Created and Called for

COMMUNITY

THE MESSIAH COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005
The theme President Kim S. Phipps chose for her inauguration, “Created and Called for Community,” highlights the significance of Messiah College’s new core course of the same title and the College’s commitment to building and nurturing a Christian academic community that equips students to become agents of positive change in the world. The image of the tree and seedling symbolizes President Phipps’ vision of community for Messiah College:

- Many strong, distinctive branches radiating from a singular, deeply rooted source
- Branches reaching far beyond the tree’s immediate physical boundaries
- A dynamic, nurturing environment in which seedlings can take root and mature, ultimately advancing the College’s legacy of hope, excellence, hospitality, and engagement

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“At Messiah we are determined to educate students who will be thoroughly prepared to make a difference in the Church and society because they understand their personal, intellectual, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to build community. We earnestly seek to educate our students to be persons of firm conviction, exemplary character, and generous compassion.”
The purpose of higher education is to provide the context for young people to learn and to be transformed by that learning process by participating in a community that simultaneously provides challenge and support. During the past year at Messiah, we have been on a journey of discovery—seeking to understand and embody what it means to be a true learning community. We conducted the pilot of a new first-year educational program that emphasized themes of Christian self-understanding and commitment to serving others. The cornerstone of the program is a newly conceived foundational course entitled “Created and Called for Community.” Messiah students are being encouraged to reflect on what it means to be created in God’s image and how to pursue their vocations as servants, leaders, and peacemakers.

I believe these concepts are vital for Messiah’s extended community to consider, which is why I selected “Created and Called for Community” as the theme of my inauguration. Messiah’s commitment to nurturing community stands in stark contrast to the prevailing tenor of contemporary discourse in today’s society. Anger, division, and the lack of civil discourse have pervaded our national politics and international diplomacy, our public and private conversations, and even our faith and practice in the Church. At Messiah, we are determined to educate students who will be thoroughly prepared to make a difference in the Church and society because they understand their personal, intellectual, moral, and spiritual responsibilities to build community. We earnestly seek to educate our students to be persons of firm conviction, exemplary character, and generous compassion.

In this President's Report you will gain a glimpse into the past academic year at Messiah and discover the exciting ways in which we have sought to fulfill our vocation as a Christian academic community characterized by hope, excellence, hospitality, and engagement. I trust that as you read the words of my colleagues and the compelling stories and accomplishments of our campus community you will be inspired and encouraged to partner with us in our unique mission!

Kim S. Phipps
Messiah College President