



ALLEGHENY MISCELLANY

The official newsletter of Allegheny Mennonite Conference

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SAVE THE DATES!

2026 AMC Celebration Weekend:

July 31 - August 2, 2026

Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA

*In mid- to late May, be on the lookout for the
online Celebration registration link, which will
be shared in the May Miscellany and posted
on our website!*

HERMITAGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR OPPORTUNITY IN THE SONORAN DESERT



For the past several months, Katy Heinzl, the retired pastor from Univerity Mennonite church, has been volunteering with the Cascabel Conservation Association (CCA) Hermitage Program in the Sonoran Desert of southeast Arizona. Her role has included welcoming sojourners, offering accompaniment during their retreats, and helping create a gentle, supportive space for people seeking rest, reflection, and connection with the land.

WHERE IS YOUR CONFERENCE MINISTER?

April 16-18 Constituency Leadership
Council, Chicago, IL

April 20-23 Pastor and Credentialed
Leader Study Week at Laurelville with
Dr. Drew Strait

April 26--Stahl Mennonite Church

May 1-2 Gulf States Spring Assembly

June 28--Friendship Mennonite Church

July 31-August 2--AMC Celebration
Weekend





CCA's Hermitage Program offers something rare, the chance to live simply in a remote desert community while supporting others on solo or small-group wilderness sojourns. The heart of the work is accompaniment, being present, listening, and supporting each person's unique journey without directing or fixing. This can take many forms, including offering orientation, checking in during a sojourn, and inviting reflection through conversation, writing, or art afterward.

CCA is currently seeking one or more people to serve as Hermitage Program Coordinator(s) for the September-May sojourning season (ideally beginning by June 2026). The position is flexible and creative solutions are welcome, including sharing responsibilities among multiple people. Coordinators typically work no more than 10 hours per week, though hours vary with the season. The coordinator is provided simple, off-grid housing in an earthen home near Hot Springs Canyon, along with internet access and a monthly stipend of \$400. Responsibilities include communicating with sojourners, preparing the hermitage between visits, tending to basic maintenance needs, collaborating with the Hermitage Committee, and helping shape the ongoing life of the program.

Life at Cascabel can be as quiet or as communal as one chooses. Beyond the hermitage work, there are opportunities to help in the community garden, gather for weekly coffee, volunteer with CCA's sister organization Saguaro Juniper, attend local Quaker meeting, and take part in the rhythms of a small desert community.

Those interested in learning more or submitting an expression of interest can find details and the application form here:

[Invitation for Expressions of Interest: Hermitage Program Coordinator](#)



AMC IS GROWING! CHURCH SPOTLIGHT: NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA PEACE CHURCH (NPPC)

Article by: Julie Hoke (she/her), Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church, pastor, nppc.church



On Easter morning the sky was grey and the fog was thick. I made my way in the dark onto the baseball outfield where Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church (NPPC) would soon gather for a sunrise service, unsure if anyone would show up. Little by little, people began emerging from the foggy distance to set up their chairs and join in the singing. We did not see the sun at all that morning, but somehow that seemed fitting. Being raised to new life with Jesus is a process, as Molly shared in her story, and we can't always see clearly

Since the formation of this congregation at the end of 2023, there have been plenty of foggy days where we could not see beyond a few steps in front of us. Applying to join the Allegheny Conference was a real point of clarity! Over the past year we have attended AMC gatherings (Study week, Celebration weekends, MCUSA Convention) and experienced the stability and joy that is present in AMC. We know this conference has weathered painful, tumultuous times and we are looking to join an affirming conference as a safe place to land. We value the consultation and sharing, accountability, perspective and counsel that can come (and has already come!) through AMC. Because many of us were a part of Circle of Hope church before it ended, we are still learning from the past and value the wisdom of other congregations and leaders. Maintaining our Anabaptist roots is important to us and we have appreciated learning more about the Mennonites through singing the hymnal!



NPPC is a small congregation of about 50 regular attenders. We rent space on Sunday evenings from another church in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Once a month we have a potluck and community meeting to discuss the 'worshipful work' of the church and make decisions together. Many of us are meaningfully involved in efforts that make our neighborhoods stronger, and together we support the Harmony Hometeam, a dedicated team of neighbors and youth that bring people together (through a cafe, afterschool club, urban Food Forest, and monthly park events) in harmony with each other and the land. As we continue to grow into who we will be as a congregation, we are excited by AMC's commitment to place-based ministry and eager to learn how other congregations express a mission and vision in their context.



Pictured: A congregational paper patchwork quilt and a potluck - both expressions of how we value each other and the unique gifts people bring



100 FOR \$10

CONSIDER GIVING TO “100 FOR \$10” STRENGTHENING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY TOGETHER

What if 100 people gave just \$10 a month?

That simple idea is the heart of Allegheny Mennonite Conference’s new campaign: 100 for \$10 — small gifts with a big impact.

This initiative invites us to build a sustainable foundation for the vital, Spirit-led work we share across the conference. Together, we can grow something deeply rooted, relational, and lasting.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference is more than an administrative body. Conference has played a formative role in shaping individual lives.

Be Part of the Movement

- Be one of the 100: Start a recurring gift of \$10/month (or any amount you choose)
- Spread the word: Invite others in your congregation or network to join the mission



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Have something you want us to share in the Miscellany?

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