

Allegheny Mennonite Conference (AMC) Update - Sept. 16, 2018

1. The August Gathering at Laurelville focused on acknowledgement of pain and hope from each of our congregations. ALAS and ANEW, we looked at what has brought us to this point in our history and what could launch us into a new future. Centered in Jesus, working collaboratively, developing placed-based ministries in our various neighborhoods – is our vision which we believe can build unity in the midst of our diversity to be disciples who walk in the way of Christ.

2. Feedback from delegates at both Central District Conference and AMC strongly support AMC continuing as our own conference. Financial support from Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and Central District is making it possible for AMC to build a bridge to a solid financial future as staffing and budget priorities are sorted out over the next two years. The gathered adopted a working draft for publication of a new Polity and Purpose Document, describing AMC as a family of siblings. *From the polity statement: "Conference for the congregations in Allegheny is something like a family of siblings. We love each other and are concerned about each other. We want to help each other, but we do not feel a need to control each other. We share a common faith heritage and commitment, as well as a desire for common mission. Being together helps us strengthen those commitments, continue discovering God in significant ways, and define what it means for our walk as Jesus' disciples and Anabaptist Mennonites today."*

3. Financial - With the introduction of the new "administrative fee" of \$500 per congregation, due between July 1 and August 31, Allegheny has experienced the best summertime cash flow in decades. Some congregations used this as an opportunity to increase giving. Some made quarterly contributions early. An early first read of trends shows that we are on track for expending less of our reserves than anticipated, which will help us build toward a fully balanced budget for 2019-20. Thank you to all congregations and donors for your responses. A fund letter is planned to go out in early December which is designed to raise the \$15,000 of receipts called for in our annual spending plan.

4. The next **Faith and Life Gathering** will be held on Saturday, **November 3 at UMC!**

5. Congregations of AMC -
Bhutanese-Nepali Church of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)
Crossroads Community Church (Johnstown, PA))
Grace Fellowship (Greenwood, Delaware)
Hyattsville Mennonite Church (Hyattsville, Maryland)
Masontown Mennonite Church (Masontown, PA)
Morgantown Church of the Brethren (Morgantown, West Virginia)

Philippi Mennonite Church (Philippi, West Virginia)
Pittsburgh Mennonite Church (Pittsburgh, PA)
Scottdale Mennonite Church (Scottdale, PA)
Springs Mennonite Church (Springs, PA)
Stahl Mennonite Church (Johnstown, PA)
University Mennonite Church (State College, PA)

6. UMC Delegates -

Karen Brandes
Joyce Hall
Elaine Mercer
Carl Keener
Leah Lumeya
Gloria Horst Rosenberger
Jim Rosenberger
Ben Wideman (3rd Way Collective Pastor)
Kate Heinzl (Pastor)