

PASTORS - Updated August 26, 2026 (*Italicized print denotes person is non-credentialed*)

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
1. Asian Indian Christian Church of Pittsburgh	<i>Johny Mathew (Congregational Leadership)</i>
2. Bhutanese-Nepali Church of Pittsburgh	Suraj Bhandari (OAC)
3. Community Mennonite Church	Jason Gerlach (OAC) Lana Miller (OAC) Emily Nyce (LTO)
4. Crossroads Community	<i>Thomas Croyle</i>
5. Friendship Mennonite Church	Alvis Pettker (OAC)
6. Grace Fellowship	<i>TJ Tennefoss (Cong. Leader)</i> <i>Tom Tennefoss (Cong. Leader)</i>
7. Hyattsville Mennonite Church	Cindy Lapp (OAC) Michelle Burkholder (OAC)
8. Masontown Mennonite Church	Richard McIntire (LSM)
9. Morgantown Church of the Brethren	Stephen Lowe (LTO)
10. Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church	<i>Julie Hoke</i>
11. Philippi Mennonite Church	<i>Mary Beth Lind (Cong. Leader)</i> <i>Mike Miller (Cong. Leader)</i>
12. Pittsburgh Mennonite Church	<i>Rebecca Cordes</i>
13. Scottdale Mennonite Church	Leah Rittenhouse (LTO)
14. Springs Mennonite Church	None currently
15. Stahl Mennonite Church	Jayne Byler (OAC)
16. the exchange	Christopher Scott (OAC)
17. The Table	<i>Daniel Miller (Cong. Leader)</i>
18. University Mennonite Church	Ben Wideman (OAC)
19. West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship	Jonny Rashid (OAC)

LEADERSHIP STATISTICS
(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

1. Ordinations since July 1, 2025

2. Licensed since July 1, 2025

Emily Nyce, September 2025

Anita Hooley Yoder, May 2026

3. Transfers received since July 1, 2025

Alvis Pettker, August 2025 from Ohio Conference

4. LICENSED

Licensed Toward Ordination (LTO)

Leah Rittenhouse, Scottdale

Emily Nyce, Community

Anita Hooley Yoder, Friendship

Licensed For Specific Ministry (LSM) *Followed by the task for which the license is issued.*

Naomi Tice, working with Mennonite Mission Network

Richard McIntire, Masontown Mennonite Church

Dirk Kaufman, Scottdale Mennonite Church

ORDAINED

Active (OAC) *Those listed here are in leadership other than pastor of a congregation, with membership in the listed congregation.*

Sharon Andre, Chaplain (Hyattsville)

Brian Martin Burkholder, Eastern Mennonite University (Community)

Kenton Derstine, Eastern Mennonite University (Community)

Scott Holland, Bethel Theological Seminary (Pittsburgh)

Darrel Hostetter, Chaplain (Community)

Rene Hostetter, Chaplain (Community)

Sherill Hostetter, Chaplain (Community)

Samantha E. Lioi, Spiritual Director (Pittsburgh)

Ken Litwiller (University)

Eric Martin, Chaplain (Community)

Lana Miller, Eastern Mennonite University (Community)

David Mishler, Interim at Huntington Mennonite Church, Newport News, VA (Scottdale)

Veva Mumaw, Eastern Mennonite University (Community)

Joyce Peachey Lind, MennoMedia (Community)

Jeffrey Shull, Chaplain (Scottdale)

Lonnie Yoder, Eastern Mennonite Seminary (Community)

Retired (ORE)

Mary Jo Bowman (Community)

Kathleen Kurtz (Community)

Mel Schmidt (Hyattsville)

Earl Zimmerman (Community)

S. David Garber (Scottdale)

Kathy Hochstedler (Community)

Thinagar Sittther (Pittsburgh)

Active Without Charge (OAW) *Followed by the last year of activity – moved to OIN after three years.*

Joy Cotchen (Stahl) 2025

Lorie Hershey (West Philadelphia) 2025

Philip Kanagy (Community) 2025

Inactive (OIN)

Eric Haglund (Springs)

Casey Rohrer (Springs)

Lois Harder (Morgantown)

Ron Spory (New Life)

Sam Yoder (University)

In the following categories of people are only listed if a transition occurred within the past year:

License Ended since July 2025:

Credentials Transferred Out of Allegheny Mennonite Conference to another MC USA or MC Canada congregation since July 2023 (OTR)

Deaths since July 2024 (ODE)

Resigned

Probation (OPR)

Suspended (OSU)

Withdrawn since July 2025 (OWI) *No longer credentialed through MC USA.*

Terminated (OTE)

