

#1 – Fall Faith & Life Gathering set for November 6

The Leadership Council has determined that we will hold a delegate meeting this Fall (the Fall meeting is officially an “optional” meeting) and it will be virtual only – a Zoom meeting that will be offered to delegates and visitors who want to participate in review of a most significant first draft proposal for distribution of proceeds to each congregation from the sale of the International Guest House property. Currently the Leadership Council is reviewing the shape of the proposal, developed during their most recent meeting held on September 15. There may be other business, but the large majority of our time together will be devoted to sharing perspectives on the distribution proposal. A vote is expected at the March 2022 Spring Faith & Life Gathering. Delegates should expect to receive the proposal draft by mid-October.



#2 - Join Anabaptist Communicators for our 2021 Virtual Conference

on October 14-15 from noon to 4 p.m. EDT for information and inspiration to help you communicate and influence like Jesus (without losing your mind). The keynote speaker is Michael Zigarelli, a professor at Messiah University and author of the book "Influencing Like Jesus: 15

Principles of Persuasion." There will be three panels with presentations from members of Anabaptist Communicators—people with experience on the ground. Register today at anabaptistcomm.org/conference. Cost for this virtual conference is \$25 for Anabaptist Communicators members and \$50 for non-members; students in communications or journalism programs are free.

#3 – Revamped website coming online – As Allegheny has determined to be a viable conference within Mennonite Church USA, an updated website is on the way to share more broadly who we are and what we aspire to become. Over the next months, the AMC website will be populated with information that will give voice to the new Allegheny under development these last five years. A map which shows our member congregations, easier access to our monthly newsletter, and certain conference documents will be available via the website to the wider public. We hope to be able to provide online registration for our sponsored meetings in the near future. Send your suggestions for the website to the conference office as we begin regular updates and maintenance.

#4 – Joy Cotchen announces resignation, effective July 31, 2022



longest tenured Minister of Children and Youth, Joy Cotchen tendered her resignation to the Leadership Council during their latest meeting. Asked about highlights from her years of service Joy says, “Serving as the conference minister of children and youth has been a humbling and joyful experience. One of the joys of my work is getting to walk alongside children and youth on their faith journeys. Working with the Youth

Cabinet and summer camp counselors, mentoring and learning together, has been one of the many highlights of serving in this role.” Joy plans to shepherd her final youth cabinet this year and their leadership of the upcoming Sno-Kamp and Jr. High Youth retreat, and Joy will supervise next summer’s camping program with Laurelville. The Leadership Council will be reviewing next steps as we get closer to Joy’s end date.

#5 – Only seven months to Laurelville retreat! - Over two years in the making, Elaine T. James, PhD, is scheduled to join pastors and leaders for a Spring Study at Laurelville Retreat Center, **April 25-28, 2022** (Mon. afternoon to Thur. noon). **“Embodiment and Holism,”** a study of the Song of Songs, will focus on a biblical perspective of caring for the body, ecology and creation, desire and sexuality, and the art of attention. Especially in these times, a centering retreat may just be the sanctuary that will help you re-energize with colleagues in the great spaces at Laurelville. Check the website and look for details to register.

