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Guidelines for Regional Coordinators

Rationale:

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship seeks to foster the integration of faith and practice among Anabaptist-related healthcare professionals. Relationships with others is a key method for doing that and also stimulates interest in membership and further involvement in MHF as an organization. Regional Coordinators, especially in areas where there are a cluster of members, can help those members relate to each other through Regional Meetings and other regional activities and networking.

Goals:

The primary goal of the regional structure is to bring the organization to its target audience through Regional Meetings, providing a place where they can interact directly with their peers on matters of common concern including ethical issues, personal emotional health, and health care delivery. Strong secondary goals are to interest and involve members in other MHF resources (including *Mennonite Health Journal* and the Annual Gathering), to encourage regional activities and networking, and to increase membership.

Organization:

One or two Regional Coordinators in each community are envisioned for multiple communities in the US, starting with Mennonite centers. Those coordinators, appointed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Board, will initiate and oversee regular Regional Meetings designed to provide dialogue in varied ways and on a variety of issues. Regional Coordinators will also be the face of the organization in their communities, promoting MHF and its activities, and serving as a communication channel.

Regional Meetings:

1. One or two Regional Meetings should be held each year.
2. The venue can be a church, a home, or a medical or educational facility.
3. The topics addressed should be of broad interest to healthcare providers, presented in an interactive way, and when possible using local resource persons.
4. Publicity can be arranged through professional newsletters, church bulletins, or any other usual vehicle for communicating such events.
5. One of the Regional Coordinators would ordinarily host and moderate the program which typically would last 90 minutes.
6. An MHF table display and membership materials should be present at all meetings.
7. Communication regarding the Annual Gathering as well as the opportunity for scholarships and grants (SET, etc.) should be shared regularly.
8. More details on document "Regional Meeting Planning Guidelines" from MHF Office.

Other Activities for Regional Coordinators:

1. Encourage MHF members in their community to contribute funds for the following:
 - a. Gift MHF memberships for new members, especially students.
 - b. Financial assistance to first time attenders to an Annual Gathering to offset lodging and registration expenses
2. Publicize and promote the MHF Annual Gathering.
3. Call attention to MHF publications such as the monthly *MHF Update* and the quarterly *Mennonite Health Journal*.
4. File a brief report of each Regional Meeting with the MHF Office.
5. Invite prospective members, especially students and young professionals to MHF activities and resources.
6. Encourage mentoring relationships between older and younger professionals.
7. Keep in touch with the MHF Office via email.
8. Participate in MHF social media as time and interest permit.