



MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

Year - End Report
of the
Student Body President



2023-2024

Report of the Student Body President Moises Ramirez Gomez

As I reflect on the events and achievements of the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Student Body President of Messiah University. It has been a year of growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission of nurturing an inclusive and vibrant campus community.

Quick Summary

At the beginning of the fall semester, the SGA cabinet set out on a journey to evaluate and re-establish the identity of the Student Government Association. Through intentional programming and brand marketing efforts, we have taken a step further in this goal, moving closer to reigniting the spirit of unity and engagement among our student body. One of our objectives was to reignite school spirit by reviving cherished traditions and reestablishing class identity. I am delighted to share that we have brought back the tradition of Homecoming King and Queen, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among our students.

Alongside this, in collaboration with the Office of Residence Life, support of the Student Senate, and approval of the Community Standards and Community of Educators Committees, we have successfully introduced new visitation hours, effective April 8th, 2024. This achievement reflects our dedication to enhancing the student experience as it relates to visitation policies.

While we have encountered some challenges along the way, the SGA executive cabinet tackled every situation head-on. Earlier on we experienced a change of plans when it came to adding pickleball lines to the public tennis courts, as approved by the Student Senate. Alongside this, we are actively working on alternative solutions to promote the use of Messiah facilities, including providing free access to tennis court lights for the remainder of the semester.

Apart from increasing engagement on campus, we have taken strides to reconnect our student body with the local community through partnerships with churches and businesses, fostering meaningful relationships beyond our campus borders. In alignment with our goal of promoting holistic well-being, we have facilitated campus-wide Sabbaths in collaboration with the Campus Ministries office, providing students with opportunities for spiritual reflection and rejuvenation. Additionally, our partnership with Campus Ministries in organizing a Church Fair has strengthened ties between our students and local congregations, enriching their spiritual journeys.

Throughout the entire year, education and awareness has been at the forefront of SGA's mission. Because of this, SGA focused on providing programming such as "Just Peace", a series focusing on the conflict in Israel/Palestine. These discussions have fostered dialogue, understanding, and empathy among our student body, reflecting our commitment to fostering a culture of informed discourse and empathy.

Looking Forward

As I look ahead to the future, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead. With this semester ending, I am beyond excited to initiate training for next year's cabinet and prepare Samuel Ramos, the incoming Student Body President for what is to come. He is a driven individual filled with passion, empathy, and a spirit willing to serve. The Student Government will be lucky to have a leader like him.

Below you will find a detailed list of achievements constructed by my executive cabinet, and the rest of the executive club cabinets.

Sincerely,
Moises Ramirez Gomez'24
Student Body President
Student Government Association

Executive Cabinet of the Student Body President

Ashley Glezer, *Student Body Vice President*

Reflection

When I was honored to be elected into the role of Student Body Vice President, I knew it would come with challenges and setbacks, but also unique experiences and opportunities. I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the Student Senate, learning the rules of order, fostering connections in the Senate space, and being proud of senators as they become more comfortable with structured discussions. I have witnessed immense growth within the Student Senate regarding students' understanding of agenda items and how to pass motions. The past academic year has been valuable to me as a student, leader, and aspiring professional. This brings me great joy as we are students first and it shows the passion and care that student leaders have, emphasizing the power of student voices all in one room in the Student Senate! Ironically, going into this position, my original hesitation was being able to memorize all of Robert's Rule of Order and leading the Student Senate 'correctly', but soon humbly realized that budget week would always make the list of the most challenging tasks within this position. As difficult as some conversations can be, I led with intentionality and constantly pursued my personal mission of how I strived to influence student leaders as well as the greater Messiah community. Approaching this position with an enthusiastic attitude, being attentive to student needs, and the need for organization, it was important to me that each student leader felt understood and welcomed. The Spring 2024 was a productive semester with a busy Senate schedule including many agenda items passed and presented, formal updates on past motions, and inductions for the incoming SGA executive cabinet. There were many intentional conversations with clubs and organizations establishing goals for the future, opportunities to expand and outreach, accountability with club expectations within leadership and members, as well as expenditures. Overall, the spring and fall semesters of this academic year were productive in setting structured standards of SGA that were previously lacking and creating ways for students to best understand how to access resources.

Student Senate

The spring semester Student Senate met productively to discuss agenda items, engage with fellow student leaders, and for a professional development and town hall with the SGA executive cabinet. In terms of the Student Senate, the spring semester is more demanding than the fall semester due to student body president and vice president elections, finalizing governance changes by the end of the semester, inducting the new 2024-2025 executive cabinet, as well as Capital Purchases. To reiterate last semester, as chairwoman of the Student Senate, I strived to operate a structured and productive environment, but also a welcoming and intentional space where student leader voices are heard and understood. It was important for me for leaders to understand the impact they have as student leaders as well as within the communities they are a part of and the greater Messiah community as a whole. To emphasize the impact of intentionality conversation and intentional engagement specific to the Student Senate, some events include;

1. Our professional development of the semester featured guest speaker Jocelyn Clippinger who currently works in the Student Success and Engagement Office, Chairs the Community of Educators Senate, is the advisor to Minds Matter, and is also an alumni to

Messiah, and a former student-athlete and leader. Just as with the fall semester, professional developments are specifically offered to the primary forum, which consists of students in executive organizations, the SGA executive cabinet, special representatives, and student senators. Having Jocelyn as a speaker was a great opportunity for student leaders to connect to a former student leader who was once in our shoes at the same institution and now works on our behalf in the Student Success and Engagement Office. Jocelyn shared her personal perspectives and was vulnerable about the post-graduate experiences and whiplash of the unknowns of life. It was valuable to hear about her life experiences and students were able to connect because we are all at similar points in our lives.

2. Our town hall of the semester consisted of our annual end-of-the-semester SGA Town Hall. The SGA Executive Cabinet reflected on the past year and our accomplishments together, and then we opened the room to feedback, reflections, compliments, suggestions, and questions. This was valuable for our cabinet to reflect on our performance as well as for the next Executive Cabinet to understand what worked well and areas to improve. We received positive feedback on our communication and outreach to organizations and the support we initiated and gave to student leaders, as well as the voice the Student Senate felt this year. There were more questions about the process of scheduling and budgeting and clarifications about why specific dates were the way they were. This town hall included open dialogue between panelists and students conversationally as well as was prompted through an anonymous link provided to encourage intentional discussion.

Election Committee Updates

As mentioned, the spring semester is more demanding than the fall semester for the Student Senate. There were multiple resolutions, GRCs, inductions, and Capital Purchases presented. In the spring semester, elections for SGA Student Body President and Student Body Vice President for the following academic year are held. Of the many agenda items presented and passed this semester, one that was vastly relevant to my position was revising the Election Committee Functions and Position. As Student Body Vice President not running for another term, I was deemed the Chair of the Election Committee, where I directly experienced instances where formal governance updates were necessary. I held a Governance Review Council and presented to GRCs to properly update the functions and expectations of the Election Committee. The first GRC was to get rid of the expectation that all Election Committee voting materials are deleted within 48 hours. The second GRC was specific to the expectations of an uncontested election for SGA Student Body President and Student Body Vice President. This spring 2024 semester was an uncontested election and there were no written expectations in governance regarding what officially determined the running pair as “elects” which led to confusion and questioning. Out of formality and student voice, I let the Student Senate decide which of two amendments was the most relevant, and it was voted on that uncontested pairs must meet a vote of a percentage of the current student population. The conservative feedback received prior to this decision was that there is no student voice involved in uncontested elections because they are automatically assumed in their positions. This was beneficial to include student leader opinions as they are directly affected by this, as well as written expectations for future SGA cabinets.

Committees

As the Student Body Vice President, part of my role is overseeing the committees chaired by different cabinet members, and interviewing and approving the student senators that serve on our committees and in the student senate. When stepping into this position, there were little to no senators. As mentioned, over the summer I intentionally recruited potential candidates and promoted the role as well as the opportunities within each committee. I reached out to professors for recommendations, directly emailed students, and formally updated the student senator application to include the most relevant information. In the fall we ended the semester with five

senators, and nine in the spring semester. We have received great turnover, as well as started conversations for incoming student senators for the fall semester. One of the GRCs I presented through the Student Senate was to dissolve the Operations Committee due to its consistent inactivity and overlap with the other committees. I am proud of the accomplishments and objectives achieved within each of our three active committees: the Social Concerns Committee, the Finance and Organizations Committee, and the Engagement Committee. The Social Concerns Committee passed GRCs regarding the committee, specifically outlining that Social Concerns is the sole creator, receiver, and presenter of Resolutions, as well as to revise the position of Vice President of Diversity Affairs that being chair of this Committee is part of the role. The Finance and Organizations Committee made great strive in

Closing Thoughts

The 2023-2024 academic year was full of intentional growth within our current cabinet and empowering the next executive cabinet with strong goals as well. When initially pursuing this position, Moises and I campaigned with the importance of a strong sense of community, a close executive cabinet, a strong foundation of accountability, as well as things like visitation hours and opportunities for first years. When reflecting on this year, there are many provisions I am proud of. Through hard work and dedication, we have changed the visitation hours to add extra days campus-wide and have the same rules apply to freshman and transfer students creating inclusivity. We have made provisions within accessibility for tennis court lighting for students, feminine hygiene products in academic buildings, as well as a commitment to changing the Student Activities Fee. I am so appreciative of the 2023-2024 executive cabinet and am beyond proud of the hard work, passion, and dedication that each person has poured into the community. Of the three people on our current cabinet who did not graduate this May 2024, all are returning to the next executive cabinet, showing consistency and dedication, which is exciting for the legacy of SGA! After a year of striving for consistency and organization within my role, I look forward to how this continues and is expanded on.

Blessings,
Ashley Glezer '24
Student Body Vice President
Student Government Association

Noah Siegrist, *Vice President of Student Review*

One of our Cabinet's main goals for the 23-24 academic year was to "revitalize" the Executive Cabinet alongside SGA as a whole. During the academic year, I felt that I was able to enact this vision into the sectors in which I had influence. Throughout the year, I was able to recruit, select, and promote the Student Review Board and collaborate with the Department of Operations.

Student Review Board

The Student Review Board for the 23-24 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 8 members of the Board excluding myself: Executive Secretary, Senior/Transfer Representative, Senior/Commuter Representative, Junior Representative, Athletics Representative, International/Multicultural Representative, Sophomore Representative, and First-Year Representative. Additionally, the Student Review Board for 24-25 will be a similar size, and I was able to begin to recruit for next year's Board. The Board will be returning every member except for its 3 graduating seniors. Two of the positions vacated by the graduating seniors have already been filled.

In the fall semester, the Board heard 20 cases, including 4 cases in which it had original jurisdiction. These cases included disciplinary matters including alcohol, visitation, and parking appeals. The Board has heard a nearly unprecedented number of cases and has been very productive throughout this semester.

In the spring semester, the Board heard another 15 cases, including 1 case in which the Board had original jurisdiction. The Board heard parking appeals, alongside disciplinary matters such as disrespect for the rights of others and alcohol. The spring semester was another very productive semester for the Board.

There have been a few changes enacted this year that I believe will benefit the Board in the long run. First, from an administrative perspective, the template for our minutes has been changed drastically this year. These minutes are also now filed in a confidential folder so they can be consulted whenever similar cases present themselves. This change will allow us to easily keep track of how many cases we have heard, as well as setting a non-binding precedent for the current Board as well as future Boards. Second, as mentioned in prior semester reports, the student body is widely not aware of the resources afforded to them via the Student Review Board. This year we attempted to combat that problem by purchasing shirts for all Student Review Board members, as well as starting an Instagram page. I have also held meetings with the Director of Safety and Dean of Students to ensure that there is clear language in all decisions that appeals are available via this Board. I believe that the sheer number of cases heard this year reinforces the idea that these measures have worked to some degree.

Collaborations with the Department of Operations

The Student Review Board collaborated with the Department of Safety three times

throughout the 2023-2024 academic year and has maintained a positive relationship with the members of the department. The first collaboration came in the form of an infographic about parking that was distributed via mass email, ResLife newsletters, and the Union TV. Additionally, the Student Review Board and Department of Safety jointly hosted the Inaugural Turkey Toss, where students and Safety officers were paired up and competed for ticket refunds through a corn hole tournament. Finally, the Department of Safety worked with the Board to host “Safety Santa” where officers went around during final floor meetings and handed out candy canes. There were many meetings throughout the Spring semester with the department of Safety, however, due to some changes in leadership and other logistical factors, we were unable to collaborate on an event this spring. Additionally, I was able to meet with Mrs. Kathie Shafer and discuss the fading paint and parking meter idea. Many of the problem spots around campus have been repainted to make it easier for students to see what the spot is designated for.

Looking Forward

I will be returning to this position for the next academic year. I believe that another year of consistency with the Student Review Board will help the Board climb to new heights. For the next academic year, I hope to gain another representative on the Student Review Board that is a part of the Multicultural Program at Messiah, to try to make the SRB as representative of the Messiah student body as possible. Additionally, I hope to find an opportunity where the Student Review Board would be able to go into the community and be of service. I would also like to open a line of communication with Residence Life to foster understanding when it comes to Residence Assistant behavior and discretion. Finally, this past year, I have realized that it may be beneficial to the judicial branch of SGA to grant the VP of Student Review more power in certain limited circumstances. This would save time and make the appeal process more efficient. I am looking forward to see what we will accomplish in the upcoming year!

Signed,

Noah Siegrist '25

VP of Student Review

Student Government Association

Kyra Hersh, Vice President of Engagement

Reflection

Through this leadership position, this fall has provided me with the opportunity for professional and personal development. Throughout the academic year as Vice President of Engagement, I was able to take the lead in the communications of the Student Government Association, including mass emails, poster distribution, and management of the social media accounts for SGA. Furthermore, I was responsible for the minute-keeping for our Executive Cabinet meetings and Student Senate. I also was able to sit on the Professional Development Grant Committee which refunds students for academic conferences and events they wish to attend. I was responsible for all the communication for this committee as well as organized meeting times and communication with the applicants.

