



**#1 – “And Be Thankful” - Celebration events bring reflection and hope**

A late surge of registrations developed into over 100 persons attending Allegheny’s annual meetings at Laurelville Retreat Center, August 5-7. All sixteen Allegheny congregations were represented, either in person or virtually via Zoom. Community Mennonite Church, along with three members of Walking Roots Band, helped to lead worship. Jennifer Davis Sensenig and Cindy Lapp presented sermons around the Colossians 3 theme.



Kristina Yoder, Seth Crissman and Greg Yoder (members of Walking Roots) lead singing

The impetus for the 2022 theme came from the plan to disburse nearly \$1 million from the proceeds of the sale of the International Guest House property to Allegheny’s 16 congregations, with the encouragement to utilize the gifts to



Jennifer and Cindy speak from Colossians 5

extend the legacy of IGH’s hospitality, peace and justice ministry. Congregations will be asked to share their

stories over the next several years – their process, discernment to begin or expand God’s work in their neighborhoods, things that went well and not so well – extending the three-fold vision of the conference to be Jesus centered, collaborative and to encourage place-based ministry.



Joy Cotchen via Zoom, with Lorne Peachey and Dave Mishler offering “memories”

Joy Cotchen’s 23-year of ministry as Conference Minister of Children and Youth was celebrated with a roast and many heart-filled memories from numerous youth (many now adults). Joy watched via Zoom as she contracted Covid and could not attend in person. What a legacy of love and service from “Mama Joy!”

AICCP (Asian Indian Christian Church of Pittsburgh) was formally welcomed as Allegheny’s newest member congregation during the delegate session on Saturday morning. Representatives from the congregation’s council shared online the congregation’s history and vision. Pastor Pratik Bagh and his wife Shabnam were present to receive prayer and welcome from the delegates.



Pratik and Shabnam Bagh represents AICCP

Chris Scott, Pastor for “the exchange” (Winchester VA), who are in process of changing conference affiliation to Allegheny, also joined the meetings via Zoom as introduction to Allegheny. We hope to welcome the exchange in the coming months, following completion of MC USA protocols.



Jennifer Davis Sensenig, worship leader, recognizes the “passing of the pitcher”

One of AMC’s longstanding traditions is to recognize with thanksgiving the work of their moderators. LeAnne Zook served as Moderator/Moderator-elect for the last five years and reflected on the challenges of Covid and the opportunities that the closure of IGH brought to the conference. Randall Kolb moved into the Moderator role with the passing of the pitcher and basin during the Sunday morning worship.



Michael Danner

Michael Danner - Associate Executive Director of Church Vitality (MC USA); Steve Bustos – Everence; Luke Schrock-Hurst – MCC; Gerald Mast - Bluffton University; and Bob Yoder – Associated Anabaptist Biblical Seminary offer words of introduction and encouragement. *Credit for photos in this article – Carolyn and Enos Tice*

For further information about this year’s Celebration, visit the Allegheny website –

<https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/2022-celebration-of-congregations-and-conference/>

Also here is a link to an Anabaptist World featured news article - <https://anabaptistworld.org/conference-shares-nearly-1-million-with-churches-after-sale-of-dc-property/>



Steve, Luke, Gerald and Bob