

**Messiah Lutheran Church  
Voter's Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, May 18, 2025**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am.

**Prayer and devotions:**

Mark opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of February 16, 2025 were approved as written.

**Financial Secretary's Report: (Win Donat for Jane Cochran):**

A Monthly Giving Report was attached. The report shows that in April we met our monthly budget needs (\$21k). At the end of April, we are \$11,600 ahead of where we budgeted to be at this time and \$4,000 ahead of last year at this time. We have also received \$2,500 in special funds to date. Thanks to Jane Cochran and her counters for all their work.

**Treasurer's Report:**

A Treasurer's report was attached. We have a strong balance sheet with \$44k in our operational checking account at Truist Bank. Savings include our LCEF reserve checking account (\$45k) and two CDs. We ended April with a \$25k CD (matures July 2025) and a \$90k CD (matures Sept 2025). In short, we remain in good financial shape at this point with \$204k in cash assets, \$33.7k of which are "restricted funds" committed to designated expense items, and \$170k in the General Fund.

In May we received our annual lease payment of \$19.4k for the cell tower property. Our actual income rate remains slightly behind our spending rate (\$3.5k) through the end of April 2025. We have carried forward from 2024 significant cash assets of \$207k, \$171k of which was applied for 2025 budget application. We should be ok on meeting operational expenses moving into the somewhat slower income in the summer monthly. We appreciate the efforts of the Trustees in approaching the Fellowship Hall renovation projects in a professional and economic manner. Our current "restricted fund" for this effort is \$32.5k and so far, we have spent or obligated less than \$5k. It's not too early to be thinking about operational plans for 2026.

Mark thanked Win who will be retiring from Treasurer. He also noted that as we are blessed with funding, we are looking at the demographic information we received about our area to determine any area needs and how we can use our funds to carry forward God's work.

**Pastor's Report:**

A 'State of the Church' report was attached. Some highlights are:

- We have a upcoming special service on July 6 – Freedom Sunday in conjunction with “Bring a Dish Give a Pan potluck and support for Good Shepard Center.
- This year, Pastor has been reassigned to Robbins Air Force Base in Georgia for his active duty. He will be absent July 13 – August 3. Pastor expressed his thanks in being able to serve for Messiah in this way.
- The main theme of what we are working on is Community. We are looking at where and how we are situated in Wilmington, as well as our reach beyond Wilmington. Are we community engaged and do people know are here? Beyond the church's needs, what can we use our space for?
- People are coming and joining Messiah because they were invited and they are coming back because they feel a sense of community.
- Pastor would like to encourage service beyond our Be Rich campaign.

Mark commented that we are putting together procedures and making some changes so that we can get liability insurance so that we are able to grow our Youth Program.

**Board/Committee Reports:****Elders (Bill Chase):**

We have a little problem, growth, which is a good problem to have but means we need more resources. This year we are nominating an additional Elder so we can keep up with our congregational spiritual needs. Many people ask what a Care Leader is. Bill gave Pastor's definition which is “meeting people where they are and connecting them with a better way forward so people find the care support they need in every season of life and take a next step towards growth in their faith.” The Elder's feel privileged to serve the needs of our church.

**Trustees (Rob Cochran):**

Rob was not present but a Trustee's Report was provided. Some highlights are:

- Bathroom work in the Fellowship Hall should be finished in the next couple of weeks, estimated cost for toilets, floor tile and grout and installation are \$3,979.
- The 'Junk Room' was cleaned out
- Many thanks to all who have been helping with repairs and the mulching that took place before Easter.

**Fellowship (Carol Ernst):**

No report.

Guest Services (Pam Hammond):

A Guest Services Report was attached. Some highlights are:

- We received a nice email from a guest who said they truly felt welcomed at Messiah.
- We welcome Carolyn and Barry Jones to our Connections Team.
- AED training was held on March 29 with eight attending. Thanks to Brian Ennis (Karen Limback's son-in-law) for leading the training
- Wendy Elliott, Wendy Smith and Pam put together a construction themed Baby Blessing Basket for Jackson Hubbard
- Thanks to Cecilia and Bruce Rudd who donated the roses for Mother's Day. We will have a special gift for Father's Day as well.

It was noted that on Easter Sunday we almost hit our fire code capacity of 190.

**Old Business:**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business:**

A comment was made that we should make sure that parents and small children (who might make noise in church), feel welcome.

**Election of Officers:**

Three current officers are retiring. They are Win Donat (Treasurer), Al Limback (Elder) and Katy Berhalter (Elder). We would like to thank them for their exceptional service and commitment to our congregation.

The President is requesting authorization to add one Trustee position and one Elder position to these respective boards to accommodate the needs and growth of our congregation.

The following were nominated (no other nominations were received), seconded, approved:

President (one-year term) – Mark Elliott (incumbent)  
Vice President (one-year term) – Jim Irgens (incumbent)  
Recording Secretary (one-year term) – Rebecca Mebane (incumbent)  
Treasurer (two-year term) – Josh Harman (new)  
Trustee (two-year term) – Richard Hollembeak (incumbent)  
Trustee (two-year term) – Keith McKenzie (incumbent)  
Trustee (two-year term) – Cole Niebuhr (new Trustee position)  
Elder (two-year term) – Fred Spike (incumbent)  
Elder (two-year term) – Harley Hammond (incumbent)  
Elder (two-year term) – Missy Rossin (new)  
Elder (two-year term) – Jennifer Baughman (new)  
Elder (two-year term) – Joe Ziemann (new Elder position)

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mebane