



### **#1 – Fall Faith and Life Gathering - November 5**

Scottsdale Mennonite Church will host the first in-person delegate gathering since the pandemic began in early 2020. This session will be a “hybrid” session, meaning that a Zoom option is also available for those who cannot attend in person or prefer to connect online.

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 and associated benefits. The Leadership Council is bringing clarity to this question by recommending that we do not hire youth ministry staff during the current or subsequent fiscal years, which end June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This will give AMC time to experiment with alternative leadership possibilities for children and youth, and also to listen carefully to congregations, pastors and youth for how the next stage of such ministries might develop. Can we think about this as the beginning of a generative time to explore a new vision for how youth ministry is configured to meet the challenges of our congregations? Could this be one important piece of our larger vision for the future?

Reports from staff and from representatives to our connections with MC USA will also be part of the session, including Constituency Leaders Council and the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition. Come at 9:30 for refreshments. Lunch will also be served, with opportunities for some guided conversations. Plan to make donations for the snacks and meals. We plan to adjourn by or before 2:30, aware of the long drive for many of our delegates.

### **#2 – 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 by thrusting forward a doctrine of deliberate and systematic annihilation is difficult to hear. But it is necessary if we want to engage honestly with history. AMC 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 (Scottsdale) – are beginning to lay out a strategy for Allegheny Conference to share resources with congregations who want to participate in this learning and action. Some congregations are already on the way. Be looking for resources for Land Acknowledgments and other steps into the work of healing and reparations on Allegheny’s website - <https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/>  
In the meantime you may want to check out the DDoD website - <https://dofdmenno.org/>

### **#3 – Giving Tuesday – November 29**



The end of the calendar year is coming rapidly upon us. Giving opportunities will abound. Your inbox and mail boxes will be full of contribution requests. Please consider using some of your year-end contributions to support the work of Allegheny Conference! Congregations, delegates, friends of AMC and everyone (!) is invited to respond to this year’s Giving Tuesday announcement (be looking for that via email and/or text) and our annual snail mail year end fund raising request. Last year we supported conference pastors by showing a commitment to the (then) under-development Employee Assistance Program (EAP) of MC USA via Everence, with contributions of over \$3,400. The new EAP is now open and available for congregations to enroll pastors/church employees. Look for enrollment information to come in the near future.

For this year’s Giving Tuesday and Fund-Raising Appeal, expect more information soon!