



Campus Update: Messiah's Presidential Search Moves into Next Phase

Note: the below communique was sent as a mass email to all students and employees on Dec. 17, 2025

Dear Members of the Messiah community,

Messiah University's Board of Trustees has taken an important next step in the search for the University's ninth president—partnering with DSG Storbeck, a nationally recognized leader in executive search, to help identify and recruit exceptional candidates who will lead Messiah into its next season of growth and mission impact. Together, we have refreshed the comprehensive presidential profile that integrates the campus feedback gathered last fall and reflects the mission, values and strategic priorities of our institution.

With these foundational steps completed, the presidential search has now officially launched. DSG Storbeck began nationally advertising the position last week in higher education and other faith-based media, and has begun actively identifying and cultivating qualified prospects who align with the needs and aspirations of the University. Members of the Messiah community are invited to provide input into the search or suggest/nominate candidates to the search firm via email at messiahpresident@dsgco.com.

The Board has also appointed a Presidential Search Committee composed of trustees, faculty and administrators who will review candidate materials and discern which individuals should advance to the next stages of the process in the weeks ahead (see members below). Additionally, Trustees Lisa Wagman Glezer, Alan Robinson and Jessica Thomas, and Emerson Powery, Dean of the School of Arts, Culture and Society, will be working with DSG Storbeck on an initial evaluation of applications to identify a slate of candidates for the search committee to consider.

Presidential Search Committee

Faculty/Staff

- JR Harris (Executive Director of Student Financial Services)
- Daniel Inouye (Professor of Theatre and Chair of the Department)

- Rebekah Ostby (Director of Operations and Finance for the School of Graduate & Professional Studies)
- Melinda Smith (Associate Professor of Applied Health Science)
- David Weaver-Zercher (Assistant Provost and Professor of American Religious History)

Trustees

- Linda Eremita, Secretary
- David Millary, Vice Chair
- Rod Musser, Chair
- Alan Robinson
- Eunice Steinbrecher

We look forward to keeping the campus community informed as this significant work continues. For more information on DSG Storbeck, the presidential profile, and ongoing search updates, visit www.messiah.edu/nextpresident.

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.

Rod L. Musser '83

Chair, Messiah University Board of Trustees