



MENNONITE HEALTHCARE FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL GATHERING

2015

**JULY 19-21
HARRISBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA**





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WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL GATHERING 2015!

We are glad you are here! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is hosting this year's Annual Gathering immediately prior to Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Assembly in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This means that there will be many people from both near and far in our midst. We welcome all of you!

The Planning Committee for this year's Annual Gathering has been called the Harrisburg 2015 Coordinating Committee in light of its additional role in coordinating MHF activities that are a part of Mennonite World Conference. Our thanks go to members of the Committee: Beth Good and Stanley Godshall, co-chairpersons, Rebekah Good Charles, Myrna Eshleman, Phil Moyer, Joanne Speigle, and Paul Leichy, MHF Staff.

Setting & Lodging



The staff at the **Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel** have worked with the MHF staff to provide a setting appropriate for our meetings. Registrants who are staying at the Sheraton, both for the Annual Gathering and for Mennonite World Conference Assembly, help to offset the cost of MHF's meeting space. May we be respectful and thankful guests and show our appreciation

to all of the hotel staff. Questions about sleeping room accommodations should be made to hotel staff in the lobby.

Registration

Each adult registrant should check in at the registration table in the Commonwealth Foyer which will be staffed throughout the Annual Gathering. There is a packet of materials for each registrant which includes this program booklet, a name badge, and other information about MHF and the Annual Gathering.

Carrie Hartzler Bhandari, MHF Administrative Assistant, is in charge of the registration table. She and Paul Leichty, Executive Director, will be assisted by members of the Board and the Coordinating Committee as well as a number of student assistants. These people will all have special designations on their name badges to identify them. Please feel free to share your questions and concerns with them at any time.

Meals

All meals will be served buffet style at the back of the Commonwealth Ballroom, Salons AB where all plenary sessions will also be held. Those who signed up for meals should come through the meal line within the designated hour for meal time. This will allow hotel staff to be able to clean up with minimum disruption to the plenary sessions.

Continuing Education Units

This year, through the cooperation of Eastern Mennonite University's Lancaster campus, Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship is able to offer continuing education units for nurses at a cost of \$25/person. Those who signed up for these units can receive their certificates at the registration table upon completion of their evaluation forms.

Children and Youth Program

Families are an important part of the MHF Annual Gathering. Participants in this year's Children and Youth Program will have opportunity to participate in various indoor and outdoor activities that explore the Annual Gathering theme "**Walking Together for Healthy Communities.**"

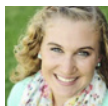
The **Pennsylvania Ballroom** is the headquarters for the Children's Program. **On-site nursery care** for infants and toddlers (0-2) will be provided in this space during all plenary and workshop sessions. After breakfast on Monday, children ages 3 and above will be transported to **Slate Hill Mennonite Church**, about 15 minutes away. They will return mid-afternoon after the adult workshops. A sack lunch meal will be sent along out of the meals fee paid at registration. **Parents should see an additional information sheet in your packets.**

INFORMATION

Leaders of Children and Youth Program



Rachael Zimmerman is Coordinator of the Children and Youth Program at Annual Gathering 2015. She lives with her husband, Chris, and children Jackson and Sarina, in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. They attend Slate Hill Mennonite Church where Rachael serves on the Christian Education Commission as well as leads youth clubs and teaches children's Sunday school classes. In her spare time she enjoys giving living history presentations and historical lectures.



