From May 30 – June 3, 2013, I had the pleasure of joining 80+ women from European Moravian churches for their biennial Women’s Conference. It was a wonderful experience for me and for one other American guest, Sr. Nancy Chandler.

Because the Albania Lutheran-Moravian Church is celebrating their 20th anniversary year, Albania was chosen as the site for this year’s conference.

We met at a lovely resort in Dures, near Tirana, Albania. We were warmly received by everyone and enjoyed the fellowship (or is it the sister-ship?) throughout the conference. The Conference was planned by Sisters Susanne Gartner, Conchita Landbrug, and Wendey Hopcroft. Each day started with devotions led by Bishop Beth Torkington with the theme of “God’s Garden.” We were challenged to see ourselves as different kinds of flowers in God’s Garden, thus making a beautiful, colorful, and diverse garden.

There was time for fellowship and discussion each day, as well as break-out sessions to learn about various things such as the lives of Albanian women, crafts, dancing and music. There was wonderful worship in which all participated. Many thanks to the planning committee for allowing me to make a presentation about the work of the Unity Women’s Desk and to create some enthusiasm and support for the work of the UWD.

Following the conference there was the opportunity to tour the beautiful Albanian countryside, some historic sites, and to see the work of the Moravian churches in Tirana, Elbason, Burrell, and Progradec. They are doing a wonderful job of meeting the needs of the people in the areas where they are establishing churches and bringing the gospel to “the most atheistic country in Europe.” May God continue to bless them as they go forward in mission. We look forward to their report on the anniversary celebration.

May God bless you as our Savior is blessing the work Unity Women’s Desk.

Patricia Garner, Coordinator