AMC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2026-2027

Moderator: *2 yr. term, non-renewable*

Ken Litwiller – *University*
(717) 513-6849 kenlaura78@gmail.com (term ends 2028)

Moderator-elect: *2 yr. term as moderator-elect + 2 yr. term as moderator*

Kirsten Peterson – *Hyattsville*
(574) 238-2238 kirstenmp@gmail.com (term ends 2028/2030)

Treasurer: *3 yr. term, renewable once*

Tim Martin Johnson - *West Philadelphia*
(267) 975-3873 tjohnson.cheltenham@gmail.com (1st term ends 2028)

Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) Representatives: *2 yr. term, renewable once*

Deb Bergen - *Pittsburgh*
(316) 227-0176 deb.bergen@gmail.com (2nd term ends 2027)

Moderator-elect, Kirsten Peterson - *Hyattsville*
(574) 238-2238 kirstenmp@gmail.com (1st term ends 2028)

Conference Minister, Amy Yoder McGloughlin
(856) 887-4687 amy@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

Conference Representatives: *3 yr. term, renewable once*

Tom Tennefoss - *Grace*
(302) 841-9173 tom10efoss@gmail.com (2nd term end 2028)

Lee Good - *Community*
(540) 980-5181 lee.good70@gmail.com (2nd term ends 2029)

Kim Fox - *Scottsdale*
(724) 961-4701 kimf@blackburncenter.org (1st term ends 2027)

Alvis Pettker - *Friendship*
(440) 897-0482 pastor.alvis.pettker@gmail.com (to complete Kirsten Peterson's term (2026–2027); eligible for two subsequent three-year terms)

Youth representative: *1 yr. term, appointed by LC*

Roo Horst - *Pittsburgh* (term ends 2027) Email: robindrop412@gmail.com

PERSONNEL ON LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Conference Minister: Amy Yoder McGloughlin Amy@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

Conference Administrator: Beth Dalansky office@alleghenymennoniteconference.org

Safety Liaison: Joy Kreider - An official email address is still being assigned as of August 27, 2026. In the meantime, please use Kreider05@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Does not serve on Leadership Council)

**3-year term, non-renewable*

Isaac Tice – *Springs*, (814) 977-8576 ticei2010@live.com (term ends 2027)

Ruth Kitchin Tillman – *University*, (302) 379-8912 ruthtillman@gmail.com (term ends 2027)

LeAnne Zook – *Hyattsville*, (202) 491-8453 leanne.zook@gmail.com (term ends 2028)

Stephen Lowe - *Morgantown COB*, (540) 7467-594 stephen.lowe@morgantowncob.org (term ends 2029)

CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE

2-year term, alternating terms, can serve 3 terms (6 years total)

**at least 2 members must be credentialed pastors + Conference Minister*

Brian Martin Burkholder – *Community*, (540) 746-6419 brian.burkholder@emu.edu (1st term ends 2028)

Enos Tice – *Springs*, (814) 662 -4331 cetice@comcast.net (1st term ends 2029)

Chris Scott - *The Exchange*, (540) 535-8086 mennoscott@gmail.com (1st term ends 2028)

Joyce Hall – *University*, (814) 231-1447 jeh21@comcast.net (1st term ends 2029)

Youth Engagement Team Initiative (YETI)

No term limits or time

Leah Rittenhouse – *Scottsdale*, (724) 205-5081 leah.rittenhouse@gmail.com

Olivia Tennefoss – *Grace*, (302) 448-6797 olivia.joy.tennefoss@gmail.com

Molly Piwonka – *Pittsburgh*, (814) 792-7186 mollypiwonka@gmail.com

Derek Yoder – *Community*, derekwy@gmail.com

Justin Macak – *Scottsdale*, (724) 273-5753 Justin.Macak@gmail.com

Bethany Spina – *Scottsdale*, (412) 540-0382 bethanyspina@gmail.com

Minutes for Celebration Delegate meeting - Aug 1, 2026

Welcome - Jane Byler, Moderator

Jane welcomed attendees, acknowledging the geographic area that we have gathered across, and the indigenous lands from which we traveled and where we currently are. We stated our intention for this meeting by reading VT 869 together.

Roll call was taken for both in-person and Zoom participants. There were 49 delegates and 39 visitors - including 19 visitors from not-yet-AMC congregations in Ohio, Mississippi, and the Philadelphia area. Minutes from the previous delegate session (March 7, 2026) were reviewed and adopted by unanimous consent.

