



#1 – Leadership Council continues Intercultural and Anti-racism engagement

Over a year ago, Allegheny entered into Mennonite Church USA’s initiative for conferences and congregations to intentionally work at one of the denomination’s *Journey Forward* emphases – Transformation. Only as conferences and congregations determine to enter a different narrative, listening to and responding to specific alternative narratives from non-dominant cultures, will there be the possibility of transformation. Taking a line from Brian McLaren’s new book – *Do I Stay Christian?* – “repent means to *rethink*, which means *questioning our biases and challenging untested assumptions*” (p. 68). Through resources of film, writing, podcasts and other avenues, the Leadership Council, with the assistance of our denominational consultant, Ruth Yoder Wenger, is leaning in to this work which is bringing new awareness, humility, understanding and depth of conversation. Pray for our conference leaders as we invest time and energy into this transformation work.

Some of our congregations have already entered this journey or are in the beginning stages of coming to grips with what it might mean in their place. If you are interested in learning more, contact the conference office or check out this link to the MC USA website: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/anti-racism-resources-white-allies/>



#2 – Fall Faith and Life Gathering scheduled for November 5

Allegheny’s next delegate gathering is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 5. The Executive Committee has decided to make this session a “hybrid” session, meaning that we are encouraging an “in-person” gathering at one of our congregations’ meetinghouses, but will also offer a Zoom option for those who cannot attend in person or prefer to connect online. The location will be announced following the next Leadership Council meeting, scheduled for October 1. The primary agenda for the delegate meeting will be to re-visit our decision to put on hold the hiring of a Conference Minister of Children and Youth due to uncertain financial resources for the potential half-time position. The first quarter of the current fiscal year (July-September) plus one month will be in the books as background information that will assist the delegates in making a decision in November. We hope for a strong turnout as we discern one important piece of our vision for the future. Reports from staff and from representatives to our connections with MC USA will also be part of the session.

#3 – Allegheny Wants To Encourage Congregations to Join the Work

“Reparations” is a politically charged word in our present world. Listening and learning about Indigenous history and how settlers upset the world and thrust a doctrine of deliberate and systematic annihilation is difficult to hear, but necessary if we want to engage honestly with history. Representatives to the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery (DDoD) Coalition and their Repair Congregations and Communities Network (RCCN) are connecting with monthly and quarterly meetings of these groups to listen and learn. Our four representatives – Kimberly Schmidt (Hyattsville), Hadley Jenner (Community), Lester Lind (Philippi) and Dave Mishler (Scottdale) – are beginning to lay out a strategy for Allegheny Conference to share resources with congregations who want to participate in this learning and action. Be looking for resources for Land Acknowledgments and other beginning steps into the work of healing and reparations. The conference website will soon have some of these resources <https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/> In the meantime you may want to check out the DDoD website - <https://dofdmenno.org/>

#4 - From Mennonite Church USA:



Current openings at Mennonite Mission Network: If you are excited about witnessing to the good news of Jesus Christ, and seek to use your vocational skills and spiritual gifts in your place

of employment, perhaps you will also be interested in working with Mennonite Mission Network. As the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA, all of our positions are geared toward the organizational vision of sharing all of Christ with all of creation. We are committed to diversity among staff, and welcome people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply.

We are searching to fill these positions-

- **Co-Regional Administrator** will oversee the logistics involved in long-term service work in Africa and Europe. They will foster collaboration, implement strategies, and innovate for partnership, as well as represent Mennonite Mission Network around the world.
- The **Divisional Coordinator** will oversee the administrative support needs of the Operations Division and assist in expediting the work of the Senior Executive of Operations. Along with these responsibilities, the Divisional Coordinator will take the initiative in working with each department to ensure flow of communication, information sharing, and consistent work processes between departments within the division.
- The **Development Representative** (previously Donor Relations) provides a role in developing, maintaining, and growing relationships with Mennonite Mission Network's financial supporters, donors, and churches to ensure that organization continues to thrive and fulfill its goals.
- The **Regional Administrative Assistant** will coordinate with the international regions of the Global Partnership department. They will concentrate on expediting the Regional Administrators' work for Africa/Europe, Latin America, and Asia/Middle East

If further interested or to apply, you may visit us at www.MennoniteMission.net/about/Employment

Please email Mennonite Mission Network – Human Resources if you have additional questions at staffrecruitment@mennonitemission.net