

2024

Student Body President's



End of Year Report

2025



Table of Contents

End of Year Report of Student Body President	3
Samuel Ramos, <i>Student Body President</i>	3
End of Year Reports of SGA Executive Cabinet	5
Gabi Kovalchick, <i>Student Body Vice President</i>	5
Wen Xin Ling, <i>Vice President of Diversity Affairs</i>	7
Rebekah Hayner, <i>Vice President of Engagement</i>	10
Dylan Yoder, <i>Vice President of Finance</i>	12
Adi Mansour, <i>Vice President of Organizations</i>	15
Noah Siegrist, <i>Vice President of Student Review</i>	16
End of Year Reports of Executive Organizations.....	18
Agapé Center - Service Opportunity Leaders	18
Austin Grove, <i>Student Director of Outreach</i>	18
Reese Johnston, <i>Bethesda After School Program</i>	19
Autumn Derstine, <i>Bethesda Hotspot</i>	20
Anna Weldon, <i>Bethesda Mobile Mission and Men's Shelter</i>	21
Lauren Miller, <i>Center for Champions</i>	21
Bella Witmer, <i>Messiah Lifeways College Connections</i>	22
Melody Pha, <i>Messiah Lifeways One-on-One Program</i>	22
Joana Belza, <i>New Hope Ministries</i>	23
Valeria Telfort Otero, <i>PAIRWN</i>	23
Maggie Pettus, <i>Paxton Ministries</i>	24
Alessandra LaGeorge, <i>Salvation Army After School</i>	24
Tzeniah Frazier, <i>Wild Heart Ministries</i>	24
Kelsey Waarenburg, <i>International Service Trips</i>	25
Multicultural Council	26
Tammy Tay, <i>Chair of Multicultural Council</i>	27
Joshua Kariuki, <i>President of African Student Union</i>	29
Chrislin Daniel, <i>President of Asian Student Association</i>	30
Tyree Cowan, <i>President of Black Student Union</i>	31
Christopher Vasquez, <i>President of Caribbean Student Association</i>	32
Phoebe Lim, <i>President of International Student Association/ MuKappa Chapter</i>	33
Bern Sandoval, <i>President of La Alianza Latina</i>	34
The Pulse	38
Marleigh Flanagan (Fall) & Dani Johnson (Spring), <i>Directors of The Pulse</i>	38
Student Activities Board	42
Arianna Hitz, <i>President</i>	42
Marissa Carr, <i>Vice President & Special Activities Executive</i>	43
Kieya Hakein, <i>Student Talent Executive</i>	44
Isabel Cates, <i>Community Executive</i>	44
Daniel Smith, <i>Graphic Design Executive</i>	45
Ilaiza Vargas, <i>Cultural Engagement Executive</i>	45
Ricardo Rivas, <i>Excursions Executive</i>	46
Grace Chang, <i>Music Executive</i>	47



Aubrey Thomas, <i>Dances Executive</i>	47
Ben Poff, <i>Treasurer</i>	48
Katie Eckardt, <i>Marketing Executive</i>	49
Mina Rodriguez, <i>Wellness Executive</i>	50
Joel Cowart, <i>Lost Films Executive</i>	50
Student Ministries	52
Allison Fahrney (Fall) & Todd Feil (Spring), <i>Lead Directors</i>	52
Camille Murchie, <i>Chapel Director</i>	53
Owen Shank, <i>Bible Study Director</i>	54
CJ Groff, <i>Life Groups Director</i>	59
Macy Neff, <i>Prayer Director</i>	62
Emma Moyer, <i>Events & Communications Director</i>	64
Anna Bolembach, <i>Director of Human Rights Awareness Ministry</i>	65
Chris Hon, <i>Assistant Director of Human Rights Awareness</i>	66
Liz Meyer, <i>Events Coordinator (HRA)</i>	67
Justin Ng, <i>Education Coordinator (HRA)</i>	67
Dain Kobzowicz, <i>Design & Social Media Coordinator (HRA)</i>	67
Minds Matter	68
Faith Fitz, <i>President of Minds Matter</i>	69
Julie Hodgson, <i>Vice President of Minds Matter</i>	70
Rebecca Haas, <i>Vice President of Events</i>	70
Will Reed, <i>Vice President of Media</i>	72
Maddie Blaser, <i>Vice President of Education</i>	72

End of Year Report of Student Body President

Samuel Ramos, *Student Body President*



To the Student Body,

As my term in office draws to a close and I prepare to end my time as Student Body President, I find myself filled with deep gratitude—and a bit of surprise.

I am grateful – for my peers, whom I’ve walked alongside for four years; for the faculty who have challenged me and cultivated my growth; for administrators who lead in a courageous middle space; and for the Board of Trustees, who faithfully navigate the challenge of keeping Christ Preeminent at the center of Messiah University's identity.

And I am surprised – because four years ago, I never imagined that I could grow to love a place as deeply as I love Messiah University, even while knowing that I was always meant to leave it.

There is something profoundly beautiful about the work done by the Student Body President and their cabinet. It is rooted in the reality that our leadership is temporary, yet our purpose and contributions outlive our time, often in ways only those who have served before may fully understand. We do not do it for recognition or permanence, but out of love for a community that is, by nature, always changing.

Motivated by that love, my cabinet and student leaders all across campus have worked to leave Messiah University better than we found it. While the nature of student leadership is often behind the scenes, I am incredibly proud to highlight the efforts of each student leader who has diligently served our peers and supported our beloved community.

Reflections on SGA

Even before the academic year began, SGA partnered with the Division of Operations to launch two key projects: painting pickleball court lines and establishing a free period products program. Both were successful and have benefited the student body greatly throughout the year.

Early in the year, we learned how to work together as a team and navigated a challenging budget season with grace. Dylan Yoder, our Vice President of Finance, was instrumental in crafting a creative budget that met the diverse needs of our organizations. Alongside Dylan, Adi Mansour led the chartership process to secure additional SGA support for the Spikeball Club. Our term also began with a Campus-Wide Sabbath, led by Student Body Vice President Gabi Kovalchick in collaboration with the Provost’s Office and Campus Ministries. In the fall, members of the cabinet worked tirelessly to equip the student body with helpful and informative content surrounding the 2024 Presidential Election.



In the spring, we were grounded in the mindset that our work was for a purpose greater than ourselves or even our administration. Out of that mindset, Noah Siegrist, Vice President of Student Review, undertook



a significant revision of our governance manual to make it more cohesive and clear for future cabinets. We also revised many budgeting practices in preparation for an increase in the Student Activities Fee. The Leadership Council worked closely with the Office of Development to bring back the senior class gift—an important tradition to Messiah University.

A major accomplishment from this year was the launch of a food pantry on campus, spearheaded by Wen Xin Ling, Vice President of Diversity Affairs. Through four events, we provided free, healthy, and accessible food options to over 60 students at each. In addition to this, because of Wen Xin's efforts, Messiah University is officially a PA Designated Hunger Free Campus, and is eligible to expand our efforts through grants next year.

Through key events led by Rebekah Hayner, Vice President of Engagement—such as the White Out March, the student celebration for President Phipps, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt—we engaged a constantly evolving student body and celebrated our campus spirit.

As I reflect on the legislation, events, and efforts of this administration, I'm proud to say that we built a more sustainable SGA. By listening closely to students and partnering with administrators, we developed initiatives and practices that, Lord willing, will endure and benefit the Student Body for years to come.

Looking Ahead

I am filled with hope as I look to the future. The strength of Messiah lies in its student leaders, and I'm excited for next year's cabinet under the leadership of Tyree Cowan. Ty, the current President of the Black Student Union, has served Messiah with vision, faithfulness, and dedication. I have great confidence in the future of SGA under his leadership.

To all of you who have supported Messiah and the work of SGA—thank you. Thank you for your love of this institution and your commitment to helping it flourish. I love Messiah more deeply because of your efforts to make this place thrive. At the close of my four years, I can say with certainty: the world needs more of what Messiah has to offer.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam Ramos".

Sam Ramos
Student Body President, 2024-2025



MESSIAH UNIVERSITY
Student Government Association

End of Year Reports of SGA Executive Cabinet

Gabi Kovalchick, *Student Body Vice President*



Fall 2024 Semester:

This past fall semester allowed for significant growth—both professionally and personally—in my role as Student Body Vice President. Despite stepping into the position with limited preparation, I was able to achieve many of the goals I set, and I head into the spring semester with renewed drive and vision for what's ahead.

As Chair of Student Senate, although our meetings were not frequent, they were highly meaningful. The semester began with positive feedback regarding SGA's transparency and intentionality during the budget process, which was approved smoothly. Beyond the budget, two Governance Review Councils (GRCs) were introduced and approved by the Senate. The first addressed the allocation of funds to club sports, while the second clarified expectations for club constitutions. A key highlight of the fall semester was the Senate's work on chartering clubs—a process that hadn't taken place in several years. Though only one of the five clubs

received chartered status, the experience underscored the importance of Student Senate and its potential moving forward.

Regarding Sam and my campaign goals, we made substantial progress this semester. With support from the Provost, we successfully implemented a campus-wide Sabbath, providing students with a day off from classes that culminated in a meaningful worship service. The event reflected SGA's and Messiah University's shared commitment to wellness and rest.

One of my personal priorities this semester was increasing SGA's visibility. With help from Rebekah, our Vice President of Engagement, we saw encouraging progress. I prioritized executive cabinet attendance at campus events, participation in informal settings like SAB's Coffeehouse, and organizing a pop-up donut table to connect directly with students. These efforts helped make SGA more accessible and strengthened our presence within the campus community.

Lastly, I had the opportunity to engage with the Community of Educators Senate (COE), where I shared student perspectives on various issues. This experience—paired with leading Student Senate—has strengthened my professional skills and deepened my confidence heading into the spring semester.

Spring 2024 Semester:

This semester saw significant challenges within my work, but many successes to continue building on. As Vice President, my key responsibility in the spring semester was to serve as Chair of the election committee and carry out the election of the next Student Body President and Vice President. After forming my committee, we established an ambitious timeline in the hopes of better transitioning the incoming team. Due to a variety of issues, our deadline had to be pushed back several weeks. Thanks to the work of the prior election committee, we had guidelines for what an uncontested election would look like, and were able to highlight changes that need to be made in case it happens again in the future. After the uncontested election was completed, my responsibilities shifted to facilitating the hiring process of the rest of the executive cabinet and ensuring that training happens for the next Student Body Vice President.



This semester also saw limited, but very important, Student Senate meetings. The budget, although vetoed, was passed smoothly thanks to SGA's transparency throughout the entire process. Primary Forum also met for the first time this semester to confirm the election process. In the last few weeks of the semester, we will have many hefty agenda items coming to the floor of Student Senate, such as adjusting the fixed percentages, cabinet inductions, the governance manual review, and capital purchases. It has become a great joy of mine to lead these meetings, and I hope Student Senate continues to be utilized as a space to impact the lives of students here on campus.

I continued to prioritize supporting other clubs by attending events. As a cabinet, there were many events to rally behind, such as the Food Pantry, the civil discourse "Seeking Home", the President Phipps Celebration, Eggstravaganza, and Senior Tailgate. It has been a great joy connecting as a team and engaging with the student body, showing that SGA works for them and is one of them.

Reflection

I am extremely grateful to Sam for taking a chance on me, and for a great year serving alongside him and the rest of our team. This position has allowed me to grow professionally and personally, and I hope to see SGA continue to grow on this positive trajectory. Messiah University has many great leaders throughout campus, and I cannot wait to see what they do next.

Signed,

Gabriella Kovalchick '25
Student Body Vice President
Student Government Association

Wen Xin Ling, *Vice President of Diversity Affairs*



Reflection

This year began with political discourse on campus, and I brought with me a personal resolution formed during the Civil Rights Bus Tour in Selma: to get people to vote. That mission became real through our voter registration initiatives. Beyond that, I had the pleasure to regularly meet with campus groups such as MCC Core, HRA, and SAGE, and developed close relationships with both the MISP Office and MCC, attending events and supporting them with resources throughout the year.

A major priority for me was increasing the visibility and impact of the Social Concerns Committee, as I believe it is one of the most powerful tools a student can utilise.

Through pop-up tables, events, and student conversations, among other things, we found ourselves taking on a historical project: launching Messiah's first on-campus food pantry. Never before has the Committee been so deeply relied on, nor has it operated at this level. With all our

senators present, we gave the most significant presentation in

our history to the President's Cabinet—and received unanimous approval.

This project was born from student concerns about access to healthy, allergy-friendly, and affordable food. What began as listening turned into months of tireless planning, research, and collaboration. We passed a resolution in Student Senate to establish the food pantry, completed the PA Hunger-Free Campus designation application, and began a soft launch, opening the pantry every two weeks. This is a test run to help us understand students' needs and build a strong logistical foundation. In the process, we have initiated grant applications, secured startup funding from SGA, and are partnering with external organizations like New Hope Ministries and Central PA Food Bank.

The requirements for the PA Hunger-Free Campus designation seemed daunting at first, but they became our scaffolding—guiding us in building something with structure, purpose, and sustainability. From launching a food insecurity survey to pursuing long-term funding, each step was a lesson in perseverance and vision. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished in just one and a half semester. We started from scratch, and all of us had to humble ourselves and learn everything from the ground up.

What I have learned is this: even if we feel under-resourced or uncertain, we should always strive to make that first step. The groundwork we lay today allows flowers to bloom tomorrow. We do what we can, in our time.

Civil Discourse

In the spring, SGA and the Multicultural Council hosted a panel discussion on immigration, inspired by ongoing work with refugee resettlement. Recognizing the misconceptions and lack of dialogue surrounding this issue—especially among students and within our international community—we saw an opportunity to bring this important conversation to campus.

Immigration continues to be a politically charged and deeply polarizing topic, particularly in light of shifting national policies and leadership. This made it all the more urgent to create a space for thoughtful, respectful dialogue rooted in compassion, understanding, and faith.

The panel explored the complexities of immigration in the U.S.: why people leave, how they are received, and what it means to belong. Panelists included Dr. Sarah Myers, who provided historical context; Rebekah Teuscher from Church World Service, who shared frontline experiences in refugee resettlement; Dr. Pickins, who brought in Christian and interfaith perspectives on migration; Lita Godoy, Messiah's DSO and an immigration attorney, who addressed legal realities; and Dr. Ling Dinse, who spoke to the human impact of immigration policies through her work in social work. Each speaker contributed their unique expertise, offering a well-rounded and holistic perspective.

Despite the event's extended format, most attendees stayed engaged through the intermission and into the Q&A session, highlighting the depth and relevance of the topic. Immigration is more than policy—it's people, stories, and faith in motion. As a community, we were invited to reflect on the question: What does it mean to seek, find, and create home?



Events

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, SGA organized and collaborated on several events focused on diversity, civic engagement, and student wellness. These efforts aimed to support student needs, build awareness, and foster community:

- 1) Voter Registration Pop-up
 - a) Social Concerns Committee were integral in assisting with voter registration and mail in ballots, assisting over 70 students. With support from Student Engagement, rides to polling locations were also made available.
- 2) Around the World Food Tour
 - a) In collaboration with the Multicultural Clubs, this event featured six cuisines from local restaurants selected by each club. It was a well-attended celebration of culture, food, and fellowship—offering students a delicious way to explore global diversity.
- 3) International Friendsgiving:
 - a) SGA along with five other on-campus organizations had the opportunity to host Church World Service Harrisburg in an event called the International Friendsgiving. International Friendsgiving was both a fundraiser and a learning opportunity for students and faculty members. This event focused on food, fellowship, and a time for CWS to share about the work that CWS does for our refugee neighbors in Harrisburg, just beyond Messiah. Beyond being a fundraiser, this event was a meaningful learning experience for our campus. I had the honor of facilitating a panel featuring two refugees working with CWS, allowing students and faculty to hear firsthand stories of displacement and resettlement in our local community.

- 4) Candy & SNAP Awareness Pop-up:
 - a) Held on Valentine's Day, this pop-up raised awareness about SNAP benefits and food insecurity among college students. Over 150 students received candy bags with QR codes linking directly to the SNAP application. We created accessible info boards and flyers to explain the process and qualifications, serving over 150 students in a way that was both informative and approachable. Feeding students knowledge was the goal!
- 5) Mobile Food Pantry
 - a) Coordinated the Mobile Food Pantry twice during the spring semester as an initial step to normalize the use of food pantries among students and gauge overall interest. In partnership with New Hope Ministries food truck, we welcomed over 60 students and received overwhelmingly positive feedback.
- 6) Feeding Yourself in College Speaker Event
 - a) Featuring representatives from the Central PA Food Bank, Maria D'Isabella and Morgan Flood, for a speaker event focused on accessible food resources for college students. This not only equipped students with practical tools but also strengthened our committee's relationship with the food bank, leading to generous donations of reusable bags, food items, and a table to support the pantry launch.
- 7) Food Pantry Soft Launch
 - a) This semester marked the soft launch of Messiah's on-campus food pantry—an initiative the Committee helped bring to life. Located in the basement of Hostetter Chapel, the pantry currently opens twice a month as we continue to assess student needs and streamline operations. Open to all students and completely free, the pantry offers a variety of items, including allergy-friendly options. We are actively collaborating with campus departments, external partners, and working on grant applications to expand hours and capacity in future semesters.
- 8) Fill-A-Bag Food Drive
 - a) To support our pantry and increase visibility, I coordinated a small-scale food drive inviting faculty and staff to donate food items. This initiative not only supplied the pantry and increased visibility but also created opportunities for faculty-student engagement and partnership.



Looking Forward

As we look to the future, I hope to see an emphasis on nutrition education—helping students learn how to maximize their food resources in today's economy. A key priority moving forward will be securing consistent partnerships to ensure the food pantry remains sustainable and long-running. The pantry has opened doors to many more possibilities, from collaborative projects to long-term campus partnerships.

With more responsibilities gradually being placed under the wing of the Vice President of Diversity Affairs, have begun to envision the creation of an additional role dedicated to managing the planning, execution, and ongoing maintenance of initiatives like the pantry. This

would allow the VPDA to focus more intentionally on community-building, education, and uplifting underrepresented voices across campus without becoming overburdened by logistics.

Beyond food justice, I hope future leadership continues to invest in communities that have been historically under-engaged. Each term builds on the work of those before it- what one leader could not reach, the next may continue. It is in this spirit of continuity that I pass the torch to my successor, Owen Anderson, who has served faithfully as a Social Concerns Committee senator. Owen was one of the first members involved in drafting the food pantry proposal last fall, and I am confident he will carry this vision forward with dedication and care.

In Service,

WenXin Ling '25
Vice President of Diversity Affairs
Student Government Association

Rebekah Hayner, *Vice President of Engagement*



Fall 2024 Semester:

This semester I have had the opportunity to develop as a professional. My job as Vice President of Engagement has given me opportunities to grow in my abilities to lead, manage time and work well with others on my team and leaders across campus. As Vice President of Engagement, I am responsible for the minute taking during SGA Executive Cabinet meetings, Student Senate, and Leadership Council meetings, manage the SGA email and Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn pages. This semester it was a goal of mine, Student Body President Sam Ramos, and Student Body Vice President Gabi Kovalchick to create a better social media presence. I have been able to gain more followers and increase interactions on our social media pages.