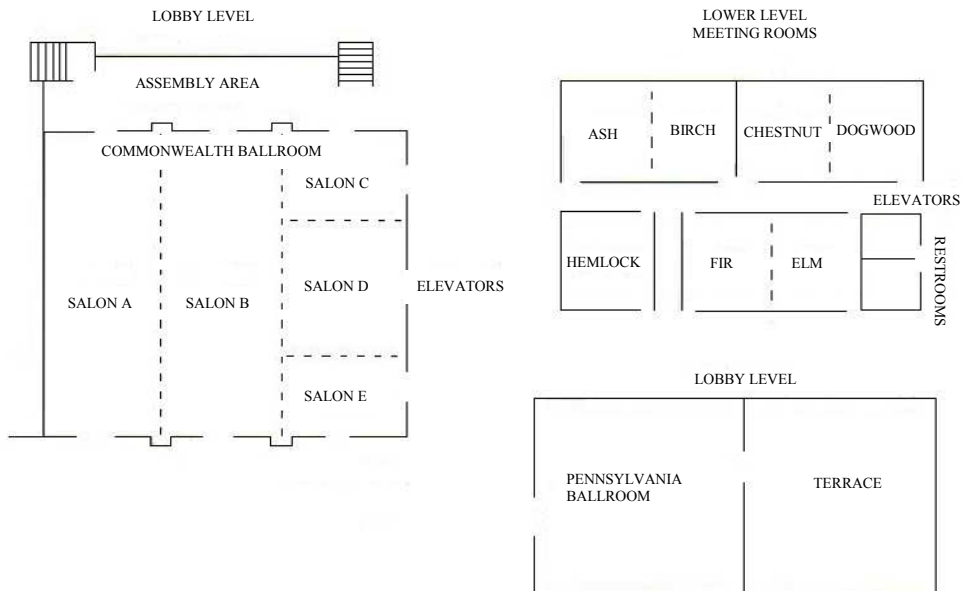
Elise Petersheim is Assistant Coordinator of the Children and Youth Program. She graduated from Cumberland Valley High School in the spring of 2015 and will be attending Lee University in the fall as an elementary education major.

Displays

Please visit the Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship display in the Commonwealth Foyer area during the Annual Gathering. A number of the plenary session and workshop presenters will also have displays which will give you more information on their organizations and ministries.

Map

Conference and meeting rooms are shown below.



Sheraton
Harrisburg-Hershey
HOTEL

4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 717-564-5511 Fax: 717-564-2476

SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 19

3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration – Commonwealth Ballroom Assembly Area

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reception / Light Meal – Commonwealth Ballroom Assembly Area

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Worship / Plenary Session - Commonwealth Ballroom Salons AB
“The Jesus Stories...what’s for lunch?” Ted & Company

9:00 – 10:30 p.m. Post-session Fellowship and Networking Time

Monday, July 20

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Worship / Plenary Session – Commonwealth Ballroom Salons AB
“Health Care Delivery to the Poor: A Personal Calling” Ann Thyle

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Morning Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Workshop Session 1

Workshop Title	Presenter	Room
Health Care Delivery to the Poor	Ann Thyle	Salon C
A Little One Shall Lead Them	David Gullman	Chestnut/Dogwood
Engaging Congregations in Health Ministries	Linda E. Witmer	Salon E
Reducing Maternal Mortality in Tanzania	Bwire Chirangi	Ash/Birch
Chasing Goosebumps	Ted & Company	Elm/Fir

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Workshop Session 2

Workshop Title	Presenter	Room
Health Care Delivery to the Poor	Ann Thyle	Salon C
A Little One Shall Lead Them	David Gullman	Chestnut/Dogwood
Climate Change: Solutions...	Catherine Thomasson	Salon D
Responding to the Challenges of HIV/AIDS	Maurice Anyanga	Salon E
Chasing Goosebumps	Ted & Company	Elm/Fir

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Workshop Session 3

Workshop Title	Presenter	Room
Engaging Congregations in Health Ministries	Linda E. Witmer	Salon E
Reducing Maternal Mortality in Tanzania	Bwire Chirangi	Ash/Birch
Climate Change: Solutions...	Catherine Thomasson	Salon D
Gun Violence: A Public Health Problem	Kauffman & Book	Salon C

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Free time

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Banquet and Plenary Session - Commonwealth Ballroom Salons AB
“Another Way of Doing Life” Shane Claiborne