Conference Moderator's Report - Jane Byler

Jane reflected on the past few years, acknowledging the healthy status of the conference when she came to the moderator role two years ago. The past two years have seen transitions in the conference minister and the conference administrator roles, which was nerve-wracking, but Amy Yoder McLoughlin and Beth Dalansky have been great gifts to AMC and are leading us with energy and steadiness. As we consider our growth, from 11 to 19 (potentially 21) congregations, we need to ask ourselves some important questions: What does it mean to be a thriving, growing conference? What does it mean to be a geographically expansive conference? What does it mean to plan well for future stability with so much transitioning around and within us? Jane celebrated the stability that we have right now, even as multiple leadership roles within the conference are rolling over.

Conference Minister's Report - Amy Yoder McLoughlin

Credentialing committee experienced some changes in membership and will revisit its responsibilities. Licensed Emily Nyce of Community Mennonite to ordination and Anita Hooley Yoder of Friendship to ordination.

As our geographic boundaries expand, pastor peer gatherings will be shifting. August and December remain in-person, October and February will be virtual via Zoom, April will be the in-person Spring Study, June regional cluster gatherings. Amy has started doing quarterly calls with pastors via Zoom.

Amy has been in conversation with about 20 congregations about joining AMC. She reassured us that not all of these congregations will end up joining our conference!

What is AMC for? We feel strong right now! We are a stable, consistent presence that holds each congregation even through transitions and stresses. We are here to support each other in our particular contexts - most of our congregations are not in a Mennonite "bubble". We're here to keep our congregations safe - reminding each other of our moral and ethical standards.

Regarding individual and congregational commitment to AMC, Amy reminded us that institutions and structures must work for us, and should be evolving with us to continue to serve our

purposes. She values questions as a sign of engagement in the life of the conference. She reminded us about the 100 for 10 campaign, which ensures ongoing financial support of AMC.

Amy shared that her AMC role remains part-time and that she is enjoying her part-time position with MC USA as the Denominational Minister of Education. She loves seeing how the two roles intersect. Amy continues visiting AMC congregations, meeting with pastors, and nurturing connections among credentialed ministers.

Visiting Organizations and Agencies:

What brings you joy in this work? What is challenging right now?

- Laurelville - Jeanette Lahm

A staff cabin was built in the Youth Village prior to summer camp this year! Laurelville continues to expand - 28,000 overnight stays per year! The Lodge will be rebuilt where the mini golf course currently is; the current lodge location will become a green space for gathering.

- Bluffton Univ - Brianna Ferris

- AMBS - Janeen Bertsche Johnson

Restrictions on international student visas has forced a focus on online coursework and instructional sites in other countries. Janeen reminded us that it is never too late to start studies supporting ministry.

- MCC - Luke Schrock-Hurst

Seeing congregations work together to support global needs - both financially and practically - brings great joy. Last year North American churches helped MCC distribute 21,000 relief kits, 40,000 hygiene kits, 40,000 comforters, and 90,000 school kits.

Budget/finances update

Treasurer Tim Martin Johnson presented the financial overview. AMC expenses were met for the 2025-26 fiscal year! The bottom line from last year's budget: approximately \$134,000 income, 131,000 expenses = \$3200 surplus (Summer celebration weekend is not included) Currently \$104,000 is in reserves, \$89,000 in operating funds, \$49,000 in unrestricted funds (\$31,000 is in a "Hospitality Fund" - money from the IGH funds that was returned to AMC from a congregation). The 2026-27 Budget is about 4% more expenses than our total income from last year, so increases in giving will be necessary.

Nominating Committee Report - LeAnne Zook

LeAnne encouraged individuals to think about members of their congregation who can help fill open roles in AMC. AMC needs people who are process-oriented, collaborative, willing to learn and communicate - no special credentials or experience needed.

Stephen Lowe was affirmed to Nominating Committee.

Roo Horst was introduced as Youth Representative to Leadership Council

Visiting Organizations and Agencies:

- MDS – Terry Zehr

MDS collaborates with Goshen College for intercultural experiences combined with service in communities in the U.S. and internationally. 900 households were served by MDS last year. Volunteer leaders are particularly needed - retirees are essential to fill these roles.

- Soil and the Seed Project

We viewed a video report from Greg Yoder and Seth Crissman. The current project is creating a new resource for the gospel of Mark.

- Lighthouse Ministries (Canton Ohio)- Darin Nissley

First Mennonite Church of Canton (OH) runs Lighthouse Ministries and is seeking membership in AMC. Canton has a need for youth vocational modeling in an area that is decimated by historical redlining and economic struggles. LM has partnerships that provide classes in a variety of skills. Funding cuts have created extra needs, LM is trying to fill these gaps with extra programming.

