

Brock University
Faith and Life Centre Protocol Agreement
(January 1, 2014)

PREAMBLE

Brock University supports and encourages the full development of human potential. This includes the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of life and their value for students, faculty, and staff.

Through the Faith and Life Centre, and in the context of Student Services, Brock University seeks to provide a professional campus ministry service that 1) practices spiritual leadership in a pluralistic society; 2) addresses the emotional, intellectual, and faith needs of individuals and university groups; 3) and helps the whole community to celebrate relevant ceremonial events on campus.

Brock University has supported Campus Ministries and Chaplains in cooperation with sponsoring religious bodies since 1964.

FAITH AND LIFE CENTRE

The Faith and Life Centre is a group of chaplains, who provide religious services on campus in association with Brock Student Services and sponsoring religious bodies. The chaplains who provide these services have been appointed by their sponsoring religious bodies to provide these services on Brock University's Campus and, at all times, are employees of their sponsoring religious bodies.

For the purposes of this document, *Brock Campus Ministries* and *the Faith and Life Centre* are to be regarded as synonymous.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Faith and Life Centre exists to provide students, faculty, and staff at Brock University with spiritual, social, and intellectual leadership.

In fulfillment of this mandate, the Faith and Life Centre provides religious services to faculty, staff, and students. It supports and promotes justice initiatives, social criticism, religious awareness, theological and philosophical inquiry, pastoral care, and compassionate understanding in the university context.

MANAGEMENT

The Faith and Life Centre shall appoint a coordinator on a three-year cycle. The Coordinator shall be a University Chaplain. In case of an interruption in the cycle of appointment, the senior University Chaplain shall fulfill the role of coordinator.

Only University Chaplains are eligible to be coordinators.

The Coordinator shall be responsible for the liaison relationship between the Faith and Life Centre and Brock University Student Services. The Coordinator and the Associate Vice President, Student Services, shall ensure that meetings between the Faith and Life Centre and Student Services occur on a regular basis. During these meetings the Faith and Life Centre will provide the Associate Vice President, Student Services, with an overview of the programming, services, and activities it is providing and other matters pertinent to Student Services.

The Coordinator shall ensure that the funds that the Faith and Life Centre receives from the University for programs and events are managed responsibly according to the funds provided.

CHAPLAIN POSITIONS

University Chaplain

A University Chaplain is appointed to a chaplain position at Brock University; and 1) is qualified professionally as a religious leader or minister; 2) is recommended and supported by a sponsoring religious body; 3) agrees to and is appointed according to the contents of this document and the customs of his or her tradition.

Assistant University Chaplain

An Assistant University Chaplain supports the work of a University Chaplain and is appointed directly by the University Chaplain and his or her supporting denomination or religious body. The Assistant University Chaplain can work in the University Chaplain's office, can represent the University Chaplain as may be deemed necessary, and will generally hold the privileges of the University Chaplain in terms of office administration.

Associate Chaplain

An Associate Chaplain is normally an individual who has held the position of Adjunct Chaplain for at least one full term and who has been successfully recommended to the position of Associate Chaplain through the Faith and Life Centre. All other definitions of an Adjunct Chaplain shall define an Associate Chaplain except for the procedures of renewal.

Adjunct Chaplain

An Adjunct Chaplain is an individual who may represent a religious denomination(s) or body on campus but will not hold an office in the Faith and Life Centre. An Adjunct Chaplain is appointed for a one-year term and is subject to renewal through the Faith and Life Centre. At the time of renewal the Faith and Life Centre may recommend the Adjunct Chaplain be

designated an Associate Chaplain.

Peer Minister

A Peer Minister is a student or students appointed directly by a University Chaplain and accountable to the Faith and Life Centre through the University Chaplain. The job description and arrangement of a stipend, if applicable, shall be defined and overseen by the University Chaplain. Peer Ministers appointments do not require approval from the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services.

Peer Minister shall observe the appropriate policies of Brock University and must express in writing essential agreement with the Conduct of Ministry Guidelines.

CONDUCT OF MINISTRY GUIDELINES

The Faith and Life Centre provides theological and philosophical resources that enable the university community to address various pertinent topics through university courses, programs, and events in association with departments, faculty, staff, or students.

Accordingly, the Faith and Life Centre has developed the following guidelines for the provision of its services on campus.

Non-proselytization Guidelines

Proselytization is understood to be an act of psychological manipulation or abuse where an individual is deprived of a free choice or free information concerning a religious decision.