SCHEDULE

9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Hymnsing - Commonwealth Ballroom Salons AB

Tuesday, July 21

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45 a.m. **Workshops / Roundtable Discussions**

Workshop or Roundtable Title	Presenter/Convener	Room
Responding to the Challenges of HIV/AIDS	Maurice Anyanga	Chestnut/Dogwood
Gun Violence: A Public Health Problem	Kauffman & Book	Elm/Fir
Responding to Climate Change	Godshall, Slashcheva	Salon C
Team Congo – IMHA	Nickel	Salon D
Meet the Board	Lehman	Salon E
To be determined		Ash/Birch

9:45 – 10:15 a.m. Morning Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Closing Plenary Session – Worship with Communion – Commonwealth Ballroom Salons AB

“Discovering Healthy Communities through the Broken Body” David Gullman

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

WORSHIP

Each plenary session during Annual Gathering 2015 begins with a time of worship. Leading worship this year are Nan Garber and Jane Hooper Peiffer.

Worship and Music Leaders



Nan S. Garber, Bainbridge, Pennsylvania

Nan Garber lives near Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, twenty miles west of the city of Lancaster. She is a spiritual director, retreat leader, congregational and contemplative music leader, and part-time hospital chaplain. She is also the mother of six young adult children and grandmother to five little people. Nan is nurtured by silence and nature and is sometimes found clearing brush or creating paths to develop retreat capabilities on their property, Conoy Creek Hideaway.



Jane Hooper Peifer, MDiv, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Jane retired from 24 years of pastoral ministry in September of 2013, having served most recently as pastor at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She was first trained as an Elementary Education teacher and completed both her Bachelors and Masters of Divinity degrees at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Virginia. In May 2014, she completed Spiritual Direction training at Kairos and is building a practice of offering spiritual companionship for individuals as well as retreats for leadership groups and congregations. Jane is author of five children's books; the most recent title is "The Family Song" released in 2008. She is married to Daryl and they have two children and five grandchildren. Currently she pursues her love of music by playing upright bass in the Blossom Hill String Band.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Sunday evening, July 19

Session Theme: **“The Jesus Stories...what’s for lunch?”**

Special Performance by **Ted and Company**, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Healthy communities walk together and eat together! So...what’s for lunch? There are many stories of Jesus that are gathered around the table. There was food to eat and food for thought, exploring who was invited to those tables and who showed up. The miracles of Jesus were sometimes ordinary stories with extraordinary results. In **The Jesus Stories**, writers and performers, Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught, offer a fresh look at the Gospel stories and discover that when uncorked, these stories pour out sparkling drops of laughter that Jesus must have found in the people he met along the way. A healthy community is one that knows the difference between solemn and serious, and Ted and Jeff are serious about the value of laughter. Healthy communities are also generous communities, and **The Jesus Stories** is gently subversive in asking, “Who gets to sit at our tables?”

Monday morning, July 20

Session Theme: **“Health Care Delivery to the Poor: A Personal Calling”**

Speaker: **Ann Thyle**, MD, New Delhi, India

Ann Thyle was a young postgraduate anesthesiologist on a career path towards being the next department head in a large teaching hospital. Then, she did the unthinkable in the minds of her colleagues. She chose to work in a small mission hospital at the foothills of the Himalayas. After being the only trained anesthesiologist for 16 hospitals and the only woman doctor at the hospital responsible for caring for all the women and children, she re-trained in obstetrics/gynecology to be better equipped to care for the maternal and neonatal complications she was encountering. In 2009, she received further education as a palliative medicine physician in order to pioneer hospice care in rural north India. Her presentation will focus on how the Spirit led her and her family in this journey through innumerable miracles and God-moments to fulfill God’s plan for their lives.

