



## WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA ASSEMBLY REPORT

2022

**2021-22 Campus Theme Passage** - This year's verse is Ephesians 4:2-3, (NIV). This passage invites us to live a collective life of *humility, gentleness, patience, and love*. All this while striving for a form of *unity* only the Holy Spirit can frame. The central idea of the book of Ephesians is Christian unity. As we continue moving forward as a college, our Christian unity must not go unchecked. We must be intentional in our relationships. Allow me to share some reflections on this year's theme passage: **Verse 2a** - "be completely humble and gentle" - It starts with a personal check. Ask: "How's my attitude? In what areas am I not humble and gentle?" **Verse 2b** - "bear one another in love." After your personal check, reflect on your relationships with others. Ask: "How are my relationships? Where in my relationships is there a lack of love? Where do I need to extend greater patience?" **Verse 3** - "Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Finally, as you adjust your personal and relational realities, strive to live in perfect unity - the unity that is a fragile gift from the Holy Spirit. Ask, "Do I experience unity and peace with God and with others?" Remember that God continues walking with us in love and encourages us to do likewise with others.

**Vision 2025 Update** - Vision 2025 represents Hesston College's current and future plans of programmatic innovation. This plan includes bolstering our historical associate degree and student experience, while also launching select bachelor's degree programs that answer the call of students and industry. This spring we secured accreditation for our fourth bachelor's program, which is in Engineering. This adds to our existing bachelor's degrees in nursing, aviation and business management.

**Strategic Plan & Campus Master Plan** - In the spring of 2021 we launched a new strategic plan, which can be found at [www.hesston.edu/strategic-plan](http://www.hesston.edu/strategic-plan). The theme of the strategic plan is linked to the concept of Ubuntu, which is a Nguni Bantu term that roughly translates to "I am because we are." As a Mennonite college for all, Hesston will "educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community." Our strategic plan foregrounds that commitment. From strengthening our existing programs to the realization of an Ubuntu Village, our way of educating and nurturing takes place in the community. This is the embodiment of ubuntu.

**CALL Program** - Hesston College's Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) trains church leaders out of an identity of being God's beloved to engage the world God loves. CALL focuses on the Missional model, which equips every follower of Christ to live with sacred purpose by enabling them to do ministry and mission in their daily lives as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Missional model of leadership looks for sacred opportunities in the secular rather than thinking the secular needs to come to our church building to find Christ. Partnering with global and urban Anabaptists, we nurture disciple-makers who cultivate other disciple-makers.

**Donation to Schools of Management and Engineering** - Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from an alumni family, our business management and engineering students will be able to pursue two of our newest bachelor's degree programs more affordably. For the first twenty juniors enrolled in our School of Engineering, a nearly \$10,000 room and board grant will be available. For the first twenty juniors enrolled in our School of Management, a nearly \$10,000 travel grant will be available, covering all expenses for domestic and international trips affiliated with the Business Management degree. incentive. For more information email [admissions@hesston.edu](mailto:admissions@hesston.edu) or call 620-327-4221.

**Travel** - Thailand: President Manickam accompanied the director of the Business Management Program and seven juniors to Thailand from April 7-28, 2022. This trip pulled together many of the elements and theories the junior cohort has been studying including *Entrepreneurship for the Greater Good* and *Business Ethics* courses. They also visited a number of socially minded enterprises students have personally selected to study, on which the students gave oral presentations along the journey.

Europe: Chorale will present a music program entitled "Shine the Light" at twelve churches in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and France between May 17 and June 7, 2022. Learn more at [www.hesston.edu/music](http://www.hesston.edu/music).

Indonesia: President Manickam will be in attendance at Mennonite World Conference in July on behalf of Hesston College. Please feel free to connect with him if you plan to attend this unifying global event.

### Ways You Can Pray for Hesston College -

- Pray for our students to have clarity of thought in their studies, wisdom in the decisions they make, and kindness in their relationships;
- That the business management students will gain a deeper and clearer vision for the positive impact they can have as entrepreneurs grounded in a Gospel ethic; that the new friends they encountered in Thailand will gain hope that their stories and struggles have the power to impact young entrepreneurs toward a greater good; and that the students will encounter the face, hands, and feet of Jesus on their journey;
- Pray for our faculty and staff as they prepare our students to live by their Christian values which will enable them to make a greater impact on our world.

**Speakers Bureau** - Needing to fill the pulpit or identify a dynamic speaker for a lecture series in your community or congregation? From Leadership to Missiology or Creation Care to Faith and Discipleship, Hesston College can help! Contact our VP of Advancement, Dr. Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, at [rachelsm@hesston.edu](mailto:rachelsm@hesston.edu) to explore potential speaker options that could fit well with your preferred topic, dates and audience.

### Western District Conference Connections:

We are blessed to have some wonderful students at Hesston College from four of your conference congregations:

Alyssa Burkholder, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS;  
Shelby Bontrager, Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler, KS;  
Derick Fonseca, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS; and  
Porclein Unruh, Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS.

**Unified and Designated Giving** - We are grateful for the financial support of the Western District Conference and the affiliating conference congregations. Donations made directly to Hesston College or to the Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving are amazing blessings. Our mission "to educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community, integrating thought, life and faith for service to others in the church and the world," would not be possible without your personal and congregational financial support. Thank you!

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, President  
Dr. Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, VP of Advancement  
Andrew Sharp & Lisa Longacher, Development Officers  
Christina Wankum, Malaree Hood & Zachary Yoder, Admissions Representatives