



Dear Supporter of Menonite Healthcare Fellowship,

As providers of healthcare, most of us daily encounter persons whose lives are **not going as planned**. Whether it is a sudden illness, an accident, a crisis in relationships, a traumatic event, or the disabilities that come with the aging, human beings encounter unexpected setbacks.

For me personally, it was a sudden major heart attack that led to weeks in intensive care, rehabilitation, repeated hospitalizations, and health services I never knew existed. I experienced first-hand the care that many of you provide daily from the specialist physicians in ER and ICU, nurses who cared for my most basic needs, technicians and aides too numerous to mention, therapists and their assistants of various disciplines, and chaplains and social workers who listened and helped me through the transition.

I reflected on that transition in a recent blog post on the MHF website and labeled it “**recovery**.” I am certainly grateful to be in recovery mode and able to resume my work with MHF! As I said in my article, I’m also tremendously grateful for all who picked up and carried on in my absence!

As I read over last September’s membership campaign letter by Laura Yoder, I realized again that the unexpected events in my life have led to **unexpected results for MHF**. Yes, the Board is still working on the vision and goals that Laura outlined. Yet, operating in survival mode for three months and “catch-up” mode for six months has not led to the hoped-for implementation.

That means that **MHF itself is now in recovery mode**. The fiscal year ending August 31, 2017 shows a significant financial deficit. Expenses are well within budget, but a lack of normal income in December of last year as well as this past spring has greatly affected the bottom line.

At the same time, **exciting things are happening!** A new generation is getting energized and involved in “Mobilization for Service” through MHF. This is particularly evident in five Student Elective Term (SET) applicants for this academic year, the most ever under MHF!

This new dynamic is also epitomized in **Lyubov Slashcheva**, who, in the midst of a dental residency and public health studies superbly guided this past year’s Annual Gathering Planning Committee and now is energetically leading in the renewal as our **new Board President**.

Some of you have told me that you aren’t sure if you gave last year since you didn’t receive the “dues” reminders you have come to expect. Last year, we told you that we are phasing out the dues language and emphasizing the joyful contributions to support the total mission of MHF! Please see the enclosed information and contribution forms for more details. Then please join the effort and give extra so we can **replace** last year’s deficit, **send** our SET students to Africa, South America, and elsewhere, and **develop** more programming in various parts of the country.

Thank you for supporting Menonite Healthcare Fellowship in its recovery and ongoing mission!

Paul D. Leichty
Executive Director

Called to care. Caring to serve.

Board of Directors