In the fall semester, I was able to host three large events including the annual White-Out March, Homecoming Court, and a drink/snack giveaway. I worked in cooperation with the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations to put on the white-out march and powderpuff. The march had great engagement with all t-shirts given away in record time. Powderpuff also had great turn-out of all four grade levels and the tournament was run smoothly. For the first time since COVID-19, I partnered with the Student Activities Board to bring back the Homecoming Court in which five senior girls and five senior boys were elected by the student body to represent Messiah and the King and Queen were announced at the halftime of the Homecoming soccer game. Again, this went very well with many nominations for the court as well as a great turnout of voters for the King and Queen. Finally, to ignite some school spirit, I organized a drink/snack giveaway during Homecoming week for students who wore their class color. The feedback was quite positive on this event as well. Throughout the semester and the various things that I have been a part of and participated in, I look forward to what the spring semester must hold.

During the spring semester, I was able to bring back traditional events as well as some new ones. The week before Easter, I put on the annual Eggstravaganza egg hunt on campus with some major prizes. Even with the rain, we had a fantastic turn-out and feedback was extremely positive. In order to better advertise SGA, we decided to throw a t-shirt design contest in which students submitted their own designs for SGA t-shirts which we now have and will be passed out next semester. I also worked with the Leadership Council through our weekly meetings during the semester to plan Block Party, which unfortunately was cancelled due to inclement weather. Finally, I was able to lead the application and interview process for the Hostetter Grant which is given out yearly to a first-year, first-generation Messiah student based on leadership and financial need.

I am extremely grateful to Messiah, the other members of the executive cabinet, and Dr. Marcelle Giovannetti for the continued support in my role throughout this year. I am honored to be a part of the Student Government Association's legacy at this institution.

Signed,

Kyra Hersh '24

Vice President of Engagement

Student Government Association

Samuel Ramos, *Vice President of Diversity Affairs*

Reflection

This academic year has been an amazing time of learning and growth as I stepped into the role of SGA Vice President of Diversity Affairs. I have enjoyed listening to the broader student body and discussing the issues that Messiah Students care about. I am proud of the work that the Social Concerns Committee has done to address many of the issues that are on the hearts and minds of Messiah Students.

In the fall, the Social Concerns Committee discussed issues regarding student wages, access to feminine hygiene products, and has passed a resolution supporting access to tennis court lights for students.

In the spring, we were able to see implementation and planning occur for all of these issues that were tackled by the committee! In working with the Vice President of

Human Resources, Amanda Coffey, we increased student wage transparency by requiring that all postings on jobs.messiah.edu post their starting rate. This is essential to our students who need to work a higher paying job on campus because they don't have access to a car, or for example, international students, have no other options but to work on campus.

At the end of the spring semester, the Social Concerns Committee also passed a capital purchase through the student senate which will be used this upcoming academic year to purchase dispensers for feminine hygiene products, and a year worth of supply as we test pilot a program to provide these essential products for free.

In addition to working with the social concerns committee, I have also found great joy serving alongside other student leaders and faculty on various committees to host several events in the fall semester. I have also had the privilege to sit down and talk with many of the leaders of the Multicultural Council, Minds Matter, and SAGE to learn more about their respective organizations, passions, and goals for the year. I have been honored to see these leaders grow in their roles throughout this past year. As I step into the role of Student Body President, I am enthusiastic about continuing this journey of service and collaboration for the betterment of our campus community.

Civil Discourse

In the fall, SGA held a two-part Civil Discourse. Creating this civil discourse presented some of the greatest challenges of the semester, because it touched on an extremely important and controversial topic that many students have had questions about. This event, called "Just Peace: Stories from Israel & Palestine", featured two speakers on two separate days to share how the conflict in Gaza is affecting their communities and their lives, with hope that peace is the only way forward. The first day featured Lisa Loden, a Messianic Jewish Israeli Citizen, who lives in Natanya, Israel. The second day featured Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, a Christian Palestinian from Bethlehem, Palestine. Both speakers delivered powerful messages, and around 60 students and faculty attended each event. This event focused on our speakers' lived experiences and aimed to share a common message promoting peace for all in the region.

In the spring, although we did not have a civil discourse, I began having conversations with administration and several key institutional leaders to discuss civil discourse ideas for fall of 2024. We understand that we are entering into an election season, and a time of volatility for our campus community. In an effort to prepare for this season, I was able to meet with individuals across campus who have wide reach in the lives of students.

Event(s)

SGA held two collaborative events in the fall pertaining to diversity with other on campus organizations that I was a part of.

1.) Around the World Food Tour:

- a. The Food Tour featured six different cuisines from different restaurants that were chosen by each of the Multicultural Clubs. This event had an incredible turnout and was a great time of fellowship for students to learn about different cultures through food.

2.) 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.

Looking Forward

This year has been incredible for our Student Government. We have seen an increase in engagement with SGA that we have not seen in several years. I am fortunate to have served on this cabinet to learn and grow with so many incredible leaders. The future is bright for SGA, and for the role of Vice President of Diversity Affairs. We have increased the number of senators this year who serve on the social concerns committee and have gained the respect and interest of our peers. SGA and MCC have developed several collaborations, and by ensuring that I added the VPDA back onto the MCC Core team, the relationship between SGA and MCC will continue to grow. The future of this position is bright with my successor, WenXin Ling. WenXin has previously served on the cabinet of the Asian Student Association and is committed to creating a diverse body of believers and I am confident will bring new insight into and expand the role.

In Service,
Sam Ramos '25
Vice President of Diversity Affairs
Student Government Association

Adi Mansour, Vice President of Organizations

Reflection

Serving as the Vice President of Organizations this year has been an enriching and rewarding experience. I've had the privilege of working closely with club leaders, the SGA Executive Cabinet, and various campus departments. This role has allowed me to blend my interest in organizational management and student engagement creating impactful opportunities for our student body. I've focused on enhancing the support system for clubs, ensuring their successful operations, and fostering a vibrant campus community.

Fall 2023 Overview

The semester was marked by significant progress in club management and development. Key areas of focus include:

- **Club Renewal Approval Progress:** Managed the process of club recognition, resulting in the successful approval of new clubs like Ping Pong Club and Cybersecurity Competition

Club. Worked closely with clubs requiring additional support, such as Peace Promise, ensuring they met the necessary contingencies for recognition.

- **Strewamlining Club Operations:** Worked on refining the monthlu report submission process, making it more user-friendly and efficient for club leaders. Colloborated with Sustainability and introduced questions to reduce food waste that campus events, sponsored by SGA, produce.
- **Enhanced Training and Support:** Collaborated with the Office of Student Engagement to host workshops and training sessions, equipping club leaders with necessary skills and knowledge to lead well.

Challenges and Solutions

Navigating the challenges of post-pandemic campus life, we encountered hurdles in club engagement and resources allocation. To address these, we:

- Implemented targeted strategies to boost club participation, including facilitating much needed collaboration between various organizatons on our small campus community.
- Developed a Fair and transparent process for resource distribution among clubs.

Achievements

- **Club Events and Activities:** Facilitated and supported numerous successful club events, contributing to an active campus life
- **Advisory Role:** Provided ongoing guidance to our distinguished club leaders, helping them overcome operational challenges and enhance their club's impact

Looking ahead

With a successful semester behind us, the focus for the upcoming term includes:

- **Continued Support for Clubs:** Enhance our support framework especially for newly recognized clubs and clubs seeking funding.
- **Collaboration with the Finance Department:** Work closely with the VP of Finance to streamline budgeting processes for clubs.
- **Long-Term Strategic Planning:** Develop a comprehensive strategy for club development and engagement in alignment with Messiah's mission and values.

Conclusion

This semester has been a testament to the resilience and dedication of our student body and pioneering SGA Executive Cabinet. I look forward to building on these foundations, continually striving to enhance the club and general student experience at Messiah

Signed,

Adi Mansour '25

VP of Organizations

Student Government Association

Alan Wang, Vice President of Finance

Reflection

Looking back to my first semester of joining the student government as Vice President of Finance and Student Body Treasurer, I am super grateful for this opportunity to serve the study body and grow in different aspects personally. I have really enjoyed working with my fellow SGA cabinet members to best serve our student population and getting to each one of them personally. Working with this amazing team has taught me a lot about servant heart, consideration, patience, love, and collaboration. Our weekly cabinet meeting on Wednesday has been something I looked forward to

every week throughout last semester; a lot of great discussions and decision-making with the goal of fulfilling the need of our student population has happened during those meetings. Furthermore, as a finance student, I had the opportunity to integrate my classroom knowledge with my responsibilities of being Vice President of Finance through distributing over \$250k of student activities fees and working with treasurers of over 70 clubs.

Fall 2023 Budgeting

This semester, I had the opportunity to work closely with Adi Mansour, Vice President of Organizations, in holding workshops for all clubs' leaders across campus to familiarize them with institutional and organizational financial and reporting requirements. We have also hold individual meeting with all chartered and executive organization's presidents and treasurers to discuss and review their proposed budgets. After careful consideration of each organization's need and Student Government Association's financials, I have presented the final budget proposal in Student Senate with a 6.17% cut, which was passed with consensus.

Organizational Efficiency

Throughout the semester, I had the chance to work with the Office of Student Engagement to clarify several club expenses and reimbursements. Furthermore, I worked closely with Dave Hoffman, Senior Accounting Analyst, to improve the overall efficiency of SGA's financials, which includes making multiple journal entry adjustments and eliminating inactive accounts.

Moving Forward

Looking forward, I am excited that this position continues on working alongside the SGA cabinet members with the common goal of serving the overall student population. Specifically, I hope for the next Vice President of Finance to continually improve the organizational efficiency of Student Government Association and make best use of student activities fees to increase student engagement on our campus.

Signed,

Alan Wang '24

Vice President of Finance

Agape Center – Service Opportunity Leaders

Cai Green, Student Director of Outreach

Mission

As an office, the Agapé Center for Local and Global Engagement has an overarching plan of involving students in off-campus service experiences that create opportunities for learning, growth, and understanding. We do this by leading weekly local outreach trips (which are described in detail below), sponsoring week-long Fall and Spring Break service trips, and getting students connected with cross-cultural programs and study abroad opportunities.

Events

This year we continued to lead service opportunities, both locally and domestically, and sponsored four domestic Fall and Spring Break service trips. There was a total of 176 unique individuals serving with the Agapé Center this year, and we had a total of 460 trips into the community with our Outreach Leaders. This year, we tracked 4,401 hours of service. We do have an international service trip to Poland coming up in May with 22 students. We also hosted Service Day.

We participated in the library's Mini Golf in the Stacks event with a course that highlighted our goals of getting students off campus and into the community. We also hosted a luncheon for our community partners and student volunteers as a way of thanking them for serving with us. This event had over 80 attendees, and we were thrilled to honor our Barnabas Award winners during this time. In addition, we had a Passing the Torch event to introduce our new team members to our existing team. This event included activities and a meal with the intention of welcoming the new members and saying goodbye to the members who are leaving.

Plans for Next Year

In the upcoming year, the Agapé Center is preparing for a change in leadership in each of the Outreach Leader positions. These individuals have been chosen via an interview and application process with the professional staff and existing leaders. We will continue to lead weekly service opportunities in the community and sponsor Fall and Spring Break service trips. As an executive club, the Agapé Center will be involved in Welcome Week activities such as Move-In Day and First Friday. We hope to continue to build awareness of our club and mission on campus as well as collaborate with other clubs across campus.

Goals

Next year, we hope to have even greater participation in service opportunities and off-campus programs. We will also continue toward our goal of understanding the communities and individuals with whom we serve and interact. Our weekly team meetings will continue to be a space of education and community for our leaders.

Signed

Cai Green

Student Director of Outreach

Caleb Narber, *Bethesda Hotspot*

As a volunteer coordinator for Messiah's Agapé Center, I get the opportunity to work alongside fellow students on a weekly basis in the Harrisburg community. When serving in Harrisburg, I have had the opportunity to work and volunteer with the Bethesda Mission Community Center. Bethesda serves the Harrisburg community in many ways, but I have worked and volunteered with their teen-focused night called Hotspot. At Hotspot, the staff and volunteers strive to be a positive influence while building relationships with the students. Throughout this year, our group of Messiah student volunteers have spent Thursday nights at the community center playing games and spending time with the students at Bethesda. The time spent serving at the community center includes playing basketball, board games, video games, doing homework, and just being a friend to the people there. On some occasions, the staff will take students to the movie theater or on different trips in order to help students get out of their

local community and experience other opportunities.

When I initially started this position, I was excited to help and serve in any way I could to be a positive influence on the younger students that attend Bethesda. One of the greatest parts of this job that I experience while serving those within our community at Bethesda is getting to meet new people and hearing their stories. The staff that work at the community center do a great job showing the students what it means to be a good role model and leader. It has also helped us as volunteers to see that serving does not mean that you have to do anything extraordinary, rather just being present and showing that you care is something that people value. As we continue service, I hope to continue to build the relationships that have started and be a leader that others can look up to.

Joel Lapp, *Bethesda Mobile Mission and Men's Shelter*

The Agape Center is partnered with Bethesda Mission. Bethesda is committed to providing hope and healing to the homeless in the Harrisburg area. Bethesda has multiple ministries. The outreach opportunities I work with are with the Men's Shelter and the Mobile Mission. At the shelter, the kitchen staff would work during the day to prepare dinner, and we as volunteers would serve the meal and clean up afterwards. This lightened the responsibilities of the men working in the kitchen. Week after week we made connections with the men at the shelter as we learned their stories and saw the same men throughout the semester. Many times, the kitchen staff were more than relieved to see volunteers walk in and to know they had some help. The kitchen staff and the men we served were always very grateful to have us there. The mobile mission is an opportunity to reach the homeless outside of the shelter. Bethesda has a van that we load with food, coffee, blankets, clothes, toiletries, and other donated items. As volunteers, we would be driven out into Harrisburg and pass out these supplies. Serving in this way opens your perspective to the needs of others. Including myself, I consistently had a team of five volunteers for both service opportunities. This semester there were seven trips to the shelter and three trips with the mobile mission. Serving had a big impact on myself, my volunteers, and on those we were privileged to serve through Bethesda. I know that serving in this way has had such a positive impact that I am going to make it a part of my life after graduation.

