

## MHS Association – 2025 Report

Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

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

### About MHS Association

MHS Association is here to help your organization achieve it's best outcomes while staying true to it's Anabaptist roots.



**A network of Anabaptist organizations** that inspire unique collaborations



Encouraging **best practices in non-profit governance** to help ministries thrive



**Shared values** that guide culture toward creative solutions



**Developing health and human service leaders** through an Anabaptist lens



**Faith-grounded strategic business tools and resources** that advance missions

MHS Association is the health and human services network of Anabaptist ministries across the United States and Puerto Rico. There are 76 members representing 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, MHS Association works 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 churches, conferences, or former Mennonite agencies (Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Board of Missions, etc.).

- MHS Association provides monthly webinars on a variety of topics. The 2025 themes include leadership, strategy, governance, industry experts, faith, and work. All upcoming webinars can be found [here](#) on the MHS Association website.
- MHS Association members utilize tools and resources to support their ministries. For a breakdown of MHS Association member services, please [visit our website](#).
- [MHS Consulting](#) continues to serve MHS Association members and nonmembers in the health and human services arena, primarily providing resources in governance, executive search, executive coaching, interim placement, and strategic planning and positioning.
- The MHS Association Board of Directors and MHS Association Staff continue to advance diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion initiatives.
- MHS Association members enjoy access to our variety of network groups.

## Planned Merger with Friends Services Alliance (FSA) in 2026

In 2024, FSA and MHS Association began exploring the possibility of forming a new combined entity. Both organizations are deeply committed to maintaining and preserving the core values and faith identities that have long been integral to their missions. The two organizations have worked together for over 20 years, collaborating on shared member services and sponsoring unique insurance captive opportunities. The merger offers members a richer array of services and resources, while at the same time will strengthen both organizations operationally. The merger of the two organizations will be effective 1/1/2026.



MARCH 24-26, 2026  
INDIANAPOLIS

## MHS Assembly

The Gathering, a conference of faith-based human services associations, will be held next year, replacing the annual MHS Assembly. Going beyond the confines of the usual annual conferences, The Gathering brings together human service leaders from four faith traditions: Mennonite, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, and United Church of Christ.

The Gathering will focus on how leaders carry unique gifts, experiences, talents, and skills – all given by God’s Spirit – into our work and service. The Gathering will explore building an intentional network of leaders who stand together to magnify our vision, amplify our voice, and advance our mutual ministries. The conference will offer presentations from leaders who have demonstrated how to lift the human spirit. Topics for a variety of workshops will be generated by the association’s members, bringing fresh ideas, innovative approaches, and best practices. In large and small group settings, participants will celebrate, discern, and strategize for the future. The time together will include worship and spiritual reflection, learning from and listening to each other, and forging relationships that endure. The Gathering is open to persons of all backgrounds and experiences.



## **For Thanksgiving and Prayer**

MHS Association asked for your continued prayers 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 all the ways churches, individuals, and others support MHS Association member organizations.

Submitted by Karen E. Lehman, President/CEO