



MOSAIC CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA ASSEMBLY REPORT

Fall 2021

2021-22 Campus Theme Passage – This year's theme verse is Ephesians 4:2-3, NIV. This passage invites us to live a collective life of *humility, gentleness, patience, and love*. All this while striving for a form of *unity* only the Holy Spirit can frame. The central idea of the book of Ephesians is Christian unity. As we continue moving forward as a college, our Christian unity must not go unchecked. We must be intentional in our relationships. Allow me to share some reflections on this year's theme passage: **Verse 2a** – "be completely humble and gentle" - It starts with a personal check. Ask: "How's my attitude? In what areas am I not humble and gentle?" **Verse 2b** – "bear one another in love." Then, after your personal check, reflect on your relationships with others. Ask: "How are my relationships? Where in my relationships is there a lack of love? Where do I need to extend greater patience?" **Verse 3** – "Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Finally, as you adjust your personal and relational realities, strive to live in perfect unity - the unity that is a fragile gift from the Holy Spirit. Ask, "Do I experience unity and peace with God and with others?" Remember that God continues walking with us in love and encourages us to do likewise with those around us.

Vision 2025 Update – Vision 2025 represents Hesston College's current and future plans of programmatic innovation. This plan includes bolstering our historical associate degree and student experience, while also launching select bachelor's degree programs that answer the call of students and industry. This spring we secured accreditation for our third bachelor's program, which is in Business Management. This adds to our existing bachelor's degrees in nursing and aviation. We are hopeful that we will be announcing a fourth bachelor's degree this spring.

Strategic Plan & Campus Master Plan – In the spring of 2021 we launched a new strategic plan, which can be found at www.hesston.edu/strategic-plan. Our strategic planning process was truly a community effort, engaging voices from across campus. The theme of the strategic plan is linked to the concept of Ubuntu, which is a Nguni Bantu term that roughly translates to "I am because we are." If you are at all familiar with Hesston College, you likely understand why the concept of ubuntu resonates so strongly with us. The heart of Hesston resides in relationships modeled on Jesus, who reminds us that we are to love our neighbors (Matt. 22: 37-40) and that our neighbors are anyone in need—even a stranger; even an enemy. As a Mennonite college for all, Hesston will "educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community." Our strategic plan foregrounds that commitment. From strengthening our existing programs to the realization of an Ubuntu Village, our way of educating and nurturing takes place in community. This is the embodiment of ubuntu.

CALL Program – Hesston College's Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) trains church leaders out of an identity of being God's beloved to engage the world God loves. CALL focuses on the Missional model, which equips every follower of Christ to live with sacred purpose by enabling them to do ministry and mission in their daily lives as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Missional model of leadership looks for sacred opportunities in the secular rather than thinking the secular needs to come to our church building to find Christ. CALL launches ministerial entrepreneurs,

practitioners in a post-Christian world. Partnering with global and urban Anabaptists, we nurture disciple-makers who cultivate other disciple-makers.

Peacing It Together – Peacing It Together is a joint venture of internationally-acclaimed baritone Tony Brown and Hesston College. With a shared vision of begging catalysts for peace and social justice in both our local and global communities. Peacing It Together uses the unifying mediums of storytelling and music to inspire and engage communities in their own work. Peacing It Together allows Hesston College to extend its community and approach to connection with others who also desire a world with more understanding and compassion for all. Brown, an alumnus of Hesston College (Class of '69), serves as Hesston College's Peace Ambassador and Artist in Residence. To bring a Peacing It Together production to your congregation or community please visit the Peacing It Together Facebook page or www.hesston.edu/peacing-it-together.

Speakers Bureau – Needing to fill the pulpit or identify a dynamic speaker for a lecture series in your community or congregation? Hesston College can help. Please contact Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, VP of Advancement at rachelsm@hesston.edu to explore potential speaker options that could fit well with your preferred topic, dates and audience. From Leadership to Missiology or Creation Care to Faith and Discipleship, we can help.

Ways You Can Pray for Hesston College in 2021-2022 – Pray for our students to have clarity of thought in their studies, wisdom in the decisions they make, and kindness in their relationships; pray for our faculty as they walk with our students through these life-changing years; pray for our staff as they serve our students on all corners of the campus; and pray for our campus as we continue to navigate the ongoing COVID-19 chapter.

Know a Student Interested in Visiting Hesston College? Please visit <https://www.hesston.edu/admissions/visit/>.

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. Our world would not be possible without the financial support of our congregations.

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