Monday evening, July 20

Session Theme: **“Another Way of Doing Life”**

Speaker: **Shane Claiborne**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Christians are meant to be radical non-conformists, interrupting the patterns of our world with prophetic imagination – a holy counterculture. Shane will share stories of contemporary communities who are living with beautiful creativity and sometimes getting in a little trouble for it. After all, the Kingdom of God is not just something we hope for when we die, but something that we are to bring on earth as it is in heaven.

Tuesday Morning, July 21

Closing Worship and Communion

Session Theme: **“Discovering Healthy Communities through the Broken Body”**

Speaker: **David Gullman**, Broadway, Virginia

When we include the Eucharist as central to our faith practices we discover the image of Jesus as the one whose body is broken for us. Thus, healthy communities cannot be defined by only those whose bodies are whole. We are all broken individuals brought together through the broken body of Jesus and we must make room for the most vulnerable among us in order to truly experience the kind of health Jesus exemplified.

WORKSHOPS

Theme: “Walking Together for Healthy Communities”

Health Care Delivery to the Poor: A Personal Calling – Ann Thyle

Ann Thyle will follow up her plenary presentation by sharing further on how the Lord blessed her journey from a promising young postgraduate anesthesiologist to living out the vision of Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) “to serve the poor and marginalized in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ.” She will also share further about her passion for justice for the poor and her current pioneering work as a palliative care physician working to set up hospice care in villages near EHA hospitals for terminally ill persons who are often virtually invisible and neglected by the healthcare system and society.

A Little One Shall Lead Them: Reimagining Leadership on the Journey Toward Health – David Gullman

As we embrace the journey toward God’s Shalom, we discover that it is the little ones, the powerless ones, the foolish ones, the vulnerable ones who will show us the way. Recognizing the state of our reality both nationally and internationally, this workshop will focus on the implications of this vision of leadership for the church and society as we know it today.

Engaging Congregations in Health Ministries – Linda E. Witmer

Congregations can be central to a holistic health ministry which develops specific programs to meet congregational needs. Out of her background as a nurse, mission leader, community developer, educator, and spiritual director in both Guatemala and the U.S., Linda Witmer shares ideas and insights on engaging congregations in health ministries.

Reducing Maternal Mortality in Rural Tanzania – Bwire Chirangi

Dr. Chirangi, chief medical officer at Shirati DMK Hospital in Tanzania will share the results of a recent study in which he participated and co-authored an article published in *Health Care for Women International* entitled, “Women’s Health in Women’s Hands: Pilot Study Assessing the Feasibility of Providing Women with medications to Reduce Postpartum Hemorrhage and Sepsis in Rural Tanzania.” The full article is available on PubMed at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24786175

Climate Change: Solutions to Global Health Threats – Catherine Thomasson

Climate change is already harming our health. The very young, old, laborers, chronically ill, low income, and other disadvantaged groups are most impacted. The good news is that solutions to climate change will reap immediate health benefits: lower air and water pollution and more livable cities. Hear how you can help make a healthy, fossil free future a reality. Catherine Thomasson, MD, is Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. PSR was a 1985 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Responding to the Challenges of HIV/AIDS – Maurice Odhiambo Anyanga

This workshop will focus on the contribution of the Kenya Mennonite Church to the challenging and complex fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Gun Violence: A Public Health Problem – J. Fred Kauffman & Curtis W. Book

Gun violence is a public health problem in the United States. The workshop will look at the roots and the magnitude of gun violence in the USA and some of its international dimensions. It will invite the audience to identify strategies to address gun violence.

WORKSHOPS

Chasing Goosebumps – Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught

In the creation of art, when an idea, image, or thought gives you a shiver, this is a sign the creative spirit is at work. When it happens within a comedic deconstruction of biblical text, it results in a special kind of goosebump. Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught will lead the group through a unique journey in chasing that particular phenomenon.



SAVE THE DATE!

