

A NARRATIVE MISSION FUNDING PLAN 2014

Church of the Messiah

In 2013, the people of Messiah, accomplished great things, through God's work in you! Three years ago, we were almost exclusively in a *survival* mode. The Spirit has obviously been at work in us, because we are slowly but surely becoming more focused on *discipleship* and on *mission* in our neighborhood and in our world.

We have much room to grow in 2014! This mission funding plan is a way for your leaders to share with you, our partners in ministry, what we hope to accomplish in the year ahead. We can only be the church that God is calling us to be through *your* contributions. So please prayerfully consider the following plan, and ask God "what are you calling *me* to contribute to this plan? How can I share a portion of my time, my skill, my income, with God's people in 2014?"

Our mission at Messiah is to form disciples of Christ and to serve people in need. When I asked our ministry leaders to share what God is calling their ministries to do toward this end, and what sort of funding they needed to accomplish that, here is what they said:

Mission and Service

George Crary put it well: "Messiah is called to be a missional church, and not just an establishment church." The Bible clearly tells us again and again that there is no other reason for the church to exist. If we are going to be a church and not a social club, then we are to join God's mission in the world!

In the year ahead, we want to support the work of the larger church, as well as the local ministries that are so important to God's mission in the world. The ministries we have decided to focus on intentionally are Decatur Cooperative Ministry, Days for Girls, Lutheran Survices of Georgia, and Meals on Wheels. We hope to engage *every* member of our congregation in at least 10 hours of service outside our church walls.

\$33,095

(This includes a percentage of Messiah's paid staff salaries.)

Worship

Worship is at the center of who we are as God's people. We are striving to craft weekly worship that is excellent, faithful, and involves all of God's people. With your support, in the year ahead, our choir will continue to grow and our children will continue to sing for us regularly. We will continue to craft weekly liturgy that is faithful to scripture, to welcome our guests hospitably, to deepen the faith of believers, and to engage our unchurched neighbors.

\$41,540

This includes a percentage of paid staff salaries.

Christian Formation

Jesus' final command to his disciples was to "go and make disciples." The early church in the book of Acts multiplied by making disciples. We have dedicated leaders who want to form disciples and so grow our church. We've invested in training leaders to develop our Sunday school ministry and make it a welcoming and fun place for kids to learn about Jesus and grow in their faith. We have two discipleship groups that develop the faith of adults and connect members to one another. We hope to multiply these groups in the next year. With your support, we can truly make discipleship (*listening* to God's voice and *acting on it*) our focus at Messiah.

\$21,785

This includes a percentage of paid staff salaries.

Outreach

Our main goal with outreach at Messiah is to *actively* invite people to our church. We want to inspire and equip our *people* to do this—so that friends, family and neighbors will know about the gospel-centered work we are doing. But we also want to make use of media like our website, our welcome folders and ads in local papers and websites. Special events, like the Festival of St. Nicholas, are key to our goal. In the year ahead, we want to expand our outreach, and develop a strategy to invite families at Clairemont Elementary School and Smarties Daycare into God's work here. With your support, we can do all these things and more

\$12,575

This includes a percentage of paid staff salaries.

Property

We have a remarkable asset in our building and property, though it requires a great deal of money and time to keep up. Through our partnership with Smarties Daycare, we've been able to renovate one part of our building, and we hope to continue our progress by renovating our fellowship hall, office and sanctuary. The property God has entrusted to us is a multi-million dollar asset—there is so much more we could do to leverage this gift! We need your support to keep our beautiful building in good condition, to restore the parts of it that have fallen into disrepair, and to put it to good use, for the sake of God's mission!

\$51,795

This includes a percentage of paid staff salaries.

Congregational Life

Our goal in congregational life is to connect people to one another—particularly to connect those who are hurting with those who are able to offer care. This year, we have trained five “Care Ministers” to support people in our congregation who are going through difficult times in their life. They are each trained to listen well, and to offer sensitive and Biblically-based care in a skilled and confidential way.

But we also hope to connect the people of the church to one another through more social events—dinners, game nights, movie nights and the like. With your support, this church can continue its progress toward becoming a true community of support, walking together in God’s light through good times and bad.

\$19,220

This includes a percentage of paid staff salaries.

TOTAL FUNDING FOR MISSION, 2014: \$180,010

In the next week, please pray over this mission funding plan. Is God calling you to support this work? How much time, money and skill is God calling you to commit? If you are not currently giving, we urge you to do so—this work will not be possible without your help. If you *are* currently supporting God’s work at Messiah, we ask you to consider the question “*what percentage of my income / time / skill is God calling me to contribute.*”

Exciting times are ahead for this church! We are grateful for all that God has done, is doing, and promises yet to do. We’re also grateful for your support. Thank you—and thank God *for* you!