

November 9, 2020

Re: Messiah University STARS Submission

To Whom it May Concern,

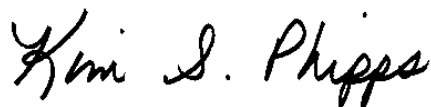
I am pleased to submit this letter of endorsement for Messiah University's second AASHE STARS submission. Using the STARS tool guides best practices for incorporating sustainability education and operations to Messiah's mission and values, and we look forward to learning more as we continue our leading role in Christian higher education.

Messiah University has a long tradition of land stewardship. For more than a decade, the University has advanced the goals of sustainability through curricular, co-curricular, and operational improvements; all the while engaging students in every aspect of this important work. Since our first report, two students who have benefited from our sustainability program have gone on to win national and state awards for their work and research. Beyond the student experience, we have advanced sustainability in our operations by improving energy efficiency, partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to enhance biologically diverse habitats, and piloting an e-bike program to green employee commuting and campus transportation. These programs highlight the value and creativity of Messiah University, in which our campus community develops a sense of social and ecological citizenship in order to serve, lead and reconcile in a broken world.

I have tasked Messiah's Sustainability Committee with guiding and assessing campus sustainability work. The STARS framework is helpful to benchmark our educational and operational practices with other peer institutions, and is a hallmark of the shared knowledge needed to address one of our most pressing challenges; climate change. In recent months, national events have reminded us of the importance of assessing scientific knowledge and responding appropriately. STARS helps us assess the science, identify our strengths, and respond to potential areas of growth and further development.

Messiah University's history of environmental stewardship, rooted in its Brethren in Christ faith tradition of creation care, is essential to our institutional desire to promote the common good. As a regional university with global reach, we must educate and practice ecological stewardship across the entire campus to set an example for the faith community that our missional outcome of reconciliation includes the stewardship of creation. AASHE STARS is helping us identify how we can embody and fulfill that commitment to reconciliation

Sincerely,



Kim S. Phipps
President