I also have had the privilege of sitting on the Community Standards Committee, the University Review Board and the Engagement Committee Council. Sitting on these committees is a great opportunity for me, a student, to have a voice that represents the student body. My main function is to keep the student body engaged with campus life. I am able to do this with the help of the Engagement Council, which I am the chair of. Having other students' input and help with tasks and decision making, helps me to make sure that students are engaged on campus. This semester the SGA Executive Cabinet held a pop-up table to give away donuts to students and enter to win a gift card. I was also responsible in helping put on the Homecoming Powder Puff games, Homecoming White-out March, and Homecoming Court. These events were very successful with lots of student participation.



Messiah has a focus of developing students professionally. One way for this to happen is through the Professional Development Grant offered by SGA and the Career and Professional Development Center. As Vice President of Engagement, I chair the Professional Development Grant Committee. This grant helps students pay for some of the costs to go to conferences during the academic year.

During Homecoming Weekend I was in charge of the student focused promotion of the weekend's events. I sent out mass emails, created social media posts and printed posters to hang around campus. I worked alongside Emily Nell to make sure the Powder Puff games ran smoothly. I also was in charge of leading and coordinating the Homecoming White-out March. Me, Curtis Kurtz and SAB President Ariana Hitz put on a Homecoming Court. During the Homecoming soccer game, I read the biography paragraphs of each Homecoming Court nominations before the winner was announced.

Spring 2025 Semester:

In light of President Phipps retiring, I was tasked with creating a student led President Phipps celebration. At the beginning of September, I created a team of students involved in various Executive Clubs across campus. Since September the team and I have been handling the logistics of putting on a campus wide event. We created a lay-out of where the activities would take place, what activities would be available, creating a scrapbook and mural for students to sign, and what meal would be served to students. Due to rain we had to quickly pivot the event to indoors. We set up all the activities in Brubaker gymnasium and catering was set up in Lottie. My team and I helped students to make their way down to Brubaker after dinner for activities and to hang out with President Phipps. The event was a great success. Many students attended and were able to talk with President Phipps before she departs in May.

I also had the pleasure of putting on the SGA Annual Eggstravaganza (egg hunt). This event I had to budget very well for since we had very large prizes to give away. I worked with our Vice President of Finance to budget and purchase all of the gifts and candy. Me and my cabinet then put candy in around 2,000 eggs. We placed them around all of campus and made sure every student followed the rules. We had around 150 students participate.

I also wanted to bring back a senior tradition. I planned to put on a Senior Picnic and kickball tournament. This event was to bring back an event that all seniors can get together and hang out at the end of their senior spring semester.

Throughout my experience of being Vice President of Engagement I have been able to hone my project management skills, written and oral skills, collaboration and leadership skills. This job has allowed me to grow as a professional and a person.

Signed,

Rebekah Hayner '25

Vice President of Engagement



Student Government Association

Dylan Yoder, *Vice President of Finance***Reflection**

As I wrap up my first year serving on the SGA Cabinet, I'm filled with immense gratitude for the experiences, lessons, and connections that have shaped this journey. Stepping into the role of SGA Vice President of Finance came with a steep learning curve, but it has been one of the most enriching parts of my time at Messiah. Throughout this academic year, I have gained a deeper understanding of institutional finance, honed my leadership skills, and had the opportunity to engage meaningfully with so many of the individuals and organizations that make this campus thrive.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been supporting clubs and organizations as they bring their missions to life—missions that ultimately strengthen the student experience and cultivate a campus culture rooted in faith, learning, and community. Being able to assist in funding initiatives that directly impact our peers has given me a renewed sense of purpose and belonging here. Messiah has always been a place of growth for me, and through this position, I've been able to contribute to the growth of others in return. Internally, my approach to this role has been centered on the model of ethical stewardship. We are entrusted with a significant amount of funding through the Student Activities Fee, and I believe it's our duty to ensure those funds are distributed in a way that is intentional, inclusive, and impactful. After reviewing the work of past administrations, I identified a few key areas where improvements could be made. One such area was the allocation of funds for items like merchandise ahead of major events. While those purchases may have had their place, I felt a strategic shift was needed to better align with our mission of building a vibrant and engaging campus life.

With that in mind, I introduced a new budgeting strategy focused more on programming and events that reach broader segments of the student body. This change has allowed us to maximize the reach of our resources and to invest in experiences that foster genuine connection and joy on campus. Whether it's through supporting large-scale events or empowering smaller groups with big visions, I've sought to ensure that every dollar spent carries purpose and potential. Looking back, I am proud of the foundation we've built this year and optimistic about the future of SGA Finance. I hope the systems and strategies implemented this year will continue to serve the student body well. More than anything, I hope that my time in this role has made a genuine impact—on our organizations, on the student experience, and on the legacy of stewardship that defines the heart of Messiah.

Fall 2024 Budgeting

This semester, I was privileged to work with Adi Mansour, the Vice President of Organizations, as we held a mandatory club training for all club leadership on campus. This training allowed us to outline the student organizational standards and set the expectations for this semester. In addition to this training, we met individually with all chartered and executive organization presidents and treasurers to effectively review their proposed budgets to ensure the proposed amounts met the standard that we set. I was able to rework some of the budgeting documents that



clubs used to make it more user friendly for the club leadership to use. As not all people have a background in accounting or finance, we felt this was necessary for a smooth process.

Fall 2024 Budgeting Highlights

- Through analysis of previous years' budgets, it was clear that there were constant deficits throughout the years. This year was initially no exception with ~\$290,000 available for distribution and \$342,000 requested in fixed costs and proposed amounts, with chartered organizations notably asking for \$94,000 with only \$51,000 available to give them.
- Through deducting governance manual specifics (half for lodging expenses, half for registration fees, etc.), cutting merchandise orders to fundraisers only, SGA to organization short-term loans, eliminating double dipping into the Professional Development Grant, and other creative ideas, we were able to budget into a \$4,056 surplus.
- The Student Senate voted to carry this \$4,056 surplus over into the next semester to help alleviate some of the challenges that come from the decrease in the Student Activity Fee in the spring semesters.

Spring 2025 Budgeting

Once again, Adi Mansour and I tackled the challenge of club budgeting. We met individually with all chartered and executive organization presidents and treasurers to effectively review their proposed budgets to ensure the proposed amounts met the standard that we set. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the student population in spring semesters, we had significantly less money to distribute this spring than we did in the fall. There were some issues with certain club organizations submitting budgets late. With these late submissions, I made the decision to cut only the late submission organizations to cover the deficit we faced this semester. However, one such club was an executive club that receives a fixed percentage.

Due to the nature of fixed percentages, I unfortunately overlooked a section of the governance manual that describes executive clubs getting less than their fixed percentages during a budgeting cycle. Fortunately, Sam Ramos, the Student Body President, caught this and made the correct choice to veto the budget that was passed. After much deliberation in the concurrent senate, the budget was then reapproved with clear standards and a precedent set.

Spring 2025 Budgeting Highlights

- Reclaimed funds from the fall semester of ~\$15,000
- Total distribution of \$281,000 after reclaimed funds and carryover of the \$4,056 surplus discussed in the previous budgeting highlights section
- Five clubs organizations submitted budgets late and were therefore left up to budget cuts at my discretion
- Budget was passed, vetoed, and passed again due to my own error in missing a section of the governance manual citing specific executive club cuts
 - o The issue was later resolved in the concurrent senate meeting
- Deductions of ~9.3% only to those club organizations that submitted late, therefore covering the entire deficit so other clubs would not feel the effects of the stated deficit

Fixed Percentage Adjustment for Executive Organizations

It has been 8 years since the Student Activity Fee has been raised. The Student Senate voted in academic year 2023-2024 to raise the student activity fee from \$125 to \$175 in the academic year 2025-2026. Due to this increase, Executive Club Fixed Percentages must be adjusted to ensure the fair distribution of funds across all club organizations. This new incoming money will not only benefit Executive Organizations that have been hammered by inflation for the past 8 years but also chartered organizations that have had aggressive budget cuts in the past few years. During this process, I met individually with each executive club's current and future leadership to discuss idea creation, use of funds, strategy, and general sentiment towards their mission and current practices. In these meetings I was able to discern what I felt was an accurate representation of the organization's goals and aspirations in the coming years and how certain amounts of money would benefit them moving forward.

Using enrollment projection numbers from Messiah's Department of Institutional Research, I ran a comprehensive financial model over the next four years to determine how an adjustment to the fixed percentage would affect each respective executive organization. In my analysis of this model, I feel that this model is accurate yet contingent upon enrollment projections provided to me. This made me comfortable assigning new recommended fixed percentages based on these numbers and the information gathered in the aforementioned meetings.

At the time of writing this, these Fixed Percentage Adjustment Recommendations will be run through the next senate meeting and hopefully adopted into the governance manual via a GRC.

Closing Remarks

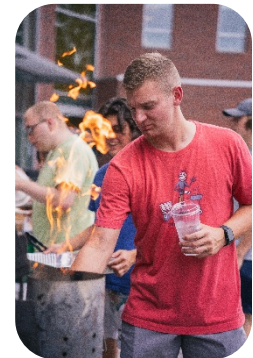
Looking back on this past year, I'm honestly overwhelmed—in the best way—by how much this role has shaped me. Coming into the position of Vice President of Finance, I knew there would be a learning curve, but I don't think I fully understood just how much I would grow. It's been more than just managing numbers or balancing budgets—it's been about people, purpose, and a deep sense of responsibility to a community I care so deeply about.

There were moments of challenge for sure. Late submissions, deficits, difficult decisions that didn't always feel good in the moment. But in those moments, I learned what it really means to lead. I had to make calls that weren't always easy or popular, and I had to own my mistakes when I made them. But what encouraged me throughout was the way others around me—Adi, Sam, our Senate, and so many student leaders—showed grace, brought wisdom, and pushed all of us toward better solutions.

One of the most fulfilling parts of this year was having real conversations with the people behind the clubs—listening to what they're passionate about, understanding how they're trying to serve their peers, and figuring out how we could help resource those efforts in a meaningful way. Those one-on-one meetings reminded me that finance, at its best, is about empowerment. It's about saying, "We believe in what you're doing, and we want to help make it happen."

This role also taught me the value of structure—the systems behind good stewardship. I found joy in the details, in revising documents, building models, analyzing trends, and trying to create something sustainable. But I also realized that structure means nothing if it's not grounded in listening, compassion, and a genuine desire to serve well.

Most of all, I'm just really grateful. For the trust placed in me, for the people who challenged and encouraged me, and for the opportunity to contribute to something bigger than myself. Messiah



has been a home for me in so many ways, and this role allowed me to give something back. I don't take that lightly.

This year wasn't perfect, but it was real, and real is where growth happens. I'll carry these lessons with me long after the budgets are closed and the meetings end. And I hope, in some small way, my time in this role has made a difference.

Respectfully signed,

Dylan Yoder '25

Vice President of Finance

Student Government Association

Adi Mansour, Vice President of Organizations



As I wrap up my second and final year serving in the Student Government Association, I'm deeply grateful for the privilege of having played a role in strengthening student life at Messiah. My time as Vice President of Organizations has been filled with challenges, growth, and countless moments of collaboration that I'll carry with me long after graduation.

This year, the Finance & Organizations (F&O) Committee reached new heights with the leadership of Dylan, the VPF, and I. F&O grew to four student senators: Rachel, Austin, Nathan, and Regan. Together, we worked closely with over 70 student clubs to support everything from recognition and chartership to constitution review, grading, and budgeting. Their leadership, diligence, and integrity shaped every step of our work, and I'm incredibly proud of what we accomplished as a team.

We facilitated four budget weeks and four budget approval senates, stewarding limited resources with fairness and responsibility. Our commitment to transparency and accountability laid the foundation for a healthier funding system and clearer communication with clubs. We also supported the successful passage of the Student Activities Fee increase and developed a new Executive Club funding model using fixed percentages, ensuring consistency and sustainability in the years ahead.

The committee also led a successful Chartership Senate, where Recognized Clubs presented for elevated status. Through that process, Spikeball Club was granted Chartered recognition. Meanwhile, our team welcomed several new organizations to campus, including the Ping Pong Club, Arab Student Coalition, Peace Promise, and Cybersecurity Competition Club—broadening the scope of campus engagement and reflecting student interests across diverse communities.



We also prioritized club leader support and recognition, whether through handwritten appreciation notes, one-on-one check-ins, or clear communication during grading season. This

year, we improved the club grading process, established a more proactive club improvement plan structure, and gave student leaders the tools to grow their organizations with intention and confidence.

Beyond committee work, I represented students on the Co-Curricular Education Council and Community Standards Committee, ensuring that student perspectives were present in key policy conversations. I also co-authored a proposal addressing visitation policy, contributing to broader conversations around student life and campus culture. And, in partnership with others, helped inform updates to the campus dining plan, including the introduction of more flexible meal tiers and a commuter-friendly discount structure.

Looking back on the past two years, I'm proud to say that the student organization ecosystem at Messiah is stronger, more vibrant, and more accountable than when I began. Serving in this role has been an honor I'll never forget—and I'm deeply thankful for the club leaders, senators, advisors, and peers who made the work worthwhile.

With appreciation,

Adi Mansour
Vice President of Organizations
Messiah University Student Government Association

Noah Siegrist, *Vice President of Student Review*



During academic year 2024-2025, I felt that I was able to enact the vision that our Cabinet had set for ourselves over the areas in which I had influence. The Student Review Board had a successful, albeit limited, semester and I was able to do some background work on other initiatives that I look forward to implementing in the spring.

Student Review Board

The Student Review Board for the 24-25 academic year was one of the largest in its history. This was important to me because Messiah prides itself in having a diverse campus, and I believe that the Student Review Board should represent the student body to the best of its ability. There are 9 members of the Board excluding myself: Executive Secretary, Senior/Transfer Representative, Senior/Commuter Representative, Junior Representative, Athletics Representative, International/Multicultural Representative, Sophomore Representative, First-Year Representative, and a Substitute Representative.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Board heard 16 cases, including 5 cases in which it had original jurisdiction. These cases included disciplinary matters including vandalism, visitation, and parking appeals.

On the administrative side, the Student Review Board is worked on a few initiatives. First, we continued to refine our new minutes template. The Executive Secretary and I have met multiple times throughout the academic year to ensure that the position can be an active participant on the Board, while still accurately recording minutes. We also are trying to increase



our social media presence with the Student Review Board's Instagram page in order to inform more students about this resource that is available to them. Finally, we used the academic year as a testing ground for a new appeal procedure, and I plan to pass along the needed tweaks to the future Vice President of Student Review.

Governance Review

Early in the Spring semester of 2025, the Executive Cabinet decided to undertake a comprehensive review of the Governance Manual due to the prevalence of grammatical mistakes, unclear language, and conflicting clauses that were present. After passing a resolution in front of the Student Senate, the Student Review Board was selected as the body that would complete this project. From February to April, the Board diligently reviewed the manual and made many valuable contributions to the processes of SGA. The project was completed on April 14th and the new Governance Manual will become official pending a vote by the Student Senate during their session on April 28th.

Looking Forward

I believe that this year has been productive for my role. While I was not able to accomplish all of the goals that I had set for myself, I am confident that the next Vice President of Student Review will carry forward the projects I have begun. As I begin to train my replacement, I will emphasize the importance of a strong relationship with the Department of Safety and how to recruit for the Board next year. I feel that my tenure as the Vice President of Student Review has been successful, and I will attempt to make the transition to my successor as smooth as possible.

Signed,

Noah Siegrist '25
VP of Student Review

End of Year Reports of Executive Organizations

Agapé Center - Service Opportunity Leaders



AGAPÉ CENTER FOR
LOCAL AND GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT

Austin Grove, *Student Director of Outreach*



Mission

The Agapé Center for Local and Global Engagement offers service-learning opportunities where students, faculty, and staff work with community-based partners in both local and international settings. We provide students with opportunities to widen their worldview and increase their awareness of other communities by reflecting on their service and their role as part of a community beyond Messiah University. To most effectively accomplish this, we connect students with off-campus partners in their interested field of service.

Events

This semester, we started the year with a Team Retreat Day where we focused on teambuilding activities by having meals together, doing training, and participating in an escape room. This built good team dynamics while introducing new 2nd semester leaders to the rest of Agapé. We also had a service project close to MLK day where we partnered with Messiah's *Office of Multicultural and International Student Programs* and *Hope Walks*, which is an organization that frees children and communities from clubfoot by providing free and holistic care, to paint braces for children with clubfoot in Rwanda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. This event had 40 unique participants

We also set up a hole in the Murray Library's Mini Golf in the Stacks event that highlighted the Agapé Center's goals for getting students off campus and into the community. The Agapé Center also organized Service Day on Thursday, April 10th. This event was a massive success with over 800 participants in over 20 open service projects. There were still more service projects that were closed to public sign-ups. The Agapé partnered with *Rise Against Hunger* where we were able to package approximately 15,000 meals for food insecure populations around the world.

Coming up, we will have our Celebration of Service, which is a lunch for community partners, volunteers, and Agapé student leaders. This is a way to thank everyone for serving with us. At this event, we will announce the winner of our S.R. Smith award which goes to a student who embodies service and has shown commitment to engaging with our local community. Minds Matter is also hosting an event at the end of the semester called "Destress Fest," where we were invited to host a fun, creative, stress-relieving, and service focused activity to help students de-



stress while learning about the importance of service. We hope to participate in this event to help promote on-campus engagement with the Agapé Center as well as spreading awareness for outreach. Lastly, on the last weekend of the semester, all executive clubs are hosting the Block Party which is an opportunity for students to relax, build community, and enjoy their weekend before finals. In May, we organized another international service trip to Poland where students will spend time with families during homestays. In this opportunity, students have fundraised their own finances.

Throughout the year, the Agapé Center for Local and Global Engagement organized local outreach/service opportunities to increase students' community engagement, teaching that we are part of a bigger community than just the one on Messiah's Campus. Each week, volunteers serve with our outreach coordinator. This year, we had 155 volunteers, 173 service trips, and 1,108.75 total hours of service. This is compared to the fall semester of 2024 where we had 100 volunteers, 122 service trips, and a total of 1,169 total hours of service. These numbers, however, do not include Service Day's volunteers or hours.

This year, we also organized fall and spring break service trips. In the fall, we went to Baltimore, MD with Catholic Charities; Pittsburgh, PA with Praying Pelican Missions; and the Bronx, NY with Priority 1 Ministries. In the spring, we went to Philadelphia, PA with The Philadelphia Project; North Carolina with Praying Pelican Missions; and the Bronx, NY with Priority 1 Ministries.

