Current Trends

• 75% of students are searching for meaning in their life
• 50% of students believe it is “essential” or “very important” for their undergraduate institutions to encourage their expression of spirituality
• 45% report dissatisfaction in the “opportunities for religious/spiritual reflection” within their undergraduate institutions

(Higher Education Research Institute, 2005)

Manning (2001) offers 3 speculations about the increased focus on spiritual and religious matters on campuses:

• Aging baby boomers becoming more reflective
• Generation X abandoning materialism
• Increased desire for meaning in an increasingly post-modern world

Resources

Association of College and University Religious Affairs
www.site.acuraonline.net

Journal of College and Character
www.collegevalues.org

National Association of College and University Chaplains
www.nacuc.net

National Campus Ministry Association
www.campusministry.net

References


Mission

The Department of Spiritual and Religious Life (SRL) seeks to empower individuals to identify, explore, and critically reflect upon the ways they, and others, make meaning of their life and world. Students, staff, and faculty members are encouraged to recognize and strengthen their own personal spiritual resources to sustain their lives and communities and create a more just world.

Believing that our Savior has commissioned all believers to serve Him, we, the Christian Ministries Division, are committed to challenging and equipping Cedarville University students for a life of faithful service to God and people both locally and internationally. Holding to biblical truth and its emphasis on demonstrating a servant's heart in all areas of life, we endeavor to provide appropriate opportunities in which our students may participate. Accepting our responsibility in shaping lives, we encourage students to identify and use their interests, abilities, gifts and education to build a vision to be an active part of God’s work in their world.

Support spiritual life and inquiry of Portland State students while providing resources and opportunities for learning and engagement with a diverse array of wisdom traditions and practices to promote justice and peace.

Programs

Meditation group • Weekly reading, sharing, silence and reflections • Festival of Light and Dark: annual interfaith festival recognizing sacred & cultural days of the season • Annual Seder • sponsor of campus speakers and events

Chapel Ministries: speaker series • Community Ministries: domestic missions • Missions Involvement Services: international missions • Discipleship Ministries: bible studies and prayer groups • Fit to Be Tied: premarital mentoring ministry • HeartSong Ministries: recruitment • Worship Ministries: music & liturgical dance

Quiet Prayer and Meditation Lounge • Interfaith Leadership Team: service learning • Spiritual Life Center (Community Partner): labyrinth walks; open communion table followed by fellowship; bible study; weekly Quaker meetings; tai chi; pastoral counseling & spiritual direction

Staffing

2 endowed positions: Director and Faculty Lecturer

15 full-time staff members

1 staff member in Student Activities & Leadership Programs currently oversees this. They hope to have a full-time staff member within 3 years.

Competencies

Awareness of privilege and oppression (and how religion can challenge & reinforce these) • curiosity • ability to articulate one’s core values • self-reflective • hospitality • self-starter • sensitivity • ability to work independently & collaboratively • affirming

“Our all, we want people with a heart for Christ and for service. We want people who live their ‘religion’ and want to foster student desire to deepen their walk with Christ.”

Intercultural competency • conflict management • consistency • research • assessment and evaluation

Challenges

Faculty/staff on campus struggle with knowing how to talk about religion & spirituality • Funding issues

Challenge of trying to and being able to balance student involvement in both ministry and classroom • Facilitating avenues to succeed at both of these, not just one

When first opened, there were issues with figuring out how to monitor the Quiet Prayer and Meditation Lounge so that this interfaith space was both safe and secure • Establishing consistent open/closed times