

## **MHS Governance Overview**

### **Vision**

To be a community of vibrant Anabaptist health and human service ministries committed to God's work of healing and hope in Jesus Christ.

### **Mission**

To strengthen and extend Anabaptist health and human service ministries in faithfully and effectively fulfilling their missions.

### **Values**

- Spirituality and prayer
- Community, mutuality and service
- Human dignity and compassion for all people
- Stewardship of God's gifts
- Advocacy for justice
- Peace and reconciliation
- Ethical commitment
- Grace and hospitality

### **Ownership**

MHS is accountable to its Relating Denominations and Member Organizations. Relating Denominations include Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Brethren US Conference. A relationship is also maintained with the Brethren in Christ Church.

### **Offices**

The main office is in Goshen, Ind. with a satellite office in Lancaster, Pa.

### **Governance Approach**

The MHS board links MHS with its stakeholder groups, assuring that MHS achieves desired results for those served, at an appropriate cost and in a way consistent with shared values. The board seeks to discern and embrace God's call and the direction of the Holy Spirit in its decisions and business practices.

The board governs with an emphasis on outward vision, focusing its work on fiduciary, strategic, generative and spiritual vitality, seeking to cultivate a group sense of responsibility for decision-making. The board is committed to embracing diversity and increasing intercultural competency. Board policies reflect the values of the organization and support and enhance achievement of the mission.

The board interacts periodically with representatives of its stakeholder groups; develops and reviews governing policies; assesses its effectiveness annually; maintains current board member job descriptions; and annually reviews or establishes priorities for its work.

## **Board Member Commitments**

- Support the mission, vision and values of MHS and relating denominations.
- Regularly attend board, committee and planning meetings. Prepare for meetings and be informed on issues and agenda items.
- Honor diversity of perspectives and contribute to a safe environment for the expression of differing perspectives.
- Contribute skills, knowledge and expertise as appropriate.
- Participate in organizational decision-making.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Assume leadership roles in board activities as needed.
- Represent the organization to external constituencies as appropriate.
- Keep up to date with MHS and its services.
- Take advantage of learning opportunities and resources related to the fields of board development, governance and health care.
- Abide by the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Board Members.
- Pray regularly for MHS.
- Exercise legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Fulfill the expectations of the appointing or electing body.

## **Board and Committee Meetings**

The MHS board meets three times a year in person, usually in March, August and November, and as needed by conference call. In March the board meets prior to Mennonite Health Assembly.

There are four Committees, which typically meet in conjunction with the board meeting.

- Commission for Sponsorship
- Governance Committee
- Finance Committee
- Executive Committee

## **Expenses**

Expenses incurred for meetings are reimbursed, including registration for Mennonite Health Assembly.

## **Board Composition**

The MHS board is made up of five individuals appointed by the Relating Denominations; six member-elected directors; and up to two at-large positions appointed by the board.

## **Board Member and Officer Terms**

Terms are for four years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms of service. The chair may serve up to two three-year consecutive terms. The other board officers—vice-chair, secretary/treasurer and one executive member-at-large—serve up to two-2-year terms.