Plans for Next Year

Next year, the Agapé Center will continue to serve at our 11 local service opportunities. We also will continue to sponsor fall & spring break trips, organize a service trip to Poland, and help students organize cross cultural and semesters abroad. The Agapé Center will also be coordinating Service Day in the spring where all students will be encouraged to serve with local opportunities. Lastly, we will collaborate with other executive clubs to coordinate the annual First Friday picnic and end-of-year Block Party.

Goals

Our goals for the coming year include increasing student participation in our local outreach opportunities, fall and spring break service trips, and Poland trip. We also desire to increase student body awareness of the Agapé Center and to transition leadership positions well. This is because there have been many changes in student leadership and professional staff at the Agapé Center within the past year.

*Signed,
Austin Grove
Student Director of Outreach*

Reese Johnston, Bethesda After School Program

Each Monday and Tuesday from 3:30-6:30pm, a group of five Messiah students join the afterschool program at Bethesda Mission Community Center in Harrisburg. Messiah students enjoy spending time with the students, whether they are helping them with homework, playing games, or listening to the Bible lesson. Through consistent relationships and mentorship, the afterschool program aims to mentor and support 2nd through 6th grade children, while guiding them to Christ to become a positive influence in their own families, schools, and communities. Because of the large number of consistent volunteers each week, Messiah volunteers have been able to form strong, personal relationships with the kids at Bethesda, getting to know their interests, personalities, and stories. Following service each week, Messiah students discussed the importance of their service, the challenges, and what more can be done to support the students at Bethesda. My hope for this partnership between Bethesda and Messiah would be that Bethesda kids would be able to visit Messiah a few times each semester, allowing them to learn more about college life and be in fellowship with their Messiah mentors. This semester, Messiah hosted a photo-scavenger hunt and Lottie dinner for Bethesda's reward trip. On this afternoon, Bethesda students broke up into two groups and raced around campus to take pictures at different landmarks such as the SGA office, Jordan/Kline, and Parmer Cinema. This gave Bethesda students an opportunity to see campus in a fun and exciting way. Additionally, volunteers joined Bethesda's Valentine's Day family dinner, where they interacted with the kid's families. This dinner was another great opportunity for volunteers to be present in the kids' lives outside of regularly scheduled program time.



Autumn Derstine, *Bethesda Hotspot*

I lead the service outreach to Bethesda Hotspot in Harrisburg, PA. Bethesda is a large organization serving the greater Harrisburg area, and I work at the community center with their Hotspot teen program. On Thursday nights, the volunteers and I go to Bethesda and spend the evening playing games, eating dinner, and listening to devotions given by Mike, the leader of Bethesda. Like a youth group, Hotspot is an incredible place for the teens to be pushed to pursue Jesus and be safe to express themselves. The staff at Bethesda is incredibly Christ-like, and God's work is evident amongst the Hotspot students. Mike always poses a challenging message, and it is evident that the students love and respect him. The volunteers enjoy the service each week, saying they enjoy getting to have a relationship with the students. Though sometimes forming friendships with high school students is harder than younger children, I have been very impressed by how the volunteers consistently show up and engage with each Hotspot student. We have run a few of the Hotspot nights by planning a meal, message, and game for the students. For the service day, we hosted a career fair to teach the Hotspot students about the volunteers' majors and career goals. Through this service-learning experience, the volunteers and I are learning about our role to a community beyond Messiah and in God's creation. I've been going to Bethesda weekly for four years, and that time has taught me the importance of consistency in relationships. I have gotten to get to know a beautiful, vibrant community that I would have not encountered if it was not for the incredible work of Bethesda Community Center.



Anna Weldon, *Bethesda Mobile Mission and Men's Shelter*

My service opportunity is with Bethesda Men's Shelter and Mobile Mission, where we serve people experiencing homelessness in Harrisburg. At the Men's Shelter, we serve dinner on Monday nights in their soup kitchen, helping take the word load off of the kitchen staff and build relationships with men staying at the shelter. Once a month, we also spend Friday evening serving with the Mobile Mission, driving to the nearby homeless encampment to pass out necessary supplies to the people living there, including meals, bottled water, blankets, clothes, and batteries. Our goal is to join Bethesda's staff in addressing the physical needs of Harrisburg's unhoused population, while also engaging and developing relationships with the guests at Bethesda. We accomplished this goal through eating meals and spending time in intentional conversation with the shelter residents, passing out supplies at the encampment, and engaging in conversation with members of the encampment. I had 23 different students volunteer with me during the semester, for most of whom, it was their first time volunteering with Agape. I helped students reflect on how volunteering impacted them by utilizing weekly reflection discussions on the drive home from each service opportunity, addressing questions like what it means for someone to live without a home, what factors contribute to homelessness, what homelessness means for our lives, and how we can best love people who are experiencing homelessness. During reflection, students mentioned how spending time at Bethesda and engaging with the men there has had a strong effect on their conceptions of homelessness and what "loving their neighbor" practically means. Instead of seeing it as an abstract issue, they now recognize the reality of homelessness for people that they know and can relate to. Their time in the shelter and at the encampment has allowed them to de-stigmatize homelessness and build empathy for diverse people groups.

Lauren Miller, *Center for Champions*

Center for Champions gives Messiah volunteers an opportunity to grow in their faith and leadership skills as they mentor middle and high school aged students in the Harrisburg area. The service opportunity occurs every week at Center for Champions' mentor night called "Rooted". During the evening of Rooted, the night starts off with light-hearted, competitive team building games which the volunteers and students play together. Next is a Bible lesson, followed by a one-to-one discussion between the volunteer and student. This is a time where the volunteers are able to build connections with the students and help disciple them in their faith. After this time, the night concludes with a life skill. This is different every week but has looked like teaching the students new recipes, critical thinking skills, or listening to testimonies. Rooted gives the students in the Harrisburg community an opportunity to experience what a God-centered community looks like. It fosters a space where the students can come and have Christ-like role models that are available to the students for questions about life and faith. The motto for Center for Champions is, "Show up, show love, repeat." This encompasses the heart behind this service opportunity. Everyone who serves the students looks to show them the character of God through consistency in action and biblical love every week. Rooted provides a safe place for the students to show up in expectation of receiving the same love and intentionality from each volunteer. As much as Rooted gives to the students, it also provides for the volunteers as well. Reflection is an intentional conversation that is had at the end of the night with the Messiah volunteers. We talk about connections with the students, the Bible lesson of the evening, and any praises or concerns.

These conversations allow the Messiah volunteers to process the things that they have learned and grow in the skills they have been forming. Rooted gives Messiah volunteers an opportunity to bring their faith outside of Messiah and find practical ways to use it in the community they live in.

Bella Witmer, *Messiah Lifeways College Connections*

Our local service opportunity, “Messiah Lifeways Intergenerational Fellowship”, is a program that connects Messiah students with residents living at Messiah Lifeways Retirement Community. Consistently, we have three to five volunteers each week and eight unique volunteers in total. Students can learn and demonstrate service learning within this community through activities, conversation, and reflection. We serve through mutual companionship and fellowship. Typical activities include baking, crafts, playing board games, bingo, decorating easter eggs, planting flowers, bingo etc. We were able to tailor activities to things the group enjoyed. Additionally, students are encouraged to adapt activities to ensure they are



accessible, inclusive, and engaging for the group. Alongside these activities, students are encouraged to learn about the residents and build relationships. Residents are typically interested in student’s majors, extracurriculars, and future plans. Residents usually share about their families, activities they enjoy, and meaningful stories from their past. Bonds are strengthened each week, and volunteers and residents have expressed their gratitude. Both groups have expressed that this is a highlight of their week and something they look forward to. Consistency has been a strength within this group, and this has allowed for relationships to form. Students have shared during reflection time, that they have grown in conversational skills, listening, and perspective-taking. Conversations with residents often range from light-hearted to deeply personal. This provides opportunities for students to practice sensitivity, compassion, and patience. Reflection time occurs after service This is a time to share what we learned, personal development, and ways to serve in the future. This designated time for reflection makes this service learning experience meaningful. We are reminded that connecting with a generation different than ours offers perspective, wisdom, and understanding.

Melody Pha, *Messiah Lifeways One-on-One Program*

Messiah Lifeways is a non-profit organization dedicated to changing the conversation around aging and re-imagining it as a time of purpose and faith-filled living for adults aged 55 and better. As volunteers in the 1:1 program, students have the unique opportunity to visit the same residents each week for an entire semester, building consistent relationships. Their roles are centered on providing companionship, listening to seniors’ stories, and reflecting on these experiences as they relate to faith and the meaning of life. The program emphasizes the importance of intergenerational relationships, encouraging students to form connections with individuals both older and younger than themselves. In doing so, students gain joy, wisdom, and insights they might not otherwise have encountered. Each week, students and residents eagerly



look forward to their time together. For many residents, visits are a vital source of social interaction, as they often experience loneliness or face health challenges. Through these visits, students have the chance to offer comfort and presence while reflecting on their own lives. For instance, one student shared how she was surprised by her ability to connect with someone older, a relationship she initially thought might be difficult. All students mentioned how the seniors have taught them the value of listening, remembering small details, and showing love and hospitality. They learned that maintaining relationships as one ages can be challenging and requires intentionality and trust. Students also realized the profound impact of simply being present and how this can make a significant difference in the lives of the residents. The experience also deepened students' understanding of the importance of intergenerational relationships and the need to engage with people of all ages. Through discussions on topics like health, death, loneliness, vocation, faith, family, and life decisions, students gained valuable life lessons. As college students on the brink of beginning their own journeys, the program offers them a moment to pause and gain a broader perspective beyond their current academic phase. Interacting with seniors nearing the end of their lives has challenged them to think beyond the immediate and consider the long-term view of their own lives and relationships.

Joana Belza, *New Hope Ministries*

This year the Agapé Center has partnered with New Hope Ministries to help alleviate immediate needs in our community. Through its ten locations, New Hope provides food, job training, and after-school programs to the communities of southeastern Pennsylvania. All of this is done with the goal of spreading Christ's love by meeting human needs. This year, we served at the Red Land location. On Wednesdays, a group of 2-3 Messiah students served from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in their food pantry. Our job was to help guests navigate the pantry—which is set up in a fashion similar to a market—organize the pantry, sort donations, and set new appointments, among other tasks. My goal this semester was for Messiah students to learn more about the need that exists in our surrounding communities. On the drive back to campus, the group reflected on the highs and lows of service, acknowledging that it is not always easy work but there is good to be found. My hope as we head into the upcoming school year is that our relationship with the guests and volunteers at New Hope will continue to grow and that we may see the prosperity of the guests that the organization receives.

Valeria Telfort Otero, *PAIRWN*

The Agapé Center for local and global engagement prioritizes equipping students to learn by doing. Both on campus and off campus experiences are offered for students to engage with the world around them. The Christian value of serving is taken in not only word but also deed at Agapé. The past two semesters, PAIRWN has been a community partner for local outreach with the Agapé Center. The PAIRWN volunteers have been attending Foose Elementary once a week to serve with refugee and migrant children. In this experience, connection among Messiah students have been made, exposure to different cultures and backgrounds have been created, but most of all the cultivation of service has been prioritized. In this endeavor, I have seen how service learning has positively impacted Messiah students. They jump at the chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Never hesitating to help their neighbor, putting justice at the front of their work, and embodying what agape love means in the Kingdom of God.



Maggie Pettus, *Paxton Ministries*

Hi, my name is Maggie Pettus, and I have led the local student outreach team to serve at Paxton Ministries in Harrisburg, PA for two years. Paxton is a faith-based organization that seeks to provide affordable housing to adults in need and show them Christ's love and care. I love how Paxton feels like a family where everyone eats meals together and does activities together to build strong relational bonds. Students have space in the car before and after service to think through previous experiences working with people who face different challenges than them. Some of these include residents' mental or physical health, financial difficulties, marginalization, or a lack of familial support. Paxton is a great opportunity for giving students hands-on service learning from many different majors. Some of my volunteers have been psychology majors, engineering majors, HDFs majors, and social work majors. This has helped a few students to see that their dream job is in a similar field or serving a similar population. Volunteers have grown in leadership skills, interpersonal skills, knowledge of service learning, faith application, and empathy into someone else's life. Every week we bring a new activity to cater to a wide range of interests ranging from trivia nights to seated aerobics to a scavenger hunt. Our mission as a team is to encourage and support staff as they consistently serve the community in Harrisburg and to develop personal relationships with residents at Paxton. We want to bring an enjoyable activity to brighten residents' days and combat loneliness and isolation with kindness and friendship.

Alessandra LaGeorge, *Salvation Army After School*

Once a week, I take a group of 7-10 volunteers to PA STEAM academy in Harrisburg. The Salvation Army runs an after school program there that hosts about 60 kids 3 days a week. Activities we help facilitate include catch time, girl scouts, homework time, nutrition, reading time, games and whatever else may be programmed in. One of the things I always try to facilitate conversation about with my volunteers is the realities of working with kids who experience food insecurity. STEAM is a charter school, and the kids aren't coming from one specific district, so it is difficult to measure the exact level of food insecurity affecting the students we work with, but a useful conversation to have nonetheless. My hope is that volunteers make meaningful connections with the kids they serve, and I tried to achieve that by matching the same volunteers with groups of kids when I can. I saw the fruit of this in the way that I heard them begin to take responsibility for their groups and care about the overall well being of their kids. I always tell my volunteers that one of the needs we are meeting is consistency, as that can have a real impact on kids who may not experience it in other areas of their lives. Walking with these kids through the perils of elementary and middle school has become a really important part of this service to me. Providing the opportunity to serve in what is a cross cultural context for many of my volunteers advances the mission of Agape and also helps all of us as a group grow as people.

Tzeniah Frazier, *Wild Heart Ministries*



Wildheart Ministries and the Love the Hill initiative within it is an organization that works to beautify the neighborhood of Allison Hill in Harrisburg, PA. Their work provides hope, resources, and development to the community. Each Thursday, my volunteers and I serve alongside the Wildheart staff, assisting with community clean-up and beautification projects, working with Wildheart's urban community farm, and assisting with projects and event prep at Wildheart's ministry base, The Mansion. This work allows us to clean up unsightly dumpsites that present tangible issues for neighbors. It also provided us the opportunity to spend ample time around the neighborhood and fellowship with the residents. We were able to see many parts of Allison Hill and become familiar with the area in a way that we would not have been able to do otherwise.

Additionally, we provide a service that many other neighbors and officials avoid providing. Our service with Wildheart provided significant exposure to a community that is geographically close to Messiah's campus but is socially and culturally very different. These stretching experiences opened doors for reflection discussions about the realities that residents of Allison Hill face daily and how we, as Messiah students, can and should engage with them. Examples of this include topics such as poverty, crime, racism, food deserts, inequality, gentrification, and redlining. Through reflection, I have noticed a lack of understanding and familiarity with the realities of a city such as Harrisburg despite its proximity to Messiah. In the future, I hope service with Wildheart continues to provide an opportunity for Messiah students to become more familiar with the realities of Harrisburg and Allison Hill and the responsibilities and opportunities we have as Messiah students to meet these needs.

Kelsey Waarenburg, *International Service Trips*

Through preparing for the international service trip to Poland, the team and advisors have trained together on multiple subjects surrounding cross-cultural service, the biblical basis for missions, inter-cultural conversation, and the importance of community support. Together, the team has begun important steps of team-bonding, spending time outside of our meetings in pizza socials, time together in scripture, and more. These times together in fellowship and training are preparing for their service-learning trip, departing May 23rd. The team will be working on ESL classes in Poland, working with Polish Christian Ministries. Personally, I have seen the students grow together in their understanding of the calling of global ministry, in their reflections on devotions, personal study based on training, and as their excitement in anticipation for departure grows! The students carefully plan their lessons and prepare their testimonies, waiting for the time with the Polish students that they can share their Christ-story with others, and hopefully lead them closer to a life committed to Christ. Additionally, we pray over their ability to receive the love of Christ from the students- that in the two-way relationships that they develop, they may understand God's global church and body in a more wholistic way.



Multicultural Council



Tammy Tay, *Chair of Multicultural Council*



Reflection:

This year in the Multicultural Council, there was more emphasis on restoring the core purpose of providing a safe space for Multicultural students through restoring the relationships with each other within clubs, and the connections between other executive clubs. Our goals going into this year were restoring relationships, and purpose, and increasing the presence of the MCC club itself. With the theme of restoration in mind, we established new programs such as a mentorship program whereby individuals in my cabinet would mentor other individuals who held similar roles in the six other MCC clubs (ASA, ASU, BSU, CSA, ISA/MuKappa, L



AL), to provide a source of support and accountability for each other. They would have monthly one-on-ones, group meetings, and a group chat to ensure any concerns or questions were answered. To continue to build up a familial culture within MCC, we had events that were catered to MCC clubs' cabinet members such as an MCC Thanksgiving dinner and a picnic where cabinet members could bring food that is representative of their culture to share as well as to spend meaningful time together.. Another event that we had was the MCC cabinet clash, where clubs were able to work together to participate in team bonding activities.

This year, we were able to work with other organizations such as the Student Government Association, and the Sexuality and Gender Education (SAGE) program, showcasing awareness on multiple important topics concerning individuals on campus as well as providing a wider worldview on issues happening around the world. With the Student Government Association, we were able to hold an immigration panel where individuals of various expertise were able to share their experiences and knowledge on the past and current views of immigration and how individuals in our community can help support these populations as people of faith. With our collaboration with SAGE, we were able to hold a Crafts and Conversation event where attendees were able to share their experiences with gender role expectations and rules in different cultural contexts. From both events, attendees were able to learn a lot from each other and or individuals of their expertise, many commented that it was very informative and a new perspective was gained from their experience.

For the six MCC clubs (ASA, ASU, BSU, CSA, ISA/MuKappa, LAL), we were able to hold our annually held events such as the We Matter Showcase, Lunar New Year, International Gala, BSU Dance, Multicultural Alumni panel, Fusion Dance, and Sabado in the second half of



the year. There were also newly collaborated events such as the Mending the Gap collaboration between CSA and LAL and the International Educators mixer. In both events, attendees who had experienced were able to share their personal experiences and stories while those who were new to these stories, gained insights that were helpful for themselves.

Overall, this year, the Multicultural Council as a whole was able to expand beyond our comfort zones and were able to collaborate with new clubs with refreshing ideas and perspectives. We have also developed events that provide informational knowledge and an avenue for understanding individuals from various backgrounds. With our goal of restoration in the MCC this year, we were able to establish a steady foundation for our mentorship program, to uplift and empower one another in our leadership positions. Moreover, there has been an establishment of efforts to increase the exposure of the MCC to the general Messiah community through word of mouth and intentional collaboration with groups outside of the Multicultural Council. Looking forward to next year, I hope that the MCC will continue to have a close-knit community while continuing our collaboration efforts with other organizations.

