



**Congregational Information Form**

*To be completed by congregations seeking new pastoral leadership.*

**Purpose of this form**

This form is to assist a congregation to present information concerning itself to prospective candidates for a pastoral leadership position. Completing the form will also assist the pastoral search committee in self-understanding as they assess the strengths and weaknesses which may exist at the time of pastoral transition.

I. Information

**A. BASIC INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

1. Name of church *Hesston Mennonite Church*  
 Address *309 S. Main, Hesston, KS 67062*  
 Church telephone *620-327-4885* Email *hesstonmc@hesstonmc.org* Website *www. Hesstonmc.org*
2. Chairperson of search committee *Mike Lamb*  
 Address *36 Park View, Hesston, KS 67062*  
 Telephone *620-327-2442* Email *foursheep@cox.net*
3. Area church/conference *South Central Conference*  
 Name of area church/conference minister assisting your church's search committee  
*Clarence Rempel*  
 Address *1004 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Newton, KS 67114*  
 Telephone *316-650-0023* E-mail *clarencempel13@gmail.com*
4. Year in which the congregation first began meeting or was organized *1909*

**B. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Average Sunday worship attendance during the last 12 months: *77\**, *318\*\**  
 Highest attendance during that time *187\**, *550\*\**  
 Lowest attendance during that time *0 (when live - stream only)\**, *225 \*\**  
*\*During COVID \*\* Pre-COVID*
2. Total current members *604* Non-resident members *207*  
 Resident members *378* Children (not members) *121*
3. Age of members and children as of 2018. Give totals and percentage.  

0-12	71	15%	31-45	45	9%
13-18	20	4%	46-64	103	21%
19-30	60	12%	65+	194	39%
4. Occupational profile: (ages 19 to 70). Give totals.  

Business/manager/proprietor	<i>34</i>	Homemaker	<i>6</i>
Education/administration/teacher	<i>33</i>	Clerical/sales	<i>14</i>

Craftsman/laborer/operative	19	Student/VS	18
Medical: doctor/nurse/administration	17	Farmer/rancher	1
Church institution/administration/minister	11	Other professional	37

5. Educational level of adults:

Up to and including high school	17%
Some college or college graduate	73%
Graduate school	10%

6. Describe the racial or ethnic composition of the congregation. *Predominately Caucasian. Ethnic representations: Asian, Hispanic*

**C. LEADERSHIP**

1. Identify the present staff position for which you are seeking a candidate. *Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry*

2. Two previous persons in the above position:

Name *Clayton Gladish* Dates of service *2014 - 2021*

Name *Ryan Kopper* Dates of service *2010-2013*

Comment on the transitions experienced by the above staff persons. What were the reasons for their assignments ending? How were the transitions handled? *Clayton Gladish resigned to pursue new ministry opportunities.*

3. Did your congregation follow the Pastor Salary Guidelines recommended by the denomination for the previous pastor? *Yes* If not, describe how you varied from the Guidelines

4. Identify other staff: (assistant/associate minister, lay ministers, administrative assistant, custodian, musicians, youth)

**Title** *Pastor of Congregational Life* % of full time *100* Specific responsibilities *To provide leadership, energy and direction to our congregational focus on faith development and formation in the young children and families of the church, as well as nurturing and honoring the faith contributions of individuals around age 40 and above. To provide leadership and support to the congregation in the opportunities and challenges of our current cultural context, with special focus on young children, their families, and individuals around age 40 and above in the congregation. . To establish and encourage foundations of the practices of faith for a life of ongoing growth and development.*

*To facilitate relationships that invite others to participate in the movement of the Spirit. To communicate the congregation's openness, interest and commitment to those not yet involved in a congregation.* Years served *2*

**Title** *Pastor of Worship Outreach* % of full time *100* Specific responsibilities *To provide leadership, energy and direction to the congregational focus on seeking and following the ways of Christ by tending to the vision of Hesston Mennonite Church. To provide leadership and support to the congregation in developing and carrying out a plan that focuses on worship, preaching and outreach to equip others in Christ's ministry. To communicate the congregation's openness, interest and commitment to those not yet involved in a congregation.* Years served *2*

**Title** *Office Manager* % of full time *.75* Specific responsibilities *Pastoral and office support* Years served *1*

**Title** *Finance Secretary* % of full time *Volunteer* Specific responsibilities *Offerings/payables/reports* Years served *3*

**Title** *Custodial* % of full time *2 part time* Specific responsibilities *Cleaning and minor maintenance*

5. Describe housing options for the above position: Is there a parsonage or a housing allowance (US) or housing credit (Canada)? *Housing Allowance (no parsonage)*

