

1. THE RATIONALES FOR A COLLEGIATE MINISTRY INITIATIVE

Why are we considering a collegiate ministry initiative for our context? What are the motivations behind this? How did the idea come alive here, now? How and why is Christ calling us to be present in this way?

- ◆ What were/are the collegiate ministry experiences of those directing this readiness survey?
- ◆ What Biblical teachings seem central to this initiative?
- ◆ What's the difference between older youth ministry, young adult ministry, and a true collegiate ministry?
- ◆ How do we respond to the statement, "Plant sequoias" as it relates to a ministry to, with, by and for students?
- ◆ What are 5 reasons to do this ministry initiative?
- ◆ What are 5 reasons not to do this ministry initiative?
- ◆ How would you answer this question, "Is God already on campus or are we "taking God" to the campus?"
- ◆ How do we understand the vocations of teaching and learning within a Protestant Reformed theological context?
- ◆ Who can help us understand the challenges we will face? Be as specific as possible.
- ◆ How have the purposes and potential outcomes of this initiative been written down and circulated to the church?
- ◆ How does this initiative relate to the fulfillment of baptismal covenant found in the Book of Order W-2.3013 "... on behalf of the Church universal, ... (we are) nurturing the baptized person in the Christian life?"
- ◆ How does we include higher education ministry/ campus ministry in our existing vision statement(s)?
- ◆ What is our reaction to this statement: "A student's primary vocation is to be a student?"
- ◆ How do you respond to the statement "collegiate ministry is like a new church development project restarted each fall"?

2. THE CONTEXT OF THE COLLEGIATE MINISTRY INITIATIVE

This Collegiate Ministry Initiative will have an effect on both the college/university and the church. What are the social, political, cultural and religious climates of both institutions?
Looking at these two settings help to understand the contexts in which this ministry will occur.

- ◆ What are the demographics and other descriptive characteristics of the school?
- ◆ What is the "religious climate" on the campus?
- ◆ What are the obstacles we will encounter and how will we address them?
- ◆ What other Christian groups are serving the campus now? Which of them can we work with?
- ◆ What is our current outreach ministry to the civic and academic communities?
- ◆ What do we have to do to obtain an on-campus presence?

YES or NO?

Are we a community that has the resources (organizational, financial, physical, and spiritual) to reach, love, and teach college students so that they may be life-long followers of Jesus Christ?

If no, what are the resources to pull together, questions to be asked, voices to be brought into the conversation in order that our answer might become yes?

This assessment tool is merely a step in the discernment process. Regardless of how you answered this assessment tool, we encourage you to continue your prayerful discernment by contacting the UKirk national network. We are a connectional church. We would love to connect with you and to connect you with other collegiate ministries leaders. We look forward to hearing from you and being a part of your discernment process. Christ is at work through UKirk!



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This brochure is produced by the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an adaptation of a previous resource titled, "Are We Ready" by Bob Turner, former PCUSA Associate for Collegiate Ministries.



Readiness Assessment Tool For Communities Considering Collegiate Ministry

How is Christ calling us to reach, love, and teach college students, equipping them to be lifelong followers of Jesus Christ?

The intention of this assessment survey is to provide you with a rational approach to answer this question in part by helping you realize how prepared your congregation, Presbytery, or other assortment of faith communities are to engage in collegiate ministry. You will hopefully discover if your community...

- Senses a call to the campus and its students
- Is building an inventory of resources needed for a ministry with students, faculty, and staff at a nearby college or university
- Is making sure this ministry relates to the church's goals and objectives AND that the ministry stays true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

You may find that this assessment tool leads to the conclusion that you are not yet ready to launch a ministry while also providing clarity for the way toward affirmatively answering Christ's call to collegiate ministry.

Please note that this survey expects many people to be engaged in the process, that the order of questions is intentionally laid out and should be followed, and that the conversations will be many and the results informative. Blessings on the journey!

- ◆ Do we need to work through a student-originated group to obtain space on-campus?
- ◆ How will the comments and ideas about this collegiate ministry initiative be gathered?
- ◆ How is the college ministry considered an extension of our community's ministry to children, youth and other youngadults?
- ◆ What is the risk to our communities in becoming involved in a collegiate ministry?
- ◆ Will this initiative be promoted as a program only of our church or denomination or as a venture with several churches and organizations supporting it?
- ◆ What contacts do we have already with the university, especially student affairs and/or faculty, and how will we approach them for involvement in our making this decision?
- ◆ Who else will we talk to at the college or university to help us understand the context the ministry would relate to?

3. THE RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A COLLEGIATE MINISTRY INITIATIVE

Resources include more than a ministry director, a room to meet in and some money to fund the program. Key among the needs is the absolute commitment of the pastoral staff and elected leaders of the broader church.

