

#1 – Spring Faith & Life Gathering – March 4 (Saturday) – 9:30-12:30 via ZOOM

Attention all AMC conference delegates! We hope to see you during our upcoming delegate meeting where these significant items are on the agenda:

- 1) Welcoming *the exchange*, from Winchester, VA, as our newest congregational member
- 2) Affirming those called to serve AMC by our nominating committee and leadership council
- 3) Adopting a 2023-24 spending plan (also known as ‘the budget’)
- 4) Reports from our moderator, conference minister and the AMC Repair Committee
- 5) A tutorial of sorts about working at the use of the IGH proceeds from Randy Kolb, Moderator

No travel, snack with your camera on or off, three hours of important work, all on a Saturday morning....!

#2 - Solar Energy – University Mennonite Church

UMC is one of our AMC congregations who have taken significant steps toward a net-zero energy plan. Take a look: <https://universitymennonite.org/creation-care-at-the-meetinghouse/>

Be watching for reports in coming Miscellany issues about their processes and outcomes. I know of other congregations who have also worked at reducing carbon. Share your stories with us at the conference office to be included in future issues.



#3 – New Pastor at West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

WPMF, after calling interim pastor, Will O’Brien (reported in last month’s Miscellany), has been engaged in a pastor search process over the last number of months. Discernment was concluded several weeks ago, with a recommendation from the search committee and elders, resulting in the call of Jonny Rashid to become the next settled, full-time pastor for the congregation. You may know Jonny as author of [Jesus Takes A Side](#) or other recent Anabaptist World articles. He plans to begin shortly after Easter as he transitions out of his current pastoral role. Welcome Jonny! Blessings to the congregation at WPMF.



#4 – Dr. Deb Bergen and Anabaptist Community Bible Project are in focus for ‘Spring Study’ at Laurelville April 24-27 (Monday noon through Thursday noon) “Harvesting Treasures” will be the emphasis for the first half of the annual Spring Study. Deb will lead us in recognizing the various levels of trauma we have been



experiencing as leaders in recent years and to ***“uncover the relevance of accumulated wisdom from our own lives”*** to which we can make ***“applications in specific mental health situations, challenges of the new normal, and pastoral transitions.”*** Trained in child psychiatry, Deb grew up on the Canadian prairies and brings the experience of being the daughter, wife and mother of pastors. She moves easily between the languages of science and faith. Register online!

For the second half of the week we will join the Anabaptist Community Bible Project - creating commentary around three biblical passages we have been assigned by project leaders - ***Exodus 19-20; Mark 1:29-45, 2:1-17; Psalm 22:12-21.*** Mark your calendars for this time of recreation, study, fellowship and retreat!

#5 – Health Update from Conference Minister

As reported last month, I have signaled my intention to retire as conference minister as of June 30, 2024. In the meantime, the leadership council has appointed a Conference Minister Assistant, Jayne Byler (Stahl Mennonite Church), to take on some of the national meeting representation and connections that I will begin to phase out of. Traveling through airports and navigating unfamiliar venues has become more difficult in recent years.

However, with the certain diagnosis through genetic testing of **Pompe disease** (after an eleven year search), I have begun Enzyme Replacement Therapy (ERT) infusions every other week, and I am seeing some improvement in symptoms. The goal of the therapy is to slow or stop the progression of the disease process, and sometimes there is relief from some of the muscle deterioration. I continue to ask for your prayers as I navigate my remaining time with AMC and for future retirement work (is that an oxymoron?).