**II. Interpretation**

The answers to the questions in this section are more difficult but probably more important in determining the qualifications needed by pastoral leadership. Use a small group to test for consensus on the answers given in this section. (Would recommend that the governing board of the congregation review and sign off on this section)

A. Describe the commitment of your church to Anabaptist/Mennonite faith. How does this contribute to strengthening your ability to join God's mission in the world? *The congregation identifies closely with the Mennonite Church. Congregational worship incorporates the use of*

*traditional Mennonite resources (hymnal) as well as contemporary resources. The budget reflects an ongoing commitment to financially support the work of the wider Mennonite Church, including Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee and South Central Conference, college scholarships for members attending Mennonite and other than Mennonite colleges and the use of Everence sharing funds. This congregation is well represented at South Central Conference and Mennonite Church USA gatherings and has hosted SSC events since completion of our new facility in 2007. The MYF regularly attends regional and national youth conventions with support of the congregation. The youth and congregation also participate in area service opportunities. The congregation includes numerous members who are current or former members of MCUSA organizations, including Hesston College, Bethel College, Mennonite Mission Network, South Central Conference, MCUSA executive board and Menno Media.*

- B. What is the vision for your church? What are your priorities that shape the church's ministry?  
*The HMC vision statement is "A community of God's people, seeking and following the way of Christ, experiencing and sharing the good news of healing and hope."*

*Emphasis is place on local programming. Children and youth have Wednesday evening programming, in addition to grade-specific Sunday School. There are several adult Sunday School classes, with occasional topical class and Bible study options. HMC is an active participant in a community-wide Vacation Bible School program supported by the Hesston churches. HMC also relates intentionally to a large elderly population at nearby Schowalter Villa with live video broadcasts of Sunday morning services. HMC is located adjacent to Hesston College, which uses the sanctuary for chapel services. Hesston College also helped fund part of the new sanctuary and organ in 2007. Members of our congregation volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, the Newton Et Cetera Shop, the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus and the Hesston Resource Center. The congregation has a history on intentional and ongoing relationships with and support of international missionaries, the Newton Homeless Shelter and Menno Clinic India.*

- C. What is your view of the pastor's role in the church? Are there special gifts in ministry which you hope will be fulfilled? How do you expect the pastor to be a representative of the congregation beyond the congregation?

*Hesston Mennonite Church values a culture of collaboration and teamwork among its pastors. Each pastor cares for the needs of the congregation, with a focus on the specific ministries defined in their job title and description. While pastors give priority to the ministries for which they hold responsibility, they also have the opportunity to experience a full range of pastoral work within the church. In addition, each pastor seeks to advance the missional movement of the congregation in bringing God's healing and hope to the community and beyond. The pastors are called to carry out the work of Christ alongside the congregation. We value relationships of integrity, accountability and transparency. Pastors are viewed as spiritual leaders and are expected to stimulate growth in Biblical understanding and Christian discipleship. Pastors are expected to listen to the diverse voices within the congregation while helping to guide the congregation on an intentional and focused faith journey. Pastors should engage and support lay leadership in the congregation, participate in congregational conversations and affirm the discerned decisions of the congregation. Consistent with congregational response to the "20 Pastoral Tasks" survey, the primary qualities for the pastor in this position are Preaching and Leadership/Administration.*

- D. Recognizing our differing theological orientations as persons and as congregations, make a brief statement about your congregation and the overarching theological commitments important to you.

*God created all things, including humanity in God's image, and it is very good. Creation is fallen and has become less than God intended. God, through Jesus, brings grace, forgiveness, healing and guidance to be made new, growing toward restoration of God's original intention. We live in hope of the completeness and fulfillment of that restoration of all of creation. We believe that God is sovereign, that Jesus is Lord, and that those basic tenets, along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the counsel of the Christian community will affect how we live. We believe the Bible to be inspiring and authoritative, that it is to be studied seriously by the gathered church, and that it is to be understood within the context from which it emerged.*

- E. Church morale: Assess the spiritual and emotional health of the congregation. Are relationships among members wholesome and harmonious? Is there openness to new ideas and ways of doing things? Would everyone agree with your answers?