Reese Johnston, *Bethesda After School Program*

Each Wednesday from 3:30-6:30pm, a group of ten 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. Messiah volunteers support this mission by becoming mentors for the students at Bethesda. Following service each week, Messiah students reflect on and discuss 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. In the spring, a small group of Bethesda students visited Messiah multiple times and received a tour of the campus. Messiah volunteers were excited to show the students the school they attend, talk about their involvement at Messiah, and hangout with the kids outside of the usual program time. Messiah volunteers also decided to attend extra events such as family dinner, a weekend tea party, and the end of year celebration. These events allowed volunteers to meet the families and increase consistency throughout the semester. In the following semester, we hope to host more two events that allow the students at Bethesda to visit Messiah. Additionally, we hope to assist with a craft fair in September, which will function as a fundraiser for Bethesda.

Elyse Acosta, *Center for Champions*

The Agape Center is partnered with Bethesda Mission. Bethesda is committed to providing hope and healing to the homeless in the Harrisburg area. Bethesda has multiple ministries. The outreach opportunities I work with are with the Men's Shelter and the Mobile Mission. At the shelter, the kitchen staff would work during the day to prepare dinner, and we as volunteers would serve the meal and clean up afterwards. This lightened the responsibilities of the men working in the kitchen. Week after week we made connections with the men at the shelter as we learned their stories and saw the same men throughout the semester. Many times the kitchen staff were more than relieved to see volunteers walk in and to know they had some help. The kitchen staff and the men we served were always very grateful to have us there. The mobile mission is an opportunity to reach the homeless outside of the shelter. Bethesda has a van that we load with food, coffee, blankets, clothes, toiletries, and other donated items. As volunteers, we would be driven out into Harrisburg and pass out these supplies. Serving in this way opens your perspective to the needs of others. Including myself, I consistently had a team of five volunteers for both service opportunities. This semester there were seven trips to the shelter and three trips with the mobile mission. Serving had a big impact on myself, my volunteers, and on those we were privileged to serve through Bethesda. I know that serving in this way has had such a positive impact that I am going to make it a part of my life after graduation.

Austin Grove, Messiah Lifeways Intergenerational Fellowship Outreach Coordinator

This school year, I had the opportunity to serve as the Messiah Lifeways Intergenerational Fellowship Outreach Coordinator at the Agape Center. The responsibilities of this position included coordinating service with Messiah Lifeways, my community partner, advertising this service to students on campus, and communicating the plans for weekly service to student volunteers. At this community partner, we spent time with the elderly residents by participating in activities with them. These activities included making ice cream, painting easter eggs, potting flowers, playing games, and quality time. During these activities, we were able to spend time getting to know the residents, hearing about their lives, telling them about ours, and in general, just being a companion to them. At the beginning of the year, I struggled to find the way that we were being beneficial to the residents because they already have all of their needs met: food, clothing, shelter, etc. I came to realize that those are their physical needs, but they still have a very real mental needs for friendship, and socialization. As a group, we spent time reflecting on the impact that we might be making, and talked about how they have influenced us. Including me, in the spring semester, there were 6 volunteers who came consistently, and an additional 2 who came once. In the fall, there were 4 of us.

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

Messiah Lifeways is a non-profit organization committed to changing the conversation about aging and working to enhance the lives of those 55 and better through a variety of healthcare, housing, and community services. These services provide opportunities for spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and social well-being. Through the Messiah Lifeways 1:1 program, student volunteers are paired with a resident whom they meet with each week. Many of us use this time to share stories, lead devotions, make baked goods, or play games with our residents. The program is meant to create opportunities for fellowship and companionship between generations in order to combat the loneliness that often comes with moving into the later stages of life. A few of my goals for this semester were for students to understand the importance of storytelling for older adults, the benefits of intergenerational fellowship, and to seek to learn from their residents' life experiences and advice. Based on our reflection times and the gratitude expressed by our residents, I felt that students realized the impact intergenerational fellowship can have on both parties involved. My volunteers often shared stories about how amazed they were by their residents' life experiences and how they responded to various hardships. We also discussed ways we have allowed our residents to use their unique viewpoints to speak into our own lives. Moving forward, I hope that students continue to build meaningful relationships with the residents at Messiah Lifeways and understand how they can learn from and impact one another.

Joanna 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. Every Monday, a group of 5-10 Messiah students served from 2:30pm-

5:00pm 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 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. I noticed that the interactive nature of the work done at New Hope fostered relationships between students and guests, as well as between the Messiah students themselves. My hope as we head into the spring semester is that these relationships will continue to grow and that we may see the prosperity of the guests that New Hope receives.

Mireliz Bermudez, *PAIRWN*

PAIRWN is a nonprofit organization founded to support immigrant and refugee women by offering services, such as after-school programs or resources, to empower women. An after-school program for the children of the women is one of the things they offer. This program helps the students with homework and gives them an opportunity for English practice. This year, the after-school program is held every Monday from 4:15 to 6:20 p.m. at Harrisburg's Foose Elementary School. Every week, I take about ten student volunteers from Messiah to Foose. Each volunteer is then paired with one or two students and will help them with homework, crafts, reading, or a group game. For a typical day, we have a snack, complete homework, do a craft/game, complete a reading log, and then dismiss. However, it is no easy feat as the volunteers learn how to overcome language barriers because many of the students have a different first language than English. Throughout the semester, we got to see relationships blossom as students began to trust volunteers more and engage in practicing their English. My intention at the beginning of the semester was to establish a foundation of how to work with students with little to no English language skills. When volunteers developed the necessary skills to work with the students, I felt they had immersed themselves in the local immigrant and refugee community. They now understand the impact language ability has on children and the genuine challenges that many immigrant and refugee families experience. Through reflection, I have learned that even with the little time I spend with the children, we still have such an impact on the children. As we transition into the next year, I expect that we will continue with the same itinerary for service, where volunteers will help students feel more comfortable speaking English and building community.

Maggie Pettus, *Paxton Ministries*

I have the tremendous opportunity to lead a group of 2-6 volunteers to serve with an incredible organization called Paxton Ministries. They are a non-profit organization located in Harrisburg and serve adults in need by meeting practical needs such as housing, medication management, and many instrumental activities of daily living such as financial assistance. Paxton really does it all! They are a personal care home that has its own cleaning service business and a wide range of interdisciplinary staff. Messiah students are invited to come every Wednesday night from 6-7:30 to develop meaningful relationships with residents. We plan new activities

such as craft days, nail days, Bingo, a scavenger hunt, and more so that it is fun and exciting every time. Students who volunteer get to learn more about individuals who think differently than them and are of different ages and have different abilities. One volunteer shared, “Paxton has given me a new understanding. Being exposed to this new environment has changed the way I view the world and helped me grow spiritually. Paxton is doing amazing things for amazing people!”

Cassie Anthony, Salvation Army After School

The Agape Center has teamed up with the Salvation Army After School Program at Steelton-Highspire Elementary School to support teachers and volunteers in their spaces. This program is an interracial, non-profit organization that meets the basic needs of the children they serve. Students assist with homework, manage behaviors, and offer encouragement during both successful and challenging moments. Throughout the semester, the after-school program in Harrisburg, PA, consistently met every Monday afternoon from 2:30 to 6:30. The three students from Messiah dedicated regular attendance, selecting the grade they wished to serve with for that afternoon. They enjoyed seeing the kids get excited upon their arrival, one child shared “I like it when you come to help us with homework, but I don’t like when you all have to leave.” One of my volunteers, who was saddened by her departure from the program due to early graduation from Messiah, expressed, “I never imagined I’d find as much joy in volunteering for this program as I have.” My hope was for my volunteers to cultivate meaningful connections with the children while grasping the significance of purposeful interactions. As our service extends into next semester, we hope to further understand the needs of the children and how to support their confidence in academics and social lives.

Alessandra LaGeorge, Wildheart 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, and through that work provide hope, resources, and development to the community. Each Tuesday, my volunteers and I serve alongside the Wildheart staff, assisting with community clean up and beautification projects, work with Wildheart’s urban community farm, and assist with projects and event prep at Wildheart’s ministry base, The Mansion. Most commonly, we, alongside the Wildheart volunteer coordinator, drove throughout Allison Hill and removed bulk trash items from numerous illegal dumpsites around the neighborhood. This work allowed us to clean up unsightly and illegal dumpsites that present tangible issues for neighbors, but it also provided us the opportunity to spend ample time around the neighborhood. 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 could engage with community members while providing 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 on a daily basis, and

the ways in which 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 red-lining. 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 Allsion Hill, and the responsibilities and opportunities we have as Messiah students to meet these needs.

Natalie Tate, *Young Life*

This year has been a fruitful season thus far for Capernaum. We had a semester long partnership with Messiah's OT department where four OT students joined us for a community engagement fieldwork. They created training tools for us and support tools that will be used region wide. This past summer, Capernaum had our first summer camp trip to Rockbridge as well as our first inclusion fall weekend trip. Though we have not had any students commit to Christ yet, I have seen some come close which has been sweet to see and an answer to prayer. For example, I was able to walk one student through questions with an emoji chart to help with his response and his answers were spot on. We have also had many opportunities to meet new students and currently know almost 20 by name and have 11 regularly attending club. We have not had consistent buddies, but we have had high school helpers from Northern High School and Boiling Springs High School. This semester, we have circled up after clubs to discuss how we saw the Lord move that night and it has worked well to reflect on what the Lord is doing and how high school helpers have grown. I think a true highlight from buddies this year was the growth of a buddy from Carlisle high school, Charlie. He joined us for summer camp and when he first got there I saw that he was understandably a little nervous and uncomfortable. But he ending up loving it so much that we came from Virginia where he now lives up to fall weekend. The boys were so excited to see him and I saw him introduce our Capernaum kids to his friends and showing them how to interact with them. I was just amazing to see how much he had grown and now I'm praying he will become a buddy in Fairfax county Capernaum in VA. My hopes for the future are more consistent buddies from all 5 high schools in our area, as well as starting up a campaigners group because we do not currently do that in our Capernaum. But through it all, I am just continually amazed by the ways the Lord has answered prayer and His continued faithfulness.

Sydney Sefing & Anna Weldon, *Service Trips*

The Service Trips team provides students with opportunities to engage with communities and people of diverse backgrounds through service, education, and fellowship. This past Spring Break, the Service Trips team offered four Spring Break Service Trips. We partnered with Priority One in Bronx, NY; Mennonite Disaster Service in Crisfield, MD; Philly Project in Philadelphia, PA; and Praying Pelican in Maui, HI. We had 40 students serve among the four trips, with one or two student leaders and one faculty advisor for each of the trip teams. As a student leader, the students gain leadership experience and the opportunity to evaluate their natural strengths and areas of growth for their future endeavors. Some common themes from the

students' reflections were that they enjoyed learning about urban ministry, city life, and the diversity of class and life experience within the context of various cities. Other students appreciated learning about other religious groups by experiencing the hospitality of members of another faith community. Themes that were shared in the participants' reviews were also the importance of service and humility when coming into a new environment. One student shares that “One moment/experience from our service trip that has impacted me is serving with the after-school program, and it has stuck with me because it was really awesome to see the impact we were making on the spot. The kids were so fun and kind!” Another student shares, “As a result of going on a service trip, I learned about the different communities around me and how I can better serve them.” A final quote is, “One moment/experience from our service trip that has impacted me is serving with Project Bridges because it was super encouraging to see how much those volunteers really care about what they were doing.” The Service Trips team is looking forward to an international trip in May to Poland.

Minds Matter

Faith Fitz, *President of Minds Matter*

Reflection:

The 2023-2024 academic year was a time of important growth for Minds Matter as an executive organization. Minds Matter has been on probationary status this academic year as we have been in the process of transition from being a part of the Wellness and Recreation Department. This year began with a new advisor and all new student leaders on our team. With this new leadership, we wanted to ensure that Messiah University is inclusive to everyone with emotional, psychological, developmental, intellectual, physical disabilities, and chronic illnesses. We want to equip the student body with information, tools, and resources necessary to support themselves and others. We know that taking care of your mental health is just as important as taking care of your physical health.

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.

During this academic 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. We understand that self-care looks different for everyone, so we helped students explore many ways of self-care to find what works best for them. We emphasize that taking care of yourself is not selfish.

Juli Hodgson, *President of Banquet Initiative*

My continuation of serving with the Banquet Initiative and taking the role of President this academic 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. I had the honor of speaking at the Student Leadership Institute gathering in August about disability inclusiveness and acceptance. My role includes many conversations with student leaders as well as Messiah staff to collaborate to work for a more inclusive campus. My role also includes encouraging and empowering disabled students to accommodate their needs and recognize their rights. My position within Banquet provides opportunities for conversation and de-stigmatization surrounding physical disability, chronic illness, and neurodiversity. I have the honor of hearing students' stories and needs in support groups. I strive to provide them with resources and community as we seek a more accessible campus, and a broader society. Our events such as the neurodiversity fair combine physical resources (such as sensory aids), education, and community. Disability and chronic illness are often shrouded in layers of euphemisms and shame. Frequently disabled students struggle disclosing their struggles leading to isolation. With Banquet Initiative, we hold space for these conversations, reducing shame and fostering a place for all to feel welcomed at the table.

I hope to continue working to develop more community building events and helping connect students with others like themselves, so they do not feel alone. Over 10% of students receive assistance from the Office of Academic Accessibility. The community we serve is not small, but due to the stigma we are still seeking to reach people who are not as open to vulnerable topics. Banquet Initiative is only in its third year, but our mission for acceptance and change is absolutely taking place at Messiah.

Alaina Miller, *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 academic year, Minds Matter has had a plethora of events that directly supported our vision and mission statement.

First Friday (August 25, 2023)

On the first Friday of the 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. There were inflatables, mini golf, crafts, and a dunk drank for campus to enjoy. This event was a perfect way for the Student Body to celebrate the conclusion of the first week of classes.

Mind Meld (September 12, 2023)

Minds Matter held our first members meeting of the semester that we called a “Mind Meld.” This was a time for the Messiah Student Body to come learn about Minds Matter and our goals for the semester, 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. We provided students with education on mental health and physical disability. Our Vice President of Education taught on burnout so students can be alert for signs of burnout during the semester.

