

October 27, 2025

Dear Messiah community members,

As promised after the board of trustees meeting last May, below is an update on the work being conducted by the board to complete the university's presidential placement process.

Before addressing the search, on behalf of the of the board, I want to acknowledge the tragedy that the Messiah community faced earlier this semester. Our hearts break, as yours have, with the loss of Brendan Heisey. We continue to pray for the Heisey family and the Messiah community as we journey together through our grief.

We want to thank the leadership of Messiah as they have navigated this semester with grace, love and empathy. We especially recognize Dr. Jon Stuckey's leadership and that of his team. The board is thankful for their excellent work and the care that the Messiah community has provided to students and to each other during this difficult time.

As we look to the year ahead, the presidential search remains a top priority for the board. Building on the work that was done last year, and carefully evaluating lessons learned, the board confirmed at its annual fall meeting last week that we are proceeding with a new search. Our goal is to ensure that the Messiah community and the board have full confidence that:

- a thorough search process was conducted;
- all candidates (internal and external) were evaluated fairly and completely; and
- as a result of this process, the best candidate was chosen to be Messiah's next president.

To help achieve this, we are engaging a large, national executive search firm with a wide scope of experience in the higher education space to assist with the search. As part of a proposal process, the board officers reviewed seven firms, ultimately identifying two finalists. We are moving forward with interviewing the finalists and anticipate selecting our new search partner within a couple of weeks.

We will also be forming a new search committee shortly. Following these actions, the board anticipates that we will be prepared, with our search partner, to begin evaluating candidates early in 2026.

I want to conclude with three important points. First, it's important to note the board's support of Dr. Stuckey as the President of the Interim; we deeply appreciate Jon's leadership and his dedication to Messiah. Second, the board remains deeply grateful for the excellent work of the entire Messiah community. And, finally, we ask that you continue to join the board in lifting in prayer the University, this search and everyone involved as we seek to name Messiah's next president.

We remain grateful for your support and will continue to keep the Messiah community informed, including the anticipated announcement of the University's executive search firm partner and search committee members, at www.messiah.edu/nextpresident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Musser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" and last name "Musser" clearly distinguishable.

Mr. Rod L. Musser ('83)
Chair, Messiah University Board of Trustees