

#1 – Fall Faith & Life Gathering report



Some 50 delegates and visitors joined the virtual Faith & Life Gathering of Allegheny Conference on November 6. We did the usual things like approve minutes, receive reports from staff and the Constituency Leadership Council, and take the roll. We were updated on conference finances by our treasurer, Karin Miller, where we learned that we are on track to achieve a balanced budget but need strong “individual giving” support as part of the current revenue plan. We reviewed and affirmed a motion to adjust a part of our tithe designated toward a First Nations group to be given directly to the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, who works at education and reparative ministries with indigenous groups. We also agreed to join the DDoD Coalition’s new Repair Communities and Congregations Network as part of an ongoing commitment to learn about and address antiracism and repairing hurtful histories as white settlers.

A major portion of the day was given to review a first draft proposal to disburse Allegheny’s portion of the proceeds from the sale of the International Guest House equally to the congregations of the conference. Breakout groups and the whole group shared their perspectives on a “radical trust” approach to sharing these resources. A strong majority supported the direction and also gave numerous suggestions on how best to accomplish the goal of honoring the legacy of IGH’s mission -- “hospitality, welcome, the work of peace and justice and the practice of honoring and celebrating cultural differences and diversity together.”

The Allegheny Leadership Council will meet in January for their annual retreat where they will forward this work and create a spending plan for the next fiscal year.

#2 - GIVING TUESDAY



November 30 brings the annual "Giving Tuesday to the forefront. All delegates should check their emails for an invitation to support the work of Allegheny Conference. **AND You don’t have to wait for November 30!** Click here:

<https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/donate/> to give early and

often!!! Just scroll down to the donate button. When completing your donation, type “Giving Tuesday” in the Write a Note section. We are seeking at least **40 persons to donate \$25 each**, which will go to Allegheny ministries for pastors, children & youth and our member congregations.

#3 - Congregational Highlight – Pittsburgh Mennonite Church

Pastor Dave Swanson and Pittsburgh Mennonite Church participated in a press conference on October 27 to urge the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas to extend eviction protections to renters in the Pittsburgh area. You can read more [here](#).



#4 – Only five months to Laurelville retreat!



Registration is open for a retreat over two years in the making. 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.

#5 – 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. More info to follow!