Chaplains support freethinking and critical inquiry into secular and religious questions, histories, philosophies, and truth-claims.

Respect Guidelines

The Faith and Life Centre operates on the basis of mutual respect among its chaplains and the religious traditions represented.

Chaplains will respect the standards of academic inquiry that defines the university experience.

Client-Centred Counselling Guidelines

To the best of their ability, chaplains seek to provide pastoral and spiritual counseling or guidance on a client centred basis. Listening to individuals or groups without imposing predetermined views is a value of the Faith and Life Centre. Chaplains seek to support genuine exploration of intellectual and spiritual concerns in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

To the best of their ability, chaplains will seek to work cooperatively on important matters with Personal Counselling in the context of Student Services.

Confidentiality Guidelines

The Faith and Life Centre will observe the practice of confidentiality with students, faculty, and staff who seek their support and counseling.

BROCK UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All chaplains on campus shall observe the appropriate policies of Brock University as outlined on the University website (See “Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy at www.brocku.ca/hr-ehs/policies). The members of the Faith and Life Centre agree to uphold all such policies and procedures as a condition of their appointments to Brock University.

The details of this agreement do not interrupt the natural critical relationship that religious communities hold vis-à-vis society from time to time.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES

The following statements define the normal course of action observed for the appointment of 1) a University Chaplain, 2) an Assistant University Chaplain, 3) an Associate Chaplain, and 4) an Adjunct Chaplain at Brock University.

Qualifications of the Candidate

Candidates for the position of University Chaplain shall have a Masters level of education or equivalent.

Candidates for all chaplain positions must hold an official status with a religious body or institution.

All Candidates and the sponsoring religious bodies must express in writing essential agreement with the Conduct of Ministry Guidelines.

Recommendation from Sponsoring Religious Body

Candidates for the position of University Chaplain must provide the Faith and Life Centre and the University with evidence of passing an Interview/Selection Process or a Designation/Appointment Process by the sponsoring religious body in question.

Candidates for Associate Chaplain and Adjunct Chaplain positions must provide the Faith and Life Centre and the University with an official letter of recommendation from the appropriate authority of his or her sponsoring religious body.

Candidates for the position of Assistant University Chaplain must provide the University Chaplain in question and the University with an official letter of recommendation from the appropriate authority of his or her sponsoring religious body.

Interview with Faith and Life Centre/University Chaplain

Candidates for the position of University, Associate, and Adjunct Chaplain shall be interviewed by the Brock University Chaplaincy Endorsement Committee.

Candidates for the Assistant University Chaplain position shall be interviewed by the University Chaplain in question. The University Chaplain and the sponsoring religious body in question will directly recommend the candidate to the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services, for an appointment.

Recommendation from Faith and Life Centre

If a candidate for the position of University, Associate, or Adjunct Chaplain is successful in the interview process, the Chair of the University Chaplaincy Endorsement Committee will contact the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services, and indicate that it recommends the candidate for an appointment.

Chaplains who serve at least one full year as an Adjunct Chaplain may be recommended through the Endorsement Committee to the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services, for an Associate Chaplain position without a second interview.

Approval of Brock University Student Services

The Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services, must approve candidates for the position of University, Assistant University, Associate and Adjunct Chaplain.

In the event of disagreement on the appointment of a University, Assistant, Associate, or Adjunct Chaplain between the Faith and Life Centre and Brock University Student Services, a mutually agreed upon mediation process shall be engaged. If needed this may involve representatives of the sponsoring religious body in question.

If the approval process fails, the candidate shall have no status in the Faith and Life Centre.

Appointment Term

A University Chaplain shall be subject to appointment without term.

An Associate Chaplain shall be subject to appointment without term.

An Adjunct Chaplain shall be appointed on a one-year renewable term.

An Assistant University Chaplain shall be subject to appointment with term.

Appointment Finalization

Upon receipt of a letter of approval from the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Services to the Faith and Life Centre, the Faith and Life Centre shall inform the candidate and/or the sponsoring religious body of the appointment. Upon receipt of this confirmation

from the Faith and Life Centre, an appointment as a University Chaplain, Associate Chaplain, or Adjunct Chaplain shall be considered official.

Signature of Denominational Representative (S)

Signature of Candidate

A signature indicates that 1) the document has been read, and 2) the denominational body and the candidate agree to respect its contents.