MHF Annual Gathering 2016

June 17-19, 2016

YMCA of the Rockies

Estes Park, Colorado

Begin making your plans now! Because of the significant lead time required by the YMCA of the Rockies, reservations for meals and lodging will begin soon. The early registration deadline will be December 17, 2015.

mennohealth.org/annual-gathering-2016

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



Maurice Odhiambo Anyanga, Nairobi, Kenya, is the MCC Kenya Generation program coordinator for the past 12 years, following four years of work in the peace building and rehabilitation program of MCC. He is holder of a High diploma in Theological Studies and a Degree in Development Studies. Having seen some persons with HIV regain health and others die, he is convinced that a vigorous education program on the major underlying causes of HIV infection is key to controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS. Maurice is the husband of Zawadi and they have three children ranging in age from 11 to 18 years old. His hobbies include gardening, listening to Gospel music, singing, and reading.



Curtis W. Book, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, worked with Brethren in Christ World Missions for 23 years in the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, and Colombia doing pastoral leadership development before becoming Peace & Justice Coordinator for MCC East Coast in 2008. Curtis and his wife Leslie live in Philadelphia and are members of the Circle of Hope Church. Curtis enjoys cycling, carpentry, reading and puzzles.



Bwire Chirangi, Shirati, Tanzania, works at Shirati KMT Hospital as a Medical Practitioner attending patients for medical and surgical health services as well as serving as Medical Superintendent (Medical Director). He has been involved for a number of years as a researcher in the “Saving Mothers Project,” is the founder and facilitator of a program with Maastricht University of the Netherlands to bring senior medical students to Shirati, and is a Voluntary Clinical Instructor in the Department of Reproductive Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. With Masters Degrees in Science and Public Health, his interests include reduction of maternal death, community health education and prevention activities, human & institutional capacity building, and playing soccer.



Shane Claiborne's adventures have taken him from the streets of Calcutta where he worked with Mother Teresa to the wealthy suburbs of Chicago where he served at the influential mega-church Willow Creek. As a peacemaker, his journeys have taken him to some of the most troubled regions of the world – from Rwanda to the West Bank – and he's been on peace delegations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Shane is a founder and board member of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped birth and connect radical faith communities around the world. He writes and travels extensively speaking about peacemaking, social justice, and Jesus. His books are translated into more than a dozen languages. More information is at Shane's website at redletterchristians.org/shane/.



David Gullman, Broadway, Virginia, is a chaplain and pastor in the Harrisonburg, Virginia area. He and his wife Debbie are parents of two children, John and Hannah. Hannah has Down syndrome and has opened many windows on the world of persons with disabilities. Dave is a pastor to over 130 individuals with disabilities at Pleasant View, Inc., an agency that serves people with disabilities in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Virginia where he has served for over 14 years. He also serves as a co-pastor to a small rural Mennonite church in Timberville, Virginia.



J. Fred Kauffman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his wife, Minh Kauffman worked with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for 14 years in Guatemala, India, Cambodia and Vietnam; and Fred served for six years as MCC Program Coordinator for the Philadelphia Urban Program. They have two adult sons

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

who live in Philadelphia. In 2009, Fred helped launch Heeding God's Call, a faith-based gun violence prevention organization in Philadelphia. He enjoys linguistics, wood working, and playing guitar. He currently serves as Interim Pastor at Methacton Mennonite Church, Norristown, Pennsylvania.



Jeff Raught is a storyteller at heart. Seated at the piano as a musician or on stage as an actor, he brings his love of story to a unique artistic dimension--because it matters how the story is told. Jeff has been faithfully noodling in and around humor, music, theater, and stories for many years. His work as a composer has taken him deeper into these stories in ways he didn't expect. He has performed in various theater productions but most recently has co-written music and shows with Ted Swartz/Ted & Co. Jeff and his wife, Cindy, call Talmage, Pennsylvania home these days. To learn more about Jeff visit www.jeffraught.com.



