



## Greetings from Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship!

As a **healthcare professional** and Anabaptist **Christian**, you have probably pondered how to integrate those two aspects of your life. In the next 12 months, you will have the opportunity to nurture and express that integration through **Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship** and its **Annual Gathering 2016, June 17-19, 2016 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado**. Please allow me to tell you how you can support and participate in this effort even now.

**First, a word about Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship itself.** MHF is an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals which seeks to nurture the integration of faith and practice, to provide opportunities for dialogue on health related issues, and to address specific needs through education, advocacy, and service. MHF is open to the whole gamut of healthcare professions, including medical, mental health, chaplaincy, and education.

**The Annual Gathering** is the most visible way in which the mission of MHF is carried out. Annual Gathering combines aspects of a professional convention and a family-oriented retreat. **Plenary sessions** feature presentations and discussions on an overall theme beginning with a time of worship which includes plenty of singing. **Workshop sessions** allow for discussions on a variety of topics of interest. A **Children and Youth Program** is provided to encourage families to attend and time is provided for recreation and networking.

**The weekend is planned** by a Planning Committee made up of healthcare professionals and resourced by the staff of MHF. Most of the work of the Committee is done via email and phone/computer conferencing. However, a geographically based committee allows for the possibility of a face-to-face meeting or at least some acquaintance with each other and with the chosen venue.

**Annual Gathering 2016 in Estes Park** is an attempt to reach out to members and prospective members west of the Mississippi River where MHF has fewer contacts. MHF would also like the majority of the Planning Committee to reflect the region and the potential audience. Thus, MHF is seeking volunteers from a variety of healthcare professions and at various stages in their careers (students, practicing professionals, retirees) to help plan Annual Gathering 2016.

**Most of the Committee's work** is from late summer through December 2015 and involves email correspondence and Internet or phone conference call meetings. Responsibilities include meeting attendance, prompt response to emails, making contacts with speakers and other resource persons as assigned, and planning of different aspects of the weekend program.

**If you have interest** in being a part of this Annual Gathering Planning Committee, please contact Paul Leichty, MHF Executive Director, at [info@mennohealth.org](mailto:info@mennohealth.org) or by calling toll free, 1-888-406-3643. You are also invited to learn more about Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship by visiting the website at [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org).

**Called to care. Caring to serve.**

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