Signed,

Tammy Tay

Multicultural Council Chair

Joshua Kariuki, *President of African Student Union*

Members Meetings: Every other Tuesday, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, the African Student hosts members meetings. We open meetings with a prayer and then have a discussion about topics related to Africa. We only had two members meetings this semester due to preparation for our largest event. We had a "Meet the Cabinet" meeting, and a "Memes in Africa" meeting.

Karibu Night: This is our biggest event, and is held every year in the fall. We have a flag procession, a fashion show, food, and various performances. We had several students from schools in the region participating in the event, as well as an off campus guest performance, Dwennimmen African Dance Community, who we have had a partnership with over the past several years. We had amazing turnout for the event, selling 249 out of 250 tickets (students and faculty at \$8, general admission at \$100).

Karibu Scholarship: Karibu is not only used for entertainment, but it is also used for fundraising. In 2019, the African Student Union decided to create the Karibu Scholarship. We have kept this a tradition and continue to fundraise for the scholarship. All the revenue we made from selling tickets goes into this scholarship.

Members Meetings: We held roughly one a month starting in February, centering around African culture. Our member meetings consisted of conversations surrounding film, music, and festivals in Africa. For Film in Africa, we looked at the various styles of film in Africa, and learned about the history of film, as well as some classic African films. Likewise, for Music in Africa, we talked about the many different genres of African music, as learning about some of the most popular artists and genres, who broke out onto the world stage. Lastly, for Festivals in

Africa, we took a look at several festivals that are held throughout Africa, learning about their origin, traditions, and various other aspects of those festivals.

Afro-Fusion: This was a collaborative event between ASU and CSA. It was a dance held in Larsen Student Union featuring mainly music from African and Caribbean artists.

ASU x LAL Soccer: ASU and LAL held a soccer game (and various other games) in Sawyer Gym, it was a great time for all involved, and promoted intercultural collaboration.

Chrislin Daniel, *President of Asian Student Association*

This spring semester, ASA has continued to fulfill the purpose of the MCC community and our mission as ASA. ASA caters to Messiah's Asian-American, International Asian, Asian adoptee, and multi-ethnic Asian students, and functions as a community and safe space to share culture with one another. Our events and meetings have been planned with the intent of restoring and strengthening our multicultural community on campus, as well as educating our peers on Asian cultures and experiences.

Meetings we hosted this semester include a Get to Know You with ASA for students to be able to engage in community with each other and learn about their peers through various discussion topics, and an adoptee panel for our Asian adoptee students to be able to come together and share their experiences. We also had several collaborative meetings including a Cultural Bob Ross with LAL and ISA, where students could learn about and try different art styles from all over the world. We hosted our traditional Mending the Gap meeting with BSU, where we discussed the disparities between Black and Asian American communities, how we have stood in unity with each other in the past, and how we can continue to do so in the future. We partnered with LAL again for a meeting run by our Vice Presidents, that was centered around learning different encouraging phrases in various languages. We then had students play games like whisper down the lane or the headphones challenge to practice the phrases learned about.



We also hosted several larger events. Our biggest event of the semester was our Lunar New Year celebration. We had activity tables including informational trifold with snacks and stickers, traditional Chinese calligraphy, and painting paper lanterns and fans. We also partnered with the Oakes Museum and were able to have a live snake present for a portion of the night, as it is the Chinese year of the snake. We were catered by a local small business and had beautiful cultural performances from a local Chinese school in Harrisburg. We then had our students and staff showcase East Asian fashions in our fashion show. We ended the night by handing out red envelopes to students, bringing in the more personal aspect of this Lunar New Year family tradition. We hosted this semester's community dinner at Pho 3 Mien, a Vietnamese restaurant in Lemoyne. This allowed students to try new cuisines while in community with their peers.

Looking forward: Our last meeting coming up will be about different Asian meditation

techniques, and will serve as a de-stress meeting for students before finals. Our last bigger event of the semester will be a collaboration with ISA. This event will be a joint celebration of the Indian festival of colors, Holi, and the Thai new year, Songkran. The first half of the event will consist of throwing the color powders for Holi, and then finishing off the event with the water games of Songkran. ASA aims to continue these goals of community, cultural expression, and learning in the next school year. We are excited to see what our new leadership will accomplish!

Tyree Cowan, *President of Black Student Union*

We Matter Showcase: The We Matter Showcase stands as the Black Student Union's (BSU) premier event of the academic year. This year, we reimagined the event's format, transitioning from a casual evening in the Student Union to an elegant, jazz-themed affair hosted in Hostetter Chapel. The showcase provides a platform for students to display their gifts and talents through various forms of creative expression, including poetry, song, visual art, and musical performances. Attendees were not only captivated by the exceptional talent of Messiah University students but also enjoyed a raffle and a complimentary soul food dinner generously provided by a local favorite, Queens BBQ.

Black History Month Facts & Hot Takes: In observance of Black History Month, BSU upheld its annual tradition of sharing 21 Days of Black History Facts. This year, we enhanced the initiative by introducing Hot Takes, offering a more personal and engaging perspective. Alongside highlighting pivotal moments and influential figures in Black history, the BSU Cabinet shared their own reflections and viewpoints on relevant topics. This innovative approach fostered meaningful dialogue and allowed students to connect more deeply with the content.

BSU 70's-Themed Dance: The BSU 70's Dance was an unforgettable evening of music, fashion, and nostalgia. When planning this event, the Cabinet unanimously agreed on a 1970s theme, drawn to the era's iconic style and vibrant energy. Students embraced the theme with dazzling outfits, and the atmosphere was electrified by classic 70's hits. A special acknowledgment goes to DJ Joshua Kariuki for delivering an exceptional musical experience.

BSU Hair Expo: The BSU Hair Expo is a signature event that celebrates the beauty and diversity of Black hair while addressing the stereotypes and stigmas often associated with it. This engaging and educational gathering featured discussions, free hair care products in gift baskets, and, of course, delicious food. The expo provided a welcoming space for students to learn, share, and appreciate the cultural significance of Black hair.

BSU Bible Study at The Breeches: Bible Study at The Breeches was a cherished event for BSU members, reflecting the deep-rooted connection between African American culture and faith. Led by our Secretary, Justine Forbes, the evening included a devotional, worship, and thoughtful discussion, all centered on keeping Christ at the forefront of our mission. True to tradition, fellowship was





complemented by a shared meal, embodying the communal spirit of the Black church.

Members Meetings : The Black Student Union holds Members Meetings biweekly on Mondays from 8:00–9:00 PM in the MCC Room. These gatherings foster community through engaging themes such as "Feel the Beat" and collaborative events like "Mending the Gap" with the Asian Student Association (ASA).

Christopher Vasquez, President of Caribbean Student Association

CSA Kickback: To kick off the semester, the Caribbean Student Association hosted an informal kickback behind the Rafiki House. Students enjoyed a variety of yard games, Caribbean snacks and drinks, and music straight from the islands. This event served as both an introduction to Caribbean culture and a warm welcome to freshmen, as it was the first MCC event of the year. It was a fun, energetic space that helped students connect and start the semester with good vibes.

Zumba and Dance Workshop: CSA hosted a Caribbean dance workshop outside Bitner Beach on a cool Saturday morning. The goal was to immerse students in Caribbean dance and music styles while encouraging cultural exchange. The workshop featured dances taught by our own cabinet members along with representatives from ASU and LAL, two other MCC clubs. Together, we highlighted the shared rhythms and movements that tie our cultures together through the Caribbean experience.



Guava Island Movie Night: We hosted a showing of *Guava Island*, a short film centered around a man's dream to host a music festival for his island community. The film sparked a vibrant post-viewing discussion, ranging from fun, relatable moments to serious topics like colonialism and immigration in the Caribbean. Students shared personal stories and deep reflections, making it a meaningful night of storytelling and connection.

Island Vibes: Our biggest event of the semester, *Island Vibes*, was a cultural showcase in Larsen Student Union. The night included authentic Caribbean food, live music (in partnership with SAB), interactive booths, and traditional games like dominoes. Students could make sand jars representing Caribbean beaches, decorate Carnival masks, and taste tropical fruits like cacao pods and mangoes. CSA also created educational poster boards about Caribbean countries, sayings, food, and fun facts. Trivia ran all night with prizes, and one of the most popular attractions was the Caribbean drink hut, featuring authentic beverages from a Caribbean store.

Member Meetings: We held our members meetings every Wednesday from 4–5 PM. Our first meeting gave students a chance to meet our cabinet, play games, and test their Caribbean knowledge. These meetings helped lay the foundation for strong relationships, which we built on through the immersive events that followed.

Social Media Presence: CSA maintained a strong Instagram presence throughout the semester. Our entertaining promo videos reached thousands and kept students in the loop about upcoming events. We used social media to keep the energy high and build excitement around everything we had planned.

Share the Love: Kicking off the spring semester, CSA hosted *Share the Love* in The Loft. The purpose was to remind Caribbean students they are seen and valued. With handwritten letters and gift bags, we wanted to show love and encouragement. This year's event held even deeper meaning as we supported a student grieving the recent loss of a family member. With music, games, and catered food from a local Dominican restaurant, the event created a joyful and supportive space.

Mending the Gap: Colorism: In March, CSA partnered with LAL to host a powerful discussion on colorism. We invited students to reflect on how colorism has shaped their lives, both in their families and in media or school. We also explored how it's often ingrained in our cultures in ways we don't always recognize. The night concluded with a biblical reflection, focusing on John 4 and Galatians 3:28, encouraging us as believers to confront our biases and embrace unity in Christ.

CSA x ASU Fusion Dance: The CSA x ASU Fusion Dance was a hit! Students danced the night away, participated in challenges to win merch, and enjoyed extras like a face paint station where they could show off their heritage with their flag's colors. We decorated with positive messages like "Welcome," "Vibes," and "Drink Your Water!!" in multiple languages. The dance floor was full, the challenges were hype, and the crowd even crowned a winner during a dance competition. It was an unforgettable night.

CSA Late Night Vibes: Instead of our usual lock-in, we hosted *Late Night Vibes* in The Loft following the International Gala. We realized students were typically tired after Gala, so we shifted to a chill hangout from 7–10 PM. With pizza, wings, drinks, and a variety of games—from cards to *Just Dance*—it was the perfect relaxed space for students to unwind, connect, and enjoy community without a tight schedule.

Phoebe Lim, *President of International Student Association/ MuKappa Chapter*

Familia Fridays: Our Familia Fridays serve as ISA's version of members meetings, and in the spring semester we had four in total. During these meetings, we talked about different subjects such as how we find beauty in ordinary life and changing relationships with changing seasons, while other nights we had group hangouts and fellowship. These events are specifically catered to the international students, but we also touch on many topics that others can relate to. They create chances for international students, missionary kids (MKs), and third culture kids (TCKs) to navigate the constant transitions we go through as students.

ISA/ASA/LAL Cultural Painting Night: ISA had a collaboration with Asian Student Association (ASA) and La Alianza Latina (LAL) for a painting night focused on regional styles found from our respective cultures. LAL focused on art styles found in larger Latin art movements and ASA explored different mediums of art found across Asia. ISA shared about the different art found from various Pacific Islands and how their styles have stood the test of time and change. After the sharing portion of the event, people were free to create their own art from a different regional style/culture or from one they were already familiar with. This event aimed to look more closely at the things that go into forming a culture, such as art movements that shape people's creative expressions and understanding of their world.



International Student/International Educator Mixer: ISA hosted an international student and international educator mixer where we invited all the international students and reached out to educators with international backgrounds. Each educator had a designated table, and every 8 minutes, students rotated as a group from one table to another. Furthermore, there were a set of personalized questions and standard questions for each educator that students could use to pick from or ask their own question. This event was to bridge the gap that we often feel between professors/educators with students, and especially across departments. It was to provide the space for both students and educators to share their experiences and find common ground in our shared humanity.

Songkran x Holi with ASA: ISA in collaboration with Asian Student Association (ASA) hosted a joint holiday event, the Thai Songkran and the Indian Holi celebrations. We combined these holidays into one event since they both relate to water celebrations with games and fun, and they happen around similar times of the year. Songkran is a water festival celebrating the Thai New Year and Holi is a celebration of spring and rebirth.

International Gala: International Gala is our annual event hosted by ISA in collaboration with MCC to celebrate the cultural diversity at Messiah. This was a four-hour event with a flag procession, speeches, two waves of performances, and a fashion show all to reflect the rich cultures that people carry with them. Furthermore, we had activity booths centered around different cultures and highlighting common activities that people do. The main goal of this event is to give voice to all the diversity and richness found within the students.

Bern Sandoval, *President of La Alianza Latina*

Baila: To kick off the semester, La Alianza Latina hosted a dance which was the opening to Hispanic heritage month. This was the second year LAL has hosted Baila and there was a large turnout and the attendance of first years was very prominent. The event was held as a celebration of the Hispanic/Latinx customs and music, allowing the community to make connections with one another. There were also opportunities to learn different dances highlighted from different Multicultural clubs as well.

Spanish Language Chapel: La Alianza Latina worked with Campus Ministries to create a Spanish Chapel. This served as a purpose to showcase worship entirely in Spanish. We had a panel in which they discussed the topic of unity and how it brings them closer to their identity and the identity of others. Truly a great way for those of Hispanic/Latinx descent to feel at home when it comes to worship. Also a great learning experience for Messiah as it was the first time it was held during a morning chapel.

La Misma Luna Movie Showing: This event was run as a collaboration with the Student Activities Board (SAB) which served to showcase a film centered around the topic of immigration. A talkback was held after the first showing for people to share their thoughts on the movie or the sensitive topic of immigration. LAL cabinet members also shared personal stories of the difficulties they have encountered.



Queremos Justicia Susquehanna Art Museum Trip: This event was run as a collaboration with Human Rights Awareness. This event was limited as there were sign ups and students were notified that the exhibit contained and reviewed sensitive topics, including extreme violence against immigrants. However, it was an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Shut Down Berks Coalition as they worked to close down a detention facility for immigrants. A talkback was held after the trip for people to share their thoughts on the exhibit.

Charlas: Every other Wednesday from 6 PM to 7 PM, La Alianza Latina hosts members meetings, also known as charlas. LAL worked to promote small educational meetings. During our charlas, we hosted our first Adoptee and Biracial panel, which was led by an LAL member who identifies as an adoptee themselves. The student leader reached out to other students on campus and they shared their perspectives and difficulties they encountered during everyday life. LAL also highlighted all the events they had held during Hispanic heritage month, but most importantly wrapped up Hispanic heritage month and advised the members to continue to learn about the culture. The last charla held was a Day of the Dead charla in which LAL provided fun activities for everyone to interact with and gave a brief summarization of how the Day of the Dead is celebrated.



LALxASAxISA Cultural Bob Ross Night: To kick off the semester, La Alianza Latina collaborated with Asian Student Association and International Student Association and Mukappa. We each shared some art forms from our different cultures as well as teaching our members how to create said art. We then allowed members to create any art they learned whether it was a painting, drawing, or clay sculpture. This was truly an informative event as art is heavily influenced in all our cultures and we wished to share the beauty of it with others.

LALxCSA Mending the Gap: La Alianza Latina worked with the Caribbean Student Association to break the barrier between our cultures as they are very similar. The topic of conversation was based on colorism, culture, and community. Not only did we tackle the issue but we even showcased how there are times where this is to be seen as an advantage. This meeting allowed our members to share their experiences and know that we can be an outlet for them. We also heavily encouraged them to talk to different staff members on campus such as those in the MISP office, professors, mentors, etc.

LALxASA Language Collab: This event was run as a collaboration with the Asian Student Association which served to showcase the languages spoken in all the cultures represented within the two cabinets. The theme of the event was love, where each cabinet member taught club members a phrase (either a word of affection or phrase of encouragement). The event acted as a learning opportunity on how to love those you do not share a language with and how to do so in their language. Members were taught phrases in several languages and then given the opportunity to practice the new phrases they had learned!

LALxASU Soccer: This event was run as a collaboration with the African Student Union. This event allowed for our members to have fun and be active. This allows our members to interact with one another in a friendly manner over the game of soccer. We made sure to even incorporate other sports such as basketball and spikeball.

Sábado Celebration: La Alianza Latina ends the year with this event. This event is held to celebrate the end of the school year at the Rafiki House. We have fun backyard games, food, music (whether that be to dance or to sing along with).



The Pulse



Marleigh Flanagan (Fall) & Dani Johnson (Spring), *Directors of The Pulse*



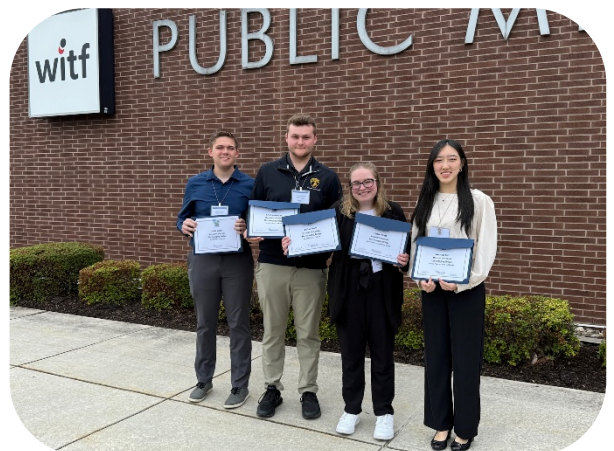
Reflection

The Pulse is a unique organization, unlike the other executive clubs mentioned in this document, The Pulse strives to engage the student body through the production of the following platforms: The Swinging Bridge Magazine, WVMM, The Clarion Yearbook, as well as through social media and online through our website. Our main focus is not on our events. At the beginning of the semester, the Pulse staff gathered to chart a way forward and decide what we wanted our impact on the community to be this year.

In the Pulse's twelve years of existence, we seek to encourage creativity within student media while maintaining a positive image amongst not only the Messiah community but the surrounding community as well.

Swinging Bridge Magazine

The editorial, design and A/V team have successfully worked together to publish six issues of The Swinging Bridge Magazine for October, November and December 2024 and February, March and April 2025. We featured a variety of articles on many topics ranging from current on-campus topics relevant to current life on campus (examples: President Phipps' retirement, activism on campus, apartment living, Christian denominational diversity on campus), advice-driven articles (examples: how to practice mindfulness, changing your major), profile articles (examples: MCC club spotlights, theater department spotlight, Choral Arts Society spotlight), sports-related articles (examples: measuring team spirit, Sawyer Pavilion update, a few player spotlights) and other topics relevant to the campus



community. Additionally, we continued to include recurring sections/columns such as a playlist by our music director, a devotional, movie reviews and satire. Many articles were written by our team (Editor-in-Chief, Student Life Editor, Sports & Health Editor and Arts & Culture Editor), but we also had high participation of volunteers, several of whom are recurring contributors now. Additionally, the Pulse decided to change printing presses for the production of The Swinging Bridge, and we printed the December, February, March and April issues with Brilliant Graphics.

