

**BETHLEHEM HISTORIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Post Office Box 1952**

**Bethlehem, PA 18016-1952**

January 15, 2021

**VIA EMAIL ONLY (jonathan\_putnam@nps.gov)**

Mr. Jonathan Putnam, Office of International Affairs

National Park Service

1849 C Street

Washington, DC 20240

Re: Nomination of Historic Moravian Bethlehem to the World Heritage List

Dear Mr. Putnam:

The Bethlehem Historic District Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (BHDA) supports “. . . preservation and restoration . . .” and promotes “cultural and civic engagement” in the City of Bethlehem. The BHDA is comprised of residents of Pennsylvania’s first National Historic District adjacent to the Moravian Bethlehem properties listed on the US Tentative List for World Heritage consideration. Bethlehem, with its rich history and historic structures as well as its culture, music and art venues, restaurants and shopping, is a natural destination point for visitors from around the world. Recently, members of the BHDA formed a Walking Tour Committee to work with Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites to further promote the Moravian Church Settlement in Bethlehem as worthy of this coveted designation by doing what we already do well: demonstrate that we are a welcoming community with a mind-set and the procedures and practices in place to protect and preserve our historic resources. The BHDA is financially supporting the shutter restoration efforts for the 1741 Gemeinhaus, one of the historic structures in Moravian Bethlehem, and the oldest building in Bethlehem.

The BHDA fully and enthusiastically supports the Moravian Church Settlement in Bethlehem for World Heritage Site designation. It is a central part of our community identity that we would like to share with the world. I personally am very familiar with the buildings and history surrounding Moravian Bethlehem, having conducted research at the Moravian Archives and having served as a docent in one of the historic buildings. My wife and I moved to Bethlehem in no small part because of its deeply rooted history and preserved historic buildings. It deserves international recognition. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Alan Y. Lowcher,

President, BHDA