

Messiah Lutheran Church Discernment Process, Spring 2017
Congregation Input Meetings – Summary Results

Meeting Dates: March 5, March 11, March 29

Total Number of Attendees: ~85 (20-25% overlap of attendees between meetings)

When you're talking to your friends about Messiah, what do you say?

- Tuesday morning high school breakfast/youth group
- Great music & worship
- Theology on Tap
- Family and the love of God
- Messiah has gone in the right direction as opposed to other churches.
- Pastors/always leave with a good sermon
- Opportunities for service/generosity/touching of others and making differences in other's lives. Uncommon.
- The church is good for everybody.
- Good website showing a wide range of activities.
- The NCC process started a long time ago. Anything that has lasted this long will continue.
- Need a timeline on moving forward.
- Concern about the HD campus – maintenance & other capital projects
- Churches can become stagnant, but not here/we're moving forward & not standing still
- Internship programs/interns stimulate Prs. Kathy and Peter.
- Messiah is very biblical/academic

What would you like to see happen in the next 5 years?

- Take care of HD campus physical plant
- Reduce debt
- Continue to reach out into the community
- Continue to add new members
- Good Saturday night service
- Build a brewery to worship in
- NCC explore how to connect with unchurched
- Connect with new members through other means than worship service
- NCC reach out into the community
- New mission: connect with those of a more advanced age
- How do we measure success?
- Youth outreach
- Need to know pastors' plans moving forward
- See Messiah (NC) move into a new facility

What are the primary hurdles to these futures, and what is a faithful response?

- Current facility maintenance. *Response: ask congregation for money, create capital plan, prioritize expenses.*

- Expanding current ministries – lack of space, staff & volunteers in NC. *Response: purchase land or facility, dedicated staff person, expand 1 mile mission to NCC, become more visible.*
- Expenses & fear of the unknown. *Response: put faith first/rely on God & not be afraid.*
- Catch-22: need facility to accommodate members, need members to support new facility.

God is calling us to serve. Any way we serve is glorifying God. If we focus on our strengths we're likely to be more effective serving.

Reactions to the word-cloud

- This reflects who we are: a community, family
- There is not much about mission, God, Jesus
- This may not reflect how we appear to newcomers (eg. welcoming), esp. at HD

General comments/questions that came up multiple times

- What about young people? *How do we attract families? Young people at church don't volunteer or aren't interested in helping.*
- Could we look for existing space?
- What are we discerning? Who will make the decision? Will we get a chance to vote?
- How can we connect with people who don't have a history of church? With millennials? What kind of space attracts them?
- What might the casino mean for our ministry?