

#1 – Highlights of the Leadership Council January 23 meeting-



a) Allegheny Conference will enter into evaluation and training around **intercultural awareness** and practice, and will address **anti-racism** in our systems and processes. Mennonite Church USA is developing goals and standards for this work which will become a priority for staff and conference leaders over the next several years. Because this work goes to the heart of our vision and mission as a conference, the budget for this work will come from the proceeds recently retained from the sale of the IGH property; b) a proposal was received out of several conversations with our pastors for the **distribution of a tithe of the IGH sale proceeds**, equalling \$135,000. The proposal will be presented to the delegates on March 6. The priorities addressed in the tithe include racial justice, support for work with immigrants, reparations to first nations people, and paying it forward to another MC USA conference (in the spirit which two conferences assisted Allegheny financially over the last two years). Look for more details in materials for the delegate meeting; c) Most of the time was given to the review of a **proposed budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year** (July to June). Attempting to understand the impact of the pandemic, the inclusion of new congregations, how best to frame our new foundation of reserves from the sale proceeds from the IGH property, and vision for moving forward as a conference all contributed to robust discussion.

Delegates will soon receive details of the proposed budget, and Leadership Council will be seeking feedback to learn how to move forward in a new era of financial sustainability. ***We want to be clear that using reserves for their intended purposes and creating a balanced budget for annual operations are separate and different in nature and scope.*** We hope for more robust discussion as we meet in our Spring delegate meeting!

#2 – Spring Faith & Life Gathering scheduled for Saturday, March 6 – Calling all delegates!

You will be receiving agenda and support materials in the next two weeks for our next virtual “Zoom” meeting. Our Spring meeting is specifically reserved for budget approval and selection of personnel for our volunteer positions. Be prepared for an informative and vigorous discussion. Guests, in addition to congregational delegates, are welcome to attend this meeting. A Zoom link will be sent to congregations the week before the March 6 meeting.



#3 – Six-month financial report

- Thank you to everyone for your gifts to Allegheny Conference, which have helped to set us on good footing going into the last half of our current fiscal year. We are gaining more clarity, even as we are still only beginning to learn how the pandemic will ultimately affect total giving patterns. Giving to the annual operations of our conference is an ongoing priority, if we do not want to return to our former unsustainable trajectory of using reserves each year.



To that end, congregational support has been steady, while support from individuals is decreasing. The Leadership Council is committed to staffing and expense levels (having been reduced over the last decade to match decreasing income) which reflect the vision and mission of our conference as we are finding new energy to become the kind of conference we want to represent to Mennonite Church USA. Receipts as of January 22 are \$89,501. Expenses were \$61,105, for a net income year to date of \$28,396. The net income comes from a combination of steady congregational giving, forgiveness of our PPP Loan, and lower staff expenses due to the pandemic. So, even though the current fiscal year is positive, the challenge will come when the additional support goes away, and normal expenses return.

#4 – Note on current event planning

– 1) The MC USA event planning team has made a decision to hold the delegate portion of MennoCon21 as a **virtual-only meeting**. More details soon to come about other features of this summer’s gathering. 2) The AMC **annual Spring Study/Retreat** for pastors and leaders at Laurelville has been postponed until Spring 2022. Feedback from the resource person and our pastors determined that we will not be ready to meet in-person by April of this year. 3) The decision to hold **in-person Summer Camps** for children and youth will be made by March. There is a much stronger possibility of holding this kind of indoor/outdoor event with appropriate precautions by summertime. Stay tuned for more information.

