

# SMU Religious Life Partners Program Policy Statement

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community that celebrates intellectual curiosity about religion and spirituality, nourishes ethical decision-making, cultivates deep spiritual exploration and supports faithful living. We promote moral and ethical leadership development and provide pastoral care and welcome for SMU’s religiously diverse community. Grounded in the University’s Methodist heritage, the Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life enhances the educational mission of the university through religious and spiritual programming and services for all students, staff, faculty, and administration.

SMU students listed in this document. As such, OCRL and must adhere to all policies and proce

### 1.2. Religious Life Partners Program Mission Statement

The Religious Life Partners Program is comprised of the off-campus religious organizations (OCRL) and must adhere to all policies and procedures of SMU. Each organization has its own core mission, each Religious Life Partner has the vision of faith as a central and integral component of its mission. The purpose of the Religious Life Partners Program exists to: (1) promote the development of faith in students, staff, and faculty; (2) provide OCRL in a spirit of good will on addressing issues of moral and ethical leadership; (3) ensure all religious organizations adhere to all university policies, and (4) provide support and resources for growth and education of the sponsored staff members.

### 1.3. Professional Outcomes

As a Religious Life Partner, each organization will:

- a. Receive administrative access and support at SMU (i.e. communication, advocacy, etc.).
- b. Participate in required and optional trainings offered by the OCRL.
- c. Ensure all religious organizations treat one another with goodwill and a non-competitive spirit.
- d. Get to know and engage with other religious organizations on-campus.
- e. Provide feedback to the OCRL and participate in OCRL Assessment Projects.
- f. Assist in the recognition process of new religious organizations.

## **2. PARTNERSHIP DETAILS**

### **2.1 Partnership Criteria**

Status as a Religious Life Partner is at the discretion of the OCRL as outlined in this document and is subject to revision and updates as needed. In order to be considered as a Religious Life Partner, each religious organization must meet the following criteria:

- g. Uphold Conduct Agreement as outlined for all Religious Life Partners. See Section for further information.
- h. Ensure all recognized staff members adhere to all expectations, policies, and procedures.

### **2.3.1 Conduct Agreement**

Each recognized staff member, volunteers, student leadership and sending organization, denomination or religious group agrees to the following conduct as part of the ethos of respect and goodwill established by the OCRL.

- a. Recognize the religious diversity represented and respect the integrity of all.
- b. Refrain from targeting other campus religious groups for the purpose of proselytizing.
- c. Refrain from recruiting members from other religious groups.
- d. Adhere to "truth in advertising." Any programming by a religious life group shall reflect the name of the group on the materials.
- e. Exhibit proper use of University provided resources (i.e. Staff ID, Email Account, student Contact information) for job related responsibilities only.
- f. Support the common goals of the Religious Life Partners Program, the OCRL and the University and comply with all rules, policies, and procedures.

### **2.4 Benefits**

In order to aid in care for and work with students, the OCRL will provide the following benefits to all Religious Life Partners in good standing each academic year\*:

- a. Up to 5 Sponsored Staff members at the University. Sponsored staff members are non-SMU employees representing and serving the sending organization, denomination, or religious group. Sponsored staff members receive all benefits listed here and in the Volunteer Agreement form. It is understood that the University may limit the total number of approved, sponsored staff members 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, sponsored staff member's failure to comply with University policy. Exceptions to this when the existence of a significant constituency on campus exists for the additional sponsor staff member services will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the OCRL.
- b. University-designated identification cards and an active SMU email address for each sponsored staff member. With this identification card, sponsored staff members receive access to:
  - i. reservable university rooms and spaces on campus, including payment of applicable fee or costs associated with use of the facility, space, or room.
  - ii. Staff rates for parking passes, SMU Athletic Events, and the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports.
  - iii. SMU Libraries.
  - iv. Use of SMU Brand guidelines and standards.
- c. Access to University organization software, "Connect.smu"
- d. Access to contact information for students who have identified a part of a member's religious tradition.

\*New Religious Life Partners on Probationary Period do not receive some benefits. Please see Section for more information.

### **2.5 Campus Ministry Cohort**

The Campus Ministry Cohort (CMC) is comprised of the off-campus Christian Religious Life Partners—often referred to as campus ministries. Due to the plurality of Christian Religious Life Partners and their shared theological traditions and practices, the OCRL meets with all the Campus Ministries monthly in place of single meetings with each organization. The CMC falls under the Religious Life Partners Program and adheres to all policies and procedures listed in this document.

The only adjustment for the Campus Ministry Cohort is in regards to the expectation outlined in



#### 4.1 Application Process

All new applicants will complete these steps to apply for official staff sponsorship prior to the beginning of each Fall and Spring Semester:

- a. Fill out the form for "Campus Ministry Council Membership" from Connect.smu (found here: <https://connect.smu.edu/forms>).
- b.

