



**A message from our
new Board President,
Clair Hochstetler!**



September 2019

Dear Healthcare Colleague:

I was surprised! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship **grabbed my heart!** I did not seek my role as a board member (nor the role of President, as of this month). Yet, I was literally drawn in. Reflecting back, it was the gentle persuasion of the Holy Spirit speaking through a couple of others on the Board. It came after attending my first Annual Gathering in June 2018 where I found my heart “strangely warmed” throughout that weekend. With very little idea of what I had been missing, having worked mostly in the public sphere, I found much to enhance my **professional work**, my **spiritual life**, and my **connection** to others of Anabaptist persuasion.

I appreciate the depth of Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship’s **rich heritage** from Mennonite Medical Association (doctors) and Mennonite Nurses Association (nurses). I appreciate how MHF now intentionally engages a **diversity of professions** including chaplains, social workers, counselors, public health professionals, health sciences educators/researchers, and others in the allied healthcare professions. Our diversity is generational, including students, working professionals, and retirees. It is intercultural, as we reach out overseas. I have witnessed how our staff, the Board and our fellow members are genuinely enthused to explore a diversity of relevant themes such as healthcare ethics, models of care, trauma awareness, ameliorating moral distress, addressing loneliness, maintaining resilience, and building more sustainable models of healthcare, healing, connection, and community.

What binds MHF members together in the midst of all this diversity?

1. Our faith and love of Jesus Christ and our search for what it means to be his **faithful disciples** while engaging in very challenging professional practice.
2. The strength of our **connection** to others with Anabaptist background or theological persuasion.
3. The desire for MHF to become a **highly valued resource** in all our endeavors as practitioners concerned about the health and healing of ourselves and those we serve.

MHF approaches issues from an **interdisciplinary** professional perspective, with a **relational** outlook, and with robust **theological grounding**, MHF seeks connections and intentionally develops the program to attract a wide audience. I hope you will take note on the back of this page of some of the resources for your inspiration, engagement, and sharing with others.

Moving forward into a new year, **we are deeply grateful for your continued support and engagement.** Maybe it is through our website, the Facebook page, by phone or email. Perhaps it is participating in an upcoming Regional Gathering or Meeting (again, see the back of this letter!). Or it could be by sending a note along with your annual membership contribution. Your comments, questions, and ideas are a key to the success of our activities in the coming year. We can’t do all this without you!

Clair Hochstetler
President, MHF Board of Directors

Called to care. Caring to serve.

PO Box 918
Goshen, IN 46527-0918
Phone: 1-888-406-3643

Email: info@mennohealth.org
Web: www.mennohealth.org
Paul D. Leichty, Executive Director

Board of Directors
Clair Hochstetler, President
Joann Hunsberger, Vice-President
Matthew Tieszen, Secretary-Treasurer
Ryan Kauffman

Indigo Miller
Kristopher Schmidt
Lyubov Slashcheva
Wanda Thuma-McDermond