Pulse Radio

WVMM and Pulse podcasts have seen growth this year in volunteer participation, as well as collaboration with campus organizations. In September 2024, Radio Manager Sam Erikson interviewed a talent buyer from Moon Peak Productions in Harrisburg, and that interview was uploaded as a special feature of the podcast In The Studio With Pulse Radio. WVMM also hosted World College Radio Day in October 2024, where students and alumni came by the station and were given tours of the facility by Sam Erikson, the Radio Manager, and Will Reed, the Music Director. In spring of 2025, WVMM had 17 on-air hosts, a combination of volunteer and students in Ed Arke's Broadcasting Performance and Production course, which was an improvement from the fall semester, where there were only four on-air hosts. In February 2025, WVMM hosted an Open Door event, where students could stop by again for tours of the facility, as well as have a chance to meet the radio team in person. In March 2025, the radio team collaborated with Sarah Eckenroth, the Social Media manager, to create a Reel that followed a Tik Tok trend of picking three random words and saying them live on air. The Reel was posted on the 26th of March, and was a way to do a fun trend, while increasing awareness of the station. The radio team also worked with social media to design a promotional post for the 10th anniversary of Vinylthon, which will happen on April 12. Two posts (a regular post and a Reel) were posted on Instagram promoting the event. Due to the fact that this report is being written before the event has taken place, I will say that we are planning to hold Vinylthon from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 in The Pulse's lobby. Over the course of those three hours, students, faculty, staff, and community members can come in to The Pulse, bring their own vinyls to play, eat snacks, and spin a wheel to have a chance to win a Pulse vinyl or a bag that is Pulse branded. We expect a good turnout for this event, despite the forecast of rain. In each issue for spring semester of The Swinging Bridge Magazine, Sam Erikson worked with Nate Sherrod to design a advertisement for radio and podcasting, which furthered the reach of audience for WVMM and Pulse podcasts, and also created synergy between the radio and design teams. As far as podcasting, there were some changes from fall to spring semester. Historically Speaking, one of The Pulse's best performing podcasts had to pause due to the hosts' academic commitments. However, new podcasts were introduced. First and foremost, Student Ministries was able to start their podcast, after months of discussion starting back in August of 2024. Their podcast, hosted by Samuel Shaw, has had 77 downloads with 7 episodes published as of April 7, 2025. Other podcasts were introduced this year, such as Behind The Music and Parasocial Paradigm, both hosted by Sam Erikson, as well as The Pulse's first





disability focused podcast, Crippled Conversations, hosted by Angelina Bainbridge. Hot Take Artists and In The Studio both continued in the spring. From January 30 to April 7, 2025, Hot Take Artists had 26 total downloads with four episodes released, as well as 27 listeners. In The Studio had two episodes recorded in January and February of 2025, interviewing Matt Farley, an American singer-songwriter and musician, as well as the band Judah and the Lion. In The Studio had 23 total downloads from January 13 to April 7, 2025, as well as 23 listeners. Lastly, but not least, The Office of Sustainability started a podcast titled Sustainability Speaking in March, and the first episode of that series was released on March 27, 2025. This year has been a year of growth and change for WVM and Pulse podcasting, and I believe that the radio team is in a good position to continue growing as an organization and collaborating with the campus community.

The Clarion Yearbook

With the academic year wrapping up, the yearbook is wrapping up along with it. In the spring semester we were able to provide another session for senior portraits, more content submissions from students, and keeping everything up to date with events. The yearbook team did lose a volunteer, however we were able to find a new yearbook manager for the following year. As the yearbook manager, I am working on preparing and training them for next year. This also includes brainstorming ideas on themes. Some minor issues with our current printing company led us to looking for a new printer closer to Messiah. We haven't finalized anything quite yet, though this is something we are working on as a group.

We have been keeping the Art & Design and Theatre & Dance department up to date with photos, as well as any club-related event. Also, the fall and winter sports have been finalized and added to the Athletics section. The yearbook team continually worked in collaboration with other areas of the Pulse to promote yearbooks via the Social Media Team; currently, we are working on finishing Senior Superlative headshots with the A/V team. Our total of yearbooks sold at this point is 182. Since the price change, we have had less sign-ups, however lower the price of Baby Ads seemed to up the sales. We ended with a total of 47 sold. This year we were also able to add more details to the cover. Since we did not need to bring in a representative from our printer, Friesens, we were able to use that cost in upgrading the 2025 Yearbook cover to have texture, and embossing to create more visual interest as students are expected to purchase yearbooks starting this year.

Pulse Website

The Pulse website went through several updates this year, improving its user accessibility and overall aesthetic design. The website received an average of around 2,150 page views a month, with the homepage being the top visited page and the Pulse Radio page a close second. The Web Department worked closely with the Radio Department, Yearbook Department, and Editor-in-Chief this year to publish online content that was engaging and involved the student body and surrounding community. The website facilitated in posting two weekly online columns in particular that increased pageviews by almost 60% when posted. One of our online columns this year has shown up as a top search result in 14, 918 searches and has helped the website be displayed to users in a total 458,000 search results. The website also posted 8 podcasts this year for the radio department and 6 publications of the Swinging Bridge magazine online. The Web department also tripled in size this year. We also kept an up-to-date events page throughout the year that highlighted Pulse events and events that we were asked to highlight for others on

campus. We took on two volunteers that have helped to improve the interactivity of the website and provide more perspective in designing the website and communicating about the website on campus.

Pulse Social Media

The social media team continued to have a manager and two assistants, although one of the assistants moved their focus into a Newsletter Work Study role. Since the end of the fall semester, our Instagram has grown by 20 followers. The Facebook page has remained at about 4,000 followers. The newsletter grew from 97 subscribers to 109. A bigger success is moving from Beehiiv to Overlooked. Overlooked is a paid newsletter platform. Although an investment, we should soon start to see cash flow in from sponsorships. Setting up our account on the platform was difficult, but we were able to do so only because of our work study. We saw an influx of promotional requests for clubs, the radio, and the yearbook. Due to this we saw a decrease in our more popular, trending content. To combat this engagement issue, we have created a schedule to be more consistent with our uploads. Despite this, we still had one trending reel receive lots of engagement, currently sitting at 37.2K views and 569 likes, our second most viewed reel to date. Our social media accounts have grown a lot over the past few years and we're happy to say that the growth continues, engaging the Messiah community and beyond.



Audio Visual Department

Throughout this semester, the AV Team has supported a total of 24 events. We have captured over 50 headshots for both Swinging Bridge Magazine and the yearbook, and produced several videos, including content for the KP video, the Writing Center, and two projects for the Agape Center related to Service Day. We will also be covering upcoming milestone events such as graduation and the senior candlelight ceremony. Looking ahead to next semester, a new AV Assistant will be joining the team, whom I will be training to uphold the mission and standards of The Pulse. Design Department The Pulse Design Department has been successful in creating high quality designs for the Swinging Bridge Magazine, Yearbook, Pulse stickers, and other on-campus clubs (such as the Student Government Association) throughout the past academic year. We have been able to redesign and refresh the look of the publication, provide a greater sense of artist freedom when it comes to creating the article designs, and engage with many talented volunteers who assisted us in our effort to improve upon Messiah's popular magazine. This upcoming semester, the Design Team will continue to focus on our values of creativity and collaboration while continuing to evolve the design within the Swinging Bridge Magazine and beyond.

Events

On top of The Pulse's publications, productions, and daily operations we also hosted events this year as part of our initiative to become more engaging with the Messiah Community. Some of those events include:

1. The Student Engagement Fair

2. VinylThon
3. Monthly Magazine Launches
4. Giveaways!
5. Radio Tours

Looking Forward

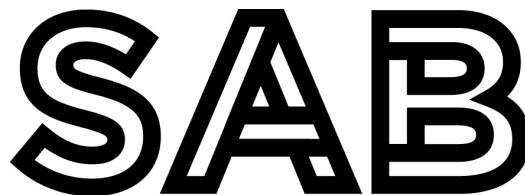
This semester we have explored new possibilities for the organization and looked ahead to the next chapter. In Fall 2025, we will be welcoming seven new members on our team. We are so thankful for the staff who will be graduating, and for the students who are taking positions to further The Pulse's mission. Even with the new additions of our team this past semester, we had a great semester and are incredibly proud of the work we have done. We have maintained a high work standard while cultivating a community within our organization fit for friendship and growth.

Signed,

The Pulse Staff



Student Activities Board



STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD

Arianna Hitz, President



As we wrap up the academic year, it's clear that this has been an exceptional one for SAB. The consistency and support of our advisor, Curtis Kurtz, has continued to be a vital part of our success, offering thoughtful guidance and insight every step of the way. Our team dynamics have remained incredibly strong, fostering a collaborative, supportive environment where everyone can thrive. This year, we've expanded our efforts to connect with other organizations on campus, particularly with MCC groups, forming meaningful partnerships that allowed us to grow our programming and impact. Through these collaborations, we've been able to take on challenges creatively, explore new ideas, and continue building a solid foundation for SAB's future. I am beyond proud of each executive member for their dedication, passion, and commitment to their roles. This semester especially, we've focused on programming that reaches the entire student body, a core value we emphasized during training. With the board's broad, inclusive mindset, we successfully brought events to campus that resonated with a wide range of students. From Broadway Excursion to Wicked, Coffeeshouses, dances, various bingo nights and a live concert, our programming has truly had something for everyone.

More highlights from this semester's events are included below, showcasing the energy, creativity, and heart that defined SAB this year. Here's to a year of growth, connection, and memorable moments! Looking ahead to the next year, SAB is excited to build on the progress we've made and take on new challenges with a refreshing energy. With a new leadership team and the continued support of our advisor, SAB is eager to explore fresh ideas, deepen our collaborations, and push our goals even further. The opportunities ahead are promising, and SAB is well prepared to make the most of them, growing both individually and as a team to enhance the SAB organization.

Signed,

Arianna Hitz

Marissa Carr, Vice President & Special Activities Executive

This is my fourth semester as special activities executive and second semester as vice president of the student activities board. With it being my final semester in both these positions, I reflect on the work I have done this year and last and I am proud of myself and both of the boards I have been a part of. Although it is bittersweet to leave, I am excited to leave the board with the leadership of Ben Poff and Isabel Cates, as well as all the returners, as I know they will all do a great job in their roles next year. This semester as vice president, I did most of the same as last semester, such as being a positive influence and helping hand for the board members. I also have continued to make the desk schedule and do other administrative duties. This semester as special activities executive, I have planned and executed a total of 7 events; cake decorating showdown, Valentine's brunch, family feud, spring craft bazaar, quest, Spotify glass art, and floats and floaties. Cake decorating showdown and family feud were new events that I did not do last year. The cake decorating showdown was a huge success, bringing in 20 participants. Valentine's Brunch was also fun with 30 attendees. At this event, I had crafts, a chocolate fondue

pot, brunch food, and a bingo game to win a love themed prize basket. Family Feud was not as successful as I had wished, with only 2 teams of 5 participating instead of the 8 that I had hoped for. The prizes for this event were \$50 gift cards for any location for each team member. Something that could be done in the future to make this event more popular is to make the team size more flexible, like saying the teams could be made up of 3-5 people. I had fun putting on the event, and I would recommend it come back next year. Spring Craft Bazaar had 20+ vendors, and students had fun shopping at all the small businesses featured. QUEST concluded a few days ago, and it was a huge hit this year. There were 29 teams signed up (58 individual students). Prizes given out included a Meta Quest 3s, \$125 Target gift card, 40-inch Roku TV, \$75 Amazon gift card, a Keurig, and more. I still have 2 more events for this semester, Spotify glass art and floats and floaties. Both events happened last spring, so I am confident they will be successful again.

Signed,

Marissa Carr

Kieya Hakein, *Student Talent Executive*

This year I was able to serve as SAB's Student Talent Executive. This year has given me the opportunity to meet and work with very talented people both on and off the board! This role has helped me expand my social skills and helped me grow in discernment. It was very encouraging to see all of the people come out to support their peers at the Coffeehouses. Coffeehouse has been very well attended with 200-300 coming to watch. There is a very wide range of talent that can be showcased at this monthly event. This academic year we were able to have two Sour houses, which is an event that is like Coffeehouse but for more silly and odd acts! This year we were also, able to bring back the student showcase which was a concert style showcase with three performers doing 30-minute sets each. Another opportunity we had this year was to do a 48hr film festival which was able to showcase a different type of talent! Overall, this year was filled with wonderful events and learning opportunities! I am looking forward to continuing to grow next year!



Events Statistics:

February Coffeehouse: around 200 people

Sour house: 250 people

48hr film: Six groups performing and 60 people in attendance

Signed,

Kieya Hakein

Isabel Cates, *Community Executive*



This year, I've had the privilege of serving as the SAB Community Executive. My role encompasses three different recurring events: trivia nights, craft nights, and bingo nights. For the spring semester, we had two trivia nights, three craft nights, and four bingo nights, a total of 9 events. Our themes for trivia nights were Finish the Lyric and Movie Quotes. Both were very successful and brought in 30-40 people. Craft nights included building Legos, making tie blankets, and painting vases. Each event drew 20-50 people, and signups were filled every time. Bingo Nights were once again a hit, reaching 200-300 students. We featured collaborations with our Wellness Executive in Gym Rat Bingo and the Messiah Esports team in Game Night Bingo. We also hosted the annual High Stakes Bingo, as well as a new Mystery Bingo special. Overall, it was a successful year, and I am excited for the continued growth of community events in the future.

Event Statistics:

-9 total events

-1029 students reached

- Trivia: 71
- Craft: 88
- Bingo: 870

Signed,

Isabel Cates

Daniel Smith, *Graphic Design Executive*

This year I was able to participate as the Graphic Designer for SAB. I have learned a lot about collaborating with other people in order to make successful designs that they are happy with. In the Fall semester I spent a lot of time trying to find my style for SAB and managing my time with school and SAB. However, in the Spring semester I was able to focus on making posters efficiently as I had found my style and how to manage time. In the Fall, there were many times where I felt overwhelmed by the number of posters I would have to do. Fortunately, in the Spring I have been able to complete most of my posters early or on time, and I am happier with the overall quality of the posters as well. I have grown in collaboration, communication, design skill and style, and efficiency. Next year I plan on working to improve some repeated poster designs and finish many posters early on in the semester, as I will have a very busy semester.

Signed,

Daniel Smith

Ilaiza Vargas, *Cultural Engagement Executive*



This year, I was privileged to serve as Cultural engagement executive this academic school year. Throughout this year, I have faced many challenges for events and overall planning. But I also was able to grow and succeed in many areas. One thing that I have learned a lot about is communication and what collaboration includes. Because of this, I was unable to secure some intended collaborations with MCC and professors. I enjoyed the creativity and freedom this role includes. I also appreciated the learning aspect of being able to become educated about different cultures and also understand American pop culture. This spring semester I created events that were focused on American pop culture, which was a different approach from the fall semester. I did one event from different cultures and that was very well perceived and attended.

Event statistics:

- World Compliment Day-150 people
- Superbowl watch party -55 people
- Oscar's watch party- 50 people
- Cultural art forms craft night- 20 people
- Earth Day craft night
- finals pop up event

Signed,

Ilaiza Vargas

Ricardo Rivas, *Excursions Executive*

This spring semester offered a diverse lineup of activities that enriched student engagement and provided memorable experiences. The Cosmic bowling event created a relaxed and social environment, giving students a chance to unwind and connect off-campus. The annual Broadway excursion, a highlight of the semester, was a major success once again—this year featuring *Wicked*. With strong attendance and positive feedback, the trip reinforced its reputation as a flagship event that blends entertainment with cultural enrichment. Though the Harrisburg Senators game is still upcoming, excitement is building, and it promises to offer a lively, sports-related outing later in the semester. Several valuable lessons emerged from this semester's programming. Introducing a refundable deposit system helped reduce last-minute cancellations and ensured higher commitment levels from participants. Additionally, edits made to the waiver form following the Broadway trip added important clarity regarding transportation, streamlining the going to and from locations for future events. Overall, this semester reflected both strong execution and continued improvement in event planning.

Event Statistics:

- Broadway
- Harrisburg Senators
- Bowling
- Philadelphia

Signed,

Ricardo Rivas

Grace Chang, *Music Executive*

This year I have had the honor of serving as SAB's Music Executive. Within this role I have grown both in client relations and working as a team player. There are many different elements which come along with being the Music Executive. Learning to interact with people from various background and skill levels. It was a learning curve to understand the details I did not naturally grasp. However, I have enjoyed interacting with both students and professionals in this role. Throughout the year, I planned and executed smaller event, like Jukebox Nights and Listening Parties. These events created atmosphere for students to come and enjoy their favorite music while relaxing with a craft or two.



I also had some bigger events. The Dylan Kalogris Concert, Student Showcase, and CMC Concert. Each of these events showcased live music to a larger scale. Whether it was Messiah students or outside talent performing, student could come for an evening of relaxation and music. Continuing as Music Executive, I hope to bring even more live music to campus. I also hope to keep planning though and refining the events already put in place to have the best events possible for students.

Events Statistics:

- **Dylan Kalogris Concert: 10/12/24**
 - From 6:30-9pm
 - 110 people in attendance
- **Student Showcase: 4/4/25**
 - From 7-8:30pm in the Union
 - 115 people in attendance (handout 100 pretzels and over 100 bowls of ice cream)

Signed,

Grace Chang

Aubrey Thomas, *Dances Executive*

This year, I have had the honor of serving as SAB's Dances Executive. This role taught me so much about managing multiple aspects of event planning. From emailing outside vendors to managing other students during set-up, I have developed many skills I did not have before this position. While the hardest part of this role has been organizing so many moving parts, nothing beats the satisfaction of seeing all the different dance aspects come together like a perfect puzzle. I loved having the creative liberty to refine dance themes and choose the activities or food. This semester, I hosted Glow & Groove, where students could enjoy a make-your-own candy bar, glow sticks, crafts, and 80's or early 2000s music. Later that same month, I hosted Messiah's first DJ workshop in partnership with Josh Kariuki. Our second dance this semester was SAB's first Line Dancing Night, where we had over 100 attendees learn various dances with the help of our professional line dance instructor. In just a few days, students will gather for our Annual Spring Fling Dance. I have many things planned for this event, including a table filled with Nothing Bundt cakes, a balloon artist, a professional photobooth, and a mocktail bar. Instead of flowers at Spring Fling like previous years, we have a make-your-own succulent bar, where students can choose a pot, a plant, and some accessories to go in it. Getting to plan the dances this year has been such a gift, despite the stress that sometimes comes along with it. I will be sure to give next year's dance executive tips on how to further refine the event planning processes. I will also give them the timeline I created on when to start and finalize each event planning aspect that is unique to this position. I look forward to seeing how next year's dance executive improves the role.

