

#1 – Last Call – Spring Study at Laurelville – April 24-27



“Harvesting Treasures” led by Dr. Deb Bergen will be our focus 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 in order to **“uncover the relevance of accumulated wisdom from our own lives.”** We can make **“applications in specific mental health situations, challenges of the new normal, and pastoral transitions”** in our own frames of reference.

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.

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**. We are past the early registration discounts, so call the conference office – 814-443-2007 and Kathy will set you up!

#2 – Spring Faith & Life Gathering – March 4, 2023 – Forty-two delegates and visitors came together (virtually) for the annual gathering to do the business of the conference:

- 1) We welcomed *the exchange*, from Winchester, VA, as our newest congregational member
- 2) We affirmed those called to serve AMC by our nominating committee and leadership council
- 3) We adopted a 2023-24 spending plan (also known as ‘the budget’)
- 4) We heard reports from our moderator, conference minister and the AMC Repair Committee
- 5) Our moderator led a tutorial of sorts about working at the use of the IGH proceeds

To learn more go to: <https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/news/>

#3 – Conference Leaders to begin preparation for Conference Minister transition - Randy Kolb, Karrie Peterson, and Lee Good will begin to pull preliminary information together in order for a Conference Minister Search Committee to begin their work before year’s end. To set the stage for future interviews of candidates, these three Leadership Council representatives will prepare the Conference Information Form to describe who Allegheny has become over the last seven years as we have transitioned beyond the departure of numerous congregations and a fundamental decision of survival. We have chosen a new place of intentional diversity – Jesus-centered; Collaborative; Committed to place-based ministry. Growing from twelve congregations in 2017 to seventeen congregations in 2023, how would you describe Allegheny Mennonite Conference? Be looking for opportunities to share your insights as the transition committee begins their work.

#4 – Ministry Resource Team to begin work – A new initiative is about to begin to address funding sources and a more comprehensive view of our entire financial planning. We have just begun to reach out to individuals who have experience in raising funds, or have ideas and interest in working with Allegheny’s financial models. Expect to hear more about Allegheny’s MRT in the near future!

#5 – AMC Repair Committee Web Page - With the web page of the AMC Repair Committee going live on March 4, the committee continues working to load more information and links into these pages as resources for congregations to engage. Interest is growing across the nation around Indigenous justice. Having partnered with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, based out of Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference (through their Repair Congregations and Communities Network), Allegheny wants to take seriously a call to become educated around this important work. What might justice for Indigenous peoples look like? How can we even begin to undertake meaningful reparations for what was stolen over the past 500 years? How can your congregation begin? Check out:

<https://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/resources/american-indigenous-justice/>