- ◆ What non-financial resources are needed to start and maintain this initiative (people, equipment, skills, facilities . . .)?
- ◆ What resources are present in this faith community, its leadership and the broader church that would support this initiative?
- ◆ What does this faith community have to offer that is unique?
- ◆ What is our level of commitment and how do we assess that commitment?
- ◆ How committed is the pastoral leadership to this initiative?
- ◆ What role, if any, do pastor(s) intend or desire to have in relation to the ministry?
- ◆ How willing is the pastoral staff to provide pastoral care for students?
- ◆ How can we assess that our faith community will have the time to devote to the collegiate ministry program and maintaining relationships with students?
- ◆ Who else from the congregation(s) would be enlisted to support this initiative?
- ◆ How would they support the initiative?
- ◆ What spaces in church building(s) are available for this initiative?
- ◆ What space outside of church building(s) is available for this initiative?
- ◆ How long would persons from faith communities be expected to serve as leaders of the program?
- ◆ How will students be involved in the development of the ministry and its program once it is started?
- ◆ How does this community understand the use and authority of the Holy Scriptures?
- ◆ What funding sources can be counted on from church budgets, gifts from individuals, governing bodies, and other sources?
- ◆ What current congregational activities can be expanded/modified to become components of the initiative?

- ◆ What does our community have to offer a college student?
- ◆ What is the evidence that the congregation(s) is hospitable to non-members, especially those with no intention to become members or even to financially support the general mission of the church?
- ◆ How are our communities caring/teaching/discipling its own college student members where ever they are studying?
- ◆ How will we incorporate worship, study, fellowship and service in our collegiate ministry?
- ◆ How many ways can individuals be involved over the first three years?
- ◆ Do we have volunteers/staff who will be available at times the students want or are available?
- ◆ How can our people make a personal connection to students?
- ◆ How will members of our community be trained to help direct the collegiate ministry?
- ◆ Which other groups could we partner with so we are not duplicating efforts?
- ◆ How willing are we to partner with the college chaplain's office or other campus ministries already serving on campus to enhance those ministries to students?
- ◆ What other collegiate ministries involved in collegiate ministry has the church consulted for understanding and direction?
- ◆ Which collegiate ministry programs serving similar contexts to our own can we actually go and visit?
- ◆ How willing are our church(es) to partner with other congregations in the community to initiate and support a collegiate ministry initiative?
- ◆ What kind of help would the university/college offer with chartering a student organization, publicity opportunities, speakers, space for meetings, etc.?
- ◆ Who else can help us?
- ◆ How willing is our community to provide for paid internships for students interested in leadership positions within the collegiate ministry program?
- ◆ How will food be a part of this collegiate ministry initiative and how will it be provided?

4. THE "WHO" THE COLLEGIATE MINISTRY WOULD SERVE

The rationale statements give a platform for making the decision about engaging in collegiate ministry. The contexts of the church and the academy clarified the settings for the work. The inventory of resources points the way to deciding who the ministry might best serve. Now it is time to determine how this ministry could become a reality.

- ◆ How will we determine with whom this initiative will minister?
- ◆ What will five scenarios of potential participants in the church's collegiate ministry portray?
- ◆ Who will this collegiate ministry initiative welcome?
- ◆ How would Presbyterian (PCUSA) students be dealt with differently than others looking for a church away from home?
- ◆ How do we describe/categorize the types of religious values and backgrounds of the students that might be attracted to this collegiate ministry initiative?

- ◆ How will this collegiate ministry initiative engage non-Christians?
- ◆ How are faculty, staff and graduate students included in the vision?
- ◆ How willing is our community to integrate college students into the program, mission, and ministry of the broader church?
- ◆ How willing are staff and members to work closely with those who feel a call to the vocation of ministry?
- ◆ How do the planners/decision makers respond to the statement, "Expect nothing from students in terms of their contributing to the life of the congregation because they may not come to morning worship, lead the youth group, baby sit in the nursery, sing in the choir, or teach Sunday School."?
- ◆ What opportunities and positions could students take advantage of within the church?
- ◆ How will students be involved in all phases of this initiative research and decision about this initiative?
- ◆ How do we intend to generate a core group of students on which to build the ministry?
- ◆ How willing are we to host and care for students who need to be church-ed, but are not looking to switch denominations?
- ◆ What kinds of relationships can our church imagine having with the students' home churches?

5. THE ACCOUNTABILITY FACTOR OF THE COLLEGIATE MINISTRY INITIATIVE

This initiative will be costly in terms of time, resources and the commitment of dedicated people. For it to be an important and trusted mission of the local church the lines of accountability and responsibility need to be clearly drawn.

- ◆ How will this initiative be administered and held accountable?
- ◆ What's the time line to make a final decision about the initiative?
- ◆ What assurance is there that we will engage in this initiative for at least eight years?
- ◆ Ultimately, who is responsible for this ministry?
- ◆ How do we respond to the statement, "Expect to experiment and fail with whatever programming is done, but keep trying until you hit on something; each year it will probably be different."?
- ◆ What additional administrative/accountability/advisory structures will be needed because of this initiative?
- ◆ What will the budget for the first three years of this initiative look like?
- ◆ What possible changes could happen in the congregation as a result of this ministry?
- ◆ How acceptable are these changes for the life of the church and its members?
- ◆ What are the points of self-assessment and who will monitor that they are done?
- ◆ What is the long-range plan for continued funding?
- ◆ How will you define success, especially in the ministry's first few years? How would a written prayer read that was prepared for the dedication of the collegiate ministry program by the congregation?
- ◆ When the prayer of dedication for the start of this mission is written what will it say?