*Within the context of traditions in staff structure, volunteer leadership, worship style and music, HMC is a congregation with diverse views.. We have relatively new and long-standing members with varying degrees of maturity on the spiritual journey. After a 7-year pastorate and the hiring of 2 current pastors, the congregation is continuing to work to find stability and direction, especially as we have dealt with COVID-19. In the period from February 2017-February 2018, the congregation struggled to define the roles of our three pastors, ending with 80% affirmation of new job descriptions. During this period, there was some lost focus in key areas, including how to reengage local members who no longer attend worship services, how to expand our reach with the Hesston College community and how to connect with the non-churched of Hesston. And we are in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of implementing a new Governance and Ministry team structure.*

- F. What changes or trends do you envision for the congregation over the next five years? Do you have any other comments significant in the process for looking for new pastoral leadership?

*Attendance at HMC has been in a slow, steady decline; not uncommon in MCUSA churches and in many denominational churches. HMC average attendance:*

*2000 400  
2010 350  
2015 326  
2017 318  
2019 294  
2021 77 (not including live-stream attendees)*

*While a decline in regular worship service attendance may be a trend across the U.S., we are not resigned that this must be our reality. We continue to bring new families into HMC, but we realize that we are also losing families from our congregational community. A weakness of this congregation is that we have not had a structured way to track and reach-out to members and regular attendees who begin to disengage from HMC. Our new pastor will have a key role in helping to restore energy to this congregation and to help continue to offer meaningful fellowship, community and spiritual support to the congregation via youth and families.*

### III. Organization/Ministry

#### A. CHURCH STRUCTURE

1. Identify the primary governing body (Governance Board, Ministry Teams) which represents the church.

Name *Governance Board (under new constitution)*

Name *Ministry Teams (under new constitution)*

2. Identify five other significant leadership/programming bodies: e.g. trustees, deacons, elders, teams, councils, boards, committees.

**Name** *Governance Board*. The Governance Board are the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, the Chairperson of the Facilities Committee, and two at-large members. Leaders meet monthly. Individual committees meet as needed.

**Name** *Ministry Teams*. The Ministry Teams are the Caring Team, the Outreach Team, the Gifts Engagement Team, the Worship Team, The Education Team, and the Hospitality Team. Team Leaders meet monthly. Individual Teams meet as needed.

## **B. Worship AND MUSIC**

1. Describe your worship service

*Following a printed bulletin, the service includes community life, prayer, congregational singing, the reading of scripture, a children's story, sermon, offering and response hymn. The structure of worship has varied little in recent years, but there is room for change and adjustments.*

2. What role does music play in your congregation?

*Music is a regular and appreciated part of the weekly worship service.*

3. What song books/collections of music does your congregation use? *Voices Together*

4. Name the musical instruments used in worship and other events (piano, keyboard, organ, guitar organ, drums, handbells, violin, etc.)

*Andover Organ (installed 2007)*

*Steinway Piano - sanctuary*

*Steinway Piano - community center*

*Malmark Handbells*

*Worship music often includes strings, bass guitar and drums on occasion.*

5. Identify choirs and/or music groups (There have been some COVID limitations)

Name *Bell Choir* Number of participants *15*

Name *Adult Choir* Number of participants *15-30*

Name *Music Teams* Number of participants *20*

The Music Team assists in leading congregational singing at each Sunday worship service. The Bell Choir and Adult Choir perform on occasion during the year.

## **C. CHRISTIAN FORMATION- Describe your approach to Christian Formation**

1. Number of children's classes *6* Total Sunday school enrollment *268* (from 2018 last normally tracked year)

Number of youth classes *3*

Number of adult classes *7*

2020-2021 also included a number of Zoom classes.

What curriculum resources are used by these classes?

*Primary-Middler: SHINE; JYF-MYF: Bible Study; Adults: MennoMedia Sunday School materials, various book studies and other input.*

2. How does the congregation attend to the formation needs of persons of all ages?

*Adult Sunday School classes (7)*

*Adult Bible studies and various small groups*

*Children's Sunday School*

*Wednesday night programming for grades K-12*

*Youth programming for middle school and high school*

3. What other opportunities are there for growth and transformation?  
*Occasional service opportunities and attendance at regional and national church conferences.*

4. Describe the involvement of youth in the life of the congregation.  
*Children participate in worship in several ways on a consistent basis. Each service includes a children's story time that is centered around the worship and sermon theme. Pre-Covid children participated in offering with their own offering gifts placed in a globe on the platform at the same time that offering plates were passed in the congregation. Now children participate by placing monies in the globe in the foyer. These offering monies are targeted to missions and needs that the children Sunday School classes are involved with. Children also participate weekly in lighting the peace lamp and Christ candle during the beginning of the service.*

*The youth fellowship participates in facilitating the worship service on an occasional basis, often as a response to camp or conference attendance. Various youth participate in the Sunday morning service in a variety of ways.*

Does your church support and send young people to Mennonite camps, area church/conference and colleges?

*Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp (Colorado) summer youth camps and snow camps. Support for transportation to RMMC; Camp Mennoscah (Kansas); regularly attend Mennonite Youth Convention; scholarship program to support youth attending Mennonite Colleges.*

5. Does your congregation have active small groups? If so, describe the number of groups, focus of the groups and how often they meet. *Missional Discipleship Triads are groups of three members who meet to study scripture, prayer and accountability. For many, the Sunday School class serves the role of small group. For others, there are various coffee themed small groups.*

6. What men's/women's groups are active? *Dorcas Circle (Mennonite Women), Prayer Shawl Ministry Circle, Primetimers (adults over 65), Wednesday Evening Adult Activities occasionally meet during Wednesday children's programming.*

7. What ministries do you have for children, youth and young adults over 18, etc.?) *SHINE: approx. 60 children combined from HMC and community, Pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, meets weekly on Wednesdays following the school calendar; RAY: 25 youth combined from HMC and community, grades 5-8, weekly activities in addition to Sunday school; MYF: 9 high school youth meet for Sunday school, weekly Wednesday meetings, service project on alternate year to Mennonite Youth Convention.*

8. In the next five years, do you anticipate a membership: increase, stability, or decrease? Why? *Based on recent history, if no changes are made, our membership will likely continue to decline. If we are able to better engage our own members, the Hesston College community and the unchurched of Hesston, we can reverse this trend.*

#### **D. OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM**

1. Describe how you cultivate the visibility of your church in the community.  
*Financial and/or volunteer support for Community Vacation Bible School, Hesston Resource Center, Harvey County, Homeless Shelter, Et Cetera Shop in Newton, Schowalter Villa, facility for Hesston/Bethel Performing Arts series.*

*Hesston Mennonite is engaged in outreach with the New Hope Homeless Shelter in Newton and the offering of summer noon meals to children in the community who may not have access to adequate nutrition when school is not in session.*

*Children's Wednesday evening activities include groups for elementary and middle school aged children. There is a high number of children who attend these evening sessions who are not tied to Hesston Mennonite Church through their parents.*

2. Describe how you connect to seekers and make new disciples.

*Invitation to other children and youth to participate in Wednesday evening programs. Other various connections are made within the community.*

3. Describe your congregation's ministry in and with the community. See #1 above.

**E. HOW DOES THE CHURCH UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP, IN TEACHING, AND IN OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY?** *Multiple cameras provide live feed of Sunday morning worship services to Schowalter Villa and record the service for later web site viewing. Projection equipment allows for use of video, photographs and other images to be projected during worship services. Worship music is often projected. Audio equipment provides for augmented sound services for the hard-of-hearing. We provided live stream every Sunday service to Schowalter Villa and family homes since COVID-19.*

#### **F. CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY**

1. Do you own or rent your facility? If rent, describe the type of space. Own

2. Seating capacity of sanctuary or worship area *650 in fixed pews, 700 with folding chairs.*

3. Date of construction of church building *2007- sanctuary, nursery, library, kitchen, offices, music room and remodeling of former sanctuary into community center. 1953- Education Wing, 1978- Education Hall.*

4. Date of last renovation. *2007* Describe what was done *Construction of new sanctuary and related spaces noted in #3 above, remodeling of former sanctuary into community center.*

What if any building/renovation program is needed or projected? *Carpet replacement in Community Center.*

5. Describe the educational facilities. *Multiple indiv. rooms for children, youth and adult classes.*

6. Describe the fellowship and/or recreational facilities. *Large community center and fellowship hall. Outdoor playground for children.*

7. Describe the church office location and equipment: Computers, phones, other. *Church office located on the primary church site includes individual offices for pastoral staff, reception area, work room and conference room. Apple and PC computers are used by staff and wi-fi access is available. Copiers in the main office, music room and education office.*

8. Are building and equipment adequate for the needs of the congregation? Describe any special assets or liabilities of the building. *Yes, Main floor of facility is handicap accessible. Sanctuary and community center are equipped with projection and sound equipment.*

9. Name the insurance company and describe the coverage for church liability, property, pastor's liability, etc., for the church. *Allied Insurance Co.*

10. Are there community programs or groups who also utilize your church facilities? Who are they and how often do they use the building? *Hesston College, Hesston/Bethel Performing Arts Series, South Central Conference, Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. Hesston Community Childcare, Circles of Hope.*

