

#1 – Leadership Council to meet for annual planning retreat



From January 26-28, 2024 the Allegheny Leadership Council will be meeting at Stahl Mennonite Church to plan for calendar year 2024, which overlaps two fiscal years (AMC fiscal year ends June 30). Due to upcoming transitions of the conference minister and long-term office location, this year's retreat has an air of heightened focus. The future of youth ministry and how we resource the conference budget plan are also significant agenda items.



Although the first half of the current fiscal year brings with it a mostly on-target financial report (see below), a careful approach to expenditures will be required for the second half. Randy Kolb, Moderator (left) and Jayne Byler, Moderator-elect (right) will lead the retreat. Current Leadership Council members are Karin Miller, Treasurer (Springs), Lester Lind (Philippi), Kirsten Peterson (Hyattsville), Tom Tennefoss (Grace), Lee Good (Community) and Deb Bergen (Morgantown). Pray for this important work as we look to the future of Allegheny Mennonite Conference.

#2 – Calls for Prayer and Action

Mennonite Action continues efforts on several fronts to challenge the current trajectory of the war in Gaza. For more information, the full scope of their work, and to join with them, check out their website - <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/>

#3 – Mid-fiscal year update; updated Giving Tuesday results !!!

GIVING TUESDAY With a couple of recent additions to the Giving Tuesday fundraiser, we now have exceeded our \$3,000 goal to fund this year's **special "one-time" 2023-24 budget item to cover expected conference minister search** related expenses. The final tally stands at \$3,020. Thank you!

At the six-month mark of our fiscal year, AMC has received total revenue of \$76,251 on a budget of \$135,500 (56.3%). Expenses year to date are \$72,604 or 53.6%. Net Income on 12/31/2023 is \$3,647. **Thank you for your support!** Congregations and individuals are at the heart of our sources of revenue. We ask for your prayerful support in keeping the ministries of Allegheny – pastor resources, youth/summer camp support, pastor search support for congregations, among others – as a high priority for your and your congregation's 2024 giving.

#4 – SCOTSDALE MENNONITE CHURCH (Scottdale, PA) – January 2024 AMC Featured Congregation



Scottdale Mennonite Church recently renewed its covenant with Pastor Leah Rittenhouse and continues to explore its relationship with Laurelville Retreat Center and the Scottdale community. The church has placed its interest in the continuing growth of Leah as she explores ministry and leadership. We are excited for the coming year.



There also is interest in determining sooner rather than later how the church might invest the \$30,000 it received as part of the sale of the International Guest House. We will work at discerning the best path forward for that investment.

The church continues to examine its organizational structure in response to an ever-changing congregation and will take a close look at its once-a-month Church Around the Table in-home services that have been in place for several years. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us!



--Dirk Kaufman, Congregational Chair