YETI (Youth Engagement Team Initiative) update - Leah Rittenhouse

YETI collaborates with Laurelville to run summer camp and Winterville. This summer, there were 184 overnight campers and 142 day campers. Four of the five Bible teachers were from AMC congregations. Ways that AMC members can continue to partner with Laurelville camps: Serving as Prayer partners, Bible teachers, nurses, and camp counselors. Laurelville representatives are happy to come visit AMC congregations. YETI is still trying to discern how to best serve AMC youth - ideas are welcome!

CLC report - Deb Bergen

Deb presented the image of MC USA leaders doing the work of log rolling - requires being light on their feet, nimble, keeping things from getting jammed up and going in the right direction. CLC is trying to continue to plan for the future while navigating changing finances and personnel. It is exciting and interesting to be present in these meetings.

Visiting Organizations and Agencies:

- MMN - Sara Peachey

Ongoing transformation is challenging, but so many communities/congregations are vibrant and joyful - Sara invites conversations about partnering with MMN.

- MC USA – Michael Danner

Witnessing congregations doing God's work is energizing - Michael has been attending assemblies in various places around the country recently. Exciting things are happening. Allocating financial resources is challenging, just like in many organizations and communities.

- Everence - Lynette Morales

Safety Liaison: Joy Kreider

Joy outlined the purpose of her role to assist congregations with abuse prevention policies, ensure credentialed ministers remain up-to-date with training and background checks, and serve on denominational investigative teams.

Introduce congregations seeking membership:

First Mennonite Church, Canton OH - Nate Hand

This congregation has been around for 200 years and is located in an economically underresourced community. First Mennonite is committed to serving local neighbors and working for justice, reconciliation, and community.

Church of the Open Door, South Philadelphia, PA - Ashley Martin, Robin Ryan,

Founded in Sept 2023 when a larger congregation dissolved. The congregation prioritizes inclusivity, community, and seeking God's truth and love together. Open Door sees accountability and partnership as two of their goals in joining AMC.

Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church was received and affirmed into AMC membership by reading VT 961.

Discussion: How are we "Welcoming Well"?

Reminders of AMC priorities: we are Jesus centered, we are collaborative, and we are committed to place-based ministry.

Small groups discussed these questions:

1. How do we welcome new congregations from a variety of diverse locations, into our life as a conference, while maintaining our core identity?
2. What might we need to learn to do differently to maintain strong bonds among our congregations and nurture the health of our conference?

A few responses were shared:

- Visiting other congregations or getting together in informal ways can be really helpful to form strong connections among conference churches
- Meeting the people behind the programs and church names builds greater commitment and allows us to offer more grace
- When we are nominating people for leadership positions, drawing from new congregations helps to integrate them meaningfully into AMC
- Gratitude was expressed for Hyattsville sticking with AMC even when it was tough.
- Staying focused on the core values will be important for new congregations to understand who we are and to continue to guide us

Transition of Moderators – The "Passing of the Pitcher"

Jane read Jan Richard's poem "This Day We Say Grateful" to mark the transition, and Amy offered a prayer of blessing as Ken took over as moderator.

Announcements

- There is an opportunity to support a Palestinian village by purchasing handmade olive oil soap.
- Central District recently passed a Resolution of Response to Palestine and perhaps AMC could do similarly. (Hyattsville)

Recorded by, Jaime Horst

Credentialing Committee

This year we've had some changes to the credentialing committee. We blessed Kate Heinzl as she retired from University Mennonite in September and left the committee. And we added Enos Tice (Springs) and Joyce Hall (University) to the existing committee of Chris Scott (the exchange) and Brian Burkholder (Community).

In this last year, we licensed Emily Nyce (Community) towards ordination, and Anita Hooley Yoder (Friendship).

The committee is currently looking at clarifying who licensing and ordination is for. It seems that every conference and every conference minister handles this differently, so having stated guardrails will help me as I talk to people about the purpose of licensing and ordination. And it will help our conference as we move forward, to have consistent guidelines no matter who the conference minister may be.

Blessing for Ben, Emily, Anita:

Ben and Emily are new pastors in our congregations, and Anita was recently licensed for her work as a Campus Minister at a Catholic High School in Cleveland. If any of you are here, would you stand so we can bless you as you serve and lead?

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Parent of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the body of Christ, and for the ways you have called all of us in individual and collective ways. We give thanks for the calling you have given Emily, Ben and Anita. Bless them in their work. May they feel supported and strengthened to lead in their communities, and to share and be the good news where they are called. May they never grow weary in doing good. AMEN.

