

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:59 am.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 15, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Reports (Jane Cochran):

We had a little bit of a slow start for 2026 but we are better than expected now. Not a lot has been received for special funds.

Treasurer's Reports (Mark for Josh Harman):

Though spending has exceeded income year to date, the cash balance is strong. Two CD mature this summer and the LCEF Money Market account grows from our electronic giving. A majority of restricted funds is for the Fellowship Hall renovation. Income is on track year to date. Total expenses are below budget primarily from underspending in Stewardship, Capital Improvements and Maintenance. Actual expense includes the budgeted replacement of two HVAC units in the sanctuary for \$46K. The full year 2026 budget projects total income of \$342K and total expenses of \$421K with the deficit covered by beginning the year with cash reserves that totaled \$219K

Josh resigned as Treasurer as of April 30th. Mark asked Kevin Wichman, who has extensive financial background, to take on this position and he accepted. Per the bylaws, Mark approved him as Treasurer as of May 1st. Our thanks to Josh for this service. Thank you also to Wendy who put together this month's Treasurers report.

In May we received our annual income from the cell tower lease. We have received an inquiry about buying out our lease. Mark asked Win Donat to look into this and as we have no plans/need for the money currently and the value of the lease goes up all the time, it was decided not to sell our lease at this time.

We need to start thinking about our budget plans for 2027. The budget process will begin this summer.

Pastor's Report:

A State of the church report was attached. Some highlights include:

- We had three confirmands: Everett Erickson, Michael Steele, and Joseph Ziemann who will confirm their faith on May 24.

- The Endearment team is making the first step for people to experience Jesus for themselves seeing our church support our community. We want the people and organizations in our community to know we are here.
- We welcomed four families to our church family in March: Robin Lamb, Donna Mitchell, Tom and Gigi Taylor and Kayla Suites. We are scheduling a core orientation in June for three new families.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders (Harley Hammond):

Effective April 1st, Harley Hammond replaced Bill Chase as the Head Elder. The Elder Board thanks Bill for his years of service to the Messiah congregation and we are happy to announce that he has agreed to remain as an Elder in the next cycle. Mari French, Karen Spike and Matt Papach have also agreed to remain on the Elder Board for the next cycle. These four will need to be approved by the congregation.

The Elder Board held an online Teams meeting on April 9th. We redistributed our Zone assignments to help increase our support to members. We are also reviewing the prayer list process from end to end. We are also reviewing the four main duties of an Elder (leader, shepherd, teacher, equipper) and looking for possible improvements.

Trustees (Rob Cochran):

Completed Projects include: Bathroom spring loaded door hinges installed (door closers); finishing touch-up paint in Fellowship Hall (Keith McKenzie); Men's stall door latch adjustment made (Keith McKenzie); new emergency exit door seals installed in Sanctuary (Keith M); landscape cleanup done around the church US Mailbox (Suzanne Sykes); landscape plant material added to the area around the backflow preventer valve; and zero turn mower starter (replaced by Dave Ernst and Keith McKenzie).

The Wilmington Storm Water Management Engineer Inspection revealed a storm drain out of compliance. We cleared the brush from the Storm Drain Outlet (Keith McKenzie) and removed some dirt and roots (Richard Hollembeak). We are planning to finish the cleanup in the coming weeks.

The MESSIAH MOWERS welcomed a new member Lee Correll. Returning members are: Harley Hammond, Max Zoellin, Scott Williamson, Michael Menke, Keith McKenzie, David Wychel, Josh Harman, Richard Hollembeak, Tim Bliese and Equipment Maintenance and "PitCrew" Dave Ernst.

Continuing Tasks include: analysis of utility costs post HVAC installation; completion of storm water drain outlet compliance matter and re-inspection by City Storm Water Engineer; plan FH east wall landscape bed drainage project; begin next phase of Fellowship Hall refresh once landscape drainage work is complete; plan refresh/refinish of Sanctuary east pews and be prepared for the unexpected challenges!

The Trustees are looking for Volunteers for: Messiah Mowers/Landscape Maintenance; drainage project help (anyone with backhoe operation experience?); "Handyman type Skills" for Fellowship Hall Refresh;

Electrical and Plumbing experience; Carpentry/Framing Experience; Furniture Refinishing Experience (PEWS). Please contact Rob Cochran if interested or have questions - (309)287-6541 or RobSCochran@gmail.com

Fellowship (Carol Ernst):

No report given.

Guest Services (Pam Hammond):

Thanks to our Guest Services Team for their faithful service especially this past quarter when Pam was away. And thank you to all of you for continuing to share a warm welcome with our guests and taking time to get to know them and make them feel at home at Messiah! We love seeing our guests return! We appreciate it when everyone makes room in your pew to help seat everyone –not only for our record-setting Easter attendance, but also for our growing numbers each week (between 90 – 125 ppl).

We're grateful for Bruce and Cecilia Rudd, and the beautiful Mother's Day roses they provided for our Messiah women. Wendy Elliott is already working on a special treat for our Messiah men on Father's Day.

Our Guest Services Team will meet on Sunday, June 7th in the sanctuary following the worship service. We'll celebrate our team "Serving with a Heart Like Jesus," and review our emergency procedures.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Election of Officers:

Two officers are retiring. Josh Harman (Treasurer) and Jane Cochran (Financial Secretary). We would like to thank Josh and Jane for their service and commitment to our congregation.

The Slate of Officers is:

President (one-year term) – Mark Elliott (incumbent)
Vice President (one-year term) – Jim Irgens (incumbent)
Recording Secretary (one-year term) – Rebecca Mebane (incumbent)
Financial Secretary (two-year term) – Lisa Little (new)
Treasurer (two-year term) – Kevin Wichman (new)
Trustee (two-year term) – Rob Cochran (incumbent)
Trustee (two-year term) – Pete LaVecchia (incumbent)
Elder (two-year term) – Bill Chase (Incumbent)
Elder (two-year term) – Mari French (incumbent)
Elder (two-year term) – Matt Papach (incumbent)
Elder (two-year term) – Karen Spike (incumbent)

A motion was made to accept the slate as was presented. Each nomination was approved.

Office system upgrade:

The congregation presented Wendy Smith with a Thank you card and gift certificate for all her help with the new update to our office system.

Adjournment:

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mebane