

#1 – Celebration of Congregations and Conference – August 4-6, 2023



Glen Guyton, MC USA Executive Director, was featured speaker at Allegheny’s annual “Celebration” event at Laurelville. Some 91 registrants – delegates, families, youth and children – participated in hymn singing, delegate ‘worshipful work,’ informational seminars, and worship around the theme “The Wind of Transformation.”



West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship, under the direction of Anne Yoder, led worship. Bob Yoder (AMBS), Sarah Gurule (MMN), Darryl Nestor (Bluffton Univ.), Steve Bustos (Everence), Glen Guyton (MC USA), Luke Schrock-Hurst (MCC), Veva Mumaw (EMU/EMS) and Leah Rittenhouse (Laurelville) represented their organizations throughout the weekend.



As is our custom, we shared the Lord’s Table during Sunday morning worship, with over 100 participants, including guests from local congregations. Twelve of seventeen congregations were represented by 41 delegates for the business portion of the weekend, which consisted mostly of reporting with no weighty decisions to be made. There was also



plenty of time for swimming, hiking, table games, ice cream and sharing some rocks in the rocking chairs outside the Guesthouse.

#2 – Pastors/Leaders Appreciation Dinner



Twenty-eight pastors and leaders, including AMC Leadership Council members, were treated to an in-depth Friday afternoon conversation with Glen Guyton, to kick off Celebration weekend. Glen focused the conversation around several insights highlighted in his book – **reawakened** – and the kind of leadership needed in our current milieu. A special appreciation dinner, funded by several generous donations, concluded the event.

#3 – Pastor Peer Gatherings to resume in October

An in-person pastor peer gathering is scheduled in Bedford, PA for October 17, from 9am-3pm, based on the results of a recent poll. Those who cannot attend have the option of joining by Zoom.

#4 – Two programs for pastors from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary



Ministry Integrity Circles - Pastors, do you need help with ministry transitions or significant challenges? AMBS’s Ministry Integrity Circles program provides the support of consultants within a community of peers. We will be beginning two cohorts this fall: one will be meeting once in person Sept. 25-26 then three more times on Zoom. An all in-person cohort begins Oct. 23. Apply for the hybrid cohort by Aug. 25 and the in-person cohort by Sept. 23. ams.edu/integrity-circles

Transition to Leadership program. This two-year program guides and nurtures new pastors during the crucial first years of ministry through one-on-one mentoring, biannual Learning Events, and specialized coaching sessions throughout the year. The Fall 2023 cohort starts Nov. 9; apply by Oct. 9. ams.edu/transition-to-leadership

#5 – Congregations begin new fiscal year with strong response – As of this writing 14 of 17 congregations have already remitted their annual administrative fee, keeping cash flow quite positive for the new year. Several congregations have also indicated an increase in their annual support of AMC. Thank you for your attention and commitment to funding the ministries of Allegheny Mennonite Conference!