

Campus Ministry Council

Purpose and Policy Statement

OCRL Mission Statement

The Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life enhances the educational mission of the university through programming and services grounded in the United Methodist tradition. We promote moral and ethical leadership development. We also provide pastoral care, welcome, and hospitality for SMU's religiously diverse community. The Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life contributes to a transformative university experience by encouraging the pursuit of goodness with all students, faculty, staff and administration.

OCRL Vision Statement

Inspiring the expression of religious faith and discourse in the university

The Campus Ministry Council (CMC) is the body of representatives of each recognized campus ministry and functions under the authority of the Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life (OCRL). Whereas each organization has its own core mission, the CMC is charged with maintaining an orderly system of programs in keeping with university policies and with working together in a spirit of good will. The CMC will: (1) promote the development of worshiping communities, (2) collaborate wherever possible on projects of mutual concern, and (3) communicate the vision of faith as a central and integral component of human life.

Admitting New Religious Organizations

The following criteria govern the consideration for membership in Campus Ministry Council:

1. The applying group must be associated with a historically identifiable religious group. Preference will be shown to the applying group which identifies with a local congregation.
2. Preference will be shown to the applying group who is distinct in its organizational identity and non-duplicative of other organizations already serving students at SMU.
3. The applying group must show that a significant constituency exists for their services (at least 10 students). These students must agree to meet with a representative of the OCLR to ascertain their commitment to a new group and show that they are not presently in leadership of another existing group.
4. The applying group must complete the application process with the OCLR and receive approval for inclusion within the CMC from a majority vote of current organizational members of the CMC; 1 vote is given to each ministry.
5. A Campus Ministry is permitted no more than five credentialed, non-volunteer

campus ministers not including SMU faculty/staff advisors or students. It is understood that the University may limit the total number of approved campus ministers per organization based on (a) available resources, (b) the University's determination of whether a significant constituency exists for a particular religious group's services, or (c) any approved applicant's failure to comply with University policy. Exceptions to this when the existence of a significant constituency on campus exists for the applicant's services will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admitting New Campus Ministers

The following criteria govern the consideration for new Campus Ministers to be credentialed through the Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life.

1. Applicants will fill out the form for "Campus Ministry Council Membership" from Connect.smu found here: <https://connect.smu.edu/forms>. The OCLR must also receive written communication from the applicant's supervisor and/or board recognizing the authority of the applicant to be a representative of the religious organization on campus.
2. Applicants for a Campus Minister position are expected to hold a baccalaureate degree and appropriate certification and credentialing, demonstrate evidence of experience in campus ministry and plans for ongoing training. Those without appropriate experience will be paired with a staff member from the OCLR for mentoring/training.
3. Applicants must agree to Volunteer Chaplains - Letter of Agreement.
4. Applicant will be interviewed by staff in the OCLR with respect to
 - Existence of a significant constituency on campus for the applicant's service
 - The willingness of the applicant to comply with applicable policies and procedures
5. The University has sole authority to determine whether there is a significant need for applicant's services, based on demonstrated student, staff and faculty need, and to make a decision on whether to accept or reject the applicant, based on such reasons as the University determines are in the best interest of its community and mission.
6. It is understood if approved, only the named applicant may exercise related privileges and may not transfer those privileges to any other individual.

Criteria, Accountability and Procedures

Accountability – The individual members of CMC are to be accountable to:

1. Instituted authorities of their own denomination or religious group
2. Southern Methodist University through the Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life. This accountability includes:
 - Attending and participating in CMC meetings. Any organization that misses a mandatory meeting of CMC without letting the OCRL know will lose recognized status with OCRL. Chartered organizations may lose their charter through Student Senate.
 - Maintaining a group online presence and providing the OCLR with printed materials that reflect meeting time and place along with contact information
 - Filling out assessment surveys from the OCRL.
 - Completing the online Mandatory Organizations Meeting (MOM) each fall semester.

Policies

Each campus minister, student representative, and his or her appointing agency shall

1. Recognize the religious diversity represented and respect the integrity of all.
2. Refrain from targeting other religious groups for the purpose of proselytizing.¹
3. Refrain from recruiting members from other religious groups. While it is true that student may explore multiple groups, it is the expectation that campus ministers and students in leadership will encourage students to faithfully commit to one group.
4. Adhere to “truth in advertising” – any programming by a religious life group shall reflect the name of the group on all materials.
5. Support the common goals of the council, the OCLR and the University.

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¹ Please note that proselytizing is defined as the “attempt to convert someone from one religion, belief, or opinion to another” (Oxford Dictionaries). Sharing one’s faith with another is not considered to be proselytizing.