



SPIRITUAL LIFE

2011-2012

COLLEGE MINISTRIES

The Office of College Ministries seeks to engage the students, faculty, and staff of Messiah College in spiritual formation—the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others. This formation is expressed in maturity of **being**, characterized by a personal and communal relationship with God in Jesus Christ; maturity of **knowing**, characterized by intentional and transformational learning and reflection about God, self, and the world; and maturity of **doing**, characterized by intentional actions compelled by what we believe and who we are in Christ.

INVOLVEMENT

Whether you are most likely to connect with God through quiet prayer or exuberant worship, through community service or through purposeful study, life at Messiah offers a whole array of opportunities for pursuing spiritual growth in the way that best fits you. To help you find the opportunities that connect best with your preferences and interests, we have made a discernment tool available on the Spiritual Formation page of the College Ministries web site. You will also find information there and links to help you connect with ministries on campus that fit your style and calling.

Intentional Formational Relationships

We can't do the spiritual life alone. We strongly encourage students to find a group of people with whom they can pursue God. This might take the form of a small discipleship group or it might be your flag football team. The important thing is that you find a group of people with whom you are going below the surface to ask each other the hard questions, where you feel safe enough to let your guard down, and where you encourage each other to apply your faith to your lives.

Koinonia Small Group Ministry

The student chaplains organize a small group ministry that also meets once a month for large group fellowship and worship. To see the schedule for large group meetings or sign up for a small group, visit the Koinonia web site: <http://www.messiah.edu/org/koinonia/index.html>

LOCAL CHURCHES

Students are encouraged to be involved in a local church during their time at Messiah. Information on a number of local churches is available through the College Ministries website. Various churches provide van service from Eisenhower Circle. The Grantham Church has a long relationship with the College and its location is near the main entrance.

CHAPEL

Mission: In chapel we seek to nurture holistic Christian faith through (1) worship that expresses our faith with a full range of contemporary and traditional forms, (2) teaching that connects God's Word and our world, and (3) community building that affirms our common identity in Christ and celebrates our diversity. The Spiritual Formation Outcomes guide the chapel curriculum, providing opportunities to develop a mature faith.

Programs: In order to fulfill our mission, College Ministries offers a number of different chapel settings:

Common Chapels, which include the entire student body, are held in Brubaker Auditorium on Tuesday and occasional Thursday mornings.

Elective Chapels, which offer students a choice between expository Bible teaching, service and missions focus, a service led by the student chaplains, and Wittlinger and Core Chapels for first-year students are all held on the remaining Thursday mornings at the regular chapel hour.

Alternate Chapels are services held at other times and planned by various student organizations and special interest groups. Specific options to participate in Book Chapels and Service for Chapel are offered throughout the year. Students must sign up to participate.

CHAPEL POLICY

Chapel at Messiah College is a central expression of our identity as a community of Christians with a deep commitment to spiritual growth and academic excellence. Chapel is a required opportunity for exposure to various forms of worship, speakers, and ideas that are put together with the intention of affirming our common commitments while they both reflect and challenge individual preferences in style. Though we hope that students will be challenged in their faith through chapel, we realize that spiritual nurture is ultimately a function of each person's will, preference, and responsibility and cannot be subject to requirements. Chapel is required as a common experience. Spiritual nurture is each student's own responsibility.

Messiah offers a variety of different chapel experiences. For a description of the Chapel program, please see 'Chapel'. Each student is required to attend 24 chapels per semester. Students record their chapel attendance electronically with student I.D. cards. Students who attempt to falsify chapel attendance credit will be subject to disciplinary action and may be referred to the Associate Dean of Students office.

The responsibility for verifying chapel attendance records rests with the student. Students' chapel attendance records are posted on the Chapel Attendance

channel in the Campus Life tab in MC Square. Chapel attendance corrections are accepted at the end of each semester. Students are notified in advance through e-mail, The Community News, MCSquare, and Channel 6 when the correction period is scheduled. Students may submit up to three corrections each semester. All three corrections must be submitted at one time. All corrections to these records must be made before the stated deadline or they will stand as recorded.

CHAPEL PROBATION

Any student who fails to attain his or her chapel requirement in a given semester will be placed on chapel probation and notification will be made to the student's academic advisor, the Registrar, and the Dean of Students. Students with a current chapel probation coding are barred from registration. To clear their chapel attendance status a student is required to:

- 1 Print out the MCSquare report of their chapel attendance for the semester in question.
- 2 Listen to the chapel recordings that are available in the College Ministries channel in MCSquare. Please do not submit a chapel recording report for a chapel you actually attended.
- 3 Download the form from the College Ministries website (under chapel probation), type in your responses, and print out one form for each chapel. This should be original work (not shared among friends or recycled from semester to semester). Cases of suspected plagiarism or other forms of dishonesty will be referred to the Peer Review Board.
- 4 Return the reports, along with the MC Square printout for the semester in question, to the College Ministries office by the deadline date. Please keep in mind a deadline date is established to ensure your chapel hold is lifted in time for Registration. A \$50 fee will be assessed for late submissions. Appeals regarding a student's chapel probation status should be made in writing and submitted to the Office of College Ministries within 10 business days of the chapel probation e-mail. Decisions of the Office of College Ministries may be appealed to the Provost.

Since student leaders are expected to be exemplary models, an active chapel probation status is likely to negatively impact one's eligibility for service in a student leadership position. For details, please refer to the SGA Constitution, the Residence Life Staff Manual, or an athletic coach.

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE PETITIONS

Full Semester: Only those students who have a direct conflict with an internship, practicum, or work schedule may request exemption from chapel for the entire semester. **A new chapel attendance petition must be filed in the College Ministries office for each semester the student is eligible for an exemption.** Please refer to the College Ministries website each semester for the deadline date.

J-term: Students who spend January term away from Grantham may file an exemption form for that month when they return to campus.

Commuter Students: Commuters who have classes either before or after chapel are expected to attend chapel; other commuters may file a request for an exemption.

Medical Exemptions: Students who need to be excused from chapel because of sickness or other medical reasons may request an exemption. All medical exemptions must be accompanied by a note from a physician, counselor, or the Engle Center for Health and Counseling Services.

Family Emergency: Students who need to be away from campus for a family emergency may file a request for an exemption.

Chapel Attendance Petitions are submitted electronically in MCSquare. The link to the form is located in the Chapel Attendance channel in the Campus Life tab in MCSquare. Only one form per student per semester may be submitted.