

# Kim S. Phipps, Ph.D.

## President of Messiah University

### Overview

Kim S. Phipps, Ph.D., was named **eleventh president of Messiah College, now Messiah University**, in December 2004. She is the first woman president in Messiah's history. Prior to her appointment as president, Dr. Phipps served as interim president, provost and academic dean. She holds a Ph.D. in communication studies from Kent State University.

An advocate for academic excellence and holistic student leadership, **President Phipps is an accessible leader who builds shared vision and authentic relationships with colleagues and students**, and fosters a strong, nurturing academic community as a result. As president, she demonstrates Messiah University's commitment to civic engagement by serving on numerous regional and national boards, including the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and the Council of Independent Colleges.

During her tenure at Messiah, **President Phipps** has led many significant institutional initiatives including: the implementation of a School of Graduate and Professional Studies, the successful completion of five major fundraising campaigns totaling more than \$185 million, and the increase of the University's visibility throughout the region and the nation. She recently led the University through a revision of the General Education curriculum, a process that was last undertaken in the 1990s.

Given the comprehensive nature of Messiah's undergraduate curriculum, **expansion** of our graduate school to include doctoral level programs, Messiah's board of trustees, in October 2018, unanimously approved the move to university status as of July 1, 2020.

In 2018, the Messiah University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the campus's new admissions and welcome center (AWC) the "Kim S. Phipps Admissions and Welcome Center" in honor of President Phipps's remarkable leadership and hospitality during her tenure as Messiah's president. The building was completed in 2020, and now houses admissions, financial aid and financial services, the registrar's office and the office of alumni and parent relations.

President Phipps is a native of Long Island, New York. She and her husband, D. Kelly Phipps, J.D., have an adult daughter, Brooke, who is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the

nationally at numerous conferences on the topic of developing hospitable campus climates.

Before coming to Messiah, she served in a variety of leadership roles at Malone

[and strategic leadership education, higher education, nursing and occupational and physical therapy](#)

- x The implementation of online curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate level.
- x The addition of several new majors designed to meet the career goals of students and demands of employers, bringing Messiah's total

- x The launch of a new marketing communications campaign, inviting students and others to "[see anew](#)" based on the research of the University's ~~two~~ year strategic branding initiative.
- x Celebrated Messiah [Centennial](#) in 2009-2010 with a series of special events to remember the important people and initiatives of University's first century while looking