

2024 REPORT TO WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MHS Association Mission Statement

Anchored in Anabaptist values, MHS inspires and strengthens health and human service ministries to fulfill their missions.

MHS Association Vision Statement

MHS is the go-to leader for integrating faith and work in health and human services.

The following members have ties to Western District Conference:

- Bethesda Home, Goessel, Kansas
- Parkside Homes Inc. Hillsboro, KS
- Bluestem Communities North Newton, KS
(Includes Kidron Bethel North Newton, KS
& Schowalter Village, Hesston, KS)
- Mennonite Friendship Communities, South
Hutchinson, Kansas
- Prairie View, Newton, KS

Activities

- MHS Assembly has been gathering leadership of Anabaptist health and human service ministries since 1952. The 2024 MHS Assembly was held March 12-14 in Savannah, GA, with a theme of Building Up. Featured keynote speakers included Dr. Betty Pries, Dr. Michaela O'Donnell, Chad Horning, and Jeremy Kauffman. Each day's agenda included break-out sessions and opportunities for networking. For information on next year's Assembly planned for March 18-20, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, visit our website mhs-association.org. All are welcome to attend.
- MHS Association provides monthly webinars on a variety of governance, workforce development, leadership, and faith and work topics. These webinars are free and open to anyone interested. Registration for upcoming webinars can be accessed via our website.
- MHS Association members continue to appreciate tools and resources to support their ministries. These tools include a Board Assessment, a CEO Assessment, and an Employee Engagement survey. Members can interact with each other through network groups and regional peer gatherings. MHS Association provides many other informational resources for learning and education, and for connecting with our Anabaptist faith and values.
- MHS Consulting serves MHS Association members and nonmembers in the health and human services sector; primarily providing resources in governance, executive searches, executive coaching, interim placement, strategic planning and positioning, and operational, financial, and market assessments. Our services are available to churches, conferences, church agencies, and other nonprofit organizations.
- The MHS Association Board of Directors and MHS Association Staff continue to advance the diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion (JEDI) initiatives. Read Confessions from our Journey Toward Belonging Rooted in Justice, written by MHS Association COO, Clare Krabill, to learn more about our JEDI journey thus far.
- MHS Association annually offers two educational scholarships. The Elmer Ediger Memorial scholarship is given to four students in programs of study in the field of behavioral health or developmental disabilities. Each scholarship is \$3,000. The Miller-Erb scholarship is given to two undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The application window for both scholarship programs opens in January and closes on March 15. Potential applicants can email info@mhs-association.org with questions.
- Does Faith Make a Difference? MHS Association wanted to understand how CEOs of Anabaptist agencies respond to this question. Through a video series of interviews and testimonials members

explored these questions and discussed issues of faith within the organizations they serve. These videos are available at mhs-association.org/faith-work/

For Thanksgiving and Prayer

- Continued prayer for staffing retention and recruitment. Finding and keeping qualified and compassionate employees is a significant concern for MHS Association member organizations and the vulnerable populations they serve across the country.
- We are grateful for the financial gifts, gifts in kind, prayer, and volunteer support to our member organizations.

MHS Association is the health and human services network of Anabaptist ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. MHS Association seeks to integrate faith and work for its member organizations while inspiring and strengthening them to fulfill their missions. This 73-member Association represents senior living organizations such as retirement communities or stand-alone housing, physical and intellectual disability services, mental/behavioral health, addiction and counseling services, homeless programs, child welfare/foster care/adoption services, and a hospital system. As a network of Anabaptist organizations, we work to inspire unique collaborations (employee health and liability insurance programs, network groups, annual MHS Assembly, and regional partnerships), promote our shared values through leadership and governance training and education programs, and provide faith-grounded strategic business tools and resources to advance each member's health and human services mission (webinars, newsletters, leadership training, consulting services, etc.)

MHS Association members are connected to various denominations and conferences across the greater Anabaptist network of churches. MHS Association membership is voluntary. Many MHS Association members have historic ties to a church, conference, or former Mennonite agencies (MCC, Mennonite Board of Missions, etc.)

Submitted by Karen Lehman, President www.mhs-association.org