Application for Student Body Vice President, 2022-2023

Please note that this application will be made available to the general student body for their consideration in choosing with whom to cast their vote. Questions are designed to help candidates reflect on their character, calling, and competencies as they apply to leadership at Messiah University. Please limit answers to a maximum of 250 words.

Name: Mason Powers
Running Mate: Samantha Neal
Email Address: mp1372@messiah.edu
Expected Graduation: 2024
Major(s): Philosophy
Minor(s): Click here to enter text.

1. Why do you want to serve as Student Body Vice President? In your own words, what purpose do you believe the position should serve on campus?
The Student Body Vice President is burdened with many choices that can bring about change in this school. I know that many of my fellow students are unhappy with the current academic environment Messiah offers and I would like to be part of the team that makes change happen. Asides from assisting the President as needed, the Vice President should be someone whom any students would feel comfortable bringing up their questions and comments. They must be someone who not only can create ideas for change but listen to the voice of the student populous for their critical input.

2. In your opinion, what elements create a healthy environment for teamwork and why?
The most important element in creating a prosperous work environment is communication. In order to establish and maintain proper communication, the members of the committee must be transparent with their actions both with their fellow members as well as the students whom they represent. With proper communication comes understanding and less confusion; this will lead to more swift actions taken and fewer arguments.

3. In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue currently facing Messiah University, and how would you like to address it?
The most pressing issue facing the University right now is the strong disconnect between students. I have personally bore witness to the effects that Covid has had on the student body and the unfortunate result is often isolation. From the difficulties of meeting new people to students with depression not getting the proper help they need; the healing process of this pandemic is one that the University must spend more time focusing on. It can’t be quietly swept under the rug. Bringing together the students for more events and strengthening the bond not just between friends, but all students is much needed.

4. What does effective leadership look like to you and how do you plan to achieve that with your running mate?

Effective leadership is seen in both resolve and results. Samantha and I have both. There are many projects that we have in mind and many policies that we would like to see changed. For example, we like the idea of having more student mixers aside from the one that freshmen have at the start of their first year. This would be a great time for students to meet new people and for us to build a stronger connection in the student body; something that is quite lacking as I see it now. A president and vice-president can’t only make promises, but they must also have the drive to act upon them. We must lead by example.

5. What previous leadership positions have you held on campus? Which experience have you appreciated most? Why?

My biggest leadership position was when I took on the lead role of Benedick in last semester’s play, *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare. I am also looking to take a leadership position in the MU Chess Club next semester. I appreciate all the leaders that I have witnessed in my many clubs and activities such as Theatre, Men’s Ensemble, MU A Cappella, Ultimate Frisbee, and Chess. All the leaders and captains of these clubs have shown me what it is like to lead, and I am incredibly thankful for all that they have taught me.

6. If elected, how will your character and Christian faith influence your leadership?

As a life-long Christian, I have been exposed to many schools of thought. Without a doubt, it has shaped who I am. I have been left with the values of acceptance and compassion. Not only will this make itself known in my actions of non-partisan opinions, but in my equal view of all students regardless of gender, race, or sexuality. Every voice is just as important as the other. I want to work to make Messiah a more inclusive school and a place that stands for the same values Jesus stood for.

7. The demanding role of Student Body Vice President requires considerable strength in the following areas: communication skills, accountability, diplomacy, delegation and empowerment. Please choose a few of these areas and speak to your aptitude or qualifications.
I excel in both communication skills and accountability. My life as an actor and performer has trained me to work under intense pressure and communicate my thoughts clearly to those listening. I have assisted directed musicals and I take great pride in my quick decision making. As for my accountability, I have been able to show that through my grades. For the three complete semesters that I have been at Messiah, I have achieved the Dean’s List three times. My work ethic is irrefutable, and I will put it to use for the benefit of both the University and the student body.

Applications must be submitted in full, along with a current resume in PDF form, to sgatreasurer@messiah.edu before 11:59pm on February 14th. No late applications will be considered. A completed petition form bearing the names and signatures of 200 current Messiah University students must be also slid under the door of the SGA Office by the same deadline.