

ANGLICAN CAMPUS SPIRITUALITY & INCLUSIVE CHRISTIANS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Anglican Campus Spirituality at UVic (ACS) is a ministry of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and is part of Multifaith and Student Wellness at the University of Victoria. ACS is a voice on campus for progressive Christianity, serving current students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members. 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 equity, diversity, and inclusion and my programs at Multifaith reflect this core value. We offer opportunities that help nourish the lives of those affiliated with the UVic community, including those who identify as Anglican, Christian, Spiritual-but-not-Religious, and those from other faith traditions. 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.

Related to the diocesan vision, I aim to create experiential and interactive programs that foster student engagement and spiritual formation, while deepening relationships and connections across the campus. I have served as the Spiritual Care Coordinator at the Multifaith Centre for these past two years, which gave me the opportunity to work both as a chaplain to students and as a representative for Multifaith in the broader UVic community.

Some of the activities under the umbrella of ACS are as follows:

- The Inclusive Christian Club (IC) at UVic:
 - Inclusive Christians have a unique voice as a student group on campus that centres queer and IBPoC voices, following the same Jesus who disrupts the status quo, creating safer spaces for marginalized people within Christianity. Around 75% of our club membership includes folks from the IBPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
 - IC offers a weekly campus Communion service called Inclusive Christians: Around the Table, which is an ecumenical Communion program hosted by the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United spiritual care providers. We gather for a Christian service of prayer, song, scripture, and contemplation. Our worship is centered around a gospel reading for which we take time to discuss and listen to student interpretations of the text. A free soup supper is provided following the service.
 - Other activities included in the IC Club that I facilitate/lead are pilgrimage opportunities, the Pet Café, Laughter Meditation, Learn to Meditate, Abraham's Table: Interfaith Dialogue, Centering Prayer, labyrinth workshops, and contemplative hikes.

- With my oversight, student leadership facilitates a weekly bible study and social events, such as games and movie nights, and outings in the community.
 - IC students are attracted to social justice and mutual aid opportunities. Together, we have attended different protests and have worked to support non-profit/outreach organizations such as the Mustard Seed and the UVic Food Bank.
- As a certified spiritual director, I offer spiritual guidance sessions for UVic students. In addition to formal spiritual direction sessions, I often have more informal conversations with students and staff who are seeking Spiritual Care Provider support.
 - I hosted the diocesan Vocations Day at Multifaith, at the request of Bishop Anna, in 2021 and 2022.
 - I supervise Vancouver School of Theology practicum students during their MDiv and graduate field placements at Multifaith. This year, Leslie Flynn and Rebacca Yeo have been under my supervision. Both are in discernment for ordination in the Anglican Church.
 - I supervise Multifaith work-study students and United Church Community Connectors students.
 - I attend events at The First People's House, trying to build relationships with the Indigenous community on campus. I recently hosted Elder May Sam at Multifaith for a traditional wool crafting workshop. I have also helped facilitate/promote the Blanket Exercise workshops held at Multifaith.
 - In collaboration with The Contemplative Society, I help orchestrate public events with speakers such as Cynthia Bourgeault and Heather Ruce.
 - I network nationally and internationally with Anglican chaplains and other campus chaplains in effort to support, and learn from, one another in this vibrant ministry.

The above is a very brief overview of the actions and activities of Anglican Campus Spirituality and Inclusive Christians at UVic. 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