Suicide Prevention Week Pop-Up with SAB (September 13, 2023)

Minds Matter collaborated with The Student Activities Board to hold a Suicide Prevention Pop-Up table outside of the Falcon to provide the Student Body with information about resources that are on campus for them to utilize. There was also an activity to write encouraging notes to others. This event helped advocate for mental health on campus and destigmatized talking about suicide and challenging topics.

Scare Away Stigma Pop-Up with OSS (October 31, 2023)

Minds Matter collaborated with The Office of Student Success to hold a Scare Away Stigma Pop-up to educate the Student Body on the importance of taking care of your mental health. We provided pumpkin painting, crafts, stickers, candy, and campus resources for mental health. We had a large gathering of students participate in this Pop-up and look forward to holding it again next year. This was a great event to destigmatize talking about our mental health publicly.

Create and Conversate (November 12, 2023)

Create and Conversate is 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.

Neurodiversity Fair (November 18, 2023)

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.

Chronic Illness/Physical Disability and Neurodiversity Support Groups (Weekly)

Minds Matter’s Banquet Initiative has two support groups offered to the Student Body. One is for physical disability and chronic illness, and one is for neurodiversity. These support groups provide a safe space for chronically ill and disabled individuals to discuss accessibility, share one-another’s burdens, and talk about what aids our different needs. A topic is discussed each week to guide the conversation. These events reach students who deal with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, and neurodiversity conditions, which make up an important part of the Messiah Student Body. So far, the groups have been smaller, but they are slowly growing, and pick up where the Office of Academic Accessibility leaves off with student support, for students, by students.

Fall De-Stress Fest (December 9, 2023)

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.

Self-Love Paint Night (February 10, 2024)

Minds Matter held a paint night leading students through a beautiful Valentine's Day themed scene. We had Valentine's themed crafts and painted affirmation candy hearts. We created a welcoming and judgement-free space for students to discuss various topics on mental health and current issues surrounding mental health.

Baltimore Aquarium (March 23, 2024)

Minds Matter collaborated with Biology Club to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. This was an off campus getaway and a great time to destress. Conversations of mental health were embedded in this trip and meditation tips were shared.

Neurodiversity Fair (April 20, 2024)

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.

ACHA/NCHA Survey Campaign (March 1, 2024)

Minds Matter collaborated with the Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services to help contribute to the funding and campaign for the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment. We provided advertising for the survey, as well as a giveaway with prizes for those who filled out the survey. This helped the Engle Center market the survey to students to ensure large quantities of individuals were participating.

Sign Language Club x Minds Matter Deaf Accessibility Night (April 24, 2024)

Minds Matter collaborated with the Sign Language Club for a discussion on deaf accessibility, educational information, and a scavenger hunt. It is important for Minds Matter to collaborate with Sign Language club to build a connection between the organizations to increase deaf advocacy.

Spring De-Stress Fest (April 26, 2024)

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. In the spring, within my role as Vice President of Events, I hope to assume more of a lead role in planning and coordinating events hosted by Minds Matter. In the Fall Semester, I was assisted by both the Minds Matter President and the President of the Banquet Initiative, learning from them what was required to organize an event. I was then given direction on what action steps to take to plan the event. In the coming semester, I will take more responsibility in planning because I want to show growth within my role in Minds Matter. Additionally, I hope to help plan events surrounding education and advocacy of those with other conditions aside from ADHD and autism, as Minds Matter's Banquet Initiative events plan around those conditions. I believe the events we organize as a part of Minds Matter is an important part of Messiah's overall efforts to ensure Inclusion and Belonging to all students and should continue to be supported by the University.

Sarah Clemson, Vice *President of Media*

As Vice President of Media for Minds Matter, I have seen much growth over the course of the 2023-2024 academic year. Minds Matter has served the student body through providing mental health resources, as well as opportunities to destress through events such as Paint Night and De-Stress Fest. Students have reported feeling well-supported at our events. Members of the Minds Matter team have also supported each other very well. We are flexible, resilient, and always open to new ideas. Going into the Spring 2024 semester, I am optimistic that Minds Matter will continue to excel in advocating for Messiah's students and their mental health. This will be done through more pro-mental health posts, even more pop-up tables, and events. My overall hope for this semester is that students will continue to feel supported and as they are not alone in their struggles. I believe this is an important goal to hold as we go into planning for the rest of the year.

Maddie Blasser, Vice *President of Education*

Serving with Minds Matter this 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 semester 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.

Looking Forward:

Minds Matter is ecstatic to continue to support the Messiah Student Body during the 2024-2025 academic year. We are so thankful to be off our probationary status as an executive organization. We had great progress in our restructure of our executive cabinet to ensure we are working our best. We are looking forward to holding even more collaborations with clubs and organizations on campus. In the spring, we are emphasizing finding ways on how we can help support the Engle Center for Counseling Services and the Office of Academic Accessibility. Minds Matter is so thankful to be able to have an office space on campus in the Student Union which was gifted to us by SAGE. This has provided the Student Body with a soft space to come take care of their mental and physical health. Having somewhere to hold our more intimate events, specifically involving vulnerable conversations. It is essential that we are able to create. Safe space for those with mental health conditions.

Signed,
Faith Fitz
President of Minds Matter

Multicultural Council

Kiersten Gilmore, *Chair of Multicultural Council*

Our Mission

"It is the mission of the Messiah University Multicultural Council to serve the entire student body through our efforts to improve campus life for all ethnic minority students. We seek to bring unification amongst our organizations and knowledge of our cultures to the Messiah University Community. In all things, we will uplift Jesus as the head of our council and the Body of Christ. We pursue love. We embrace unity. We uphold the value of our understanding and our differences."

As you read previously, when I began planning for this academic year, I quickly realized that this was the first year that the whole Messiah Student Body had been filled with students who came after COVID. When meeting with my team, at the beginning of the year, I introduced to them our theme. The theme that we have been striving to achieve is *Legacy*. What do we want our legacy to be when we leave in our various years and how can we make a lasting impact within our clubs? I have been planning our MCC events and meetings accordingly. We were able to see the joy in our teams while we created a new legacy for MCC. I am proud of the work that we did. For the events that we brought back and for the events that we newly curated. What a great year for MCC!

Our Events

MCC Olympics! One of the main things that is different about MCC is how we are an umbrella organization. We host 6 different multicultural and international clubs, as well as the Multicultural Council cabinet. We have 66 working members involved with MCC. With having a team this large, I wanted to make sure that we were able to come together to engage in fun activities while also getting to know each other better. This past semester I, along with my MCC cabinet, curated the MCC Olympics. Each cabinet was a team that was competing against the others. We started with creating group introductions which included dances, raps, and chants.

We took our cabinets on a full campus scavenger hunt, played through many different athletics events, and then we ended our semester with some last-minute trust activities. I have loved seeing all of our cabinet members come together to spend time with each other, outside of work intentionally!

Gala! This is the biggest event that the Multicultural Council holds each year. This is planned, prepared, and hosted by the International Student Association each year. The theme this year was "Come As You Are". Coming from Romans 12:13-16. Throughout the planning process, the International Student Association came up with activities, a food menu, and different booths that furthered this theme of hospitality. Throughout the night we were able to enjoy foods from a multitude of different cultures, watch a flag procession that showcased all of the different countries that our Multicultural and International students are from, and then experience talent in watching a variety of different student performances, showcasing their unique talents and cultures. International Gala 2024 was definitely a night to remember, for all!

Chris Hon, *President of Asian Student Association*

This past Spring semester, the Asian Student Association has been diligent in hosting meetings and events that speak to our club's mission. The foundation of ASA has been catering to Asian-American students, multi-ethnic Asians, Asian adoptees, international Asian students, and individuals interested in Asian culture. This year we have been very intentional in trying to connect with the larger Messiah and Multi-cultural council community at large by hosting collaborations. As well as representing all of Asia as a continent, shedding light on all regions from Central, West, East, South East and South.

Some of our notable members' meetings include:

- 1) Eid and Hari Raya Celebration:** A minor event celebrating Eid and Hari Raya with an aim of introducing a Malaysian perspective on how we celebrate Eid as a cultural practice beyond its religious purposes. We shared traditional Eid and Malaysian homemade snacks with about 25 attendees.
- 2) Immigrant Panel:** A panel discussion with Messiah staff and community members of Asian descent, sharing on their experiences being an Asian American and an immigrant to the nation. The panel included Dr Matanguihan, Dr Michael, and Samie Tan.
- 4) Karaoke night:** A de-stressor event before finals, introducing the community to a common Asian cultural practice of Karaoke at familial events as well as new genres of music from a variety of cultures and nations.

ASA will always aim to bring a further representation of Asian tradition and cultural holidays to the larger Messiah communities; thus, we hosted many events and Asian festivals to achieve this goal such as:

- 1) Lunar New Year:** Our biggest event of the year, celebrating the year of the Dragon of this 2024 Lunar/Chinese New Year, marking the New Year of the Lunisolar calendar celebrated by many East and South-East Asian nations around the world. With over 100 attendees - we offered free Chinese food, along with traditional Malaysian food traditions, had some traditional Chinese cultural performances, as well as had many interactive, educational booths such as a tea ceremony table, a calligraphy table, origami, photoboosts, etc.
- 2) Mending the Gap:** A collaboration with BSU (Black Student Union) celebrating Black History Month, we hosted a pedagogical discussion with students surrounding subjects of Black and Asian racial tension, as well as addressing the history in America of how we have gotten to this point and how we could move forward in "Mending the Gap".
- 3) ASA Community Dinner:** An outreach event to provide students with the opportunity to connect with local Asian communities outside of campus. We collaborated with Durbar Nepali and Indian Cuisine, an authentic South Asian restaurant in Mechanicsburg, taking approximately 35 students and staff to experience authentic South Asian cuisine while creating a space where staff, MCC cabinets and students alike can get to know each other over a meal on a more personal level, while also supporting local businesses.
- 3) Songkran:** a collaboration with ISA MuKappa, inviting over 30 students to celebrate a water and harvest festival celebrated by Thailand as well as other South East Asian nations with some differences in tradition. We had water themed games as well as a water balloon fight at the end.

Another goal of ASA's this year was to utilize the platform of social media as a tool to educate the masses on important topics in Asian history and culture. As April is genocide awareness month and May is AAPI month, we have curated educational and entertaining media to post once a day, to raise awareness about notable Asian figures, key moments in Asian American history as well as issues we continue to face today. Topics include:

- 1) The Rohingya and Cambodian Genocide
- 2) What is AAPI month?
- 3) What was your favorite ASA event this year?
- 4) Mixed/Multicultural Identity
- 5) Staff Spotlights – Virgil Angeles (ASA advisor), Marcelle Giovanni
- 6) History of Chinatowns
- 7) Mine Okubo
- 8) Naomi Mata'afa

Topics not yet posted but are in planning include:

- 1) Harvey Dong
- 2) Jean Lau Chin
- 3) Kalpana Chawla
- 4) Corky Lee
- 5) U.S. Occupation in Hawaii
- 6) Mahmoud Darwish
- 7) Origins of the term “Caucasian” and why it’s problematic
- 8) Fashion/Cultural Wear
- 9) Pacific islander communities around the world
- 10) Shah Ruh Khan
- 11) Wong Kar Wai
- 12) Song/Movie Recommendations from Students
- 13) I.M. Pei
- 14) Dalip Singh Saund
- 15) Anna May Wong
- 16) Student’s favourite foods
- 17) Yo-yo Ma
- 18) Satyajit Ray
- 19) Bhagat Singh Thind
- 20) Messiah Local Asian Places

Akon Undieh, *President of African Student Union*

1. **Members Meetings:** Every other Wednesday, from 5 pm to 6 pm, the African Student Union hosts members meetings.
 - a. **ASU Kickback:** To begin the semester, the African Student Union hosted “Kickback” members meeting in Rafiki. At the event, students were able to participate in various card games, while sitting in a circle and snacking on the refreshments provided. Everyone was able to get to know the cabinet and other

students who attended the meeting. This event was also an introduction to the new ASU cabinet members, Kevine and Angelo, and the various icebreaker games fostered a fun and friendly atmosphere.

- b. ASUxLAL Soccer Game:** For the second meeting of the semester, ASU collaborated with La Alianza Latina to host a soccer game in Sawyer Gymnasium. At the event, students were able to split up into teams and participate in friendly basketball and soccer competition while staying hydrated with the bottles of water we provided for the event. Everyone was able to get to know the LAL cabinet within a fun and sporty environment.
- c. African Languages Represented on the Cabinet:** The third members' meeting, was more educational in nature. We were focused on ASU's mission to increase cultural diversity through the promotion of African culture. Thus, we were able to educate students on the history and basic introductory sentences of the cultural languages of the countries represented on the cabinet: Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Eswatini. We were also able to let Yellow Breeches TV cover the event and capture the fun attempts of the members to speak the various languages.
- d. Chai Time with Dr. Eseke:** The fourth members' meeting, was hosted in the MCC room. At the event, we were able to invite our advisor, Dr. Eseke and learn about his African childhood so Messiah students could feel more familiar with African professors on campus. We were able to achieve an increase in cultural diversity as well as the education of Messiah Students. Students were able to sit in a circle of chairs around Dr. Eseke while eating the catered food we provided and listen to his answers to the questions we compiled. It was a fascinating and enriching experience to hear his journey from university student, to priest, to Messiah professor.
- e. ASUxISA Panel:** The fifth members' meeting was on "International Experiences". We collaborated with the International Student Association to host the meeting in the loft. At the event, we were able to invite ISA alumni as well as ASU alumni Angel and Amman. We achieved ASU's goal of education since students were able to learn about the experiences of students who were once in their shoes. We also opened up the floor to discussion so students could participate and ask the panelists questions. The discussion ranged from light-hearted topics to more serious topics such as the importance of holding onto our cultures while we are so far from home. The panelists shared stories of their journeys to cultural hybridity, and students were able to sit back and listen while snacking on Asian and African snacks and refreshments provided. This meeting achieved the goal of social support and familiarizing Messiah students with alum.
- f. ASU's Final Farewell:** The last members' meeting was a farwell to our members and to each other as a cabinet. At the event, students were able to participate in various card games, while enjoying the catered food provided. Everyone was able to destress from finals studying. This event was also a way to hand over to the 2024/2025 President.

