

How Davidson College Lives Out APCU Guidelines on Being Presbyterian-Related

The Association of Presbyterian Colleges and University ([APCU](#)) provides guidance, indicated in italics below, for APCU schools as they seek to conceptualize and live out their Presbyterian-relatedness.

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to have clearly articulated institutional values that are demonstrably consistent with values articulated in the Bible.

Davidson's values are articulated in the Statement of Purpose:

- Loyalty to all of humanity
- Committed to a quest for truth
- Intellectual rigor: exploration of the whole of reality with unfettered use of the intellect
- Diversity
- Openness to and respect for the world's religious traditions
- Dignity and worth of each person
- Mutuality of faith and reason

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to ensure that interested Christian students have regular opportunities for Christian worship on their campuses.

Worship services on Davidson's campus:

- Davidson College Presbyterian Church (Sunday mornings)
- Episcopal Eucharist (Sunday afternoons)
- Catholic Mass (Sundays afternoons and Wednesday mornings)
- Weekly College Worship (ecumenical service on Wednesday afternoons)
- Thursday Night Praise & Worship (non-denominational, Thursdays evenings)

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to provide support for students interested in formal Christian ministry.

Davidson sponsors the following programs:

- Pre-Ministry Committee composed of faculty and staff who advise students who are considering graduate theological education.
 - 24 Davidson graduates (2010 – 2015) pursued theological education;
 - 17 of those have been ordained in a range of denominations: Episcopalian, Orthodox Presbyterian Church, PCA, PCUSA, Southern Baptist, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist.
- Congregational Fellowship in Religious Leadership & Service
 - Five rising seniors (most who have not considered a vocation to ministry previously) spend the summer before senior year interning in a congregation of their choice, under the mentorship of a clergyperson.

- They also meet as a cohort with the college chaplain weekly in the summer.
- 40 students who've taken part in the program since 2004 have pursued graduate theological education.
- This program is funded by four endowments at the college.
- Church in Vocation Scholarships
 - Awarded annually to one or two seniors who have not previously considered a vocation to ministry in the PCUSA.
 - Recipients receive a comprehensive scholarship for a trial year of theological education at either Union Presbyterian Seminary or Columbia Theological Seminary.
 - Many recipients have gone on to complete their theological degrees.
 - 15 Challenge Call scholars are serving as ordained clergy.
 - This program is funded by an endowment at the college.
- Warner Hall Travel/Study Grant
 - Awarded annually to Davidson students considering some form of Christian church vocation.
 - The grant provides funds for a student to travel and study outside the United States, fulfilling a project that helps them explore their sense of call to a Christian church vocation.
- Stapleton/Davidson Urban Service Internship
 - Five students undertake a 10-week summer internship in Charlotte, NC that integrates Christian faith and civic engagement.
 - The internship is co-sponsored by PCUSA churches in Charlotte.
- Cook Family Summer Fellowship
 - Awarded annually to two Davidson students to help them explore their sense of vocation through self-designed summer internships in non-profit organizations (including churches)
 - The sponsoring organizations must demonstrate a Christian commitment through their mission statement, their stated goals and objectives, or their embodiment of values that they distinctly associate with Christian faith.

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to provide holistic care for each student and all other members of the campus community regardless of their particular religious commitments and beliefs.

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to provide support for all forms of religious behavior on their campuses.

It is appropriate for APCU schools to embrace religious pluralism and provide opportunities for interested students to articulate authentic faith in multi-faith contexts.

With respect to religious life, Davidson serves students in the following ways:

- Chaplaincy Staff (a large number for a school as small as Davidson)
 - The Rev. Rob Spach '84, College Chaplain (PCUSA)
 - Mr. Scott Salvato, Associate Chaplain (Catholic)
 - Rabbi Tracy Klirs, Associate Chaplain (Jewish)

