



A letter from our President
September 2018
Moving Forward. Reaching Out

Dear Supporter of Menonite Healthcare Fellowship,

In the daily humdrum of clinical practice, family responsibilities, and various projects that we undertake, it sometimes feels like we are preventing crises or treading water rather than meaningfully **moving toward our goals**. Especially when emerging priorities compete for our attentive energy, it is necessary to put the to-do list out of sight, still our minds, and look back on the progress that has been made in gratitude and joy, celebrating the journey with others.

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Menonite Healthcare Fellowship celebrate another program year of realizing our mission through organizational initiatives and resources. **Mutual support** and **mentoring** were shared during Annual Gathering 2018 on the theme of "Stories of Healing," held at Bluffton University. Recordings of the plenary sessions are available on the MHF website (mennohealth.org/webinars), and *Menonite Health Journal* articles flowing from the Gathering are being posted to the website. **Education** opportunities spanned webinar and in-person platforms, including a presentation by Timothy Jost, JD, and panel on the topic of "The Affordable Care Act under the Trump Administration." **Mobilization for service** grants supported four students to experience a Student Elective Term (SET) and one professional to engage in a cross-cultural project through the Steven Roth Memorial Grant Program. Several persons who served at Shirati KMT Hospital in Tanzania recently presented their reflections in a webinar-based panel discussion. This webinar established a format by which other service grant cohorts may reflect and share about the impact of their service experiences.

Transitions in staff have offered the opportunity to thank past employees for their work and welcome new expertise to the Administrative Assistant role. The retirement of several board members encouraged us to reflect on the legacy they leave to new incoming leadership. **MHF is a steward of the heritage** of the medical and nursing predecessor organizations. At the same time, we are also **intentionally engaging a diversity** of professions, including chaplains, public health professionals, health sciences educators/researchers, and those in allied healthcare professions. Utilizing this diverse perspective base, MHF intentionally structures its program development to **serve an ever-broader audience**. That diversity is generational, including students, working professionals, and retirees. It is cultural and theological as young Anabaptists within plain groups join this movement which our forebears started in the 1940's. We are excited to continue exploration of themes such as healthcare ethics, models of care, trauma awareness, and even loneliness and community.

As we **move forward** into a new fiscal year, we want to **reach out** to thank you for your continued support and engagement. Whether through our website, the Facebook page, by phone, or email, your comments and questions are always welcome and are a key to the success of our activities in the coming year.

Serving and caring together,
Lyubov Slashcheva, DDS, FABSCD
President of the MHF Board of Directors

Called to care. Caring to serve.

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