

#1 – AMC Leadership Council to meet for annual planning/visioning retreat



January 28, 29 and 30, 2022 will be the first time the Leadership Council has been together for an extended, in-person meeting since the pandemic began. We are coming together, vaccinated, masked and testing to ensure safety for each participant and their families.

The annual retreat is the place where the past year's work and experiences are reviewed, vision for the coming year is explored, and a practical budget for the coming fiscal year (July-June) is prepared for our next Faith & Life Gathering (March 5, 2022). We will be determining if we can move forward with plans for a hybrid meeting in March, given the hopeful drop in COVID cases by then. Stay tuned for the report coming out of our retreat - to be held at Stahl's meetinghouse in Johnstown. Be in prayer for this group of leaders as we continue to listen to the Spirit and as we take steps into our future together, as AMC congregation, within MC USA.

#2 – Finances at the halfway point

AMC closed the books on our first six months of the current fiscal year December 31. We are on track towards a balanced budget because all three main sources of expected revenue – congregations, individuals, and registrations/meeting income – are providing very close to budgeted income for the first six months. Preliminary numbers for January also support this trend. Because of the pandemic, we continue to experience below budget expenses in a variety of categories. You will be receiving more detailed information from conference treasurer, Karin Miller, as we approach our March 5, 2022 Faith & Life Gathering.



#3 – Youth of AMC – Save the Dates!!! - ~~SnoKamp – February 11-13~~ (for those in grades 9-12); Junior Youth Retreat - March 18-20 (for grades 5-8).

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SnoKamp for this year. She says – “After some discussion (with youth, youth leaders, and pastors) it feels as though this is the best decision.” You can with great hope mark your calendars for next year's, SnoKamp Feb 10-12, 2023.



Tentatively, **Jr Youth Retreat (grades 5-8) March 18-20 at Laurelville is still a go!** “Hoping that Covid numbers keep dropping. Brochures for Jr Youth Retreat will be coming out next week.” Spread the word!

#4 – AMC Leadership Council engaged in anti-racism and intercultural development training

As part of Allegheny's commitment to learn and respond to our individual and structural biases that do harm to minority communities within our frames or reference, the Leadership Council began a MC USA recommended training program last year. Picking up from initial inventories completed in 2021, training will become more focused in the coming year. Expect to hear more about our learnings and trajectory toward becoming a conference committed to anti-racism in our life together during upcoming conference meetings.

#5 – Registrations coming in!

April is three short months away and Elaine T. James, PhD will 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 make plans for this significant time together.** Seven registrations are confirmed. Maximum of 25 persons are welcomed! Part-time registrations are also welcomed.