Pastor Peer and Support for Credentialed Leaders

As our conference is growing and expanding geographically, we've needed to rethink how we are doing our pastor peer gatherings.

In recent years, we've been meeting in person every other month, often at a Hoss's in Bedford. This means that many of our pastors are driving as much as 3 hours each way to meet together. This is an amazing commitment from pastors, and they really appreciate and want this time together.

But as our conference geographic limits expands, our church budgets tighten and the price of gas has skyrocketed, we need to rethink our time together. This is what our pastor peer group has agreed to try for the coming year:

- Celebration Weekend—Friday afternoon gathering with opportunity for conversations, hikes, etc.
- October—Zoom call
- December—Hoss's in Bedford for our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange (this will likely need to change in future years as our geography expands)
- February—Zoom call
- April—Spring Study
- June—Regional cluster gathering.

We're open to relooking at this model again next Summer. This pastor peer time is for mutual support, asking questions, and sharpening skills and understanding. It's also a place for me to check in with our pastors. And in our gathering we want to make the best use of our time and resources together.

Along with this change in pastor peer, I'm implementing quarterly calls with our pastors, so that I can understand at a more personal and intentional level how they are doing, and where they need support.

For other credentialed ministers, I am meeting with you all during the lunch hour in the small cafeteria, to talk about a system for supporting you all. I want to ensure that we are systematizing support so that everyone gets what they need.

This year

Let me tell you a little about where I've been this year, representing AMC:

In September of 2025, University Mennonite blessed Kate Heinzl, and sent her off on retirement.

In October, I preached at Pittsburgh Mennonite, Laurelville Association, and Northwest Philadelphia Peace Church.

In November, I visited with Gulf States Mennonite Conference, installed Emily Nyce as the newest pastor at Community Mennonite, worshipped at the exchange, and met with Church of the Open Door in South Philadelphia..

In December, I met with other Conference Ministers in Austin, Tx, for our annual gathering, preached University Mennonite.

In January, I preached at First Mennonite Canton, and met with the Leadership team for our annual retreat.

In March, I attended our Spring delegate session in Pittsburgh and preached at Springs Mennonite.

In April, I preached at Stahl Mennonite, attended Constituency Leadership Council, and attended Spring Study at Laurelville.

In May, I visited the Gulf States Mennonite Conference with Ken and Laura Litwiller, and visited with Church of the Open Door in South Philadelphia..

In June, I helped University Mennonite welcome Ben Wideman as their new pastor, and preached at Friendship Mennonite while Alvis was on sabbatical.

I love being in our AMC churches. Please don't be shy about inviting me to come and join you in worship.

A chunk of my time this year has been spent visiting with or talking to congregations who are interested in transferring their affiliation to AMC. I think I counted 20 congregations that I've had conversations with. With Mosaic leaving, and with shifting in a few other congregations, that has kept me busy.

Why do we need conference and denominational structures

This year, I've been reflecting on our Mennonite structures and systems. Given all the institutional shifts—of a shrinking denomination, of a shifting conference landscape, and the changes in our Mennonite education systems, I've been wondering, What is our purpose as a conference? What are institutions like AMC and MCUSA for in these days of dramatic shifts?

After several years of difficulty, where we didn't know if we would survive, Allegheny Mennonite Conference feels strong, even despite the challenges in the institutional church these last several years.. I know that our commitment to following in the way of Jesus' will prevail because our Mennonite perspectives are so desperately needed right now. When Christian Nationalism is at its peak, our teachings on non-violence and the upside-down kingdom of God is a powerful antidote.

In this moment, I have clarity about our purpose, and I want to share that clarity with you. First, **We are here to support each other.** As a conference of 18 congregations mostly located in communities where we are the only Mennonite church, we offer support for the ways we are embodying our theology and values in creative and courageous ways in our particular contexts. We do that by sharing our stories, gathering together, and asking for help and support from each other. This happens at pastor peer, at assembly gatherings and in lots of informal ways.

Second, We are here to keep our congregations safe. We do that by holding pastoral credentials and supporting our credentialed leaders as they live out their spiritual callings. We have moral and ethical expectations for the ways our pastors should be living, and how they should be treating members of the congregation and community. We ask our congregations to create and enforce safe church policies to help our communities keep safety and wholeness for all who attend.

Third, We are here to walk with congregations and pastors through transitions. When pastors leave, or churches are in times of difficulty, the conference is there, offering support and resources.

