
**MOSAIC CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA
ASSEMBLY REPORT
Fall 2020**

2020-21 Campus Theme Passage – (Exodus 16:4-6, NIV)

This passage was not the original one we had picked. We changed our selection in light of the COVID-19 uncertainties. This Exodus passage comes from the story of God raining down manna (bread) from heaven. These three verses offer us a perspective into our faith that has been critical for carrying us through this unique year of both our growth and facing unknowns. Here are some reflections on the verses: Verse 4 – The Israelites had to turn to God daily to receive their food for that one day. God provided what the people needed for that one day. No more, no less. Verse 5 – The only exception to verse 4 was on the sixth day when they could collect enough bread for two days so that the Sabbath would remain holy. Verse 6 – And when it was all said and done, make no mistake, it was God that kept the Israelites alive. It was impossible for them to stay alive in the wilderness without God’s manna – a form of nutrition only God provides. Take courage that God is indeed walking with us. God has not abandoned us, and God will provide for us exactly what we need for each and every day. Through it all, let us never forget to thank God for His provision during this time.

Vision 2025 & “2+2” Programs – Vision 2025 represents Hesston College’s current and future plans of programmatic innovation. This includes the expansion of four of our current 2-year programs, adding a “+2” option for pursuing a bachelor’s in Nursing, Aviation, Management, and Engineering. This “2+2” program implementation led to the hiring of Johann Reimer, who is serving as the director to develop the school of Engineering’s planned bachelor’s degree program. A four-year degree in Management is also slated for accreditation this fall. Meanwhile, junior and senior students continue their studies in Nursing and Aviation, with the first four-year professional pilot degrees to be awarded in spring 2021.

Strategic Plan & Campus Master Plan – Flowing from Vision 2025 is our Strategic Plan – the means by which we work toward and realize Vision 2025. This process includes the cooperation and collaboration of faculty and staff from across the campus. As we move forward in this process, a significant component in implementation relates to a new Campus Master Plan, which is already in its earliest stages of development.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) – We have entered into a renewed focus of DEI. Our DEI purpose statement reads, “Create and sustain a healthy campus climate that provides opportunity for full and equitable participation of all persons in the life of the college community, embracing differences and fostering a sense of belonging among all its members, including faculty, staff, students, and the broader community.” Just before the start of this fall semester, our faculty and staff gathered into small groups – the first campus gathering since COVID hit – to hear from our DEI Council and to converse over DEI-related

concepts, issues, and terms. The work of DEI continues to evolve as students, faculty, and staff are coming together in formalized groups to listen, learn, and create institutional systems that align with our mission, vision, and values as viewed through the lens of DEI.

COVID-19 & CARES – The CARES level of concern in which we are operating is posted on our website along with the planning document. Communication is a high priority, especially whenever we transition between levels of concern throughout each semester. As conditions change and as new information is gathered, plans adjust accordingly. To date, we have not had more than two active cases at any one time this semester. Additional off-campus factors in CARES-level determinations include testing availability as well as the larger COVID landscape at a county, state, and national level. Recently, we shifted from the R level of concern back to the A level. The return to level A does not mean that we have relaxed our efforts, but instead we redoubled our efforts to be a healthy and safe community. “Redoubling efforts” for each of us include:

- Submitting our quick response to the Flu Vaccine Questionnaire and arranging a time to get the vaccine.
- Vaccinations will be available on campus October 7.
- An increase in the number and frequency of temperature checks across campus.
- Renewed commitment to the well-being of others by reporting symptoms and sharing accurate contact tracing lists, mask wearing even in living spaces and choosing social activities that will not negatively impact campus health or safety in a negative way.
- Acknowledging that COVID-19 can impact the lung and heart health of recovering individuals, including the young and active.
- Recommitting to the beliefs and behaviors outlined in the Lark Commitment.
- Abiding by our current visitation guidelines and limitations.

**Mosaic Conference
of Mennonite Church USA Connections**

Unified and Designated Giving – We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

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