



**#1 – Fall Faith and Life Gathering - November 5, 2022** (Photo by Audra Shenk)

Scottdale Mennonite Church hosted the first in-person delegate gathering since our pre-pandemic meeting at Hyattsville in March 2020. It was a “hybrid” session, with 14 delegates and 12 guests attending the meeting in person and 30 guests connecting online, from 11 congregations. (This total our best approximation with the difficulty in combining person, delegate and guest totals.)



delegates and 4 of 60 people is online, in-

The primary agenda for the delegate meeting was to re-visit our August decision to put on hold the hiring of a Conference Minister of Children and Youth, due to uncertain financial resources and a reassessment of salary and benefits costs going forward. The Leadership Council brought some definition 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 ways of supporting ministry for children and youth, as we listen carefully to congregations, pastors and youth for how the next stage of such ministries might develop. We anticipate a generative time to explore a new vision for how youth ministry is configured to meet the current challenges of our congregations. A committee is coming together for this listening and discernment. Some of the former search committee members will be joined by other volunteers.

Reports from staff, our treasurer, Karin Miller, and conference representatives – including the Constituency Leaders Council and the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition - rounded out the event. Thank you to Scottdale Mennonite Church for your hospitality; and special thanks to Jack Scott, Dan Walter and Isaac Tice for delivering a mostly glitch free Zoom experience!

**#2 – Leah Rittenhouse Licensed for Ministry at Scottdale Mennonite Church** - (Photos by Audra Shenk)



A “Celebration of Call” service was held on November 13 which affirmed the discernment of AMC’s conference credentialing committee and Scottdale Mennonite Church’s pastor search process to call Leah Rittenhouse into pastoral ministry. Members from both Stahl Mennonite Church, where Leah had served previously as a pastoral intern, and Scottdale Mennonite, joined to witness the licensing, to worship, to pray and celebrate with a fellowship meal.



Joy Cotchen, former AMC Conference Minister for Children and Youth, brought the message from Ephesians 4 – “Growing Up...” Leah brings with her a wealth of experience in leading youth and young adults through her work as a Service Adventure leader under Mennonite Mission Network for three years, Summer Camp Director for Laurelville Retreat Center for the past two years, and also being a camp counselor in earlier years.

As Scottdale’s half-time pastor, Leah will combine into her ministry portfolio another part-time position as Laurelville’s new Youth Program Manager, where she will continue to direct the summer camping program among other duties. Allegheny welcomes Leah as our newest and youngest pastor as she and the congregation discern future ministry decisions as part of the licensing process.

**#3 – Giving Tuesday – November 29, and Year-End Fund Letter**



Delegates, friends of Allegheny, congregations and all who support the vision and mission of Allegheny Mennonite Conference are invited to join AMC’s year-end giving opportunities, coming over the next few weeks. ***We hope you find Allegheny Mennonite Conference and its ministries to pastors, congregations and the wider church to be deserving of some of your holiday season giving as we close out 2022.***

Giving Tuesday - Emails will be sent to our list of delegates and donors on November 29 as part of the annual national emphasis. You may respond by sending a check, or use the more convenient DONATE button on the "allegnymennoniteconference.org" website (writing a note when you check out indicating your gift as "Giving Tuesday.")

Fundraiser Year-End Letter – We have been growing a list of donors who have given previously to AMC over the years. Fund letters will be sent out just after Thanksgiving. If you want to receive the year-end letter, and do not, please contact the conference office to join the list of donors.

***So, if you receive both a Giving Tuesday invitation and a year-end letter, it's up to you if you want to give once or twice! Thank you in advance for your support of Allegheny Mennonite Conference!***

Last year we supported conference pastors by showing a commitment to the (then) under-development Employee Assistance Program (EAP) of MC USA via Everence. We received year-end contributions of over \$3,400. The new EAP is now open and available for congregations to enroll pastors and/or church employees. If your congregation wants to participate, contact Kathy at the conference office.



Because of our discernment process around how best to support children and youth ministry from the conference, ***all donations this year will support the new "Youth" line item in our current budget of \$14,500.*** If we exceed the amount for "Youth," all other donations will go to the general fund. If you have questions, please contact the conference office.