Finally, When things are difficult in and outside of churches, **Allegheny Mennonite Conference is here to provide stability and a broader community.** As your Conference Minister, I'm here to respond to needs, celebrate with you all, and offer support and comfort in difficult times. I do that for pastors and congregations, and I do that with a clear sense that this structure that was created generations ago, and has gone through many iterations, is a container for our values and care practices and moments of church life.

It's clear that congregations don't really think they need a conference until they need one. So our investment in the conference structure now is for those moments of challenge and transition. And engagement with conference is for building community and ongoing support.

Each generation understands institutional support and participation differently. The Baby Boomers tend to favor support of institutions, partially because they built a lot of these church structures. But my generation (Gen X) and younger is typically pretty disillusioned by our church structures and institutions. And yet, I have also seen the power of our institutions and church structures to be a helpful container for our values. It's a place where we gather to support and deepen our anabaptist theological identity together. We value community, so we work on building it here at AMC. We value churches that are safe, so we try to make sure they are safe, by providing good supervision, support and accountability for our pastors. We value congregational health, so we try to make sure that our congregations have good support for their transitions.

It's not always satisfying for people to support old institutional structures, like a conference or denomination. I get it. It can feel more exciting to support new organizations and movements that seem to be doing innovative work. But they are also creating their own structures that will one day become part of the wider institutional landscape. I want to make a case for us to support these church structures—like Allegheny—because the conference holds our pastors, congregations, and members in all the seasons of life. In Leadership Tteam we've joked that supporting a conference doesn't feel especially sexy, but we know what we do together is so important.

I've never been an institutional defender, and I still don't think I am. The institutions we support work for us, not the other way around. In fact, I have scribbled a little saying on a scrap piece of

paper, and it is taped in front of my desk—it says, “Does it serve the institution, or the reign of God?” When we support our institutions, we should do so with a clarity that it is our duty to question how they work, and to demand that they do better. Our institutions are always evolving, and we should demand that they do so, to meet the needs of our communities, conferences and denominations.

Support for our conference can be manifested in a variety of ways.

- Participation—You being here is important support for AMC and denominational works. 7 delegates per church encourages us to be as involved as possible.
- Serving—Serving on our committees helps to strengthen our work. I’m grateful for every person that participates in our committee.
- Asking questions—I love the questions you have about the conference, because it means that you are engaged. Even if you don’t like something we do, I am happy to have those conversations with you because, again, you are engaged in our life together. I prefer vocalized dissatisfaction over silence.
- Financial support—We continue an ongoing campaign with AMC called 100 for 10. That campaign ensures that we have consistent income every year and we can provide ongoing support to our pastors and congregations. We ask members of our conference to make a monthly donation to the conference. Most of our Leadership team are monthly donors. I’m a monthly donor. I encourage all of us to consider making a small donation every month to Allegheny Mennonite Conference so that we can continue to do the good work of supporting our congregations and pastors, helping to keep our congregations safe, walking with our congregations through transition, and holding our faith values together.

Culture of Call

If your congregation has been in a search process in the last few years you’ll know that it is rough out there. It’s hard to find a qualified pastor, especially if you are a rural congregation. I’ve appreciated the creativity and ingenuity of congregations in their own process—including hiring candidates from within their congregations, and getting creative with sermon time. And I believe that this lack of pastors, hard as it has been, has forced our congregations to lean into our collective callings in the church.

MCUSA is not the only denomination that is facing a pastoral shortage. This is a nationwide crisis. Some of it has been that our internal congregational and denominational conversations around sexuality have been pretty ugly these last years, and our young adults have no interest in participation in organizations that hurt those they love. Some of it is that religion has become less relevant in people’s lives and in the public square post COVID.

It’s clear we have a lot of work to do in the church to change our reputation in our communities. That doesn’t happen overnight. I want to make a case for the church to work on our reputations and relevance by starting in our congregations. I want to encourage you all to nurture the

culture of calling in your congregations. As our young people are growing up among us, let's nurture their gifts and encourage them to lead. And if our young adults feel the call to ministry, can we support them in their endeavors to go to seminary?

The culture of call is not just limited to young adults. People of all ages and stages of life experience a call into ministry. Let's consider how we encourage that call, and minimize any roadblocks that might exist.

I'd love to hear from you how you are nurturing the call to ministry you are seeing in your congregants! And if you want to talk about creative ways you might be able to implement a culture of call in your congregation, let's talk!

Search—Springs and Pittsburgh

On a personal note:

In November, I accepted a position with MCUSA as Denominational Minister of Education. I'm working part time to strengthen our relationships with MCUSA schools at all levels, and looking out for the places where our curriculum needs to be addressed. It's been a fun role, and I believe that it works well with my job as your Conference Minister. Some of the events I need to attend overlap, so that saves money for both the conference and the denomination.