**Event Statistics:**

- Total of 5 dances
- Glow and Groove Dance – 200 people
- Line Dancing Night- 150 people
- Spring Fling – will be held on April 12th

Signed,

Aubrey Thomas

Ben Poff, *Treasurer*

This year I had the amazing opportunity to serve as the treasurer for Messiah's Student Activities Board. As the treasurer, I have the responsibility of stewarding the money that we as a board are granted from SGA based on our fixed percentage of the student activities pot. I spend time talking with each executive to determine their wants and needs for the upcoming semester and through these conversations and looking at past records I divide the pot we receive up giving each executive their individual budget. I closely monitor their purchases throughout the semester, keeping track of each individual's personal budget on an Excel document while also having a master page on the spreadsheet to make sure the organization is on track and staying within the budget. I keep track of and organize all the receipts sent in by each executive. I make sure they



fill out their justification forms to ensure that all purchases made are acceptable. I check the purchases with Budget Query to make sure all recorded purchases are accurate and up to date. We had a very successful first semester. We were given an allotted pot of \$49,337.48. We budgeted to spend almost all of the pot we were given, purposefully planning on saving \$5,000 and any revenues we made from excursions. This money set aside was to fund the usual decrease in student activity fees between the first and second semesters, as well as saving for a potential big concert on campus next year. We had a great first semester funding all the events that were planned, while also buying some of the more expensive items for the second semester such as Wicked tickets and high-stakes bingo prizes. We had a little over \$2,000 in revenue during the first semester and successfully carried over \$7,000.72 into the second semester. We started the second semester with the \$7,000.72 rollover on top of the \$48,081.54 we were granted from SGA. Once again this was budgeted out to each individual executive, once again setting aside \$5,000 to help fund a concert next year as well as saving the revenue we received from large events such as Broadway. We also set aside a \$1,700 “innovation pot” to allow ideas that arise throughout the semester to have some money set aside to help fund them. We are expecting to come in under budget for the year, allowing us to have a nice cushion and help plan new and creative events next year while being confident we utilized our money responsibly this year.

Signed,

Ben Poff

Katie Eckardt, *Marketing Executive*

This year, I’ve had the privilege of serving as SAB’s Marketing Executive, where I was responsible for managing our Instagram presence through posts, graphics, reels, and printed materials. I’ve gained valuable experience in content creation, and social media management. Whether it was designing eye-catching story graphics, editing reels, or brainstorming fun promotional videos with the board, I’ve loved watching our engagement grow. This role has also helped me connect with other members of SAB in meaningful ways as we collaborated on promoting events that brought our campus together. One of my favorite parts of the job was working with the team to create fun and funny promotional videos.

Instagram Stats from @MessiahSAB:

- **Broadway Reel:**
 - Posted: 3/29/25
 - Reached 3,400+ accounts
 - 200+ likes and 9 shares
- **Most viewed post: New Student Coffee House Recap**
 - Combined reach: 9,492+ accounts
 - 558 likes (most likes on a post)
 - Over 150 new profile visits during this week
- **Story Interactions (Spring Semester Average)**
 - 500+ views per story
 - Consistent 200–300 responses to polls and Q&As
- **Follower Growth**



- Gained over 300 new followers during the 2024–2025 academic year, reaching a total of 3,130
- Peak growth around beginning of the year

Signed,

Katie Eckardt

Mina Rodriguez, *Wellness Executive*

This year, my role has allowed me to bring a lot of fun events to campus. I used feedback from students in the past to bring back a lot of old events as well as curate new ones. This role has been very fun and offers a wide creative space. This role did come with some learning curves and multiple tests on problem-solving. I enjoyed being able to adhere to the desires of the students and improve on previous events. As of April, I have put on three events this semester: Gym Rat Bingo, Glow in the Dark Dodgeball Tournament, and Goat and Bunny Yoga. Each was successful in its own way and highly anticipated by our student body. My final event this semester will be Pilates and Playa, which will be an outdoor event where people can attend a Pilates event and/or get a free Playa bowl.

Event Statistics:

- Gym Rat Bingo
 - In Union on January 27 from 7-8 pm
 - About 190-200 people attended
- Glow in the Dark dodgeball
 - In Sawyer from 9-11pm on February 8
 - 120 people (20 teams of 2 and lots of spectators came)
- Goat Yoga
 - On Bittner Beach on March 28th from 2-3:30pm
 - 25 people attended (30 including SAB)

Signed,

Mina Rodriguez

Joel Cowart, *Lost Films Executive*

This year I have had the privilege of serving as the Student Activities Board's Lost Films Executive. Coming into this year, it was my goal to get more people on campus excited about film and show more niche artistic and international films to broaden people's perspectives on life and the power of film. To this end, I collaborated with a few groups on campus to share different life perspectives through film, such as showing "BlacKkKlansman" with BSU. I have shown many more niche films, I have also shown more popular films that more people will enjoy. To get more people excited about Lost Films, I began the Student Choice Lost Films program in

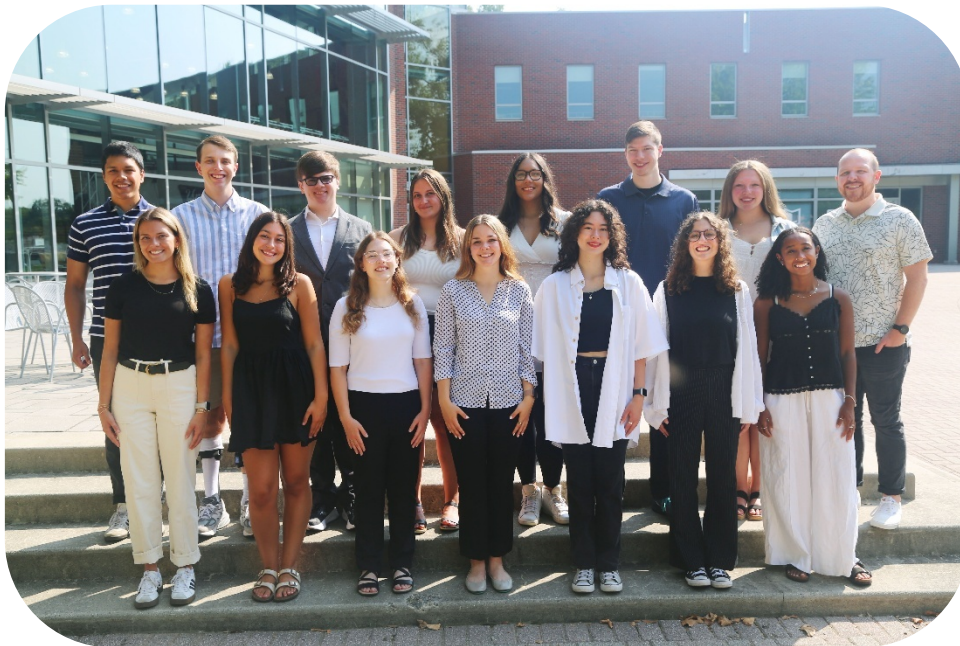
which students could vote on which film they wanted to show once or twice a semester. Students could also fill out a bracket to predict which film the student body would choose. This program was a huge success with over 100 students filling out brackets and 100s more voting for films. This year we entered into a contract with Swank to show a set number of Premium and Library titles over the year. While it saved us a lot of money and worked out well for us this year, I am concerned as to the longevity of this agreement should we choose to continue it, with the catalogue of new films that the student body would be interested in being quite small. Overall, this year was a great success for Lost Films. I was able to grow the program and get more people interested in coming to see films, which means I was able to achieve my goals in addition to getting to watch some fantastic films in a theater.

Lost Films Statistics:

- Films Shown: 26 (by the end of the year)
- People Attended: 1,371 people (as of 4/8/25)
- Average Attendance: 60 people per showing (as of 4/8/25)
- Bracket Entries: 126 entries in all

Signed,

Joel Cowart



Student Ministries



Student Ministries

Allison Fahrney (Fall) & Todd Feil (Spring), *Lead Directors*

Overview

Student Ministries desires for all students to deepen their relationships with God and engage in meaningful discipleship and Christ-centered community in preparation for lives of service. We provide peer-to-peer opportunities for every student to encounter the Lord and experience spiritual growth alongside others through engaging in prayer, scripture, and worship. One of the things I appreciate most about Student Ministries is how there is something for everyone. No matter how a student relates to the Lord, there is usually a ministry environment that serves that need.

Working in Transition

This year has been marked by many transitions in leadership and organization. We began the year with two interim advisors (Emily Bingham and Julia Wittel), a new Campus Ministries Graduate Assistant (Ethan Kiggins), a new Lead Director (Allison Fahrney), and a completely new Student Ministries council surrounding Allison. In December, Messiah hired a new Discipleship Pastor in Antonio Morton, and we had three council transitions heading into January (one of which was a new Lead Director).

We praise God because the transitions have gone swimmingly. Antonio has fit seamlessly into the team and has brought energy and fresh perspectives. Our new council members have settled in nicely to their roles, and all our council members have displayed healthy comfort operating in their roles.

Our organizational structure looked slightly different this year than it had previously. In the fall, we had an expanded council that had individual representation for our Life Groups ministries, our Bible Studies, and Sanctuary. Heading into the spring, we moved Sanctuary under the Bible Study umbrella and removed the director position from the council. Overall, our council meetings have been a wonderful place of collaboration and fellowship, and that space has helped us advocate for a more unified Student Ministries.

Ministry is a Process

I believe that ministry is always a process of adaptation. The needs of our campus change, leaders transition in and out, external conditions change, and Student Ministries has to move with those changes. I'm proud of the intentionality we displayed while navigating these changes. Throughout the year, our new council members dove wholeheartedly into their positions and exemplified what healthy, collaborative leadership looks like. We are also constantly examining and reexamining the efficacy of our ministry practices. One of our ministries had some organizational struggles throughout the year, and we have spent considerable time dialoguing about what that ministry space should look like and have made strides to improve that space for the coming fall.

Reaching out to Campus



As part of our changes last year, we had the exciting opportunity to institute a bigger events team this year. In the past our events ministry has only consisted of our Events Director and our Media Assistant; however, our desire to bring more events and connection opportunities for students to campus, as well as fully utilize our newly increased budget, we established an events ministry team to more consistently reach the student body.

In the fall, we prioritized being present on campus and having consistent touchpoints with a wider range of students. Practically, this looked like having more campus-wide events, more cohesive communication, and streamlined social media usage. We enjoyed having a petting zoo as part of our First Friday event, two pop-ups, and several chapel hospitality events.

In the spring, we still desired to be present and active around campus. However, Antonio challenged us to not just advertise Student Ministries but invite our communities into deeper relationships with Jesus. To be sure, we still had our fair share of chapel hospitality events and pop-ups across campus. Now, though, we are more intentional about making personal invitations to others in the events we host.

Our marquee event in the spring was Incense, which looked a little different than it has. It has always been a prayer and worship night, but this iteration was much more united in its approach. Our desire with the event was to bring our campus together in prayer for our campus. To accomplish this, we collaborated with Powerhouse and invited MCC, SGA, FCA, AROMA, and the Agape Center to share their prayer needs and receive prayer. It was a sweet night of musical worship and intercessory prayer over our campus and its leaders.

Reflection

Altogether, the Fall 2024 semester has marked a time of preparing and equipping for Student Ministries. Our goal was to think about not only how we could do effective ministry this year, but how we can create healthy ministries to pass on to those who follow us. We have focused on laying foundations that will guide us clearly in what we hope to be doing on this campus, how we can continue to meet the needs of students, and how we can be good stewards of our resources.

In many ways, the Spring 2025 semester was a continuation of the work we started in the fall. As we grew more comfortable with the changes made before Fall 2024, we also grew more confident with our ability to serve the Messiah community. We made concerted efforts to tidy up some of our internal systems and think critically about our organizational identity. My hope is that Fall 2025 will be a further continuation of the spring and that we will continue to evolve with the spiritual needs of our campus with God's direction.

Camille Murchie, *Chapel Director*

Our Student Ministries chapel team consisted of four members: a Chapel Director (Camille Murchie), a Teaching Director (Joshua Calderon), a Community Connections Coordinator (Owen Shank), and a Media Coordinator (Victoria Gottesman). Rather than having five isolated "Student Ministries Chapels" each semester, we shifted to having our Chapel Director participate in all CAT chapel planning meetings. During the Spring 2025 Semester, we added a new Chapel Media Coordinator, Victoria Gottesman, to all our CAT meetings alongside Chapel Director Camille Murchie. In addition to having student input in all chapel planning meetings, we also had the opportunity to have student speakers at two chapels per semester.



Camille Murchie spoke on November 12th and February 25th, and Josh Calderon spoke on November 19th and April 8. During each of these chapels, we were able to collaborate with Denim Coffee and Messiah catering to provide drinks before chapel. In addition to those four chapels, we also provided pastries at Pastor Antonio Morton's first chapel message at Messiah on April 1, 2025. During the Spring 2025 semester, we began our Chapel Outreach Meetings initiative. We were able to meet with several leaders on campus, including student leaders from SGA, MCC, Aroma, FCA, etc. Responses from these meetings were recorded in a spreadsheet, with the purpose of providing constructive feedback regarding how we can more effectively serve and love the student population God has called us to. These responses most commonly communicated positive thoughts towards this year's guest speakers and constructively encouraged the student ministries and chapel teams to continue to prioritize outreach more, going the extra mile to reach out to the student body (even before they come to us!).

Among the student body, it was recognized that students were particularly encouraged by the prayer team's involvement at the end of chapels, by a love for and consistent use of Scripture, by different members of the MU community contributing to chapel elements (prayer, liturgy, etc.), and by continuing to facilitate a joyful and worshipful environment. It was beautiful to see how many different expressions of worship and gathering were able to exalt the same, One true God. Looking ahead to next year, we want to make a more consistent effort to collaborate with, learn from, and embrace other organizations and student leaders within chapel. My prayer is that these interactions with them would serve as opportunities to humble ourselves before the Lord and the mighty work He is doing all around our campus. In coming together, I pray that the unity and collective worship of the Messiah community could look more and more like heaven.

Owen Shank, Bible Study Director

Our Bible Study ministries are designed to provide spaces where students can engage deeply with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and grow in their faith. While the Fall Semester saw all Bible studies in full swing, this Spring semester was filled with gains and losses as the Bible Studies gained Sanctuary as an official part of the Bible Studies, but we also lost our Logos Bible Study for the semester. Thus while we officially have three Bible Studies Ministries: Roots, Logos, and Sanctuary, only Roots and Sanctuary met for the entire semester as Logos began the process of rebranding. All three Bible Studies are meant to serve a unique purpose in meeting the diverse spiritual needs of our campus community. Roots emphasizes creating a community that fosters vulnerability and spiritual growth, Sanctuary on asking tough questions about the faith and answering them in an open and honest way, and Logos focused on equipping students with a deeper understanding of God's Word through observing, interpreting, and applying Scripture to our lives. All of the ministries are centered on helping students connect with God and one another in authentic and impactful ways. Through Roots and Sanctuary (as well as Logos) we aim to glorify God by helping students grow in their understanding of His Word and their relationship with Him. Our hope is that every student who seeks to know God more intimately will find a welcoming space in one of our Bible Studies. This semester has been a time of inviting students into these spaces as well as reformation for the next year. The teams leading these ministries have worked diligently to provide opportunities for students to engage with Scripture and build intentional connections. Looking ahead to next fall, our focus will be on fostering better relationships within these groups, rebranding and formalizing new organizational culture within Bible Studies, and equipping students to be able to read Scripture well.

**Owen Shank: *Bible Study Director***

Logos Bible Studies is a ministry dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and community through weekly Bible studies. Each week, student leaders facilitate meaningful discussions and fellowship, guiding participants in exploring God's Word using the inductive study method. This approach involves observing the details of Scripture, interpreting its meanings with commentary and context, and applying its teachings to daily lives. Our mission is to inspire and equip students to grow in their relationship with Christ by deepening their understanding of His Word. Throughout the Fall semester, Logos was intent on meeting every week for Bible Studies and attempted to create means for the leaders of the group to connect with the broader Messiah community. However, due to a lack of commitment and people, Logos decided not to meet for the remainder of the Spring semester after the first few weeks to emphasize rebranding and refocusing on finding passion for the work done in their Bible Study. As a result, the members of Logos met once a week with the Bible Studies Director for three weeks to start the process of rebranding, but after three weeks and mixed involvement, we decided not to continue the meetings after the fourth and fifth week.

Our focus in our time at the rebranding meetings was to improve team relationships as well as emphasize Logos' identity, mission/vision statement, and relationship to the rest of Student Ministries. However, in our decision to stop the rebranding meetings, we have started to turn our focus on the new leadership, and how the new leaders can create and sustain interest in the future and in members who want to cultivate curiosity about the Bible through focusing on observing, interpreting, and applying Scripture in community. Looking to next year, we desire to start up once more Logos with a new team who has a passionate focus for what they do and are relational to the community around them.

Roots Bible Study**Caleb Rice, *Roots Bible Study Coordinator***

Roots is a student-led community dedicated to studying God's Word, building each other up spiritually, developing leadership skills, and fostering meaningful relationships. The team of four works collaboratively to plan weekly Bible Studies, Community Nights, and other activities that strengthen their ministry. Together, they strive to create a welcoming space where students can grow in their faith and connect with one another.

At the heart of Roots is their On-Lead Bible Study, held every Monday night from 8:30-10:00. Before each semester, the Roots leaders choose a biblical theme to study over the course of the semester, whether it's a book of the Bible, a theme, a guiding passage to draw connections to, or a biblical narrative. Many passages that fit the semester's theme are chosen and then organized into manageable sections, which are then broken down into themes for each individual study. A typical On-Lead Bible Study begins with an icebreaker game to foster fellowship. Students then break into small groups of 4-6 people, and a list of questions for each passage being studied that week is distributed. Students then read the passage and talk through the questions in their small groups. After an hour of study, everyone reconvenes. On some nights, groups share key takeaways, other times a few worship songs are sung, and still other times prayer requests are shared. The evening concludes with prayer, announcements, and additional time for connection and fellowship.

What makes On-Lead unique is its rotational leadership format. After the Roots team leads the first few weeks, they open signups to the rest of the community, inviting participants to co-lead



with a Roots team member. This approach encourages creativity and active engagement while empowering community members to step into leadership roles.

In addition to Bible Study, Roots hosts weekly Community Nights designed to deepen relationships within the group. These casual gatherings include activities like watching movies, playing board games, or competing in unique challenges. Roots also continued a partnership with Residence Life and Ambassadors for Residential Ministry to host some of their community nights in the residence halls, providing an opportunity for outreach. They also organize monthly excursions to explore community and adventure beyond campus. This year, they went hiking, tackled an escape room, and visited both the Climbnasium and the Midtown Scholar bookstore. These outings provided opportunities to strengthen bonds and enjoy time together outside of their usual Bible Study routine. Finally, the Roots team bakes cookies with a few select community members each week. This has become a valuable opportunity for Roots to personally invite new community members into involvement, helping them to feel welcomed and valued as part of the group.

Looking ahead to next year, they plan to continue offering Bible Studies, Community Nights, and excursions, building on what they learned this year to foster even deeper connections within the Roots community.