What interaction do you have with them? *Scheduling*

## G. CHURCH STEWARSHIP/FINANCES

1. Based upon your last report, identify the previous year's giving of your church.

### Local Church

Expenses	581,608	
Local needs and outreach	4850	
Buildings and facilities	60,721	
<b>TOTAL LOCAL CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		604,206

Note: Denomination refers to either Mennonite Church USA or Mennonite Church Canada

### Non Local Contributions

Area church/conference	17,000	
Denominational total	18,000	
Mennonite institutions and agencies	53,100	
Mennonite Central Committee	9,100	
Other Mennonite causes	4,500	
Non-Mennonite causes	0	
<b>TOTAL NON LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		84,700

2. Church budget

Who makes recommendation regarding pastoral and staff salaries? *Human Resources using Mennonite USA salary guidelines.*

Who determines church budget or makes recommendation to the church? *Finance Committee completes a budget that is approved by the Governance Board to recommend to the congregation. Finance Chair presents the recommendation to the church.*

What plan is used to challenge the church to Christian stewardship? *No specific plan, but communication is regular and ongoing as needed. The "Intention to Give" process in the fall encourages congregants to have a plan for giving for New Year.*

Current total budget \$ 687,785

3. Is there church indebtedness? Yes  No  Amount \$ 288,000

How is it being reduced? *Our church indebtedness is member loans for our building and basement remodel. We budget \$72,000 a year and also have designated giving to pay the loans and interest.*

## IV. Relationships

### A. COMMUNITY

1. Character of community your congregation serves or in which it is located:

- Rural  Village (under 2500)  Town (under 10,000)  City (over 10,000)  
 Large city (over 100,000)  Metropolitan area (over 1,000,000)

2. Which best describes this community?

- Growing  Stable  Declining

3. Describe racial or ethnic composition of the community. *Primarily Caucasian, with representation from various minority groups.*

4. List two or three primary business/industries in the community. (As of 2018)

*AGCO- Agricultural manufacturing (1,200 employees)*

*Excel Industries- Commercial / Residential zero-turn mowers (925 employees)*

*Hesston College (442 student headcount)*



*Schowalter Villa- Healthcare, Life plan retirement community and Intergenerational center (510 employees, 156 skilled nursing, 64 assisted-living beds, 485 retirement units. All figures incl. Kidron-Bethel Village)*

5. Identify other Mennonite/Anabaptist churches in the community, if any. *Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston Mennonite Brethren Church*

What other churches and faith groups are in the community? *Hesston Methodist Church, Kingdom Life Ministries, Grace Baptist Church, Garden Community Church, Highland Trinity United Church of Christ.*

6. Name of nearest college or university *Hesston College (adjacent to church)*  
*Hesston College uses the HMC sanctuary for chapel service and the organ for their music program. Students and faculty/staff attend HMC. HMC space is used during the year for special college events.*

7. Identify significant issues confronting your community. *The Hesston community continues to grieve the mass shooting at Excel Industries in 2016 and is working on affordable housing options following the purchase and closing of a local mobile home park. The community was supportive of a recent bond issue that funded the construction of a new swimming pool, baseball field and softball field that opened in the spring of 2018.*

8. Describe what you believe to be distinctive assets of your community. *Due to the large tax base supported by Agco and Excel, the City of Hesston has a stronger tax base than expected for a town of 4,000. The result is a better public library, better parks, police, fire and EMS equipment, better public schools. The town also benefits from the academic, fine arts, athletic and diversity resources provided by Hesston College and by the health care and retirement services of Schowalter Villa.*

9. Describe your congregation's ministry in the community. *Financial and volunteer support for the combined Vacation Bible School efforts of the community. HMC participates in occasional all-community worship services. Community-wide summer youth lunch program hosted and partially funded by HMC.*

10. How does your congregation work with ecumenical and interfaith efforts? *HMC pastors collaborate with the Hesston Ministerial Alliance.*

#### **B. AREA CHURCH/CONFERENCE**

1. Describe your relationship with and your participation in the area church/conference. *Financial support and active attendance (and occasional hosting) of South Central Conference meetings.*

#### **C. WIDER CHURCH**

Describe your relationship with and your participation in Mennonite Church Canada/Mennonite Church USA. *Regular attendance and financial support of the bi-annual meets of MCUSA.*

Name of group or persons responsible for completion of this form: Pastoral Search Committee with input from HMC staff and approval by the HMC Governance Board.

Date of completion 8/11/2021