In February I led a large delegation to Palestine with Mennonite Men and Mennonite Palestine Israel Network. It was a transformative time for all who participated, and personally speaking, I was so relieved to see old friends and share this place I love with 25 passionate folks.

In May, I submitted my book manuscript. The book will be coming out, I'm told in March or April of 2027.

Last year, the Pastor of the Bhutanese Nepali Congregation, Suraj Bhandari, shared with me that his wife, Sushma, was in kidney failure and needed a kidney donor. He asked me to publicize this need in the Miscellany in hopes that someone might donate in her honor. I publicized it, and committed to get tested for a kidney donation—because we must lead by example. As it turns out, I had two very healthy kidneys and was eligible to donate! Sushma received a kidney the day before I was approved to donate, but I decided to move ahead anyway, and donate my kidney to whoever might need it. One month ago today I donated a kidney to someone in PA. I'm feeling good, all things considered. My only frustration is that the energy I feel doesn't match what I can actually do right now. I can't garden or can, and I can't lift anything over ten pounds. I hope you might consider seeing if you are eligible to donate a kidney. It's a small yet powerful thing we can do to save someone's life.

Moderator's report, Aug 1, 2026
Jayne Byler

How quickly 2 years flies by. When I was asked to consider Moderator-elect to move into Moderator more than 4 years ago, I thought, "4 Years! That's a long time!" It is done already! It has been an exciting 4 years. I fortunately inherited a conference that was re-emerging and growing and healthy when I stepped in because of the hard work of the previous moderators, particularly LeAnne Zook and Randy Kolb. There has, as we know, been a lot of change in AMC over the past years. There were moments... long moments it felt... of despair and anxiety about the future viability of AMC.

Having weathered those days, we found ourselves with an unexpected windfall after the sale of the International Guest House. It has been fun to hear the many ways congregations have dispersed these funds into their communities. Then came the transition from Dave to Amy as Conference Minister, and from Kathy to Beth as Conference Administrator. Changes I dreaded having to make, but which have turned out to be amazing gifts to us all. We are attempting to meet the needs of our children and youth through a newly formed YETI (Youth Engagement Team Initiative). The folks on this group have had creative energy to support the connection with Laurelville to give faith shaping camping experiences to all our children and youth that remains Jesus focused and inclusive.

Even as these transitions settled a bit, came the expansion of congregations. From a minimum of 11 to now 18 soon to be 19 and by Nov likely 21 congregations... almost doubling in just a few years. This has raised many questions about who we are, what makes us a place where congregations want to be, and what do these changes mean for our life together? You will see that our agenda today addresses some of these changes and the new energy it brings. We are asking ourselves, what does it mean to be a conference in the age of distrust of institutions and nationalistic pressures to conform to a popular form of Christianity? What does it mean to have to drive almost an entire day to get from one end of the conference to the other? What does it mean to be welcoming congregations, who find our life together something that they want to join? What does it mean for our staffing and financial picture with so much transitioning around and within us?

This weekend is called "Celebration of Congregations". So I want to celebrate:

I celebrate you! Each one of you as individuals and as congregations who choose to be here today. You have taken time in your summer schedule to travel to this wonderful place to join as one body. Each and everyone of you is valued and integral to the ongoing vitality of AMC.

I celebrate that there are so many of "You"! We have maxed out space here and have had to ask the late registrants to find other lodging. We have not had that problem for quite a few years. I recall the early post-Covid years when we wondered if we would be able to cover our costs and worked to fill our spaces.

I celebrate those who have committed themselves to leadership in AMC. From Amy Yoder-McGloughlin our Conference Minister who stepped into that role with gusto and solid theology.

To Beth Dalansky who has been serving for just over a year as our Conference Administrator. Her attention to detail and quick learning of the infinite amount of things to know has helped me stay on top of what I needed to be doing. To Leadership Council who provided steady, thoughtful, committed wisdom to the ongoing work of the conference. The Leadership Council has enjoyed a fair amount of stability over the two years which allows for fewer “cracks” for agenda to fall through. Thanks to Ken Litwiller from University Mennonite, who will very soon step in as your Moderator. To Kirsten Peterson, from Hyattsville Mennonite, who is moving from an at-large LC position to become the Moderator-elect. Then filling that empty position, Alvis Pettker, from Friendship Mennonite, will be joining as a new member. Continuing into the next year will be Tim Martin Johnson who serves as our treasurer, Deb Bergen, from Pittsburgh Mennonite, will be representing us at Constituency Leaders Council. Kim Fox from Scottsdale Mennonite, Lee Good from Community Mennonite, Tom Tennefoss from Grace Fellowship round out the group. And Roo Horst will be coming on board to serve as the Youth Delegate. It is these amazing folks who commit to the wellbeing of AMC, who keep us healthy and thriving.