Sanctuary

Emily Frith, *Sanctuary Coordinator*

Overview

Sanctuary exists to meet Messiah students where they are in their faith, providing space and guidance for them to process their questions about God and other Christian topics, especially as they encounter new and challenging perspectives on campus. Sanctuary began as a ministry to serve those who are new to faith or are seriously doubting/grappling with parts of their faith. But



over the years, Sanctuary's focus has shifted away from this towards catering for students who identify as Christians – and perhaps have grown up in the church – yet are seeking to determine for themselves what they really believe. We welcome all who want to discuss these topics, whether that's to dive in deeper and discern how to apply these truths to their lives or to seek answers to questions about Christian faith as they explore Jesus for the first time.

Our main ministry this year has been through weekly small group meetings. Each meeting is discussion-based, looking at relevant Scripture passages and sharing personal experiences/testimonies. Each discussion is about a pre-selected topic our team thinks students will be interested in that gives the discussion some structure, but we are by no means tied down to the chosen topics. We arrange the order of these topics across each semester in a way that flows well together and perhaps answers questions that may have come up in the previous week(s). We make intentional space within each meeting for students to ask their own questions by inviting them to share their initial thoughts/concerns about the topic at the start of the night and by having open question time at the end of the night for students to voice *any* faith-related questions that they may be wrestling with.

We've appreciated the conversations we've had each week, particularly as everyone in the room has had an opportunity to participate. Most nights, the conversations are engaging, though the group stays small – only 1-3 attendees in addition to our team. This has meant we've had ample opportunity to minister to each other as teammates and siblings in Christ. Our semester schedule is structured in a way that allows students to just attend the nights when we're discussing topics they are interested in; we don't require consistent attendance. In the Fall (2024), we had a couple of people come regularly, and others joined us for the odd week. In the Spring (2025), we didn't see any regular attendance but a small range of different people across



the weeks. Again, we realized the most effective way to engage students in our weekly meetings is through personal invitation, although we could've done more of that as leaders. In addition to weekly club meetings, we also offered our peer-mentorship program but didn't have much opportunity to promote it. In the Fall (2024), we saw active peer-mentoring meetings happening with two male students in addition to a one-off meeting with one female student. In the Spring (2025), however, we had zero peer-mentoring meetings, probably because we aimed to promote this peer-mentoring opportunity at our club meetings but didn't get much attendance. Hopefully, more students will engage with this personalized opportunity next year. We piloted an event called Grilled Cheeses and Jesus in the Fall (2024), where we offered free grilled cheese sandwiches to students as a means to open conversations and build relationships with our Sanctuary leaders. Overall, the conversations were meaningful, and we hope more students will engage in them in the future. In the Spring (2025), we worked with two of the ARMs to host a similar event, which was a Hot Chocolate Giveaway. We offered free hot chocolate and snacks to students while asking them to respond to our whiteboard question, hoping to engage them in conversation and introduce them to what Sanctuary is. (We used a question that we then talked about at a future Sanctuary meeting to garner interest in coming). Overall, we had many meaningful conversations with students and felt like the event was a great success. The last event Sanctuary hosted this year was Just Jesus (April 2025), collaborating with groups such as Newmen Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Student Ministries to encourage others in their pursuit of Jesus through a night of testimonies and worship – *but at the time this report was written the event hadn't happened yet.*

The Future

We want to start next semester fresh, perhaps with a rebranding of this ministry and a shift to a more Bible-study-oriented approach for our weekly meetings. This past semester, our team has been discussing what this could like: a name change, a different meeting time & location, and an emphasis on equipping students to seek answers to their questions in Scripture. We also want to cultivate a strong sense of community among us as a team to then invite others into because we recognize that this is what seems most compelling about the peer-led ministry opportunities within Student Ministries.

This past semester, we discussed doing a four or eight-week 4X4 with Emily Bingham in association with the Interpreting the Bible curriculum, during which the Sanctuary team would be discussion leaders. However, this has been postponed due to concerns about how it may be perceived by students and in what light it would paint the BPRS department. External opportunities like Just Jesus, Grilled Cheeses and Jesus, and the Hot Chocolate Giveaway serve as contact points for us to meet with students we don't see weekly, and we hope to continue these in future semesters. There are so many students on campus asking difficult questions, and we want to engage with as many of them as possible. We would love to see more students join us on a weekly basis, and this continues to be one of our prayer requests.

Bible Study Ministry In Review

This semester, the Bible Study Ministry has been dedicated to fostering spiritual growth, community, and engagement with God's Word through our Roots and Sanctuary Bible Study programs. Both ministries have worked to create spaces where students can explore Scripture, build relationships, and grow in their faith. Similarly, we have attempted to reinvigorate Logos



through numerous meetings and planning sessions which will restart at the beginning of Fall semester 2025. Logos Bible Studies focused on equipping students with a deeper understanding of the Bible using the inductive study method. Weekly sessions led by student leaders emphasized meaningful discussions and personal application of Scripture. Yet, after much consideration, the Logos team (and the Bible Studies Director) decided to renew vigor for the team through different meetings and eventually focusing on next year's leadership. Roots Bible Studies offered a collaborative approach with its On-Lead format, allowing community members to take an active role in leading studies alongside the Roots team. This rotating leadership model encouraged creativity and leadership development. Roots also continued creating a thriving community through weekly Community Nights and monthly excursions, providing students with opportunities for fellowship outside of Bible Study. Finally, Sanctuary offered a space where people could talk about tough topics of the faith through studying the Bible. Their emphasis was on creating a caring community where listening and what is said is valued as well as how to respond in a way that is helpful, appropriate, and applicable to those who struggle with aspects of the faith through community outreach and generous opportunities to talk about Christianity. The goal of the Bible Study Ministry is to get more of the student body reading Scripture. As we reflect on this semester, we are excited about the connections that have been made, the ways we have seen God at work, and the development that has occurred within individual team members and within the ministries as a whole. Looking ahead, we are hopeful to cultivate strong Bible Studies that will support students to read and contemplate Scripture through inviting communities whether they be in Student Ministries or in other communal settings.

CJ Groff, Life Groups Director

Overview

Our Life Groups Ministry seeks to build relationships with students through weekly community gatherings. Our Life Groups Ministry consists of Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry. Each team seeks to meet the individual needs of students on campus through life groups, Bible studies, and larger events. This year, we have come a long way in establishing our ministries for another year and are thankful for the opportunity to serve our student body's spiritual needs. Specifically, we have added Discipleship Bands, which are groups of 3-5 people, who meet at least once a week. During these times, the people within each group catch up on where they have seen God that week, what has been something they have been struggling with, and how each of them can be praying for one another. Discipleship Bands are unique from life groups because they do not need to be led by Student Ministry Leaders. These groups are opportunities to empower students on campus to build their own accountability groups. If they have any questions or want to find a discipleship band, they can reach out to me - CJ Groff (Men's Ministry Coordinator/Life Groups Director or Lilly Davey (Women's Ministry Coordinator). We look forward to this coming year as we continue to seek to serve our community, serve one another, and grow in our leadership and faith.

CJ Groff, Men's Ministry Coordinator

Men's Ministry's vision this year is to make more people aware of Men's Ministry on campus and to invite men into a space where they can be open and vulnerable with one another. Men's Ministry provides two weekly events to promote time in prayer and deep discussion about the Bible. As a ministry, we also provide one-on-one peer mentorship for those who understand, God calls to have accountability in this life to face the battle of spiritual attacks. This year from



2024-2025, Men's Ministry continued the partnership with Men Achieving Purpose (MAP) both semesters, an eight-week chapel series discussing difficult topics surrounding pornography, lust, and sexual addiction. It produces strong small-group accountability and addresses proactive ways to combat these subjects through teaching by Mike Blount, a Licensed Professional Counselor from the Engle Center.

Weekly Ministry

This year Men's Ministry has completely changed the way life groups are run. With a completely new Men's Ministry core team, mentor team, and advisor, Men's Ministry decided to try something different than the past. The first was a life group that was led by Josh Calderon and focused on what it means to be a Follower of Jesus. In this life group, we went through the book "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman and addressed proactive ways each member of the group can grow in their relationship with the Lord and reflect Christ in our daily lives. Also, we held a weekly Bible Study called Everybody Eats (In fall, Wednesday nights and Spring Thursday nights) from 7pm-8pm. This includes Testimony Nights, Prayer walks, how to win in a Christ-like Manner (Pickleball, Volleyball, are just some examples). Our goal has been to bring brothers in Christ together to read the Bible, but also create a space where guys can feel welcome and encouraged in their walk with the Lord. Specifically, we went through the book of Acts and discussed how the disciples were led by the Holy Spirit to do works for the Lord and how we can relate their experiences to our daily lives. Furthermore, we discussed two important topics: what does God want us to do with our worries and what does it look like to spend time with God. Not only reading the Bible, and praying, but also sitting in silence with Him. Men's Ministry groups are open to all men on campus and have a wide variety of men who come to the events - Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Our events this year have been successful with weekly attendance and participation. We have achieved this through intentional invitations (in person, over text, advertising on social media platforms, and making posters spread out over campus)

4x4 Chapel Series

Every semester Men's Ministry is partnering with Men Achieving Purpose (MAP) to have an eight-week chapel series discussing difficult topics surrounding pornography, lust, and sexual addiction. Attendance was steady throughout the eight weeks both semesters and participation levels increased rapidly where men are asking for more events to discuss these important topics, which we will add this coming 2025 Fall semester. The series is led by Michael Blount, a Licensed Professional Counselor from the Engle Center. He is supported by the Men's Ministry team throughout the chapel series with each Men's Ministry leader facilitating in a small group accountability setting. As a ministry, we are excited and hopeful about continuing this chapel series in the Fall Semester 2025 and future semesters.

The Future

This year we have provided an 8-week MAP chapel series, two weekly events - a Life Group and Everybody Eats Bible Study, and one-on-one mentorship. Men's Ministry is excited to continue to provide events for large fellowship gatherings where men on campus can come and meet other guys pursuing the Lord. Then, Men's Ministry will be increasing the awareness in coming semesters of the concept of Disciple Bands where students are empowered to gather in groups of 3-5 people they trust. Men's Ministry Leaders will be providing instruction and answering any



questions students might have. Also, giving each person a Discipleship Band card with questions on it is helpful for individuals to ask each other how their weeks have been and where they have seen God moving. These groups will provide accountability for students to grow in their faith together. They will talk about important topics we all face and what it means to be a man of God regularly. Additionally, we are looking forward to providing more testimony nights for men on campus, further growing Everybody Eats Bible Study, and partnering with male RA's to hold it on floors, while continuing one-on-one peer mentorship, and an eight-week chapel series (MAP) each semester. Men's Ministry is hoping to increase the awareness of its ministry around campus and continue its mission to facilitate vulnerability for men on Messiah's campus. We are constantly seeking to improve the effectiveness of our ministries and will reevaluate our events as we get new team members.

Women's Ministry

Lilly Davey, *Women's Ministry Coordinator*

Women's Ministry desires for all women to grow in fresh revelations of the Lord and see Him harvest His bride in abundance to Himself. Women's Ministry seeks to offer opportunities for spiritual depth and relationship with the Word of God through community and the secret place.

Weekly Ministry and Events

In the fall, our main focus was on building up a community of women through our weekly Life Group gatherings. Life Groups provide a nurturing environment for students to explore and grow in their faith while pursuing relationships through fellowship, discipleship, mentoring, and Bible study. Four life groups met weekly at different times and in different places to connect with one another and the Lord personally and spiritually. *Sarah Dunn* led a group that studied the Psalms. Each week, they studied a new psalm, engaged in conversation with one another, and spent time in prayer. The attendees of this group have planned to continue meeting next semester. *Mohrael Besaly* led a group that studied Scripture together. Each week, they dove into the Word together and spent time praying over one another specifically for needs expressed by members of the group. *Belle Montanye* led a group that went through a plan by Practicing the Way. Each week, the group would watch a video from the program and complete a corresponding activity. They also spent time in prayer and had extra activity time where they dove deeper into one another's lives. *Sophia Gray* led a group that met to worship through movement and dance. Each week, they got together and spent time worshipping through movement and having meaningful conversations, including prayer of course. Once a week, all of the leaders met and discussed the happenings of their groups as well as their own personal lives. They spent time praying over one another and discussing their needs as well as the needs of their groups and people around them. Additionally, Women's Ministry had the privilege of being able to host a large community event. In collaboration with Mind's Matter, we made fall wreaths in the Jordan-Kline Atrium and worshipped God in song. A few women came to this event with no prior knowledge of Women's Ministry and the worship and fellowship touched them, inspiring them to ask for more information. In the spring, our main focus was on building up a community of women through our weekly Women's Wednesdays. Women's Wednesdays were a night of fellowship through worship, the Word, and prayer. Someone different shared a bit of their testimony and important Scriptures each week. At the end of each night, the women in attendance would be split into groups of three or four to pray for one another and intercede.

Future



In the future, Women's Ministry is excited to continue moving through these community nights in an effort to place the eyes of the women on this campus on God, His presence, and His Spirit. The event will continue to focus on worship, prayer, and teaching. Each of these elements will simply be mediums for the glory of God to shine and be revealed. Discipleship Bands will continue to be encouraged, allowing for anyone to have a self-led small group rather than one led by a Women's Ministry leader. All that is done will be done in answer to His call and to bring glory to His name.

Life Group Ministry In Review

This year, as we have been discerning how best to meet the spiritual needs of our student population, each of our ministries has stepped up in identifying what the purpose of their ministry is and how they can continue to adapt to meet those needs. We have had many great successes such as the building up of strong Men's and Women's Ministry communities, as well as the connecting with the Ambassadors for Residential Ministry in order to support students in their residences. We have also been more intentional about collaborating between our ministries in order to put on programming that truly creates a wide variety of opportunities for students to engage in their faith.

Overall, our Life Groups team has grown considerably in not only disciplining others in their faith but also in making sure to pursue growth on our own. Coordinators specifically, have participated in regular devotionals and prayer with their teams. We will continue to encourage one another in the faith and seek the Lord's guidance in the upcoming hiring process. Men's and Women's Ministries can not wait to begin creating large fellowship events where students on campus can come and grow in relationship with each other and draw near to our Heavenly Father. Also, growing the concept of Disciple Bands where students are empowered to gather in groups of 3-5 people. The role of our leaders - to provide instruction and answer any questions students might have. Also, giving each person a Discipleship Band card with questions on it will be helpful for individuals to ask each other how their weeks have been and where they have seen God moving. These groups will continue to provide accountability for students to grow in their faith together.

This year, we have come a long way in establishing our ministries for the coming year and are thankful for the opportunity to serve our student body's spiritual needs. We look forward to how the Lord will use us in the coming year as we continue to seek to serve our community, serve one another, and grow in our leadership and faith. team was made up of six members (with Spring 2025 consisting of a 4-membered team), who spent time preparing for and leading Altar, partnering with Powerhouse, and joining other ministry events on campus to provide prayer support.

Macy Neff, *Prayer Director*

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gives us an example of how to pray, leading with a command to pray for God's will to be done "here on earth as it is in heaven". Put simply, prayer is an opportunity to partner with the heart of God to see heaven come to earth. Though we incorporate prayer in every ministry on campus, "prayer ministry" exists to pray intentionally for and with each of our ministry teams as well to intercede for the Messiah community at large. Our vision is to behold Jesus & to minister to his heart as one body to see His kingdom come and His will



be done in our lives, on our campus, and in the world.

As a team, our desire is to provide students with teaching, resources, and opportunities to engage in individual and communal prayer and pursue deeper relationship with God. Our prayer Our Life Groups Ministry seeks to build relationships with students through weekly community gatherings. Our Life Groups Ministry consists of Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry. Each team seeks to meet the individual needs of students on campus through life groups, Bible studies, and larger events. This year, we have come a long way in establishing our ministries for another year and are thankful for the opportunity to serve our student body's spiritual needs. Specifically, we have added Discipleship Bands, which are groups of 3-5 people, who meet at least once a week. During these times, the people within each group catch up on where they have seen God that week, what has been something they have been struggling with, and how each of them can be praying for one another. Discipleship Bands are unique from life groups because they do not need to be led by Student Ministry Leaders. These groups are opportunities to empower students on campus to build their own accountability groups. If they have any questions or want to find a discipleship band, they can reach out to me - CJ Groff (Men's Ministry Coordinator/Life Groups Director) or Lilly Davey (Women's Ministry Coordinator). We look forward to this coming year as we continue to seek to serve our community, serve one another, and grow in our leadership and faith.

Altar

Altar is a weekly gathering of students who desire to behold Jesus and minister to His heart. We gather on Tuesday evenings from 8:15-10:00 PM in Hostetter Chapel as one body to seek the heart of God through prayer, worship, and intercession. This fall, we spent a lot of time in Matthew 6 praying, singing, and teaching the Lord's prayer and using this as a foundational scripture for many of our gatherings. Our planning times were devoted to choosing songs, scriptures, and prayer points for the night but are very sensitive to the leadership of the Lord and follow His leading throughout the night. Above all else, being silent before the Lord, waiting to hear Him speak, and receiving His heart is central to the mission of Altar. We recognize that this ministry is nothing without the Lord, and we are so blessed and honored that He chooses to meet with us each week.

During the Spring 2025 semester, our focus turned towards equipping people in their individual prayer lives. This was accomplished through teaching nights on intercession and hearing from God. We were passionate about equipping Altar attendees in these two facets of prayer as Scripture clearly outlines the importance of interceding on behalf of others and speaking to the Lord through the Holy Spirit inside of us. Through these nights, we were able to create space for application of these practices while leaving time for discussion. These nights were fruitful for the prayer lives in the members of our community, empowering them to walk in these practices individually and communally at Altar. It has been special to see people develop friendships and build community through Altar as we take time to pray for and with each other in large groups, small groups, and together as one body. We have been undone by the way the Lord has met us with His presence every single week and are grateful to get to partner with His heart in prayer.

Powerhouse Prayer Collaboration

We are dedicated to interceding on behalf of the needs of the Messiah community. Our vision is for this campus to be saturated in prayer and for students to seek the Lord together.

Since Powerhouse is a space that already draws Messiah's student population, we desire to cover the space and people in prayer. In addition, we function as the identified prayer leaders in the room. This means we intentionally pray over the space as a team before the night begins, and we are available to pray with people throughout the night. Beginning in the spring, we have had the opportunity to intentionally partner with the Powerhouse leadership team and meet biweekly to pray over the team and for Thursday nights. We have been encouraged by the intention given towards prayer in and for the space. This is a powerful collaboration that we have done for the past two years, and we look forward to continuing it in the future.



Events and Future Goals

We are excited to have all four of our members returning for the upcoming academic year. As a team, we are passionate about building community through Altar and partnerships with ministries, such as Powerhouse, and we continue to seek out opportunities to do so.

