

## TRANSCRIPT OF KARI PITCHKO'S JUNE 19 TEMPLE TALK - MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Good Morning!

Raise your hand if you know what the Transition Team is doing here at Messiah?... Great!

Well that's cool!

Since installed, we have been meeting weekly to review and discuss this process at great length. I now think I understand about...well most of it. So let me explain to you how this process works and give you an update on where we are.

Our process at Messiah started with the installation of the Transition Team, a group of congregation members tasked with reviewing our past, current and future church as whole - as a group of people, a building, financial aspects, mission work, outreach, and the community around us - all of it. This information is gathered through discussion, interviewing, questionnaires **\*\*DING DING DING\*\*** and then further discussion. We are reviewing all the documents associated with the church and updating anything that needs to be updated, cleaning the shelves and making things streamline. But we aren't doing this alone, we don't have that kind of authority. Instead, we utilize you as the congregation to review these things with us and make informed decisions regarding their future versions.

Such discussion recently was the Constitution - the Q&A and subsequent voting. Trust me, there is much more discussion to come regarding the Constitution and it's contents in the coming months. But that is a temple talk for another time. Right now, I want to reiterate that we are not changing anything, just bringing what we have and what we want to have to light for the congregation to review

Hence why we are asking not for your help...we don't need **HELP**....we need your input. Your opinions. Your voice. What do you love about Messiah? What do you not love so much? What do you want to see **CONTINUE** or morph over the next couple of years? We cannot take for granted that the ministries we've "always had here" are going to continue without **YOUR INPUT**. We **NEED** your **VIEWS**.

We have to start somewhere and that somewhere is **QUESTIONNAIRES**. \*Big Smile\* There are currently two questionnaires in circulation (see your insert for samples). One is an online survey type form that asks you to rate and gauge different aspects of the church, in your opinion. It asks what do you want the future to look like and what do you feel our needs are as a congregation and a church within our community.

The other questionnaire is open ended questions. These are very thought provoking questions that, as the transition team, we actually have to write a formal answer. I understand they are deep questions that require some thought and probably a typed out response using spell check...but there is no 200 word limit or format citation you need to use. We just **NEED** your input and opinions. You can always make amendments to your submitted forms as well.

To help aid in these Questionnaires, the Transition Team has compiled a copy of our research to date regarding some of the current trends in the church. Please feel free to pick up a copy, or review on the website, to help better answer some of these questions. This was designed not to sway any option, but provide some background.

For example, we are not a dwindling congregation, as our current Sunday attendance averages are steady, 120-130. Financial giving has remained steady and our numerous outreach programs have remained extremely strong during the past several years. And we have the potential to do so much more!

In addition to this data, we are also inviting you to attend a (I hope you were able to attend the) Transition Q&A held between services today and a pizza night next Thursday, June 30, to review and discuss the MSP. Please RSVP so we can gauge food! These in person conversations will help facilitate the questionnaire answers and the feedback we get will go forward to initiate even FURTHER conversation.

After we receive YOUR answers from the questionnaires, the office staff does remove the names and identifiers, we will review and use really cool pie charts and line graphs to help determine the trends. These trends will be reviewed and then presented BACK TO YOU, probably in more temple talks and discussion nights.

From where do these questions arise? Good question! The MSP is the Ministry Site Profile, an ACTUAL document that encompasses all the facts and feelings about and within Messiah Lutheran Church. This will serve as our resume and one stop information book, not brochure, but true book about who we are as a congregation, what we expect out of a new pastor, and what direction our church wishes to go in the future. This will directly impact the pastor we call. There is an example MSP listed on the transition team website that you can review to better understand how this document will appear to our potential pastors.

It is after we collaborate with you that we write the MSP formally and then give it to council. The church council will then review and discuss the formal answers and information gathered. When they decide it is ready, it will be sent to the Bishop in Atlanta. Bishop Strickland will review and hand it out to the Pastors he feels may fit our desires. Those pastors will review and let him know if they are interested in an interview. A list of potential Pastors, along with their resumes, will be sent to Messiah's CALL COMMITTEE (yes, a NEW group of people) who will conduct the actual interviews on potential new pastors. There may be some overlap of Transition Team members and Call Committee members to help facilitate the...transition of the transition...but it will be majority different group of congregation (ie YOU) that get to do that part.

Interviews...perfect pastor presents itself...we make an offer they can't refuse...and BOOM! We have a new pastor!

...but this is a process. In some respects, we are moving right along, sometimes too slow and sometimes too fast, regarding gathering this information and determining trends. Pastor Diana has reminded us a few times that while we do this, God is working on our new Pastor to join us here when we are ready.

God says in Isaiah Chapter 65 verse 23-24 " They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear."

We pray before every transition team meeting and we pray with every close. I ask you to please pray for us, as a team and as a congregation, that we go through this process with grace and we create the best MSP reflection of our church. We cannot take anything we have here for granted, we need more than general answers. We need actual expressions of your views on these deep topics. This is how we call our pastor.

Thank you.