We always begin our meetings with prayers and then proceed to have important discussions about topics related to Africa. This semester, we hosted 6 members' meetings in total.

2. **ASUxCSA Fusion Dance:** ASU collaborated with the Caribbean Student Association to host the Fusion Dance in the Union. It served as a time of celebration of Caribbean and African culture through African and Caribbean music and dance moves. It was also a way for Messiah students to feel more immersed in and familiar with African and Caribbean culture. We were able to achieve an increase in cultural diversity as well as the education of Messiah Students. Students were able to dance, bond, snack on the refreshments catered by Two Bridges Catering, and make memories with the 360 Photobooth!
3. **Looking Forward:** The African Student Union in the upcoming semester will continue to work towards our goals. Our biggest event in the upcoming Fall Semester will be Karibu in November, where we plan to invite the Dwennimmen African Community again. This event will enable us to increase cultural diversity and social support through the vehicle of music and dance. It is recommended that we host more discussion-based events and also more events outside of the MCC room, as the soccer game in Sawyer was well attended.

Elijah Murray, *President of Black Student Union*

- 1) **BSU We Matter Showcase:** BSU hosted the We Matter Showcase on February 10th, our first event of BHM. The We Matter Showcase presented an art gallery from people who are a part of MCC, live performances from poetry, singing, dances, and live music. People had a relaxed filled evening listening to the live performances while enjoying snacks and drinks provided by BSU. BSU also held questions that if answered correctly, the participant would win a prize.
- 2) **BSU Dance:** BSU hosted The Back to the 90s Dance on February 23rd, our second campus-wide BHM event. The dance started at 9pm and went to 12am. We had a good turnout with people staying until the very end. A DJ was brought in and played a variety of music from the 90s and even early 2000s. People attended the dance in 90s streetwear, mostly thrifted items. Overall, it was an exciting and fun night.
- 3) **BSU Gender Initiative:** BSU was granted 500 dollars by the university to hold a Gender Initiative program. For our Gender Initiative, we presented the topic of The Celebration of Minority Women in Media. With the grant that was given to us, we ordered Chick fil la catering for people to eat and be able to conversate before the meeting began. In all, we had about 30 people who came to hear about the initiative. Our BSU Vice President, Téa Paris, then presented a slideshow and held discussion questions for people who attended.
- 4) **BSU Hair Expo:** BSU held its annual Hair Expo event on April 13th. The Hair Expo was the last event we held this year. We reserved Boyer 131 and held panel discussions, live demonstrations of hair washing, and games at the end for people to win prizes and merch. We also held a raffle contest at the end for participants to win prizes as well. We also

ordered JoJo's pizza and other various snacks for people to enjoy while attending the event.

- 5) **BSU Members Meetings:** BSU held a wide range of variety of members meetings this semester. We started off with Black Self Love, where our cabinet members went around and told their own personal testimonies on self-love and relating it on the topic of being black in America. We also held a testimony night with Men's Ministry where people came and shared their own personal testimony about what they felt talking about. We also held a Black Fashion meeting where we talked about and broke down Black Fashion through the decades. We also held a Mending the Gap meeting with ASA. This was our second annual event of this and the turnout was amazing. We had a great group discussion about the subject of the event.

Christopher Vasquez, *President of Caribbean Student Association*

1. **Share The Love** – This event is held around Valentine's day so what we do is take the theme of love and appreciation and create an event where CSA reaches out to Messiah's Caribbean students to show our love and appreciation. This event is a more intimate event where we share the Caribbean culture with those who are interested. We danced, played multiple card games, and ate fried plantains along with Jamaican beef patties. It was a great turnout as we had people not only from multiple MCC clubs join but also people from outside of MCC come. One student mentioned how they enjoy coming to our events even though they're not Caribbean since coming they always feel welcome.
2. **ASU x CSA Dance** – This event is our joint dance with the African Student Union. We created an appropriate playlist and bought decorations to prepare for the dance. We had a good turnout and made sure to showcase both cultures. This event is a great one because it provides its attendees an amazing atmosphere but for those who pay attention you really get to see the similarities African music in comparison to Caribbean music. That, in a nutshell is the goal of the dance, to showcase the beauty of one another's culture and drawing people in to enjoy it through laughing, teaching, and most all dancing.
3. **Lock In** – Lock in this year was held in the Loft whereas usually its held in Brubaker. But this event is usually an activity-filled night with eating laughing games and some running around. However, because of the setting change it became a smaller cozier event. We played multiple games, danced, and laughed the whole. We still had a great turnout from students of a variety of backgrounds. One student mentioned how they enjoy coming to our events even though they're not Caribbean since coming they always feel welcome.
4. **Gala Performance** – This semester CSA took part in ISA's International Gala; our aim was to represent the Caribbean diaspora. We do this by choosing music from different genres within the Caribbean and dancing to them. This performance takes months to prepare, and we dedicate a lot of time into the planning, practicing and finally performing.
5. **Members Meetings** – We had one member meeting this semester, both were in the beginning of the year. We wanted to engage with our community and recruit for the Gala. The meetings were more communal-oriented than informational, we had a game night

where we played board games and introduced the new cabinet members to our CSA members.

Looking Forward – Next semester, CSA will be attempting to be more present via social media and more engaging through different clubs. Our aim is to begin to integrate more into the student body to allow more opportunities to experience MCC & CSA. Our three main events this semester were the CSA Kickback, Zumba, and Island Vibes. CSA wasn't able to have a Zumba last semester, so we plan to bring that back this semester.

CSA looks forward to making Island vibes bigger and better than before with hopes of incorporating more of a dance aspect into the activities while still providing engaging activities for students to learn about the Caribbean. As a whole CSA aims to increase efficiency with hopes to be able to prepare better for each event. We aim to advertise better, engage better, to grow better.

Tammy Tay, *President of International Student Association, MuKappa Chapter*

1. Annual Songkran with ASA: This event is one of the prominent events in the spring semester in which ASA and ISA have collaborated in the past years. This year, we focused on educating others who are not exposed to the culture while providing a sense of comfort and home to those who celebrate this festival. We had about 40 people show up to the event. We engaged with the members by playing games with them. We played water games that promoted teamwork and for them to know each other better. They also had the experience of throwing water balloons at each other as this segment is more common in Thailand, where Songkran is held annually.
2. Familia Friday: This semester, we had a total of four familial Fridays. Familial Friday is an event that occurs every month where members gather to have a time of fellowship, worship, and discussion on different topics that are unique to the international student experience. The themes of Familial Friday were “Intimacy”, “Love Languages”, “Familial Dinner”, and “International experiences” panel. Reflecting on our panel event last semester, we decided that it would be good to do another panel this semester. We decided to do a panel of alumni as they share their experiences after graduating and how their experience as international students has impacted them. We also decided to collaborate with ASU for the panel since the panel also mentions the experiences of being a minority in the international student population.
3. First-Year Outreach: This event occurs twice a semester where first-year students have a chance to interact closely with the ISA/MuKappa cabinet to bond a close relationship. The main goal of this event was to allow first-year students to know that we are a source of support and that we are open to helping them with any issues that may arise during their time in Messiah.
4. Mukappa Meeting: This event occurs twice a semester for Missionary Kids (MKs) and Third-Culture Kids (TCKs) to come together and have a fun time through fellowship, games, bible studies, and discussions. The main goal of this event was to allow students to feel a sense of comfort and home through sharing their shared experiences, especially during difficult times in college.

5. ISA and LAL collaboration: We hosted a Familia Sábado where we had the chance to teach 5 different dances as we split into groups to teach. The dance styles were K-Pop, La botella en la cabeza, Samba, Breakdance and Bachata. We had a turnout of 80 people and many others continued to stay after the event to dance more with the others.
6. International Gala: This year, we focused on the theme of “Come as you are”. This theme emphasizes on the idea of hospitality and inviting people into spaces of comfort and what feels like home. We encompassed this through many aspects: having activity booths that promoted inclusivity by presenting all continents, decorations that remind participants that they are home, and encouraging individuals to learn more about other cultures through trivia. We had the chance to represent over 60 countries this year for the flag procession, display more than 10 culture outfits as well as 11 performances showcasing a myriad of cultures. One of the biggest changes that we have intentionally worked on is to have interactive booths where it is more than just a display. For example, with each booth, individuals are given the sense that they are invited into a space to experience. In the Asia booth, there was a tea-making segment where participants were invited to enjoy authentic tea made by one of our Messiah students. We were also able to display a variety of foods from around the world so that participants were able to be exposed to these new food items. We had a turnout of 557 participants at this event.

Gabriella Kovalchick, President of *La Alianza Latina*

La Alianza Latina, more commonly known as LAL, works to initiate conversations affecting the Latinx/Hispanic community. This year, a goal of LAL has been to collaborate with other clubs and share stories that have not been commonly told. Alongside these personal goals in LAL, many events this semester continued to show the importance of Legacy, as much of the student body is unaware of what MCC looked like before COVID-19.

1. ***Sábado Celebration***: For a third time, LAL presented Sábado Celebration, a backyard hang-out that took place at Rafiki House. This event had food, games, and music, encouraging fellowship and a way to relax and unwind as the year was coming to an end. Sábado Celebration was also a way for students outside of LAL/MCC to interact with these groups, as anyone can pass by Rafiki and join in on the fun! LAL was very happy to see this event come back again this year!
2. ***Familia Sábado***: This semester, LAL had the opportunity to collaborate with ISA/MuKappa and host a dance workshop in the Loft. During this time, students were taught various dances and a little about the culture they came from. A little bit of education along with a fun time! LAL enjoyed getting to collaborate with ISA/MuKappa for this and International Gala!
3. ***Charlas***: Serving as bi-weekly members meetings, LAL held multiple Charlas throughout the semester. LAL saw broader engagement through our soccer games and paint night held during the semester. Our Behind the Romanticization Charla also served as an educational charla, as we discussed Latinx representation in the media. Behind each Charla was the intention of fellowship and creating a safe and welcoming space for students, both within and outside the Latino community.

Looking Forward: Overall, LAL is very proud of the work it has done this year! Getting to collaborate and work towards things such as International Gala was a highlight for the members of LAL, along with our various events throughout the year. Looking forward to next year, with the groundwork laid this year, LAL's presence during Hispanic Heritage Month will only grow! LAL hopes to continue collaboration, not just within MCC but with other clubs across campus. LAL will continue creating that safe space for students, all the while helping individuals feel more connected to their cultures in various ways.

Ending Remarks for MCC

As a graduating senior, my time here at Messiah University has come to an end. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to serve our MCC students as well as the entire Messiah student body! I am beyond excited to see the growth of the Multicultural Council in the years to come. This organization will be led by my amazing successor, Tammy Tay, and I cannot wait to see how she continues to honor the mission and legacy of this organization. We are so excited to see what spring '24 brings!

Signed,
Kiersten Gilmore
Chair of Multicultural Council

The Pulse **Marleigh Flanagan, *Director 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 fall semester, the Pulse staff gathered to chart a way forward and decide what we wanted our impact on the community to be this year.

1. To create a large variety of products that are easily recognizable, and hold to an honest, quality standard.
2. To engage students through creating products and organizing events to foster an open and inviting atmosphere.
3. To create an accessible space that focuses on promoting groups from ALL corners of campus.
4. To serve and interact with our community in a Christlike manner by providing a platform for interaction between students and the nearby community.

The 2023-2024 campus theme, seek, heavily informs our work as we work to engage with the Messiah community in a posture of gratitude. Our third goal speaks to this the most, as we aim to

highlight areas of our campus that may otherwise be overlooked. We want to use our platform to lift the voices of our community.

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.

Ethan Reisler, *Swinging Bridge Magazine*

This semester, the Swinging Bridge Team has solidified an identity of being approachable, fostering many new volunteers who went on to write regularly for the editorial staff; this body of hired staff saw an unexpected departure half-way through the semester, but was soon enough remedied by the hiring of a volunteer. Since then, other volunteers have been hired to replace any other departures that naturally came with the end of the academic year. Although one position remains vacant, I have no worries that someone will apply before the beginning of the fall semester — just as it had happened at the beginning of this year,

Our partnership with TAK has also seen the continuation of The Swinging Bridge Devotional, which has become a staple of the magazines released over the course of the previous academic year. TAK is resolved to continue our partnership into the next year, if the incoming Editor-in-Chief also wishes to continue publishing devotionals.

The production of articles came steadily this semester, covering a wide range of topics including the construction of the Starry Athletic Complex, AROMA, and anonymous social media apps, among many other subjects. We also increased the output of online columns due to an increase in volunteer engagement, as well as publishing some online articles. Looking towards next semester, the Swinging Bridge editorial staff hopes to continue to bring interesting, informative, and important news to all of campus whilst upholding journalistic integrity. As stated before, there are some staff changes — that being the Editor-in-Chief and Arts & Culture Section Editor positions — but there are also some on the editorial staff that will carry over; reaching this goal will not be much of a challenge with the collaborative environment that has been fostered amongst the staff.

Sam Erikson, *Pulse Radio*

This semester, the radio department had four on-air personalities: Sam Erikson, who was on-air from noon-1 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Noemi Garcia, who was on air from 2-3 on Tuesday afternoon, Will Reed, who was on air with his show “Bottom of the Charts Radio” on Friday afternoon at 4, and Sabrina Stanford, who was on air on Friday afternoon at 1. Also, podcasts continued, with “Historically Speaking”, “Hot Take Artists”, “Destress With Jess”, and “In The Studio With Pulse Radio”. “Historically Speaking”, hosted by Josh Cook and AJ Memmelaar, had a tremendous semester, winning third place in the Two-Year, Divisions III and IV Best Podcast category for the Apple Awards by the College Media Association in March. “Historically Speaking” had 104 podcast downloads between January 15 and May 6, 2024. The episode that was downloaded the most was Leading Ladies episode 4, which was published on February 26, and had 11 downloads. “Historically Speaking” also had approximately 86 listeners, based on data from Spreaker that showed listeners from individual episodes from January 15-May 6, 2024. “Hot Take Artists”, hosted by Ben Poff and Justin Gagliardo, also had a good semester, with 92 downloads from January 15-May 6, 2024. The most popular podcast from “Hot Take Artists” this semester was “America's Least Favorite Team”, which has totaled 17 downloads since it was released on February 16. “Hot Take Artists” also had approximately

88 listeners, based on data from Spreaker that showed listeners from individual episodes from January 15-May 6, 2024. “Hot Take Artists” had the most listeners on February 12, with 16 individual, unique listeners.

