

# CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

## ◆ THE FIRST WORD

### NEW RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

Have you seen “The Quickest Ever DVD Guide to Anabaptists & Their Values?” Copies were sent to all member organizations in August.

If you haven’t watched it yet, visit [www.mhsonline.org](http://www.mhsonline.org) and click on “For Members”. In a few short minutes, you’ll hear about the 500-year history of Mennonites and other Anabaptists. If you don’t catch everything the first time, view it again. Curious? Check it out now.

To help organizations make the best use of these tools, you will also find a wealth of samples and guides on the web site, including:

- Discussion guides for the book and DVD;
- Examples of core values statements;
- Conversation-starters about core values that you can use;
- Ways to use values in recruiting and orienting board, staff and volunteers;
- Ideas for ways to integrate values into performance evaluations; and
- Potential effects of values on policy development.

Members are encouraged to tell us about resources you use to keep the history and values of your organization alive. Better yet, send samples of these resources to [tim@mhsonline.org](mailto:tim@mhsonline.org). New material will be added to the website regularly—be sure to check back often.

Orders are flooding in for additional copies of the book and DVD. Place your order now by contacting [Deloris@mhsonline.org](mailto:Deloris@mhsonline.org).

Mim Shirk  
Vice President



## ◆ GUIDES TO ANABAPTIST VALUES RECEIVE POSITIVE EARLY REVIEW

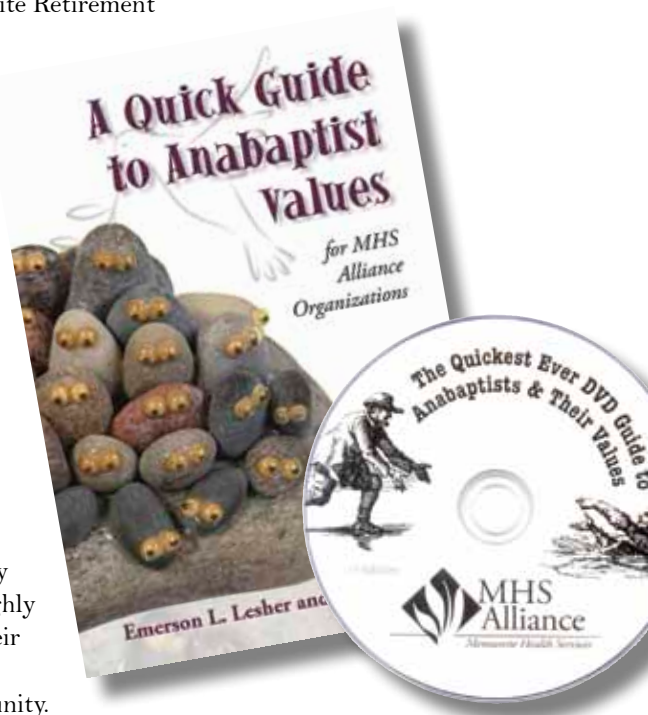
Two new resources, a booklet titled “A Quick Guide to Anabaptist Values for MHS Alliance Organizations” and “The Quickest Ever DVD Guide to Anabaptists & Their Values,” have been released and are available to MHS Alliance members. Administrators at three locations—Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, Harrisonburg; and Peaceful Living, Harleysville, Pa.—had a sneak preview of the guides and responded with 1½ thumbs up.

Terry Rose, director of pastoral ministries at Messiah Village, has already used the guides—or observed their use—in a variety of settings. She is highly enthusiastic about their impact and potential impact for the community.

Internal groups who have seen the materials include the board, the leadership team, and administrative supervisors. Rose also used these guides as the basis for a message at the Messiah Village Brethren in Christ Church and as a resource to the pastoral team.

Rose commented, “The humor in the beginning and throughout the book is an excellent hook to keep the reader engaged. The format

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Mennonite Health Services  
[www.mhsonline.org](http://www.mhsonline.org)



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uses lists effectively to dispense a great deal of information in the simplest way possible.”

As for impact, Rose said that the administrative team “found the information very helpful from an educational standpoint. It put a lot of pieces of the puzzle together for them in their understanding—or lack thereof—of just who the Anabaptists are. It has helped staff to understand our residents much better and why they do or say some of the things they do.”



**Terry Rose**

In the future, Rose sees Messiah Village residents as a key resource in communicating Anabaptist values. “They would love these guides whether they are Anabaptist or not. They know they are in an Anabaptist community and realize they live at a very special place. The residents have time to read and love to share with family and friends what they are learning.”



**Ron Yoder**

Ron Yoder, president of VMRC, reported that the DVD has been shown to the leadership forum (40 managers and supervisors), the executive team (10 administrators), the 12-member board of directors, and to one group of new employees. The booklet has been distributed to the board and executive team and will also be given to the leadership forum.

Yoder plans to continue using the materials in orientation for new managers and board members, but wonders whether the DVD might not “cover too much content too quickly” for new employees who have no previous knowledge of Anabaptism.

Joe Landis, executive director of Peaceful Living, sees the major strength of the guides as setting the stage for further discussion. “This format, especially the DVD, gives clues to what Mennonites are thinking and sets the stage for learning by getting people to ask questions.”



