moravian Church?

The Moravian Church is a mainline Protestant denomination with more than five hundred years of history. Founded before the Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Methodist churches; Moravians have long focused on faithful living and Christian unity.

Rather than concentrating on divisive doctrines, the Moravian Church preaches the basics of the faith, which all Christians share in common. Moravians are encouraged to live out their faith through service to those in need. Our mission work has concentrated on the poor and the powerless, and groups largely unreached by other denominations.

The Moravian Church was organized in 1457 by the followers of the martyr John Hus, as the Unity of Brethren. The denomination came to be known as the "Moravian" Church many years later, in the Eighteenth Century, because most of its members came from the province of Moravia, now the Czech Republic. The Moravian Church has often stood at the forefront of the Protestant world. The denomination was among the first to publish the Bible in the common language, and the first to print common language hymnals. They were early in their emphasis on educating women as well as men; and they were pioneers of the Protestant mission movement. Moravians have worked for Christian unity throughout their history, and are founding members of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

The Moravian Church in Calgary

During the mid 1890's when Calgary was still a frontier town a group of Russian-German farmers wanted to have their own church in the German language. A Lutheran connection was originally sought yet did not work out. Upon hearing that a German Moravian church had been established in the Edmonton area they asked to have a congregation set up in Calgary.

In 1902 Bishop Clement Hoyler agreed to a church charter for the Calgary Moravian Church to be established in the area of 6 Ave and 3 Rd St SE (the police garage today). When the Calgary Stampede began in 1912 the parade went past the church. With a growing congregation the church expanded to Bridgeland building a large brick structure in 1914.

During the 1950s and two wars involving Germany and waning membership the church switched properties with the St. Mark's Lutheran Church down the street. Christ Moravian Church began in southeast Calgary during the 1960s.

The Bridgeland congregation continued on yet still had a dwindling congregation. In 1977 after the 75th Anniversary the Bridgeland church decided in a live or die decision to relocate to Huntington Hills in Northwest Calgary. Then Pastor Alan Taylor lead the congregation to its present location in 1979.