The radio department also hosted Vinylthon on April 20, from 11-1 p.m. There wasn't much engagement from Messiah students, most likely because of the time of the event, which will be changed next year to increase traffic. Also, WGAL covered the event, which provided some publicity for The Pulse.

Looking ahead to next semester, the radio department hopes to get more involved with other clubs on campus. There has been talk of collaborating with Student Ministries in the fall, which will hopefully come to fruition. There is also a change in the Music Director position, as Sabrina Stanford graduates this week, and Will Reed takes over her position in fall 2024.

Emma Shoaff, *The Clarion Yearbook*

This semester the yearbook worked on becoming a finalized design. This was through receiving our final batch of senior portraits in March, contacting parents about baby ads, and communicating with seniors to send in their own photos for our Study Abroad and Behind the Scenes sections of the yearbook. All of which was done over the course of the semester as we continued to update the Events portion of the yearbook.

Currently we are working with the A/V department to receive the photos of the winners for senior superlatives and preparing to receive photos from the Commencement ceremony. The yearbook is also continuing to be up to date with the most recent events, the Senior Coffeeshouse for example. In further preparation to get the yearbook finalized, we have been provided with a proof from the company we work with, Friesens, in order to take a closer look at any editing mistakes. This includes the involvement of everyone at The Pulse in order to have multiple views for critiquing.

For the future of the yearbook, all the spreads are to be approved May 17th and a final proof will be sent to us for a final review. After approving that, the yearbook will be ready to be shipped out to all seniors who signed up. During this time, the 2025 Clarion will begin to be designed. We will start with the cover, which will be ready by Fall 2024, and then move onto sketches of what spreads will look like so that can be presented and discussed amongst volunteers and the design department to flush out the layout/design elements.

Tyler Caruso, *Audio Visual Department*

This semester the A/V department partnered with several clubs to provide photography or our photobooth. Some of the clubs include SAB, ASU, ASA, LAL, BSU, and SGA. In addition to partnering with clubs, we also generate content for The Pulse social media channels, Swinging Bridge magazine, and Clarion yearbook. The A/V department had a great presence at a range of campus events such as coffeeshouses and dances.

The biggest project we did this semester was the SGA candidate videos. We have also been creating semi-regular sizzle reels for promoting our new magazine releases. Last year, we set a goal to get regular content on The Pulse TV outside Lottie Nelson Dining Hall. This semester we met that goal by keeping photo content, advertising internal events for The Pulse, and events for other clubs or departments circulating on the television. This was a huge success as people waiting in line for meals could see the content we promoted.

Moving forward the A/V department hopes to create more content that truly interests and engages the student body on new levels, primarily through photo or video content on The Pulse's

own social channels as well as partnering with even more clubs to continue to be the photography presence on campus. There will be a turnaround of staff next year, so I hope that the legacy can be carried on.

Allyson Lyndaker, *Design Department*

The magazine design team has achieved significant milestones over the past semester. They successfully conceptualized and executed several captivating cover designs, each tailored to reflect the theme of the respective issue. Their meticulous attention to detail ensured that the layout of each page was visually appealing and easy to navigate, enhancing the overall reader experience.

Furthermore, the team embraced feedback and continuously iterated on their designs, striving for perfection with each iteration. Their dedication to excellence has elevated the magazine's visual identity and strengthened its impact on readers.

In the future, we will see a whole new team dynamic. There will be a new Design Team Manager, and also two new Design Assistants. The talent that is present in these new hires is astounding, and one can only look forward to what they will create the following school year. Overall, the magazine design team's accomplishments this semester demonstrate their talent, creativity, and commitment to producing high-quality design work.

Events

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

1. Monthly Magazine Launches
2. Vinylthon
3. The student Engagement Fair
4. Accepted Student Preview Days

Looking Forward

Next fall we are very excited to begin training our new hires and see just how much they will grow in their departmental skills, as well as overall within the team. In Fall 2024, we will be welcoming new social media manager, editor in chief, A/V manager, and design manager, as well as multiple work study positions. Each of the new hires have undergone training by the current staff, which we hope will be a good start in learning the tasks of the job. We still have one position open which we hope to fill before the semester begins, but we have faith that we will be able to find someone over the summer.

We are very proud of the work we have done this semester. We have maintained a high work standard while cultivating a community within our organization fit for friendship and growth. We look forward to getting the new team together next semester so that we can continue to do quality work.

Signed,
The Pulse Staff

Student Activity Board

Sydney Schappell, *President*

Similar to last, this year began on more of a rough note for SAB. We began the year with four open positions (Music, Student Talent, Marketing and Excursions). We only had three returning executives on the entire board, including myself and Emma Trump. Our advisor Julie Fenton, left on maternity leave before training began. However, within the first 3 weeks of the semester, we were able to hire two executives to fill the Marketing and Student Talent roles. Within the first month of classes we filled both Music and Excursions as well. Building a cohesive board was difficult while members continued to be added, but I am very proud of and encouraged by where the team stands now. They have worked tirelessly to grow within their roles and implement effective and popular events as quickly as possible.

Looking to spring semester, I am excited to see what our team is able to accomplish. We are hoping to hire a new Student Talent executive as soon as possible to implement Student Talent programming as early as we can in the spring. Another large focus will be the larger events that come with the springtime, including Quest and Spring Fling. Moving into recruitment for 24-25, we are hoping to find new ways to get campus excited about SAB. I am encouraged by the board who will be left to take on this responsibility. They are younger students who are passionate about their roles and the mission of the Student Activities Board.

Emma Trump, *VP & Dances Executive*

This year, I have had the pleasure of continuing to serve as SAB's Dances Executive. I have learned so much about the inner workings of event planning and working within team settings. The dances role can be overwhelming, as it encompasses many different duties and interacts with several departments on campus. Although I am still learning new things about this position, I have grown in my communication, organizational, managerial, and leadership skills. I have enjoyed picking out each dance's themes, decor, activities, crafts, and music. Students had fun celebrating the start of Homecoming Week festivities with their friends and loved dressing up in their favorite Halloween costumes for the Monster Mash (Silent Disco Version) Dance. The carnival-themed catering, including a snow cone machine, fresh popcorn, and hand-spun cotton candy, went over really well at the Homecoming Dance as students rushed over to get their sweet treats. Also, the band Oversoon was well received, as students enjoyed hearing live music from Messiah alumni. Many aspects go into organizing a dance, and I plan to keep working on the best systems and processes to nail down every detail of these events. In the future, I must consider more opportunities to engage the student body in the execution of dances through brainstorming opportunities, student DJ training sessions, and other surveys/polls to provide feedback for SAB to use toward other events.

Events Statistics:

- **Homecoming Dance (9/30/23)**
 - From 7-10 pm in Brubaker Auditorium
 - About 300 people were in attendance
- **Monster Mash (Silent Disco Version) (10/28/23)**
 - From 8-10 pm in the Union
 - About 200 people were in attendance

- **The SnowBall (12/09/23)**
 - From 8-11 pm in the Union
 - Coming Soon, so hopefully, about 250-300 people

Sydney Schappell, Ariana Hitz, & Jeff Lile, *Student Talent Executive*

This semester started off on a rough note for Student Talent. We entered the year with no executive in the position. We were able to hire Bella Taggart in August, who unfortunately had to leave for medical reasons in early October. Jeff, Ari and myself took over the position starting in October. Between the three of us, we ran auditions, chose a set, and communicated with Tech, Catering and Conference and Building Services. Some of the various newer aspects of Student Talent had to take a back seat this semester because of this, but we are excited to look forward to hopefully hiring a new semester for the coming semester.

- 4 Coffeehouses finished
- Average of 200-250 people in attendance

Ava Jade Moore, *Community Executive*

The Community Executive is a newer position that splits the responsibilities between the Special Activities executive and this one. This is the second year of this active position. The types of events held are low-pressure recurring events that gather the Messiah community. These types of events allow the student body of Messiah to participate in fun activities such as trivia, craft nights, and bingo. The usual occurrences of these events happen once a month each month for the different types of events. This past semester, I initiated three events a month, including two pop-ups in November, totaling eleven events. In November, my craft night event included a collaboration between SAB and the Marketing club, drawing a different demographic of the school population to attend.

Below lists the average number of attendees who participated in the events this semester:

- Bingo: about 80 attendees
- Craft: about 20-50 attendees
- Trivia: about 20-40 participants
- Pop-ups: about 100-200 attendees

Cayly Jones, *Graphic Design Executive*

As the graphic designer for SAB this Fall, I have made posters and Instagram graphics for over 40 different events. For each graphic, I try to create a captivating design that will catch students' attention and make them interested in our events. In conjunction with our Marketing Executive, I was able to advertise for our events and elevate the other executives' roles. For some of our larger events, I made sure to put more time and intention into the designs. For example, I wanted to make the fall festival poster stand out from recurring event posters because it is one of our popular events. For certain executives, I was able to create a visual identity for their events that continued throughout the semester. In addition to my design work, make sure to provide insight with the other members to help them plan their events.

Sarah Meeks, *Cultural Engagement Executive*

I wanted to expand this position and allow room for collaboration with other clubs. I believe SAB has successfully reached new populations of students on campus through events surrounding cultural diversity and representation on campus. I started off this position with collaborations with the Minds Matter club and the Education Association of Messiah University (EAMU). I then started planning for larger attendance events.

I want to make time for monthly discussions with various clubs and educational staff in the spring semester. It is my goal to promote understanding and respect towards different cultures on campus. I hope to establish an inclusive environment in which students from different backgrounds can learn from each other and enrich their university experience.

- Suicide Prevention Week pop-up table (collab with Minds Matter) ~ around 50 people came and went [would collab again with]
- Documentary Discussion Night ~ 15 people [wanting to make this a monthly event]
- Midtown Scholar Bookstore Excursion ~ 8 people [will repeat]
- Making Professor Appreciation Cards pop-up table (collab EAMU) ~ around 35 people made cards or stopped by to grab supplies
- Drinks, Desserts, and Discussion ~ 20 people offered feedback on past events, or offered suggestions for future events [will repeat]
- Christmas Around the World ~ (Sign Language Club helped and was present) 60 people did crafts, engaged in trivia games, learned sign language, or stopped to check out the event [a great event to collaborate with multicultural clubs next year!]

Mina Rodriguez, Music Executive

The Music Executive is a fairly new role to SAB and has only been established on the board for two years. It seeks to bring all genres and types of music to campus in a way that keeps the student body engaged and excited. This can be through the form of Jukebox nights, listening parties, concerts and much more. With this role I wanted to introduce the student body to some lesser known artists and genres that most people may not listen to on their own time, while also highlighting any popular artist. Album listening parties were a great way to highlight a specific artist or genre. They were created with the intent of allowing students with similar interests to gather with one another and enjoy their friends and music.. The Jukebox Nights were more casual, laid-back events that gave students the opportunity to engage by requesting different songs to be played throughout the Union. The themed events like Christmas DIY were not traditional music executive events, but I wanted to venture outside of my role a little. These events were meant to give students a break from all the studying going on and encourage them to create gifts, eat food and have fun with their friends. Overall, this role has been fun to discover and make my own. I have enjoyed the creativity and freedom that this role gives me.

- *3 events in total:*
 - 1 Jukebox Night
 - Noah Kahan Listening Parties
 - Attendance for listening parties range from 10-30 people, depending on the artist and album
 - Christmas DIY crafts
 - About 80-100 people

Jeff Lile, Treasurer

As the SAB Treasurer, I have the responsibility to plan, track, and report all of the finances for SAB. At the beginning of each semester, I allocate a percentage of our budget to each executive based on the financial needs of their position. After every purchase that an executive of SAB makes, they send over their justifications to me so that I can keep track of them in an Excel sheet. I have also created personal budget sheets that each executive can use to keep track of their own spending so that they know at all times how much money they have left.

- SAB has spent almost \$32,000 this semester and is planning on some larger events next semester.
- SAB has had dozens of events this semester ranging from small craft nights that bring in around 20 people to huge dances that can bring in over 300 people. This variety of events allows all types of preferences to be met so that the collective student body can have fun experiences on campus.

Ariana Hitz, Marketing Executive

The marketing role is crucial for SAB in communicating the events we will be hosting and showing students how they can make the most out of their four years here at Messiah. This role bridges the gap between the students at Messiah and the SAB board. I have been working with each of the executives in seeing the turn out for their events, what they can do, and what I can do to ensure a good turnout for their events. I have a close relationship with our Graphic Designer to get various graphics out to campus promptly, including making some of the posters for pop up events or last-minute events. I have also been working on updating the SAB website to showcase what SAB is, what each executive's goal is, and having easy access to the upcoming events.

- Reached 346% more accounts this semester
- Followers increased by 27.3%
- Over 200 posts made, including stories
- 6 graphics made/ 1 poster
- Updating the website

Ricardo Rivas, Lost Films Executive

This semester was a very dynamic one for SAB as it involved stand-alone films as well as three separate collaborations. The stand-alone films were very successful this year turnout-wise. Half of the movies shown had turnouts of 50+. Two films had a turnout of 100+ with *Spiderman: Across the Spider-verse* topping all other films with a turnout of 178. The film selection came from a wide variety of years, ranging from the 70's to being released this year. Several genres were also included in this semester's movie choices. These included animated movies, action movies, a romantic musical, and many others. These films were carefully selected not to satisfy the entire student body with each one, but rather to reach a different demographic with each week. This was reflected in the diversity of the attendees of the films. The final three showings turned out to be collaborations. I collaborated with the library, HRA, and CSA. The showings were successes, and many new relationships were made with the other clubs. Unfortunately, we couldn't collaborate with all clubs that wanted to, but the next semester will likely include many more collaborations akin to the ones of the fall semester.