Specifically, we desire to make our teaching nights at Altar a monthly occurrence with focuses on introducing Lectio Divina and prophetic ministry. We aspire to move towards live worship and are in the process of working toward finding

people to partner with in this aspect of prayer ministry. Finally, we have been deeply encouraged by our collaboration with Powerhouse and plan to continue this, developing even stronger relationships with the Powerhouse leadership team. We are excited and expectant for what the Lord is going to continue to do through this team!

Emma Moyer, *Events & Communications Director*

The heart of Events and Communications ministry is to engage and invite the student body into relationship with the Lord through events that honor His Presence in community, with an emphasis on clear and helpful communication for each of our ministry teams. This year, the events ministry has had a busy semester both continuing the team's past duties of campus-wide events, as well as taking on all communications and event planning of individual ministry teams. These responsibilities include reserving spaces for these events to occur, as well as reserving any catering or tech needs for each of these events. Along with this, a large part of our time and energy has been committed to marketing and advertising for our events. We have designed many posters and graphics to be hung around campus and uploaded to our social media to spread information regarding our events.

The events team includes a media assistant that primarily works to help us with social content for our Instagram account and makes sure that all ministry events and information is effectively communicated to our campus audience. This semester our media assistant has also headed up the launching of a podcast with the Pulse, creating space for faith conversations with peers and leaders on campus, like Student Body President Sam Ramos, Stephen Gallaher, and Chapel Director Camille Murchie.

The Events & Communications Team

The events and communications team has been meeting weekly throughout the semester. In these meetings we discuss updates on individual projects and recent events, as well as plan for future



gatherings and events. These meetings serve multiple purposes as it both helps the team carry out logistical duties and fosters community within the team itself.

Student Ministries Retreat

One of our large events this semester was the Student Ministries Retreat. For a weekend in early fall, Student Ministries leaders and volunteers traveled to Camp Gretna Glen for a time of fellowship, learning, and reflection. The retreat theme this fall was Sabbath. We worked to provide a space for our team to experience Sabbath while also teaching about what it means to Sabbath well and from a biblical perspective. A lot of time was spent towards planning and executing this retreat.

Looking Ahead

As the events and communications ministry, we are excited to dream together with our fall team about what is to come for next school year. We look forward to partnering with students to combat student loneliness on campus and to continue to build relationships with other clubs and organizations. We look forward to one of our largest events in terms of planning: Incense. Through collaboration with other organizations on campus, we desire to create an atmosphere of worship for campus. More broadly, we are excited to continue planning pop-up events for connection and encouragement, Chapel Hospitality pop-ups to encourage joy and engagement in chapel, and other events for students that the Lord calls us to.

Anna Bolembach, Director of Human Rights Awareness Ministry

Human Rights Awareness (HRA) is a student-led ministry that aims to educate the campus community about global justice and human rights issues. Recently, HRA was transferred from being under the Agape Center to being a part of campus ministries, and we are still establishing what it means for HRA to be a ministry. We have established three main goals: to educate the campus community about global justice and human rights issues; to help students develop a biblical perspective on seeking justice and grow in compassion; and to engage in faith-based activism both on and off Messiah's campus. HRA hosted several events this semester to touch on all three parts of our mission statement. Beyond staying true to our missional values, HRA's two main goals this year are to create a solid community of club members and host events on a bi-weekly schedule. Our events in the past have been less focused on community-building, and as a result, we do not have the most substantial constituency. We hope to improve this through new event formats and more consistent programming!

Events

This year, we held 15 events— 6 in the Fall semester and 9 in the Spring. In my mid-year report, I discussed how our Fall semester events connected to our club's mission and vision and our yearly goals. I will briefly do the same with the events we held this Spring! This semester we had a full team, and thus could operate at full capacity! We did our best to make sure that each of our events contained engaging activities such as bingo, trivia, or bracelet-making in order to achieve our goal of building community around topics of human rights. We also made sure each of our events still contained educational material as well as opportunities for students to get involved in advocacy with their local community.

Our first event, Neocolonialism Bingo was extremely successful; we provided in-depth informational content, while also helping students relate to the topic at hand through personal



“bingo” that showed us how pervasive neocolonialism is in our society today. Next, we partnered with Messiah Earthkeepers to put on Food Security Trivia! This was a great way to communicate educational content in a way that didn’t feel like a lecture; all participants were heavily engaged and the people I talked to after the event said they all learned something new. We also got to hear from SGA about how they are combating food insecurity on campus. Next, we had a Know Your Rights (KYR) event. This was less engaging, as we wanted to honor the somber nature of this current topic by not “making light” of it in any way. We were able to reach several students, providing them with KYR cards and informational packets that they were able to share with their immigrant family, friends, and neighbors. Our fourth event was a Craft and Chat about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). We got to hold a really heavy topic in community together– making bracelets that honored Indigenous art practices, learning about the pervasiveness of MMIW, and taking time to process how we’re responding to this horrific issue. Advocacy Week has been our biggest series of events this year, with three events happening in one week! Two of the three events have happened so far, both of which were well attended and helped shape students’ perspectives on what it means to act on our faith-based convictions! We also got to table to raise awareness about our club, these three events, and the Next Steps program at Messiah that we’re advocating for this week. Our final event of the semester will likely be a Collage and Debrief night, as is tradition. It has been so fun to think of creative ways to engage our community, educate folks about global injustices, and create space where people who care deeply about the pains of this world get to feel supported and heard. I can’t wait to see what good work HRA’s team produces next year!

Looking Forward

It’s been such a privilege to hold this position as Director of the HRA team for the past two years. I am so proud of how my team has formed over this year especially; every team member shows up with enthusiasm, intentionality, thoughtfulness, and a willingness to put their best foot forward. Liz Meyer, our current Events Coordinator, is set to take on the role of Director next year. Dain Kobzowicz, our current Social Media & Design Coordinator, will take over the position of Assistant Director. We just finished conducting interviews for our three Tier 2 positions, and plan to finalize our decision about who will be in those roles by April 15th. Next year, the new team will continue to strive to be a collaborative, engaging club that facilitates a healthy community and educational content about global happenings. I am incredibly sad to leave this club behind, to which I have given so much of my time, love, energy, and care. However, I am certain that this new team will continue the good work of advocating against injustice, empowering the marginalized, and drawing people from all different walks of life into HRA’s beautiful vision of acting out God’s love for God’s people!

Chris Hon, Assistant Director of Human Rights Awareness

As the Assistant Director of the Messiah University Human Rights Awareness Coalition, my responsibilities on a day-to-day basis include supporting the curating and execution of events, aiding the Director in any logistical or organisational task necessary, keeping a record of minutes during staff meetings, as well as managing the social media page. During this semester (Spring 2025), other tasks I have performed include the curation of educational content for events and the facilitation of events. I am also consistently interacting and recruiting new members for engagement, as well as liaising with external collaborators for our events.



This semester, I contributed to the planning and organizing of several events, including the Neo-Colonialism Bingo with HRA—an interactive educational event raising awareness on neo-colonialism and how it intersects with our daily lives, Know Your Rights on Deportation, Food Security Trivia, and Advocacy Week. For many of these events, I supported the Education Coordinator in creating slides and doing research to compile the educational material needed for the events.

This semester I was also able to coordinate more with the Design Coordinator with certain graphic design needs. I was able to design all of our introduction posts on Instagram, as well as the design for our merchandise this year, where its proceeds will be donated to support Church World Service. In my role I also manage our social media, posting the graphics designed by our Design Coordinator, writing the captions and posting our stories.

Liz Meyer, Events Coordinator (HRA)

As the Events Coordinator for HRA during Spring 2025, I stepped into the position this semester after it had been vacant Fall 2024, and I've been able to help in the planning and executing events. This spring, I helped organize and run events such as Neocolonialism Bingo, Food Security Trivia, and Craft and Chat, all designed to be both informative and accessible, creating space for conversation around complex human rights issues in an open and inviting way. I also assisted in the promotion of our events to our members and to the general Messiah population. One of my biggest contributions this semester was supporting the planning and execution of HRA's Advocacy Week, which involved a rapid series of events and tabling sessions over a short period of time. From coordinating logistics and managing supplies to supporting fellow team members in outreach and set-up, I worked to help the week run smoothly from the background. As I prepare to step into the Director position next year, I've been working learning the ins and outs of event planning within HRA's unique context, while also learning more about the other roles present in HRA and all that is needed to keep things running. My goal moving forward is to build on the momentum we've created this semester by continuing to strengthen community among our members, increase collaboration with other campus groups, and maintain consistent programming that invites the student body into meaningful conversations about justice.

Justin Ng, Education Coordinator (HRA)

As the research and education coordinator, I was facilitating the research of information to be used in our presentations and our events to educate people on issues that we as a team in HRA feel deeply passionate about. This semester, I contributed to the research of information such as for events we had. The events we organized that I moderated and did some research on are Neo-colonialism education, Food security & Food justice which we collaborated with Messiah Earthkeepers, Know your rights on ICE Raids, Missing & Murdered Indigenous women education. Looking back to the last semester where I wanted to have a greater audience on campus. We had a couple events that had a pretty good turnout. I am looking forward to seeing HRA continue to take leaps forward to be the advocate and voice for social issues that the team is passionate about and have important messages that need to be heard.

Dain Kobzowicz, Design & Social Media Coordinator (HRA)

As the Design and Social Media Coordinator for HRA, I have been responsible for managing the design and social media for Human Rights Awareness throughout the year. During this current

semester of spring 2025, my responsibilities have included designing posters, Instagram graphics, managing social media posts, T-Shirts, branding choices, and occasionally helping out with event plans. I have created posters and instagram graphics for the following events: Neocolonialism Bingo, Food Security Trivia, Know Your Rights on Deportation, Craft & Chat W/HRA & Advocacy week. In addition to this, I designed, or assisted in the design of instagram graphics for the team introduction posts, hiring for next year, T-shirts, and merch posts. I also designed multiple handouts and flyers that were given away either during events or while tabling during Advocacy Week. There are still a few more things down the road for me, such as another event to make posters and graphics for if it gets approved, and the creation of a finalized & updated logo. As I will be returning next semester to take on the role of assistant director, I have also been stepping into roles of leadership and coordination in an attempt to learn the skills that will be necessary next semester to help make the change in leadership run smoothly for HRA in the 2025-2026 academic year.



Minds Matter



Faith Fitz, *President of Minds Matter*



The 2024-2025 academic year was a great time of new growth for Minds Matter, as our first official year as an executive club. During the fall year, Minds Matter educated, equipped, and empowered the Messiah University Student Body. We educated students on topics regarding mental health and disability. We equipped students with the tools, resources, and space to take care of their mental health. We empowered students to advocate and care for themselves. This year, we were able to collaborate and create great friendship with the Engle Center for Health and Counseling Services as well as the Murray Library. We want to equip the student body with information, tools, and resources necessary to support themselves and others. Minds Matter celebrated the opportunity to receive an office space this year in the Larson Student Union. This has been very useful for Minds Matter to provide a safe and welcoming space for students seeking to take care of themselves. Having somewhere to hold our more intimate events, specifically involving vulnerable conversations, is necessary to fully support the Student Body.

Vision Statement: To raise awareness, change perspectives, and equip Messiah University to promote a Christ-like environment where mental health can be discussed as a part of our complete wellness.

Mission Statement: To decrease stigma and increase awareness surrounding wellness by applying a mental health perspective in advocating for emotional, psychological, developmental, intellectual, physical disabilities, and chronic illness.

Looking Forward, Minds Matter is ecstatic to continue to support the Messiah Student Body during the 2025-2026 academic year. We are looking forward to holding even more collaborations with clubs and organizations on campus.. Minds Matter is also looking to gain a position next academic year for the managing of club finances. Being an executive club with such a large budget, it is essential that there is a role in place just for this duty. It has been a struggle for Minds Matter to upkeep finances without this role in place. We are hoping to advocate for this change in the future.

Signed,

Faith Fitz

Julie Hodgson, *Vice President of Minds Matter*

My continuation of serving with Minds Matter and taking the role of Vice President of Minds Matter this year was highly rewarding to me. I was able to connect with many students personally and speak to faculty regarding issues concerning the disability community at Messiah. My role of promoting mental health education allowed for discussion and facilitation of group conversations at events like Scare Away Stigma. Topics highlighted in the discussion were valuable for attendees to take with them and ponder their own experiences. We discussed the importance of inclusion of those who experience stigma. Sharing counters to harmful misconceptions that we may internalize or repeat to others. We touched on developing kinder thoughts about ourselves and our neighbor. Our discussion also shared awareness of what others with different diagnoses and struggles may experience instead of alienating them or spreading harmful stereotypes. We had a paint night event that I was honored to host and demonstrate the painting techniques as well as the inclusions of mindfulness practices and art therapy. Other included overall topics were self-kindness, self-care, accommodating oneself, and affirmations.



Signed,

Julie Hodgson

Rebecca Haas, *Vice President of Events*

This academic year, I have the privilege of serving as Vice President of Events for Minds Matter. Within that role, I am responsible for scheduling Minds Matter events on the This Week at Messiah calendar, ordering catering for events, assisting the other Minds Matter staff in planning the events, and reflecting in how the events align with Messiah's core values as a university. In my role planning events for Minds Matter, I use ideas and suggestions given by students at Messiah University to better incorporate a variety of general wellness, mental health, and disability issues into Minds Matter events. I educate more people about these important areas and provide ways for students who identify with a variety of mental health and disability diagnoses to advocate for themselves and others on campus. I am very privileged to be in a role that provides events for students to relax and destress, amidst the stressors of academics and other important obligations outside of school. I am committed to ensuring that Minds Matter continues to provide advocacy and support for a variety of groups on campus, as well as providing de-stressing events and activities for all students to enjoy. This year, Minds Matter has had a plethora of events that directly supported our vision and mission statement.

First Friday

On the first Friday of the fall semester, Minds Matter collaborated with SGA, SAB, MCC, The Pulse, and Student Ministries to throw a block party to celebrate the first week of classes. Each of the six Executive Student Organizations hosted a different element of this annual new student tradition. This event was a great success as there were



hundreds of students present and engaged. There were inflatables, a mechanical bull, crafts. Music, and food. This event was a perfect way for the Student Body to celebrate the conclusion of the first week of classes.

Coffee, Zines, and Meet the Team

Minds Matter held a relaxing evening creating zines, mini handmade booklets where you can express your thoughts, creativity, and ideas. This was a time for the Messiah Student Body to come learn about Minds Matter and our goals for the year, what we have planned, and gather feedback on what others want to see from Minds Matter. This was a great time for students to learn about what Minds Matter is and how we support campus.

Paint Party

Minds Matter held a student-led paint night combined with a casual conversation about mental health. We painted a beautiful fall scene while creating a welcoming and judgement-free space for students to discuss various topics on mental health and current issues surrounding mental health.

Scare Away Stigma

This year instead of holding our Scare Away Stigma pop up event, Minds Matter decided to hold an evening dedicated to discussing misconceptions around mental health, chronic illnesses, and disabilities. We provided foam pumpkin decorating, bracelet making, and other relaxing fall activities. This was a great event to destigmatize talking about our mental health publicly.

Student Ministries Collaboration: Fall Crafts and Worship Night

Minds Matter collaborated with Student Ministries during the fall semester by having an evening of live worship and fall wreath making. Conversations about mental health were held in a calming and welcoming environment. This was a great time to destress and relax in the middle of a busy semester.

Neurodiversity Fair

Minds Matter's Banquet Initiative's Neurodiversity Fair is an event for the raising of awareness and acceptance of individuals with disabilities such as ADHD, Autism, OCD, and learning disabilities. This event is a celebration of the neurodiverse community and in that we give prizes, have catering, highlight stories, and share educational information. This event is for any student, whether they deal with different neurodiverse conditions like ADHD, dyslexia, or OCD. This is also for students who want to learn for their own education or for future employment.

Destress Fest

Minds Matter's Semi-Annual De-Stress Fest is our largest event held at the end of every semester for a time for the Student Body to relax and take a well-deserved study break. We held this event in 10 different rooms on the first floor of Boyer. We partnered with The Office of Student Success for this event and provided many activities so everyone had something to enjoy! We had a gratitude room with card making and DIY



glitter sensory jars, a craft room with journal decorating and bracelet making, game room with Just Dance and board games, low sensory room with sensory fidgets in a calming environment with low lighting, high sensory room with louder fidgets in a more stimulating atmosphere, and then a room with coloring, music, giveaway items, self-care goodie bags for every student to take, and Dunkin' Donuts! We had 300 students attend this event and consider it an incredible success for reaching the Student Body. We fostered some wonderful conversations surrounding mental health and had educational information to share with the students who were in attendance.

Looking forward to the future, Minds Matter will continue to advocate for and support the Student Body in terms of wellness, mental health, and disability.

Signed,

Rebecca Haas

Will Reed, *Vice President of Media*

As Vice President of Media for Minds Matter, I have seen much growth over the course of the 2024-2025 academic year. Minds Matter saw a dramatic increase in engagement on social media platforms, like Instagram. Students were engaged with the club virtually as well as in person. This allows students to learn more about Minds Matter and share the concept of taking care of your mind with others. We believe that our social media platforms this year were a way that students could find comfort and support. Social media can be a very draining place for students mentally, but we believe that our small corner of social media allowed us to bring positivity and peace to the Student Body. We also developed a Linktree for Students that contained many educational resources on and off campus.

Signed,

Will Reed

Maddie Blaser, *Vice President of Education*

Serving with Minds Matter this academic year was a great joy and privilege. Being able to provide support, education, and a voice to students with mental health issues and disabilities is something of grave importance here at Messiah, and any university. Putting education and resources is my role in Minds Matter. I choose topics that are important and relevant to our Student Body. For example, I put together many informational pieces this year on what it means to be "neurodivergent." It was my hope that this could allow students to either better understand themselves, or better understand their peers. I had several autistic students say to me things along the lines of, "I never knew why that's why I am this way." Putting together the information takes time, pre-existing knowledge on the subject matter, what resources there are, and a desire to understand not only from my experience, but the experience of others. It takes more than just pulling things from Wikipedia. I listen to the Student Bodies stories, share some of my own, and

I seek to understand. I share practical information and skills as well, as I try to include more than just a list of facts. I seek to provide a more holistic perspective on mental health.

Education is the means to empathy, and even more so the means to change. Change on how mental health and disabilities are dealt with in the University setting today needs to happen. People face discrimination, inequity, lack of opportunity, hurt, and pain. Right now, one of the main reasons things aren't changing is that the issue is not identified, and when identified, it is only at the surface level. If people only understood the injustice that occurs daily, they would care, and things would change. That is why my job is so vital on campus. Words have power, and impact how we perceive and address issues in our world. Often the language we use for mental health and disability is discriminatory, misleading, rude, or downright inaccurate. I care deeply about the students on this campus. More than anything, I hope to help the Student Body see that they are not alone in their struggles, and that we are here to understand and listen.

Signed,

Maddie Blaser





MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

