

A Covenant Agreement of the Affiliated Protestant Ministries of the Georgetown University Campus Ministry

Mission

We, the Affiliated Protestant Ministries of the Campus Ministry at Georgetown University, a Catholic and Jesuit university, recognize our mission to minister to the spiritual, emotional, and ethical needs of its community. We are committed to the holistic development of the individual and consider religious calling in a challenging and competitive academic setting, and though we may claim beliefs different from one another, we nevertheless stand together with conviction that our work and service at Georgetown University enkindle respect for the integrity and dignity of each individual.

Though we come from different Protestant traditions we are willing to bring the wisdom of those traditions to bear on the complex and profoundly necessary discourse about public values taking place in the university, Washington, D.C., the nation, and the world. Where there is alienation, we serve as witnesses to the healing of community. Where there is apathy, we bring the vitality of the religious enterprise. In the midst of the temporal, we bear witness to the sacred.

In order to strengthen the bounds of respect and affection that exist between us and to ensure the continued growth of our various ministries, we bind ourselves to the following covenant.

Membership & Expectations

Recognition as an affiliated Protestant ministry at Georgetown University is conferred by Office of Campus Ministry, through the Protestant Team Leader, the Director of Main Campus Ministry, and the Director of Campus Ministry, in consultation with the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries. The Council is an association comprising of representatives from each of the recognized affiliated Protestant ministries, each of which agree to and meet the requisites as described in this covenant.

1. Application for status as an affiliated ministry is made in writing to the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries.
2. To be eligible for recognition as affiliated Protestant ministry, the applicant must represent a church or other religious body which understands itself to be a fruit of the Protestant Reformation and embraces one of the theological traditions of the Reformation as an essential part of its identity. In addition to their ability to conform to that standard, applicants will also be evaluated on the basis of the ability to comply with the other provisions of this Covenant as well as these considerations:
 - a. ability to enrich the ministry to Protestants at Georgetown in ways that do not duplicate the work of other Protestant groups which already have affiliated status;
 - b. whether an identifiable group of Protestants exists at Georgetown who would be appropriately served by the proposed ministry.
3. The University recognizes official affiliated ministries as individuals, and therefore will need to have on permanent file:
 - a. a formal request, in writing, by a responsible ecclesiastical body or para-church organizations, together with the names and addresses of the persons or the body to whom the organization's representatives will report;
 - b. a statement of the philosophy which governs the approach of that body to ministry (preferably an officially adopted statement);
 - c. information showing the financial relationship of the organization's representative to the parent body.
4. While the University does recognize affiliated ministries rather than ministers as individuals, it expects, so far as possible, that persons designated to represent recognized affiliated ministries at Georgetown will:

- a. hold at least a baccalaureate degree;
 - b. demonstrate evidence of training or experience in campus ministry;
 - c. be persons of strong moral character and sensitivity.

5. Similarly, the University expects that all members of the affiliated ministry, including their Georgetown representative, will:
 - a. affirm the essential aims of Georgetown University as a Catholic institution in the Jesuit educational tradition;
 - b. maintain respect for the various religious traditions represented at the University and seek to embrace people of other religious persuasions in dialogue;
 - c. clearly and accurately identify their ministry in all advertising, outreach, and programmatic endeavors;
 - d. respect the privacy of students and staff, especially in terms of their home and office space.

6. While zeal for spreading the good news of the Gospel is a most worthy Christian virtue, there is increasing agreement among Christians today that proselytism, defined as any effort to influence people in ways that de-personalizes or deprives them of their inherent value as persons or the use of any coercive techniques or manipulative appeals which by pass a person's critical faculties or play on psychological weakness, is unworthy of Christian life. Physical coercion, moral constraint, or psychological pressure and inducements for conversion which exploit other people's needs, weaknesses, and lack of education are not to be practiced by representatives of affiliated ministries.

