



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

## Annual Student Leadership Retreat 2018 Theme: *The Good Life*

Imagine a place that values belonging—a place where everyone lives for the good of all. **This is The Good Life.** As a student leader at Messiah College, you are a vital part of shaping this good life that we aspire to embody. Together we will live, learn, and lead—in a Christ-centered community—seeking to uphold the dignity of every person, and working to advance the welfare and human flourishing of all our neighbors.

**Let's lead The Good Life together.**

Friday, Aug. 24	Event/Activity	Location
8 a.m.–5 p.m.	Individual group time	Check with your advisor/supervisor
5–6:30 p.m.	Kick-off dinner and large group session	Martin Commons
6:30–8:30 p.m.	New staff & team introductions	Union

Saturday, Aug. 25	Event/Activity	Location
7–8 a.m.	Breakfast	Lottie
8:30 a.m.	Load buses	Jordan/Kline parking lot
9:45 a.m.	Arrive at Camp Hebron and get settled	Camp Hebron
10:15 a.m.	Opening welcome session	Mountainside Haven
11 a.m.	Large-group session	Mountainside Haven
11:45 a.m.	Announcements	Mountainside Haven
12–1 p.m.	Lunch	Breezewood Lodge
1:10–2 p.m.	Breakout sessions I	See lanyard
2:10–3 p.m.	Breakout sessions II	See lanyard
3–6 p.m.	Free time on your own (board games, swimming, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, hiking, Ultimate Frisbee, napping, etc.)	On your own (pool open till 5 p.m.; lake accessible till 4:30 p.m.)
6 p.m.	Dinner	Breezewood Lodge
7–7:30 p.m.	Looking back & looking forward	Mountainside Haven
7:30–9 p.m.	Individual team time	TBD by respective advisor/supervisor
9–11 p.m.	Campfire, snacks & free time	Campfire location

Sunday, Aug. 26	Event/Activity	Location
8–9 a.m.	Breakfast	Breezewood Lodge
9:15–10:30 a.m.	Worship together	Mountainside Haven
10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Load buses and travel back to Messiah	Same pick-up/drop-off locations

### Afternoon Breakout Sessions

During the two breakout session times on Saturday afternoon, choose to attend one of the below sessions for each of the two time blocks. We recommend that your respective team divide up to attend different sessions for each and then summarize what was learned with each other later.

### **#1: Mission Possible: Creating a Personal Mission Statement**

**Presenter:** Shardé Hardy | **Location:** Dogwood & Willow Rooms (Mountainside Haven)

**Abstract:** Most organizations, from large corporations to small non-profits, have a clear mission statement to give direction to internal audience members and communicate goals to an external audience. How might your day-to-day decisions as a student and leader look differently if you too, had a mission statement guiding your life? This workshop will guide you through a step-by-step process of reflection on those actions, values and causes that inspire you in order to write a personal mission statement. Writing a personal mission statement for your life can help re-clarify your passions and can provide a focus for those difficult days of leadership you might encounter in the year ahead.

**Learning Outcomes:** This workshop will specifically focus on the “Calling” aspect of the Leadership Development Model. Students will gain a greater self-awareness of the values and beliefs that motivate them to take action. Because students will be walking through a step-by-step process to develop their mission statement, they will be able to articulate specific actions, values, beliefs, and groups of people/organizations they feel God calling them towards. This will ideally spark a vision for how they can use their mission statement to lead and guide their actions and decisions throughout the year and ultimately, when facing future decisions around vocation.

### **#2: Check Yourself: How to Approach Communicating with Different Perspectives by Adjusting “My” Posture Rather than Changing “Their” Position**

**Presenter:** Hannah McBride & Amy Nicols | **Location:** White Oak Auditorium (Mountainside Haven)

**Abstract:** This workshop will encourage students to discuss their approach to engaging in controversial conversations, while focusing on the College-defined theme of the common good seeking the dignity, welfare, and human flourishing of all of our neighbors. We acknowledge that mindful, purposeful communication is a foundation for opening doors to civil discourse and genuine relationships. We hope to emphasize the practical skills of body monitoring and self-awareness for entering, sustaining, exiting, and returning to difficult conversations for the sake of the common good, rather than for self-gratification.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Examine personal values and assumptions about others’ that may influence how student leaders communicate.
2. Experiment with different skills for approaching a controversial conversation.

### **#3: Thanks for the Feedback: Giving and Receiving Feedback Well in the Context of your Leadership Team**

**Presenters:** Evie Telfer & Julie Price | **Location:** Breezewood Basement

**Abstract:** Feedback—how you understand it, receive it and give it can make the difference between a year of frustration, irritation and conflict or a year of significant personal growth and team productivity. Do you know how to separate coaching, evaluation and appreciation in your feedback conversations? Can you spot and correct switch tracking—when feedback givers and receivers are talking about two different problems but don't realize it? Do you know how to recruit both honest and supportive mirrors to help you identify and work on your blind spots? And what might you need to know about coaching your coach—helping your supervisor or co-worker learn how to give you feedback in a way that will be most effective for both of you? In this workshop we will explore some of the skills we all need to be more effective feedback givers and receivers, and ultimately more effective people.

**Learning Outcomes:** Gracious Communication, Personal Effectiveness, Healthy Relationships, Leadership

### **#4: Leadership in the Life of a Group**

**Presenters:** Wendell Witter | **Location:** Pine Lodge Pavilion

**Abstract:** Groups have a lifespan. Groups form, mature, and eventually end. As you practice leadership within the context of a group, it is helpful to understand various group dynamics and how they change throughout the lifespan of a group.

**Learning Outcomes:** This workshop will provide some basic groundwork for understanding various group dynamics including Tuckman’s stages of group development and will also provide suggestions for leadership at various stages of the life of the group.

### **#5: Leading in the “In-Between”**

**Presenters:** Kris Hansen-Kieffer & Kevin Villegas | **Location:** Mountainside Haven patio

**Abstract:** Living in the tensions of the “in-between” can be challenging and exciting at the same time. With this in mind, this session presents some strategies for aligning your approach to leadership within the Messiah College ligature framework that reflect our community’s mission, identity, and values.

**Learning Outcomes:** Participants will be able to articulate what ligatures are and why it is an important framework to consider when living and leading in a community.