**Joe Landis**

Landis added, “The guides also document how we as Mennonites got into this way of seeing the world.

The staff we have are caring, sensitive people, and when they see how Mennonites came to be, our credibility as Mennonites is strengthened.”

## RESOURCE PARTNERS OFFERS TWO NEW PRODUCTS

**Resource Partners** of Lancaster, Pa., plans to offer two new products for MHS Alliance members beginning Jan. 1, 2010. The enrollment process has begun for the Unemployment Services Trust and will open later this year for the Workers Compensation Captive, both of which will be available on a national basis.

Phil Leaman, president of Resource Partners, enumerated these benefits for MHS Alliance members that participate in Unemployment Services Trust:

- Shared risk with other like-minded non-profit organizations instead of participating in state unemployment programs;
- Lower contribution rates because unemployment and lay-offs are less frequent with non-profits;
- All claims for unemployment processed and monitored by your own dedicated claims representative;
- Human resources support for employee termination decisions;
- Representation for contested awards of unemployment; and
- Ownership of reserves, with refund of excess funds.

Resource Partners' ultimate goal is for organizations to form their own trust after participation has reached a financially feasible level.

The benefits of the Workers Compensation Captive would be:

- Ownership of program by members, providing an increased level of control in an ever-changing environment;
- Shared underwriting profits and investment income;
- Less volatility than is found in commercial market pricing; and
- More control over claims handling and loss control programs.



More information can be obtained from Leaman by e-mailing [phil@resourcepartneronline.org](mailto:phil@resourcepartneronline.org) or calling 717-293-7840.

Resource Partners was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization to administer multiple insurance and risk management programs, including property and casualty, workers' compensation, and health, general and professional liability for organizations associated with historic peace churches.

## HOW WELL ARE YOU CONNECTED?



Ted Houser

By *Ted Houser*  
*Ninja Fast Consulting*

**People are** joining social networking sites by the thousands.

Woman 55-65 years old are the fastest-growing segment of users on Facebook. They use their mobile phones to capture and upload images from events as they are happening. Twitter updates broadcast the names of children at bat in Little League.

LinkedIn networks connect professionals with each other.

Many people seem increasingly comfortable in this rapid-paced environment—sharing photos, news stories, and links to

websites and articles of interest with their friends and associates.

Not-for-profit organizations are learning that social networking sites provide opportunities to engage their constituents. Given the opportunity, constituents often willingly use social media to carry out the promotional objectives of the organizations they support.

You can learn more about social media by watching Erk Qualman's striking video "Social Media Revolution" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8>.

Join my webinar this fall on Development and Marketing Networks sponsored by MHS Alliance. Check <http://www.mhsonline.org/> for details.



## MEMBER NEWS

**New executive:** Cheryl Wright-Brantley has been named site manager at **Bremontowne Manor**, Evanston, Ill.



Cheryl  
Wright-Brantley

The living landscape display from 2009 Mennonite Church USA convention at Columbus, Ohio., found a new home at **Adriel** in West Liberty, Ohio. Winnsapes, located in Gahanna, Ohio, designed the landscape. Anchored by a large maple tree, the display includes a variety of shrubs and bushes.

“We are delighted by this generous donation,” said Mike Mullins, CEO of Adriel. “Memorial trees are planted around the Adriel campus in honor or memory of many people who have supported the agency’s mission.”

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Executive Circle, Session 3**  
Sept. 9-10, Cincinnati, Ohio

**Values-based Leadership Program**  
Sept. 15-17 and Feb. 23-25, 2010  
Laurelville, Pa.

**MEP Administrative Committee  
and Governing Council**  
Sept. 17-18, Chicago, Ill.

**Midwest Chaplains**  
Sept. 23, Goshen, Ind.

**MHS Alliance Board**  
Sept. 23-25, Kansas City, Mo.

**Peace Church Dinner (AAHSA)**  
Nov. 8, Chicago, Ill.

**Safety Officers Network Teleconference**  
Nov. 10, 10 a.m. (EST)

**Development and Marketing Networks  
Webinar – Using Social Networking**  
Nov. 18, 2 p.m. (EST)

**Connect your faith to the health-care policy debate.** For suggestions on action steps, see <http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/healthcare/>.



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## THE LAST WORD

The national debate on healthcare reform rages on. Sadly, irrationality has frequently trumped reason. Will any legislative initiatives advance authentic reform?

MHS Alliance represents a national network of 73 nonprofit providers of health services. We are obviously part of a health-care system that needs repair if not overhaul. We are engaged in the reform debate in three ways: as providers of services that are reimbursed by Medicare or Medicaid, as employers who care about health insurance for our employees, and as concerned citizens and church members who realize that the current system has failed many of our friends.

What perspectives do we share as we consider the scope of possible changes on the table?

MHS Alliance is committed to the core principles reflected in the Mennonite Church USA resolution on health-care access. We support a health-care system in which risks, costs, and responsibility are shared by all. We see health care as a right of citizenship rather than a retail commodity.



Tim Wiens, Jay Roth, Mark King, and I serve with a working group on health-care reform convened by the MCC Washington office. We also plan to address this issue at the Mennonite Health Assembly at Norfolk, Va., March 4-7, 2010.

Rick Stiffney, President and CEO