Summary

The dissertation First Century of the Renewed Moravian Church in Bohemia (1862 - 1968) focuses on the question of what problems and difficulties the church encountered in that era. The church started working in the Czech lands again in 1862, when it officially supported travelling preachers to care for believers. The preachers organized Bible studies in small groups. Their activity was limited because the church was not authorized by the government. That changed in 1880. The mission was started, then Czech and German congregations began to emerge. After the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic, the congregations were influenced by transfer movement. The Czech congregations demanded independence, but the German congregations were against it. After many negotiations, Czech and German congregations split up and administered their affairs independently. During World War II, most Czech preachers joined the resistance movement. Their activity provoked criticism when the war was over. After the expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia, some congregations ceased to exist. A great turning point happened in 1949, when church laws were passed, which set out for activity of churches. The Czech congregations gained the status of an independent province and in 1967 a general synod was held in Potštejn. The preparation and conduct of the synod became subject of widespread criticism that lead to the resignation of the church leadership.