

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ANGLICAN CAMPUS SPIRITUALITY

Anglican Campus Spirituality (ACS) is a ministry of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and is part of Multifaith and the Student Wellness Centre at the University of Victoria. Like most ministries, prior to COVID, ACS was operating in a certain way, and since COVID this ministry has shifted dramatically. What has remained constant is that ACS continues to be a voice on campus for inclusive Christianity, serving as a spiritual community for students (and staff and faculty) on campus. As a Spiritual Care Provider (also known as a chaplain) on campus, I help to support the spiritual needs of the UVic community as a representative of the Anglican Church. I hold a steadfast commitment to diversity and my hope is that my programming at Multifaith reflect this core value. It is a part of my vocation to engage the spiritual longing in the student population by offering programs that hold the potential for profound transformation and a deepening relationship with God. Since the 2018 synod, some of these programs have included the Inclusive Christian club, a weekly ecumenical campus Communion service, a pilgrimage with students on the Camino in Spain (and another pilgrimage that was postponed to the Holy Land due to COVID), spiritual direction, the Pet Café, Laughter Meditation, various contemplative workshops such as Centering Prayer, mindfulness meditation, and labyrinth walks. I have also focused on fostering student leadership to facilitate bible studies, prayer services, and both in-person and virtual events (such as paint nights, hikes and movie nights).

The above is a very brief overview of the actions and activities of Anglican Campus Spirituality at UVic. Related to the diocesan vision, in the coming years I hope to continue to increase awareness about the Anglican denomination within the student demographic, to create more experiential and interactive programs that foster student engagement and spiritual formation, and to deepen relationships and connections across the campus. I was recently hired as a Spiritual Care Coordinator at Multifaith, which will give me the opportunity to work both as a chaplain to students and as a representative for Multifaith in the broader UVic community. This last year, UVic opened the Student Wellness Centre, which includes the departments of Counseling, Health, and Multifaith in one building. As a result of this merge, after COVID, Multifaith is expected to receive an even greater surge of student participation in the programs offered by the Spiritual Care Providers. Students are exhausted with online learning and they are looking forward to diving deeply into the full student experience.

My goals for the future of this ministry include offering outreach opportunities and social justice actions for students, to expand the work of Truth and Reconciliation through Multifaith, to grow the Inclusive Christian club, to offer an annual pilgrimage and a bi-annual retreat, to host a diocesan-wide Vocations Day at Multifaith (at the request of Bishop Anna), and to integrate an increased focus on environmental awareness in the liturgy, perhaps through Wild Church.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Ruth Dantzer (she/her)
Anglican Chaplain, University of Victoria

