

## Policies for On Campus Religious Groups and Staff Texas Christian University – Office of Religious & Spiritual Life

### About TCU, The Office of Religious & Spiritual Life and Religious Groups on Campus

TCU acknowledges the valuable role of religious life on campus, helping members of the university community understand the intersections of faith, inquiry and study as well as supporting student life on campus in countless ways. As a church related institution of higher learning since its founding in 1873, TCU follows its Disciples heritage in a commitment to faith, ecumenism and dialogue with other traditions. The hospitality of the university and its offices extends to the whole human community and necessarily includes an openness and respect for the traditions of others.

The Office of Religious & Spiritual Life is charged with oversight of the university's religious life and is the primary institutional liaison for all religious activities on campus. Individuals or groups seeking to engage in ministries or religious fellowships at TCU must consult with this office regarding policies, standards and procedures prior to beginning activity on campus and re-apply annually for continuing status.

### Policies for Religious Groups on Campus

The policies below seek to: make TCU a place that: 1) fosters a community that values the life of the spirit; 2) supports the spiritual development and faith lives of TCU students; 3) engenders freedom of inquiry, conscience and belief; 4) creates an environment of cooperation and collaboration and 5) keeps in mind TCU mission and the welfare of TCU students. Hence, religious groups must:

#### **Working with the Student Life**

- Follow the procedures for recognition by Office of Student Life including all paperwork, required meetings.
- Select a full time faculty/staff person to serve as advisor. This is in addition to any ministerial or religious life staff.
- Adhere to the TCU Code of Conduct and TCU's nondiscrimination policies.

#### **Working with The Office of Religious & Spiritual Life**

- Complete the Religious Organization Application before the beginning of every academic year.
- Submit a signed letter from your denomination or national body acknowledging the group's affiliation, if applicable.
- Meet twice each semester with RSL staff and attend the Student Leaders Religious Life Gatherings.

#### **Working with the TCU Community**

- Adhere to the TCU Posting Policy for campus organizations including the labeling and location of materials. Publicity may also be posted in RSL Offices and groups are encourage to regularly submit information for the RSL website and newsletter.

#### **Space and Resources on Campus**

Groups have access to all space on campus as designated by the Student Organization Manual and in also to:

- Departmental spaces including the RSL library, student workstation, the chapel and other space as available.
- Funding through the "TCU Religious Life Fund" for collaborative programs that reflect the mission of TCU & the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life.

### Clergy, Religious Professionals and Other Staff

TCU welcomes authorized representatives of diverse religious traditions to participate in and nurture religious life on campus. Staff must be appointed by a ecclesiastical agency with a duly constituted legal body. Staff from local religious communities (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.) may advise religious organizations, but not in association with their local religious community. For religious groups who have staff outside TCU assigned to assist with directing, advising and other programmatic and pastoral duties, staff must complete the "Religious Life Staff Application Form".

#### *Definitions:*

Clergy, Religious Professionals and Other Staff: professionals officially hired by a church or local religious community at least 20 hours a week for work with the TCU student community. It does not refer to staff of other local/national para-church or religious organizations, volunteers, church members or staff serving multiple roles of which college ministry is one piece. No staff may function in the absence of a duly recognized and registered student religious organization.

#### *Referenced Documents:*

Student Organization Policy Manual

TCU Code of Conduct.

TCU Posting Policy

Code of Conduct for Religious Groups

Religious Life Staff Application

**Student Religious Organization Application**  
**Texas Christian University – Office of Religious & Spiritual Life**

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Student Leader #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student Leader #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student Leader #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Group affiliation is with: \_\_\_\_\_ a denominational/ body \_\_\_\_\_ national/regional organization \_\_\_\_\_ no affiliation

On Campus Advisor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Off Campus Clergy/Staff (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach an updated copy of your officer roster, constitution and by laws)

Mission of the organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the nature of your organization's work (programmatic, pastoral, outreach, evangelism, relational, fellowship, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated goals, programs and special events for the academic year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please initial the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ All members of our organization will abide by the "TCU Code of Conduct" and "Code of Conduct for Religious Groups".

\_\_\_\_\_ A representative of our organization will meet at least twice each semester with RSL staff.

\_\_\_\_\_ A representative of our organization will attend the Student Religious Council Gathering held once each semester.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that everything stated in this form and attached documents is correct and will notify the RSL office of any changes.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_ RSL Staff Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Once granted, status is valid only for the academic year stated and must be renewed annually.