Ted Swartz, writer, actor and owner of Ted & Company, graduated from seminary and embarked on a 20-year ministry that has taken him, not to a pulpit in a congregation, but to audiences across this country and beyond. Blending poignancy and humor with biblical story, Ted has an uncanny ability to bring archaic biblical characters to life in a way that helps us identify with people who were at one time only names in a big Book. It's through this portrayal of biblical characters, and through real life characters who have lost faith or question the role of the church, that comedy emerges and audiences see God's story (and their own) in a whole new light. Ted lives in Harrisonburg, Virginia with his wife, Sue, and has three grown sons, three grown daughters-in-law, and two amazing granddaughters.



Catherine Thomasson, MD, Washington, DC, is the executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. She has been advocating for climate solutions for twenty years--hoping for a healthier future for her son and the ability to hike, play tennis and kayak in a pollution free world!



Dr. Ann Thyle, MD, New Delhi, India, is a Consultant in Anesthesia, Pain & Palliative Care for the Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA), which includes several hospitals with Mennonite roots among its members. She joined EHA as an anesthesiologist in 1981 and was based at a small mission hospital at the foothills of the Himalayas. Later she received further medical training in obstetrics/gynecology and, in 2009, in palliative medicine. Her current work involves planning, fundraising, and implementation of palliative care services in ten EHA hospitals, focusing mainly on people with life-limiting illness and based in rural north India where palliative care services are few or non-existent. She and her husband, Sydney, an ophthalmologist with EHA, have two daughters, a son, and a two-year-old grandson. Her hobbies include cooking, sewing, reading, and caring for her household.



Linda E. Witmer, MPH, M.Div., RN, spent 23 years in Guatemala serving with the K'ekchi' Mennonite Church under MCC and EMM. She helped develop and administer a health program which prepared village health workers, midwives, and dental workers to serve their congregations and communities. Presently she is involved at Laurel Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, PA and teaches at EMU Lancaster in the nursing program. She is chair of the Faith-Based Health Ministries Network for central PA and provides support and continuing education for faith community nurses. She is also a certified spiritual director and offers retreat space in her home.

ABOUT OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Global Health Care Leaders Summit

Under the theme, “Stronger Together: Creating a Global Network of Anabaptist Health Care Leaders” Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is sponsoring this “Summit” July 20-21, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in nearby Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Planned by Mennonite Health Services Alliance on behalf of MWC, the Summit is an invitational conference of administrators and board members of Mennonite healthcare-related institutions as well as other leaders. The specific goal of the MWC Summit is to formulate a recommendation to Mennonite World Conference General Council and Mission Commission on establishing a global network of Anabaptist health care organizations. Because the Summit begins on Monday noon, Summit participants have been invited to attend the Monday morning sessions of the MHF Annual Gathering. MHF will also send two representatives to the specific discussions on the proposed global network.

Mennonite World Conference Assembly

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is made up of Mennonite-related church bodies from around the world. A large international Assembly is held every six years in a different part of the world. The Assembly is being held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg and begins on Tuesday afternoon, July 21 and runs through Sunday morning, July 26. Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship has appreciated the cooperation of MWC staff, in particular, local coordinator, Howard Good, in helping with arrangements with the Sheraton so that MHF could hold its Annual Gathering immediately prior to the MWC Assembly.

Healthcare Workers Meeting

All healthcare workers attending Mennonite World Conference are invited to a special **Healthcare Workers Dinner Meeting**, Thursday, July 23, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Monongahela Room at the Farm Show Complex. The evening meal will be provided. If you haven't signed up previously, please add your name to the list at the MHF Annual Gathering Registration Table in the Commonwealth Foyer at the Sheraton so that we know how much food to order. Reports on healthcare ministries will be given by the sponsoring organizations which include Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship, Mennonite Central Committee and International Mennonite Health Association.

Please contact the MHF office at any time with your ideas, comments, questions, and concerns:



Mennonite
Healthcare
Fellowship

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