

#1 – Allegheny recognized in several settings – The decision of delegates to tithe a portion of the sale proceeds from International Guest House has been widely affirmed and shared in several publications. Here are two links to check out –

Mennonite Mission Network - [Washington, D.C. justice and peace ministry evolves with changing times \(mennonitemission.net\)](https://www.mennonitemission.net/2021/04/01/washington-dc-justice-and-peace-ministry-evolves-with-changing-times/)

Anabaptist World - <https://anabaptistworld.org/guest-houses-legacy-lives-on-as-allegheny-tithes-proceeds-from-sale/>



#2 – Conference Minister on leave – May/June



David Mishler has been serving as conference minister for Allegheny Conference since July 2016. He was scheduled for a sabbatical this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances with his wife, Becky, who has been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, the sabbatical is turning into a two-month leave that may further change depending on the direction of chemotherapy treatment, which is in the early stages. Please keep Becky and Dave in prayer during this time. Jayne Byler, pastor of Stahl Mennonite Church (Johnstown, PA) will assist the conference office during Dave's absence.

#3 – Leadership Council begins anti-racism training – Allegheny's Leadership Council took a first step into anti-racism training by engaging the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and was debriefed on their group results on April 24.



Mennonite Church USA recommends that conferences and congregation engage in specific training to learn and challenge racist tendencies that persist in many institutional settings. The Leadership Council represents seven of our fourteen congregations, so there will be ample feedback for congregations to consider over the next number of months as the training moves forward. The focus on anti-racism training will remain a part of our conference culture for the foreseeable future, with new Leadership Council members entering the training as part of their introduction to conference work.

#4 – Notes on current event planning – a) ***The MC USA event planning team*** has made a decision to hold the delegate portion of **MennoCon21** as a **virtual-only meeting**. Registration for MennoCon21 is open for both the in-person and virtual portions of the event. Allegheny Conference is eligible to send two delegates and each congregation is eligible to send one delegate for each 100 persons or fraction thereof. Make plans now to be part of the important and inspirational happenings in Mennonite Church USA's biennial convention.

b) ***Laurelville/AMC has made a decision to hold in-person Summer Camps for children and youth.***

Registration is open and applications are being received with restrictions at 50% capacity. Joy Cotchen, Conference Minister of Children and Youth, and the summer camp planning team are hard at work to deliver an Anabaptist-focused camping experience for summer campers. Check out the full details for attending summer camp on Laurelville's website –

<https://laurelville.org/our-programs/summer-camp/>

And remember, Allegheny conference youth are eligible for conference-related discounts!



c) ***Planning is underway for a hybrid Celebration of Congregations and Conference*** at Laurelville and via Zoom for August 6-8, 2021. Although COVID infection increases may alter these plans, the Leadership Council has determined that a hybrid event should be considered this summer. Speakers, worship planning, music, delegate sessions and youth/adult service projects are all in initial phases of coming to life! Stay tuned for registration information and more details before the end of May. We look forward to seeing you one way or the other as Allegheny continues its important work in becoming a conference which is – ***Jesus-centered, Collaborative and Committed to place-based ministry.***