Brooke Marini, Excursions Executive

My main purpose for excursions this semester was to create opportunities for students to enjoy activities off campus, especially those without on-campus transportation. This role is great for trying new things and thinking outside the box for places to go. Since I filled this role later on into the semester, I felt that I only had time to plan, book, and go on one excursion. This excursion was a bit daunting because it was my first excursion and my first time going to a hockey game. This excursion was a success and many students were eager to sign up. I have many more ideas for excursions next semester, and am hoping to have at least one excursion per month.

- Hershey Bears Excursion - 15 students

Marissa Carr, *Special Activities Executive*

This semester, I had the pleasure of serving on the student activities board as special activities executive. In this role, I planned and executed six different events, including three craft nights, two larger scale seasonal events, and one pop up. My craft nights were DIY Clay earrings, painting night, and Spotify glass art night. I selected these three crafts because they have had a high demand from students in the past, and they were widely enjoyed by the student body. Due to the high demand of Spotify glass art night, I will be holding one again in late April. My pop-up event was getting duck donuts catering right before fall break so students could have a pick me up before break. This event was a success, with 13 dozen donuts running out in 30 minutes on a Tuesday morning. One of my medium sized events was DIY Christmas Gifts and Jukebox night, which was in collaboration with Mina our music executive. She and I worked together to come up with 6 different DIY Christmas gift ideas that students could make easily in the Union, and we also incorporated the Jukebox element with this event, with around 20 students requesting unique holiday songs to be played. My largest event of the semester was the annual Fall Fest, which was held in September this year. Fall Fest also had to be held inside this year due to heavy rain, but we made it work and the event was still a hit. Activities that were at fall fest included pumpkin carving and painting, tote bag painting, live music, candy corn guessing, donut decorating, and lots and lots of food. For the next semester, I hope to execute more larger scale events, because I have more experience in my role. I feel that this semester has been very successful because my events have had high demand and attendance, and they were enjoyed by the student body.

6 Total Events

1 outside vendor

700 students reached

Mary-Kate Miller, *Wellness Executive*

The Wellness Executive position was added to the board this year in hopes to still incorporate wellness related events on campus despite Wellness and Recreation no longer being a club. Wellness is a board term, but involves not only physical wellness, but mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational wellness. Throughout the semester I have tried to do a variety of events

that reach a board spectrum of people to encourage holistic wellness across campus. I have grown in my executional skills in an administrative sense, and in my creative abilities with coming up with ideas and making them happen. I have enjoyed providing opportunities for the student body to engage in activities that increase their overall wellbeing. I decided I wanted to, roughly, have an event per month, so I did an outdoor yoga event in September, a nutrition event in October, and an excursion to Skyzone and free giveaway in December.

- Yoga: about 30 attendees
- Nutrition: about 80 attendees
- Skyzone Excursion: 30 people
- Giveaway: 25 people

Looking Forward:

As SAB moves into the next semester, I am excitedly anticipating what is to come. Lots of change is on the horizon with hiring a new advisor, but I am confident in the team's ability to finish the year strong. We are excited to welcome Lissette Westerlind as our Student Talent executive for the spring semester! The team has and is continuing to work hard, and I am looking forward to everything to come in the spring!

Signed,
Sydney Schappell
President of the Student Activities Board

Student Ministries
Ashlyn Miller, *Lead Director*

Student Ministries strives to equip the students at Messiah University to live in Christ by providing students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of identity, calling, relationships, and healing through a lens of truth and love. Whether it's through worship, prayer or Bible study it is our hope that every student can find a place to connect to God and to others through one of our various ministries.

While Messiah is a Christian University, we know that our student body is diverse and includes many different religions and perspectives on faith. We also understand that not every student at Messiah considers themselves to be a Christian. We strive to provide safe spaces for both developed Christians and those who are wrestling in their faith to be surrounded by an intentional Christian community, continue growing in their faith, and encounter God. To do this we provide programming in four main ways: chapel, discipleship, events, and prayer, in order to minister to hundreds of students on our campus.

Additionally, while one of our primary aims is to provide spiritual programming for students at Messiah, we are also dedicated to providing training in spiritual leadership and faith formation to over 50 student leaders who make that programming possible. We are blessed by their dedication and heart for ministry and hope they can continue to grow as they provide discipleship to others.

Creating a Sustainable Ministry

This semester, Student Ministries has been both in and preparing for a year of many transitions. With the exit of our previous advisor Mina Choi, Student Ministries has been in a time of interim advisorship as we prepare and anticipate the hiring of a new Discipleship Pastor. This time of transition served as a perfect opportunity for the Student Ministry leaders to evaluate the purpose of our organization's structure and programming, and begin to set a more sustainable groundwork for how our ministry can be handed off well to our new pastor as well as the new leaders that join us each year. Tangibly this has looked like making sure our office spaces are organized so that we properly use our resources, and that our online documentation is in order so that anyone who accesses it understands how Student Ministries functions as an organization both structurally and programmatically. This groundwork has also looked like reevaluating our mission and vision statement and assessing whether it accurately reflects both the work we are hoping to do as well as the work we are doing. Come the Spring we anticipate having a new and relevant mission/vision statement. Lastly, we have also begun to build up a new events ministry team. In the past our events ministry has only consisted of our Events Director and our media assistant; however, with our desire to bring more events and connection opportunities for students to campus, as well as fully utilize our newly increased budget, we have begun to create the job descriptions necessary to establish an events ministry team to more consistently reach the student body.

Reflection

Altogether, the Fall 2023 semester has marked a time of preparing and equipping for Student Ministries. Our goal was to be thinking 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 the spring, we are excited to continue to pursue working in collaboration with other groups on campus and discerning how we can continue to use our ministry, its people, and our resources to effectively reach the Messiah community.

Chapel Ministry

Matthew Featherson, *Chapel Director*

Student Ministries Chapels provide an opportunity for the Messiah community to come together and worship while having these spaces be student-led. Each semester, a team of student ministries leaders host five different chapels and this fall was no different. One big change is that student ministries chapels took place on Tuesday mornings and evenings as opposed to the typical Thursday morning services in years prior. Every semester highlights a new theme that The Lord wants to use to speak to the team to the Messiah community. This semester, our five chapels were centered around a theme titled *Shall Not Want*, taking an in-depth look at Psalms 23. Each chapel focused on one verse from the passage, opening the series on verses one and two. Our first chapel focused on how The Lord is our Good Shepherd and because He is our shepherd, He is everything that we truly need. Our second chapel of the semester was our first evening service in which we highlighted verse 3, “he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.” (Psalms 23:3) To facilitate this chapel, each member of the team focused on a particular part of this verse and prompted discussion and reflection questions to those attending. Students were given pens and notecards to take time to personally reflect. Our third chapel focused on verse 4, emphasizing the significance of being in the valley and recognizing that The Lord is still just as present so there is no need to fear. We had a unique opportunity with our fourth chapel to collaborate with Asbury students and host a panel discussing the schools’ outpouring and revival in February 2023 with also tying in verse 5 - “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (Psalms 23:5) We concluded our series on Psalms 23 by having three students talk about goodness, love and dwell - three integral parts of verse 6. Chapel this semester was very encouraging as we noticed an engagement level that was higher and we credit The Lord the ways in which we moved and the new doors that He has opened within our ministry. In addition to moving to Tuesday, we also saw an implementation of chapel hospitality which provided students and faculty with treats before the beginning of our chapel service. We were able to collaborate with Denim Coffee, provide Duck Donuts and coordinate with catering to provide other snacks. We look forward to more ways to become creative within our chapel services with the expectation the Lord will continue to work.

Discipleship Ministry

Caleb Richert, *Discipleship Director*

Introduction

Our discipleship ministries consist of peer-to-peer small groups centered around cultivating meaningful interpersonal relationships, transformational Bible study, prayer, and service. We have five different ministries including Men’s and Women’s ministries, Logos and Roots Bible Studies, and Sanctuary. Each of these ministries performs a unique function and provides spaces to meet the different needs of students on our campus. Our goal is to glorify God and our hope is that any student who wants to grow in their relationship with God will be able to find a space within Student Ministries that allows them to connect with God through meeting their various needs. Overall, this semester has been a time of inviting people in and establishing communities on campus with the hope that deeper and more intentional relationships can be formed in the Spring. All of the discipleship ministries have done very well in establishing themselves as a team and seeking to provide new opportunities for students to engage in Christian community.

Logos Bible Studies

Abigail Casey: *Logos Coordinator*

Logos Bible studies is a ministry with weekly Bible studies and outreach events. At each Logos study, student leaders facilitate discussion and fellowship while digging into God's Word through the inductive method. In this method, we observe the passage details, interpret the meanings and commentary, and apply it to our lives as God teaches us. Overall, our vision and purpose are to teach and encourage students to grow in their relationship with Christ through His Word. Logos' outreach events consist of collaboration with various clubs, departments, and residence hall floors. This semester, we hosted a community kickoff, a worship night, and a Christmas party. We also collaborated with Sanctuary for one of their events.

As a ministry, Logos provides opportunities for spiritual support and growth, both for the team that plans and leads the studies and for the students who come to our events. Reading Scripture together allows us to learn about each other and the amazing God who created us. Asking questions about passages and sharing interpretations allow us to grow together, coming alongside each other as we deepen our knowledge of the Bible. We strive to ensure that Logos studies are safe spaces where people can feel comfortable asking questions and expressing uncertainty, and we stress the importance of carrying the knowledge we have learned in a study into everyday life. In this environment, we are able to form strong Christian friendships that encourage us in our walk with Jesus. I have enjoyed getting to know my team this semester. Though we are a small team, and almost all of us are either new to our roles or new to the Logos leadership team, we have been able to achieve a strong sense of comradery. Each member of the team brings enthusiasm for ministry every week, and each is quick to offer a word of encouragement when one of us is struggling. This has allowed us all to grow into our roles because we know we are all here to support each other in serving God, both through Logos and in our daily lives.

Roots Bible Study

Anna Hawkins, *Roots Bible Study Coordinator*

Roots is a community of students dedicated to studying God's word, building each other up spiritually, strengthening leadership skills, and growing in community. We have a team of 5-6 students who work together to make decisions regarding Bible study, weekly Community Nights, and other items as needed. We also lead weekly Bible studies with community members and lead team-building facilitations with Student Ministries.

The core of our ministry is On-Lead Bible Study which takes place weekly. Monday nights from 8:30-10. Before each semester, a study topic is chosen. This could be a book, a theme, or a Biblical narrative. Once chosen, this topic is broken up into manageable sections which are the basis of study each week. What makes On-Lead Bible Study unique is that the people who are "on-lead" change week to week. After the first couple of weeks being led by the Roots team, signups are then open to the rest of the community that offer the opportunity to lead alongside one of the Roots team leaders. Because of this format, the particular details of the Bible Study are planned on a week-by-week basis. This allows the leaders for that week to have more creative control over what the night will look like. Typically, Bible Study starts with an icebreaker game to create some time of fellowship together. After the game, groups are formed and lists of study questions are passed out. Each group then talks about them as they read through the passage. After an hour of study, the groups are brought back together to share main takeaways. This is followed by announcements and continued time for fellowship.

In addition to On-Lead Bible Study, Roots has Community Nights one night a week. This casual time of fellowship was started to further grow and strengthen the Roots community. This semester, in order to better reach the First year students, we collaborated with Res. Life and the Ambassadors for Residential Ministry in order to host some of our community nights within the first year buildings. Activities have looked like anything from watching a movie to playing board games. We also try to do an excursion one Saturday each month. This semester, we went on a hike and visited Mt. Airy Orchard. This is another way we strive to create community outside of the usual weekly Bible Study.

Next semester, we plan to continue Bible Studies, Community Nights, and Excursions.

Sanctuary

Todd Feil, *Sanctuary Coordinator*

Sanctuary (formerly known as Faith Exploration Ministry) exists to meet Messiah students where they are in their faith, serving as a safe space for students to process difficult parts of theology and Christianity. Our hearts are for students who are new to faith or are doubting/grappling with parts of their existing faith, though we are here to serve every member of this campus.

Traditionally, our main approach to doing so has been hosting weekly small group meetings centered around a particular topic in faith. We continued to do so this semester, though we took a slightly different approach. This semester, we have been intentional about facilitating conversations, rather than simply giving information to the students we serve. Additionally, we have made a concerted effort to encourage community-building in our ministry, and we have done so by pairing a fun activity with each of our weekly conversations on faith. For example, we spent an evening discussing suffering and loss, but we did so while painting on a poster as a group. Moreover, we collaborated with more on-campus groups and individuals than ever this semester by hosting events with Prayer Ministry, the Agape Center, Jody Brandt, and Logos. Besides our weekly meetings, we also hosted a 4x4 during the second wave called “Dealing with Doubt: Understanding Christ’s Love in the Midst of Our Questions.” Over four weeks, we discussed how we can constructively approach our questions and doubts, and various guest speakers spoke on how doubt relates to our relationships with God, our relationships with the Church, and our relationships with the Bible.

We are still finalizing our schedule for the next semester, but we will continue hosting our weekly meetings and Just Jesus, an annual worship and testimony night. I feel that our ministry is in a great place to continue reaching students, as we have built a quality community and are ready to explore more challenges within the Christian faith. We would love to see more students join us on a weekly basis, and this continues to be one of our prayer requests.

Men’s Ministry

Joshua Calderon, *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 monthly gatherings for men called Men’s Min Mondays to come together to have fun and talk about what is happening in our lives. Men’s Ministry also 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 that would like a more personal relationship. This year we were also able to hold a four-week chapel series to discuss what it means to be a son of

God.

Weekly Ministry

This semester 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. On a weekly basis, Men's Ministry holds two life group style meetings. The first one is called "Livelihood of a Son." This is a deep dive of a Biblical passage combined with a discussion on how we can apply it to our lives as men. The second weekly life group is called "Sons of the King Prayer Nights" and consists of conversation and prayer on different topics that we face as men. Both groups are open to all men on campus and have a wide variety of men that come to the events. Both groups have been successful with weekly attendance and participation.

