

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes | January 25, 2026**

Agenda Item	Notes
Opening Prayer	<p>Offered by Jeff Gerstenberger</p> <p>With 28 people attending in person and over 30 people online, a quorum for the meeting was established.</p> <p>Instructions for online voting and in person voting were reviewed. Andy Mitchell volunteered to help distribute ballots to in person members.</p>
Approval of Minutes	<p>Minutes from the Annual meeting on January 26, 2025 were approved as written.</p>
Pastor's Report	<p>No questions or comments on written report.</p>
Pastoral Assistant's Report	<p>No questions or comments on written report.</p>
Music Ministry Report	<p>No questions or comments on written report.</p>
Congregation President's Report	<p>No questions or comments on written report.</p>
Ministry Reports (written)	<p>No questions or comments on written reports.</p>
Council Elections	<p><u>Leaving Council Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amy Trichanh – Youth and Family• Jim Hartmann: Stewardship• Laurie Simonson: Communications• Mark Sutliff – Outreach <p><u>Incoming Council Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Dunn – Youth and Family (3-year term)• Joanne Neimi – Stewardship (3-year term)• Kacy Treadwell Collins – Communications (3-year term)• Ralph Jones – Outreach (2-year term)• Lisa Klima – Adult Faith Formation (2-year term) <p>Vote for slate of candidates: 58 Yes, 1 No</p>
Synod Assembly Representatives Election	<p>In Person – Syracuse NY May 2026</p> <p>Nominations – Breanna Dauphinee & Carol Dunn nominated.</p> <p>Vote for slate of candidates: 55 Yes, 1 No</p>

Endowment Fund Board Election

Fund had \$226,209 in assets at the end of 2025
3 grants were issued in 2025 for \$2,029:
 Showered grace and love – Carol Dunn
 Pride Flag – Messiah Pride
 Pride Parade Costs - Messiah Pride
Amount available for grants in 2026 is \$18,137

Brad Roberts is leaving the Endowment Fund Board.

Endowment Fund Board election:

 Barb Corman – 1st term

 Ellen Meyer – 2nd term

 Gary Cantleberry – 2nd term

 Vote for slate of candidates: 52 Yes, 0 No

2025 Financial Highlights

Income in 2025 was above plan by \$4,198 (1.1%)
Expenses in 2025 were below plan by \$25,129 (6.8%)
Year-end surplus of \$29,327 allocated as follows:
 \$8,850 in Concord Fund
 \$6,935 to Messiah Carryover Fund for 2026 usage
 \$13,542 to Greater Messiah Fund
Also had \$43,430 in unbudgeted benevolence giving

Received grants in 2025 totaling \$28,291
 \$24,536 of this was Foodlink grants for the Food Pantry

2026 Budget

Pledges for 2026 are down slightly (1%) to \$257,362
Estimated non-pledged income is \$49,758
 (90% of 2025's actual non-pledged income)
Interest income is estimated to go up
 Based on our CD and money market investments.
There is no planned transfer out of the Concord Fund.
Transfers from savings have dropped about 75% over the last two years.

Balanced budget for 2026 is \$357,200
 3.4% decrease from 2025.

Decrease of \$22,304 in staff compensation
 Due to retirement of pastoral assistant.

Outreach budget includes \$2000 increase for Food Pantry
Youth and family budget now includes support for Messiah Pride
Worship and Music budget lower due to decreased
 need for Supply Organists

Property budget is up due to increased gas & electric cost
Also includes \$2500 to fix the dishwasher
Also includes \$9275 to seal and restripe the parking lot

There was a question about benefits from the Synod

Reimbursements: Synod reimburses mileage directly. Other benefits are not a part of their reimbursements. It is up to the congregation. Housing allowance is just an allocation of Pastor's compensation and does not affect the budget.

Motion: To approve the 2026 budget of \$357,200 as presented.
Motion by Larry Dennis. Second by Sandy Moncrief. Vote: 64 yes, 0 no.

New Business

Merger Closure – Joanne Neimi

- Concord-Messiah merger was in 2018. Over 7 years ago, with some pending issues that could benefit from closure.
- It is proposed that an ad hoc team meet to review and revisit the Covenant of Merger and the future use of the Concord Fund.
- If anyone has an interest in joining the team, reach out to Joanne Neimi, Ellen Meyer, or Pastor Aileen. There is no requirement to be a former member of Concord.
- Some of the items this group may address include: a review of the Covenant of Merger for unresolved/incomplete items, a desire to have something (e.g., a plaque) that acknowledges Concord's history prior to the merger, a review and revisit of the use of the remaining money in the Concord fund.
- We want to celebrate what has gone well since the merger and through the COVID shutdown, as well as what our hopes are moving forward.

Closing Prayer

Offered by Pastor Aileen Robbins