I celebrate the ongoing connections AMC maintains with the larger church through our continued membership in MCUSA with our participation in Constituency Leaders Council, our connections to Service organizations like MCC, MMN, MDS and Everence. To connections with places of higher education, today represented here by Goshen College and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. To connections and support of other projects like the Soil and the Seed and in the near future to Lighthouse Ministries. To our ongoing connection with this place, Laurelville Retreat Center. You will be hearing from all of these this morning briefly, but I encourage you to visit their tables and chat longer with representatives from those groups. We aren’t trying to do this work on our own but cooperate with those gifted and skilled people beyond our membership.

I celebrate that the wellbeing and safety of all our congregations and their members has been placed at the forefront of our attention through our Conference Safety Liaison, Joy Kreider. She will help us and our pastors stay in touch with how we treat one another with care and respect, and what to do with the trauma that happens among us when we don’t.

I celebrate the ongoing movement of the Holy Spirit as God continues to surprise us each day with a new awareness and a new way of being church together. We don’t know what is coming next. We do know that the Holy Spirit holds us and challenges us and supports us and moves us into that future.

I challenge us all to lean into this future even as our weekend theme challenges, “What is Being Birthed In Us?” To embrace whatever fears we hold about what it will mean for us. To know when to hold on and when to let go... not always an easy discernment. To wrestle with the questions of staffing, geography, and identity as questions of privilege. We are gifted and graced by God to provide the need for these questions.

Thank you for your support of my leadership. It has been a privilege to do my wee bit for the sake of the church and its ministry to proclaim the love and forgiveness of God that we know through Jesus Christ.

This Day We Say Grateful by Jan Richardson

ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE

FY 25-26

BALANCE SHEET

6/30/2026

ASSETS

Somerset Trust

Checking	15,929
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Money Market	72,257
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Steadfast Financial Group

3 CDs	104,000
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cash	515
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TOTAL ASSETS	192,701
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BREAKDOWN OF ASSETS

Payroll Liabilities	2,172
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Hospitality Fund	31,111
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Unrestricted Funds	159,418
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TOTAL	192,701
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ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE
FY 25-26
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Churches	104,622	from 14 churches
Individuals	16,588	from 48 households
Event Offerings	4,145	
Registrations	4,598	
Interest	4,394	

TOTAL INCOME **134,347**

EXPENSES

	Actual Expenses	Budget	%
Resourcing & Education	8,322	3,750	222%
Leadership Council	3,776	7,575	50%
Administrative Expenses	4,755	6,368	75%
Personnel (salaries and benefits)	97,968	95,827	102%
Travel	14,767	10,000	148%
Youth	1,535	3,500	44%
TOTAL EXPENSES	131,123	127,020	103%

SURPLUS **3,224**

NOTE: The above figures do not include the income and expenses related to Celebration. These are reported separately at the November delegate meeting

**ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE
BUDGET FOR FY 2026-2027**

Income

Pastor Resourcing	
Spring Study	5,000
Administrative Yearly Fee	12,500
Contributions from Churches	103,000
Delegate meeting offerings	1,000
Celebration Offerings	3,000
100 for \$10	6,000
Giving Tuesday	1,000
Corporate Give Back proceeds	
Individual Giving - Other	4,000
Interest Income	5,000
Total Income	140,500

Expense

Resourcing & Education

Pastor Resourcing	200
Spring Study	6,000
R&E - Other	100
Total Resourcing & Education	6,300

Leadership Council

CLC Travel Expense	1,500
Travel, LC Retreats, ExC Mtgs	300
Delegate Travel to Convention	750
LC - Other	800
Total Leadership Council	3,350

Administrative Expenses

Postage & PO Box	700
Pay Pal Merchant Fees	850
Other Oper Exp	2,000
Financial Compilation	850
Liability Insurance	880
Directors/Officers Insurance	846
Website	1,650
Total Administrative	7,776

Personnel (salaries and benefits)

Employee Compensation	87,224
Workers Compensation	444
Payroll Service	1,200
Payroll Taxes	3,090
Retirement	8,000
Health Insurance	6,852
Total Personnel	106,810

Travel

CA Travel	100
CM travel	14,000
Total Travel	14,100

Youth

Winterville	700
Summer Camps	900
Total Youth	1,600

Total Expense 139,936