- The Rev. Ivan Mayerhofer, Associate Chaplain (Buddhist)
- Campus Ministers: Although not employed by the college, individuals from the following traditions/ organizations are registered with the Chaplains' Office to provide pastoral care to Davidson students and to support and advise particular student-led organizations. Rob Spach has intentionally cultivated relationships with some of the churches mentioned below and convenes a monthly meeting to help sustain a truly supportive, collegial atmosphere among them, despite the many (and sometimes significant) theological differences.
 - DCPC - PCUSA Campus Minister
 - Reformed University Fellowship - PCA Campus Minister
 - St. Alban's Episcopal Church - Episcopal Campus Minister
 - St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church - Orthodox Campus Minister
 - Campus Outreach – lay staff worker
 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes – lay staff worker
 - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship – lay staff worker
 - Young Life – lay staff worker
- Student-led organizations (all funded by the Chaplains' Office)
 - Campus Outreach
 - Canterbury Episcopal Fellowship Club
 - Catholic Campus Ministry
 - Chi Alpha (Assemblies of God)
 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes
 - InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
 - Wesley Campus Ministry
 - Orthodox Christian Fellowship
 - Reformed University Fellowship
 - UKirk
 - Young Life College
 - Davidson Dharma (Buddhist)
 - Jewish Student Union
 - Muslim Student Association
 - Better Together (interfaith group)
- Chaplains' Office-sponsored Spring Break trips
 - CATS Trip: A student-led Christian faith-based service trip to South Carolina. The number of participants has ranged between 20 – 60.
 - Exploring Our Jewish Identity: Led by a Jewish staff member and our campus rabbi, 8 – 10 Jewish students travel to Poland to learn about European Judaism before, during, and after the Holocaust. They visit camps like Auschwitz and Majdanek, and they interact with the small, resurgent Polish Jewish community.
 - Meditation Retreat: Our Buddhist associate chaplain leads 12 students on a five-day silent meditation retreat.
 - Pilgrimage to Taizé, France: The college chaplain and two campus ministers lead a group of 12 – 18 students to an international, ecumenical Christian monastic community in France. Students engage in thrice-daily worship, scripture study, and work projects on the monastery campus alongside young adults from around the globe.

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to include services of public worship as part of their institutional lives.

Davidson College holds these services for all annually:

- Healing & Wholeness Service (co-led by the chaplain and campus ministers)
- Christmas Vespers: A Service of Lessons & Carols
- Ash Wednesday Service (co-led by the chaplain and the Catholic assoc. chaplain)
- Holy Week Tenebrae Service (co-led by the chaplain and campus ministers)
- Baccalaureate Service (Commencement weekend)
- Opening prayer and benediction at Commencement and Convocation
- Opening prayer at Board of Trustee meetings
- In collaboration with Temple Kol Tikvah, Davidson hosts High Holy Days services

It is appropriate for APCU institutions to treat each student, and all members of the campus community, with Humility, Hospitality, and Honesty...

Humility for APCU institutions means not presuming to tell any student or other member of the campus community what his/her religious faith should be.

- Davidson's recent bylaw revision seems in the spirit of this guideline.
- Davidson's College Chaplain serves students of all faiths openly and with humility.
- Davidson welcomes students, faculty and staff of all faiths and no faith.

Hospitality for APCU institutions means working to help interested students or other members of the campus community find religious congregations and communities that are authentic and appropriate for them.

- Admission, Student Life and Chaplains' Office staff help students to find an appropriate faith community.
- Within walking distance are a Reformed Jewish Temple, Quaker Meeting House, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and AME Zion churches as well as non-denominational Christian communities of faith. Students hold Catholic Mass on campus.

Honesty for APCU institutions means embracing their relationship to the Presbyterian Church while also affirming that the treatment of all students and community members with humility and hospitality is not at odds with the institution's Presbyterian Church-relatedness but, instead, the result of its Church-relatedness.

APCU institutions and administrators contribute to the preservation of the truth by maintaining a commitment to Academic Freedom and always acting with institutional and individual integrity.

Davidson's Constitution and Faculty Bylaws commit to freedom of inquiry and recognize that with freedom comes the responsibility to act and speak with integrity.

APCU institutions contribute to the promotion of social justice by embodying, encouraging, and facilitating civic engagement by students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Davidson promotes social justice and facilitates civic engagement as a shared commitment through (among others):

- [Center for Civic Engagement](#)
- [Deliberative Citizenship Initiative](#)
- [Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Cats Care](#)

APCU institutions exhibit the kingdom of heaven to the world by constructing and maintaining a diverse campus culture characterized by integrity and commitment to service within and beyond the college community.

Davidson's mission speaks to this:

- The primary purpose of Davidson College is to assist students in developing humane instincts and disciplined and creative minds for lives of leadership and service.