

#1 – MC USA reaches matching fund goal to receive remaining AMC tithe distribution



Allegheny Mennonite Conference received notice from Mennonite Church USA on December 14, 2021 that contributions to the Justice Fund have now exceeded \$15,000. Crossing this threshold triggers the release of matching funds designated to the Justice Fund from proceeds of the sale of the International Guest House property, which formerly housed a longtime ministry of radical hospitality in Washington, DC. Forwarding the \$15,000 matching funds to MC USA concludes the distribution of a 10% tithe of \$135,000 approved by Allegheny delegates (save a \$5,000 second distribution to Gulf States Mennonite Conference, which was designed as a two-year distribution to fund GSMC representatives to attend MC USA national meetings over a two year period). Further delegate decision concerning distribution of the remaining 90% to the congregations of Allegheny Mennonite Conference is scheduled for March 5, 2022.

#2 - GIVING TUESDAY



Thank you to everyone who participated in Allegheny's Giving Tuesday! Some 20 persons combined to donate \$1,600 to AMC via our Giving Tuesday promotion. Responses to our year-end fundraising appeal, naming an opportunity to provide Allegheny ministers with an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefit through a new MC USA initiative, are just beginning to come in.

#3 – Music Weekend at Laurelville

Laurelville Retreat Center will host its annual Music & Worship Leaders Retreat from January 21-23, 2022. The event is an in-person format, limited to 150, with a virtual option. The retreat gives music and worship leaders a space to relax, recharge, learn, and connect with their peers through workshops, seminars, valuable resources, fellowship time, and plenty of music. This year's theme is "lament and hope" with guest speaker Safwat Marzouk, author and theologian. Masks and proof of vaccination are required. Register at laurelville.org or call 724-423-2056 weekdays. Deadline to register is 5 p.m., Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. Questions? Mary@laurelville.org.



#4 – 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). Both of these retreats are held at Laurelville. **Brochures are out and registrations are coming in. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith and fun!**



#5 – University Mennonite Church to hold online class – “Defund the Police? An Abolition Study”

<http://www.universitymennonite.org/defund-the-police-an-abolition-study/>

UMC in State College is hosting a nine-week study on the call for police abolition, following a curriculum developed by the Mennonite Church USA, and all Allegheny congregations to join. For more information, check out the website:



<http://www.universitymennonite.org/defund-the-police-an-abolition-study/>

Patrisse Cullors says, “After years of reform, it’s clear we don’t need more body cameras or training, we need a new system full stop.”

Starting in January, we will embark on a nine-week study. If you're interested in beginning or continuing to reflect on your commitment to nonviolence, what it means to engage the forces of state, and how to work to end policing and police brutality, this curriculum is for you. The curriculum is based on a Christian faith perspective, but peoples of all faith are welcome to participate.

When - Wednesday evenings on Zoom, beginning, January 5 – March 2 (7:00 pm - 8:15 pm EST).

View the curriculum here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/abolition-curriculum-intro/>

Register for the study here: <https://forms.gle/QEPHvXfJ6YWGT9Nq6>

If you'd like to help or want to find out more, contact Joel Weidner: joelpsu82@outlook.com