7. Recognition as an affiliated ministry at Georgetown is initially conferred on new applicants for a probationary period of one academic year. During the probationary year, they are entitled to participate in work of the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries, but to do so without vote. At the end of the probationary year, they are eligible to seek full membership of the Council and non-probationary recognition as an affiliated ministry. The new group can be expected to be accorded that status if they have demonstrated they can minister effectively at Georgetown, and comply with the terms of this covenant. (Protestant ministries that were already affiliated at Georgetown as of August 2006 and choose to renew that status will be entitled to a vote as soon as the Council is constituted.)

8. The Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries will review on an annual basis the strategies selected by those affiliated ministries whose services contribute to the University community. Written objectives will be requested and submitted to the Council and to the Director of Main Campus Ministry. They will partner with the goals of the Office of Campus Ministry.

9. Recognition as an affiliated ministry provides access to certain benefits which include – but are not limited to – following privileges:
 - a. issuance of a GO card which allows access to buildings which contain University meeting rooms;
 - b. access to university facilities for events and activities;
 - c. access to lists of students who identify themselves as belonging to specific Protestant denominations where appropriate;
 - d. listing in official University publications;
 - e. access to occasional administrative and programmatic support, subject to the Director of Campus Ministry or his delegate.

10. Representatives of all affiliated ministries are expected to attend meetings of the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries to support the policies and programs of Georgetown University and its Campus Ministry.

11. All affiliated ministries shall working close coordination with the University's own Protestant Chaplaincy and will, on occasion, be asked to participate in jointly sponsored worship, study, or service activities.
12. The applicant agrees by signature below to abide by the provisions of this covenant.
13. One student representative from each affiliated ministry will serve as an official representative on the Protestant Student Forum.

* * * * *

Therefore, as an affiliated ministry in covenant with Georgetown University Campus Ministry:

1. I affirm that the ministry I represent on campus is endorsed by a national or regional judicatory, the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries, and Campus Ministry, and that I am accountable to them all.
2. Although I represent a particular faith community, and have primary responsibility in serving the members of that community. I hereby commit to serving the welfare of the entire Georgetown University community.
3. I will maintain respect for other recognized ministries on campus and will regard representatives of other ministries and faiths as colleagues. In particular, I affirm the legitimacy of Roman Catholicism as a form of Christian ministry.
4. When promoting ministry I will clearly identify my affiliation and myself. All publicity will clearly identify the sponsoring religious organization and will be approved, but not censored, by the Protestant Team Leader before distribution. I will also adhere to university poster and publicity policies, which I have been provided in writing.
5. I will honor and seek ways to support a spirit of collaboration and collegiality among the affiliate ministries, reflecting our mission.
6. As an affiliate, I agree to conduct myself in a way that fosters cooperation and understanding between Georgetown University Campus Ministry and other offices, staff, and faculty of Georgetown University. I further agree to comply with all applicable policies and practices of Georgetown University, including those policies that apply to the activities of Campus Ministry organizations and the University's nondiscrimination policies.
7. As a person with a vocation in a multi-faith setting, I pledge to respond to individuals in need of my compassion and advocacy beyond, as well as within, my own faith community.
8. I understand that affiliation with Georgetown's Campus Ministry shall in no way be construed as permission to solicit funds under any title from the families upon whom Georgetown University students are dependent or any other non-student member of the Georgetown University community.
9. I recognize that to violate terms of this covenant may be grounds for exclusion from affiliation and loss of status. Determinations regarding whether violations of this covenant have occurred will be made by the Director of Campus Ministry, in consultation with the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries.
10. The affiliation relationship shall be evaluated, and as appropriate, renewed every three years. Renewal determinations shall be made by the Office of Campus Ministry, through the Protestant

Team Leader, the Director of Main Campus Ministry, and the Director of Campus Ministry, in consultation with the Council of Affiliated Protestant Ministries.

11. The University, through the Director of Campus Ministry, reserves the right to amend this covenant with due notice.

Signed in agreement:

Affiliated Ministry Governing Body Representative

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

On-campus Affiliated Minister

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Director of Campus Ministry

Signature: _____

Date: _____