

**#1 – First Ever Hybrid Annual Meeting** – In a few short days, Allegheny Mennonite Conference will hold its first ever hybrid “Celebration of Congregations and Conference” weekend at Laurelville Retreat Center and via Zoom. Preparations have been made for three in-person/virtual meetings to be conducted on Saturday and Sunday: Delegate Meeting – Sat. morning (9:00 am); Worship – Sat. evening (7:30 pm); Worship – Sun. morning (10:30 am). Delegates should be looking for a distinct Zoom invitation for the delegate meeting (guests are also welcome). Zoom links for the worship services will be emailed to pastors and congregational offices to be forwarded according to your local participation expectations.



A feature of the delegate meeting will be receiving new member congregation – The Table, located in Harrisonburg, VA. If you are coming to Laurelville, bring some actual work clothes this year as we are offering Laurelville grounds service projects, as well as a hike and meditative experience at the Sunset Hill Prayer Labrynth, as part of the Saturday afternoon activities.

***With the changing COVID situation and the Delta variant, we request all persons who are coming in person to wear masks for all indoor meetings. The CDC recommends that everyone use masks indoors in communities with substantial or high risk of transmission of the COVID 19 virus. Persons are coming from communities with various levels of risk, and locally it has just been reported that COVID levels are on the rise in and around Laurelville, although remaining relatively low.***

***The Executive Committee, is recommending that we all use masks for all indoor meetings in order to protect children and those who are not vaccinated or who have problems with their immune systems. This is a cautious approach meant to welcome everyone into our weekend of events. We will have some masks on hand for anyone who needs one. Thank you for supporting our community in this way.***

For a full schedule of events go to Allegheny’s website - <https://alleghenymennoniteconference.org>




**#2 – Conference Minister leave completed** - David Mishler returned from his family leave on July 1, having been away for two months to give attention to his wife’s cancer/chemotherapy journey and to have some down time in lieu of a scheduled sabbatical. Dave has been serving as conference minister for Allegheny Conference since July 2016. Many thanks to Jayne Byler, pastor of Stahl Mennonite Church (Johnstown, PA) who served the conference during the leave. Dave says, “thank you to everyone for your expressions of love and caring, thank you for giving us this opportunity to focus on rest and healing.” The latest report for Becky shows that she has been responding favorably to the treatment regimen and will be going on a maintenance therapy regimen in mid-August.

**#3 – Allegheny/Laurelville partnership completes successful summer coming program –**

After closing overnight camps in 2020 due to Covid, Laurelville and Allegheny brought back six different weeklong experiences this year for 6 to 17 year olds. Some 140 campers and over 20 staff helped to make this an amazing camp experience. Our Disciple's campers (14-17 yr. olds) and staff had an extra challenge to memorize scripture to secure a donation of \$50-\$100 for charities working at immigration and justice issues. Over \$1100 was donated to charities of the campers’ choosing. We hope to be back to full capacity next year! "Climbing the Mountain: Taking Hold!" was our theme which begins a four year journey through the Sermon on the Mountain. Looking forward to full capacity in 2022!



 **Mennonite Church USA #4 MennoCon21 is in the books** – Some 500 persons traveled to Cincinnati for MC USA’s biennial convention July 6-10. Worship services and seminars equipped attendees, in person and virtual, to move toward Transformation – the theme for the current biennium. Convention registrants will be able to access resources from the convention online until late September. A special in-person delegate meeting is scheduled for May 2022 to process several resolutions put on hold until then. More information to come.