

### **#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 will be other agenda, 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 will receive agenda, background materials and the draft proposal before the meeting.



### **Dove's Nest**

Faith Communities Keeping Children & Youth Safe

### **#2 – Dove's Nest seeks executive director**

Dove's Nest assists faith communities in keeping children and youth safe. They are seeking a new executive director whose primary points of focus are to: 1. Organize trainings on child protection. 2. Build relationships with congregations and denominations to expand our influence. 3. Consult with organizations looking for support. 4. Fundraise effectively. 5. Support the development of the Board of Directors 6. Lead towards the mission and vision of the agency—protecting children and youth. 7. Maintain awareness of the ways that racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression impact child safety. You can visit their website at - <https://dovesnest.net/> If interested in applying for the position, contact search committee chair, Scott Litwiller - [scott.litwiller@lorraine.church](mailto:scott.litwiller@lorraine.church)

**#3 – Revamped website online** – As Allegheny has determined to be a viable conference within Mennonite Church USA, an updated website has gone live, even as it is still being brought fully up to speed. Over the next months, it will be populated with additional 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 of our conference documents will be available. 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** – Following a 23 year stint as AMC's



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 as they plan together the upcoming Sno-Kamp and Jr. High Youth retreat (see details on the Event tab). Joy will supervise next summer's camping program with Laurelville as her finale event. The Leadership Council will be reviewing next steps beginning early next year.

### **#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.