4x4 Chapel Series

Every semester Men's Ministry holds a four-week chapel series for men to come and learn about a Biblical principle. This semester we focused on what being a son of God looks like and what the Bible says about sonship. After some trial and error, we decided a discussion-based group was the best avenue for this type of chapel series. Attendance was steady throughout the four-week period and participation levels were steady as well. Next 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. The series will be led by Michael Blount, a Licensed Professional Counselor from the Engle Center. He will be supported by the Men's Ministry team throughout the chapel series. As a ministry, we are excited and hopeful about this upcoming chapel series.

The Future

This semester we have provided a chapel series, four Men's Ministry Mondays, two weekly Life Groups, and a Men's Testimony Night. Men's Ministry has worked hard to provide events for men to come together and talk about their lives on a regular basis. Next semester we are looking forward to providing a second testimony night for men on campus, continuing the Life Groups we have started, continuing one-on-one peer mentorship, and an eight-week chapel series combined with MAP. 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. Next semester we will also be dropping the Holy Spirit Night to be intentional with our time in other events. 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

Michaela Andrews, *Women's Ministry Coordinator*

Our Women's Ministry desires to cultivate a Christ-centered community for all women on campus. To do this we provide weekly community gatherings and one on one support to women if needed. Our ministry believes that by intentionally engaging in prayer, spending time in scripture, and building genuine relationships, each woman on campus will be able to embrace her identity as a Daughter of the King.

Weekly Ministry

Our 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. As a team of dedicated mentors from the Women's Ministry we have created a space on Wednesday nights in the Loft of small groups, community, and Bible Study.

Events

This semester, our main focus was on building up a community of women through our weekly "Women's Wednesday" gathering. Each week a different Women's Min. a mentor would lead us in a study focused on the women in the Bible, and each week we had no less than 15 girls attend. In addition to this, Women's Ministry was able to host two events. Our first event was a prayer walk in partnership with the Prayer Ministry team. In this, we were able to gather together and walk around campus praying for different spaces on campus. Our second event was a prayer journal paint night. We had over ten girls join us in Howe Atrium where we painted journals, drank tea, and had a Bible study on prayer.

Future

For the spring semester, Women's Ministry is excited to continue building up a community of women through weekly gatherings and events. Since being able to build up a large community of women on campus this past semester, come the spring we will be adding life-groups to our weekly events; in which girls can begin to form smaller and more intentional spiritual groups with one another. Along with this, we plan on continuing to host our large group Women's Wednesdays community nights as well as hope to host events such as inviting women professors on campus to share their testimonies, having a movie night, and having a yoga de-stress night.

Discipleship Ministry In Review

This year, as we have been discerning how best to meet the spiritual needs of our student ministry is and how they can continue to adapt in order 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 discipleship team has grown considerably in not only discipling others in their faith, but in making sure to pursue growth in our own. We have conducted regular biweekly team and one-on-one meetings focused on discipling each other and discussing how to better meet the needs of our own teams and our ministries. 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.

This semester, we have come a long way at establishing our ministries for another year and are thankful for the opportunity to serve our student body's spiritual needs. As we are discerning and adapting to better meet those needs, we look forward to the rest of next year as we continue to seek to serve our community, serve one another, and grow in our leadership and faith.

Prayer Ministry

Serena McQuoid, *Prayer Director*

Prayer is a central practice and discipline of Christian faith. Though we incorporate prayer in every ministry, our prayer ministry exists to pray intentionally for and with each of our ministry teams as well as the Messiah community at large. We seek to encourage students towards a deeper connection with God by teaching and joining with them in various forms of prayer and contemplative practices. We achieve this goal through providing consistent spaces for students to engage in both individual and communal prayer. Our posture is one of open hands to however the Spirit leads us, surrendering the ministry to Him alone. Prayer ministry currently consists of one united team with three primary focuses: Altar, Powerhouse Collaboration, and the broader Well-being Team.

Altar

Altar is a weekly gathering of students who desire to alter the spiritual atmosphere on campus by creating an altar of worship to The Lord. We gather every Tuesday night at 9:30pm in Hostetter Basement with the goal of seeking the Lord through prayer and worship. Our prayer is that Altar is a space of refuge, rest, and receiving from The Lord for everyone who comes. Our focus for the Fall semester has been “Abide and Abandon.” This theme explores how dwelling in The Lord as our source of life brings a freedom that leads not only to surrenderance but an abundant life. We have held this theme loosely, seeing how the Spirit reveals scripture and lyrics each week that unpack what a life of abiding and abandoning looks like. Additionally, Altar hosted a prayer and intercession event called Harp & Bowl, where we collaborated with the Human Rights Awareness (HRA) ministry to specifically pray over the Sahel region in Africa.

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. 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.

Well-Being

Well-being is a team consisting of a representative from every team within student ministries (Well-Being Representatives). We gather periodically, usually monthly, to pray over our teams, ministries, and each other.

Events and Future Goals

As previously mentioned, we had our weekly gathering of Altar and collaboration with Powerhouse. We also collaborated with HRA for the Harp & Bowl event, and we assisted in two prayer walks with Sanctuary and Women’s Ministry. Looking forward to the spring semester, we are planning on making campus more aware of the accessibility of the Prayer Chapel and setting up prayer activities in the Prayer Chapel that students can access any time they want. We are also striving to host at least one Prayer Ministry event. We do not have any concrete plans yet, but our team will visioncast and prepare at the beginning of the Spring semester. Lastly, we believe it would be extremely valuable to have a man on the team for the representation and diversity of

perspective he could offer. So, we seek to either hire a male student during the semester or at least for Fall of 2024.

Events Ministry

Allison Fahrney, *Events Director*

The events ministry has had a busy semester. We have focused on carrying out the logistics behind the many Student Ministries events and weekly gatherings this year so far. This includes 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 who works to help us with visual advertisement. Our Media Assistant works to ensure our social media presence is up to date. Other promotional methods that we have used include uploading mass emails to be distributed, as well as ensuring that our events have been included on the Student Club Calendar of Events, and therefore included in the “This Week at Messiah” emails.

The Events Team

The events ministry has also been conducting an occasional events meeting. The events ambassador from each of our individual ministries attend this meeting and share the overall plan for the ministry that they are a part of to the other ambassadors present. These event meetings were born out of a desire for Student Ministries to have a more cohesive plan and vision as a whole. So far, these meetings have fostered strong communication between the individual ministries, allowing for the development of cohesive plans.

Student Ministries Retreat

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

Looking Ahead

As the events ministry, we have already begun to look forward to next semester as we begin to plan our events for the Spring. For example, we have already begun the planning process for one of our large events next semester: Incense. This event will occur in April and is open to the entire student body. Through collaboration with other organizations on campus, we desire to create an atmosphere of worship for campus. We look forward to serving the Messiah community with this event, as well as many others, next semester.

Looking ahead, we are planning to grow our Events Team to provide more capacity for our teams to further reach the student body. We are in the process of hiring an events assistant to assist in planning more outreach events. This role will be responsible for 4-5 outreach events a semester, as well as working with other ministries to assist in planning. Our hope is to bring someone on in the spring.

Human Rights Awareness

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 and to engage in faith-based activism both on and off Messiah's campus. 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. With that transition has come a lot of changes, and HRA has changed how we function a lot the past two semesters. 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. We have attempted to achieve those goals through new ways this semester, hopefully setting up a foundation for the structure HRA will continue to operate under.

Events

HRA put on several different events this semester, most involving other on-campus clubs and off-campus organizations. We continued last year's decision to host a few larger events throughout the semester as opposed to weekly meetings. This worked well with our team's workload capacity, but we found that it did not work so well with the larger campus body's schedule. We had a few events with no attendees, but four out of six were attended by 10-30 or 40 people. Because HRA's team this year features people from a variety of life experiences, I emphasized a focus on personal passions instead of picking a theme or two for our events to fall under. This made our team meetings and event planning effective, and increased team-wide engagement with the mission and vision of HRA.

International Current Events

A few of our events for this semester fell under the broader topic of international current events. Our first event was a Current Events and Collage night, during which we discussed recent human rights issues and used our new knowledge to inspire artistic paper collages. This was a relatively well-attended event that allowed us to educate students about global injustices and show them how to stay up-to-date on such issues. In connection to the information we discovered during the Current Events and Collage night, HRA then decided to host a Prayer Night about instability in the African Sahel in collaboration with Prayer Ministries. This is a heavy topic to cover, but it was a beautiful example of how we can use our faith in Jesus to inform the way we advocate for underrepresented populations. HRA also had plans to host a member-specific Palestinian movie night, a information table regarding human rights violations in Israel/Palestine, and a Liberation Theology Panel this semester. All of these event would have related to international injustices as well, but after the escalation of violence on October 7th, we were advised to pursue less controversial topics of conversation. Thus, our team struggled a great deal in the latter half of this semester to find ways to advocate for human rights when such as grave crime as genocide was being committed as we watched. We were, thankfully, able to show a movie regarding the Palestinian struggle through SAB's Lost Films programming.

Local Community Engagement

HRA also hosted a few events related specifically to our local communities of Harrisburg and York. The first of these was a Disability and Housing Rights panel done in collaboration with

Minds Matter's Banquet Initiative. While the turnout for this event was small, the conversation that we had with panelists Robin Shearer and Mark Pickens was invaluable to those who attended the event. Students learned about how to advocate for just and inclusive practices in their personal communities and gained a deeper understanding of the complexity of our current housing crisis. The second event related to our community was International Friendsgiving, an event done in collaboration with Peace Fellowship, SGA, Social Work Club, Agape Center, and MISP/CSA. This event was a beautiful time of community and new cultures and food. About 90 people attended the event, making it our largest event in a while! International Friendsgiving taught students about the importance of serving people in our community and reminded them of the ways in which they get involved in helping refugees who recently arrived to the area.

Human Trafficking/Exploitation Awareness

Dressember is a December fund-raiser for anti-human trafficking work and it occurs every December. Last year, HRA added on a human trafficking awareness branch entitled Falcons for Freedom (FFF) to our team. FFF spearheaded two events to raise awareness and financial support for Dressember. The first of these events was a Crochet and Cocoa night to teach students about the harmful humanitarian effects of the fast fashion industry. Furthermore, this creative night taught students one way to opt out of the unjust system of fast fashion, which was to crochet your own clothes, coasters, etc. FFF also hosted Dress Thrift n' Flip, a fundraiser to raise awareness about Dressember's month-long campaign and to raise money for their cause. This table received lots of attention throughout the night, with about \$130 made in sales. We are excited to be able to donate this money to a cause that aligns with HRA's mission of serving those in need. A final event we had in relation to this topic was our HRA evening chapel with Hannah McBride, who discussed domestic exploitation in the church context. We felt that this conversation was relevant to HRA's mission of educating the student body on injustices happening in their backyard, and hope that students left chapel having a better understanding of the warning signs of domestic abuse, as well as ways to safeguard themselves and others from such harmful behavior.

Looking Forward

It's been such a privilege to hold this position as Director of the HRA team. While our team has faced roadblocks in getting events approved and enticing students to show up to such events, I am so proud of the heart that each team member has for the wellbeing of the people next to them and around the world. I hope to encourage this spirit of care and passion within each of my teammates and within our team dynamic as a whole. This comes with continued time set aside for intentional team bonding, and by speaking into my team members in individual conversations as well. I hope that my leadership inspires my team members to interact with one another and to be spurred to action about the human rights issues they see in communities around the world. In the coming semester, HRA will be facing some changes that have the chance to improve our presence on campus. First, HRA is planning to implement a few smaller, more laidback meetings throughout the semester. Not only will this save our team the extensive up-front work that comes with getting a large event approved, it will also hopefully encourage students to show up, as they are receiving less of a lecture and more of an intellectual hangout. HRA also hopes to improve our advertising scope; we plan to have a consistent posting schedule and to try out various modes of creative communication through which to better engage the student body. Finally, HRA hopes to continue balancing on and off campus collaborations in order to bring students a variety of ways to understand topics of human rights, justice, liberation, and service. We desire to bring

students off campus so that they can see the communities around them. We also hope to continue advocating for underrepresented, international students and situations which deserve a platform to be heard and valued on this campus. I am grateful for my team and for the ways in which God has allowed us to grow- both personally and together as a team. I look forward to returning in the spring and working diligently to represent Christ well as a peacemaker and seeker of justice.

Looking Forward

In the spring, Student Ministries is excited to continue offering events and weekly programming such as student-led chapels, bible studies, community gatherings, and spaces of prayer. On a larger scale, we are also excited to shift our focus toward hosting *Incense*, a two-hour worship event that invites students to explore the various ways we can worship God (art, music, dance, prayer, etc.), and beginning our hiring process for the 2024-2025 year. Additionally, we look forward to participating in the hiring process of the new Discipleship Pastor who will serve as the advisor of Student Ministries for years to come.

More so, as we look toward the Spring we anticipate the exciting transition to our new Lead Director, Colin Patterson. After serving as an Assistant Director this past semester and training to take over the role, both the Student Ministries team and I are excited to see what new change and life he will bring into the ministry.

Closing Remarks

Overall, this semester has been a great success for Student Ministries. Despite all the transitory change we anticipated, I am proud of all the ways the leaders of both Campus Ministries and Student Ministries have been able to come together and adapt in order to support Student Ministries and its leaders in continuing to serve the campus body. As each of our ministries have strived to establish a presence that meets students where they are and allows them to experience Christ, we are excited about how God has already been working and the passion he has instilled within our students and leaders. We are continually thankful for the ways the Lord is moving on campus and providing for the students and community, and we are incredibly thankful for the privilege we have to be a part of God's plan here at Messiah.

While this has been a semester of discerning the next step and preparing to equip those who come after us, our purpose remains the same: we serve this campus because God has called us to love one another (Matthew 22). Student Ministries is more than a club or a church service. It is an opportunity, for all students, to seek out a deeper connection to Christ as we collectively journey to become more like Christ, who is the head of the body.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4: 15-16

Signed,

Ashlyn Miller, *Lead Director of Student Ministries*