

#1 – Spring Study returns after two-year covid hiatus



Fifteen pastors/leaders from Allegheny, Virginia and Central District conferences joined Elaine T. James PhD, for the annual (again) Spring Study at Laurelville Retreat Center, April 25-28, 2022. A wonderful time of retreat and study, while experiencing a unique approach to the Song of Songs – Embodiment & Holism, greeted the participants, along with good food and antics from our infamous cook, Denise Spory. April 2023 is less than twelve months away, so plan accordingly!



#2 – Youth of AMC – Registration for Summer Camping is now open!

Go to Laurelville’s website to get details, dates, costs, etc. as Allegheny and Laurelville again co-sponsor the overnight camping program for 2022. Expect an unapologetic Anabaptist flavor for your children, focusing on discipleship as an alternative to high-pressure campfire conversions. We look forward to learning with you this year – “Climbing the Mountain: Reaching for Wholeness” <https://laurelville.org/program-events/youth/church-camp-pa/>

#3 – Registration is open for Allegheny’s Annual “Celebration” event – “And Be Thankful” Colossians 3:15



Where? At Laurelville Retreat Center August 5-7. Overnight accommodations are limited as Laurelville comes out of pandemic protocols to strong demand for their services. This year’s Celebration anticipates distinctive opportunities for festivity as distributions from the proceeds of the International Guest House property will be given to all eligible Allegheny congregations on Saturday. The Walking Roots Band, Community Mennonite Church, Jennifer Davis Sensenig, and Cindy Lapp will be featured in our worship times. We will recognize the 23-year tenure of Conference Minister of Children and Youth, Joy Cotchen. Service projects on the Laurelville campus, good food and fellowship, great accommodations and swimming pool – all help make this the go to event for Allegheny connections this summer! Everence is assisting with meal costs and our ice cream snack as part of their ongoing support to MC USA conference. Registrations are already coming in so be sure to register soon to save your space.

#4 –AMC related positions open - for more information contact: davem@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

Lead Pastor - Scottdale Mennonite Church - .5 FTE; open July 1

Interim Pastor - West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship - .5 to .75 FTE, open immediately

Settled lead pastor – West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship - 1 FTE – open January 1 (estimated)

#5 – Hall and Kolb to represent Allegheny at upcoming Delegate Assembly May 27-30



Mennonite Church USA

Be in prayer for the upcoming Delegate Assembly in Kansas City. Allegheny’s CLC representative, Joyce Hall (University), and Moderator-elect, Randy Kolb (Pittsburgh) will be there on behalf of AMC. There are four significant resolutions under consideration in this session, which was rescheduled to this year because of the priority of MC USA to hold an in-person event to deal with sensitive and impactful decisions. The Mennonite Church USA website - mennoniteusa.org - offers informative webinars to prepare delegates and educate the church on the pertinent issues. Expectations are that significant decisions will be made which will impact the future of the denomination. Again, we seek your prayers.

#6 – Conference Minister shifting roles beginning July 1

Continuing as AMC’s conference minister, I will be resigning from my extended interim assignment as pastor of Scottdale Mennonite Church this July. I will be able to focus more fully on our work together as Allegheny Mennonite Conference for the next term. This change will allow more flexibility in visiting congregations, as I continue to be challenged and inspired by the work we are accomplishing in our neighborhoods.