Scope:

This policy applies to the University of Richmond and all of its Affiliates. As used in this policy, the term “Affiliates” means organizations or entities in which the University owns a controlling interest or has the right to elect the majority of the entity’s governing board.

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STU-5002.1 Policy
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Policy Statement:

STU-5002.1 – Policy

Opportunity for religious practice and spiritual exploration are central to a well-rounded collegiate experience, healthy campus community, and citizenship in a world richly textured by religious and spiritual beliefs and practices. To that end, the Office of the Chaplaincy is committed to creating an inclusive community to support the wide range of religious and spiritual backgrounds, experiences, and practices present in the student body.

New campus ministries are established only by the invitation of the Office of the Chaplaincy. The Office of the Chaplaincy will determine the need for a new campus ministry by evaluating the religious climate of student life. Every effort will be made to ensure a wide range of campus ministries are present and that each ministry offers a religious or theological perspective that is not already being met. Our desire is to shape a religious ecology that is reflective of the varied and dynamic campus and world in which we live.
The Office of the Chaplaincy appoints campus ministry leadership through relationships with larger regional, national, or international denominations or religious organizations. Campus ministry leaders are required to meet certain qualifications, including:

- Endorsement by the organization prepared to supervise and assume ultimate responsibility for the Campus Minister’s activity.
- Ordination and/or good standing with a regional/national religious organization.
  - If not ordained, the nominated Campus Minister should be professionally trained for religious work. A completed Bachelor’s degree is required. In addition, a candidate will need one of the following: an appropriate Master’s degree, or special coursework or certifications through the regional, national, or international sponsoring organization. The candidate should also have experience in campus ministry or related areas (youth work, congregational ministry, teaching, etc.).

All campus ministries are also required to abide by a Covenant of Mutual Respect and Understanding, provided by the Office of the Chaplaincy. This agreement includes a list of expectations and responsibilities for all campus ministry leaders and sending organizations and their shared commitment to working supportively within a diverse faith community. Ongoing campus ministry leaders will be required to review and sign the agreement (https://chaplaincy.richmond.edu/practice/ministries/covenant.html) at the beginning of each academic year.

**STU-5002.2 –Expectations for Campus Ministry Leaders**

- Campus Ministers must be under the direct supervision of a recognized regional, national, or international denomination or religious organization;
- Campus Ministries are required to clearly state their sponsorship of all programming they offer in any form of publicity;
- A Campus Ministry must receive prior permission from the Office of the Chaplaincy before inviting an outside speaker or organization to campus;
- If an individual or organization is invited to campus by a Campus Ministry, the respective Campus Minister is responsible for that person’s or organization’s behavior while on campus;
- Every Campus Minister is required to uphold the Chaplaincy’s Covenant of Mutual Respect and Understanding
- In accordance with the University of Richmond’s Student Handbook (http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/student-handbook), the University limits the sale of items or solicitation of any business in residence halls or on-campus apartments. This policy extends to religious activities;
- Only those religious organizations approved as Campus Ministries through the Office of the Chaplaincy may be active on campus; and
- Any unauthorized individual or organization will be asked to leave the campus premises.

**Related Policies:**

Covenant of Mutual Respect and Understanding
POLICY BACKGROUND:

Original policy in existence since at least 1991.
Previous policy dated July 1, 2017
Current policy reviewed by President’s Cabinet on August 5, 2019, before approval by Vice President for
Student Development on August 11, 2019

POLICY CONTACTS:

University Chaplain, Chaplaincy Office