

The Plainy from Allegheny

By David Mishler, Conference Minister

Volume 3 – February 2018

#1 – Naming this Newsletter/Blog

This is the third edition of our newsletter/blog. And I have received more suggestions for this august communication piece. Here are the suggested names, and I am interested in receiving your vote for your preferred blog title:

1. Allegheny, Plainly
2. AllePlainy
3. Miscellany from Allegheny
4. Plainly Allegheny
5. The Plainy from Allegheny

Again, some important critique:

--Allegheny is nowhere near a plain.

--We don't want to have confusion since we are not re-claiming our plain roots.

Send in your vote by return email or comment on the web page. The Leadership Council reserves the right to make final decisions, pending the number of votes received.

#2 – Upcoming Faith and Life Gathering – March 3, 2018

Stahl Mennonite Church (Johnstown, PA) will be hosting our Spring delegate session in just a few short days. We have some significant agenda before us, which ***will shape the future existence of our conference***. Weighty decisions (not necessarily easy or “fun”) will come sharply into focus as we look at our annual spending plan, the shape of membership we envision together as a conference of congregations, and what is happening with our Affiliation Task Force and its pending recommendations about a potential future with Central District Conference.

With worship led by the Stahl congregation, stories of ministry and identity from the Crossroads and Stahl congregations, good food and prayer rounding out the day, I expect that a great time of worship, fellowship, counsel and discernment will happen under the guidance of the Spirit of Christ. So, we shall give ourselves to this time together.

Our pastors have weighed in on the shape of membership. You will also hear about a plan for healing and journeying forward with the Hyattsville congregation. The Leadership Council recommends some significant changes to our bylaws which will allow for membership renewal and reception in a way that will not be cumbersome but will hopefully lead to mutual trust and integrity as we celebrate our covenants together. (We are looking forward to wonderful time of commitment, healing and hope at our summer Celebration event at Laurelville. More details to come!)

See you on Saturday, March 3 in Johnstown as we ***simplify*** our membership model for Allegheny Mennonite Conference and prepare for a service of ***“re-commitment to conference”*** this August, where we expect each congregation will ***express*** its individuality and share specific place-based ministry efforts as we give ourselves to discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Please respond with your questions, comments, hopes and dreams to this post. If you are viewing this post in your email account, use your email “reply” as one way to respond. Or if you are reading this post on our website, post a comment here. All online comments are screened before they go live.