

## **Anglican Campus Spirituality & Inclusive Christians at the University of Victoria Report**

It is a privilege to serve as the Anglican Spiritual Care Provider on UVic's campus. Anglican Campus Spirituality at UVic (ACS) and Inclusive Christians (IC) are ministries of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and are part of Multifaith and Student Wellness at the University of Victoria. Both ACS and IC are a voice on campus for progressive Christianity.

As a Spiritual Care Provider (also known as a chaplain), 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, those from other faith traditions, and those without a spiritual or religious background/interest. It is a part of my vocation to engage the spiritual longing in the student population by offering programs that hold the potential for transformation and growth, wherever participants find themselves on their journey.

Campus spiritual care is an integral part of university culture, as spirituality enhances the holistic model of education. In facilitating, leading and coordinating programs on campus for students, I help create, and be part of, many communities that form. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members find hope, meaning, and belonging in the programs offered at the Multifaith Centre, and in a world desperately needing these beacons, I am proud to contribute to such a life-giving resource at UVic.

Within Multifaith, the three micro-communities where I focus much of my attention are the Inclusive Christian community, the meditation community, and the Pet Café community. Each community has its own flare and I am grateful for the diversity that each attracts, such as 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, students with disabilities, and international students. In addition to leading the longstanding programs such as the Pet Café, LOL: Laughter Meditation and Inclusive Christians weekly campus Communion (Around the Table), some of the highlights this last year have been co-facilitating the Nap for Change program with Min-Goo Kang (United Church Spiritual Care Provider) and helping to start a new food share initiative. The food share initiative happens in partnership with the Mustard Seed and it feels important that Multifaith is involved in tangible action helping to address food insecurity at UVic.

This past year I was honoured to lead two gender transition blessing services for members of the Inclusive Christian community. As part of both the International Transgender Day of Remembrance and the Transgender Day of Visibility, as a community, we affirmed and celebrated Sage and Ruby in the

context of a Christian worship service. These were heartfelt and meaningful rituals of recognition, giving space to witness and commemorate their spiritual/religious journeys through gender transition.

Another highlight has been networking with CSRS (the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society) and the RCS program (Religion, Culture, and Society). I led a classroom session on meditation for students in the RCS program and I am serving on the John Albert Hall (JAH) Lecture series steering committee, helping to select speakers and organize lectures hosted by CSRS and JAH. As part of this involvement, I hosted Linn Tonstad at the Multifaith Centre, who is a Queer theologian from Yale, for an event on dance and embodiment.

I am active in CASC (the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care), the Spirituality & Religious Pluralism Community of Practice (SRP/COP) professional organization and the Transforming Chaplaincy Community of Practice. I enjoy learning from other campus spiritual care providers in various national and international contexts, sharing ideas and supporting one another in ministry. Lastly, I am a member of the Resources for Mission Coordinating Committee for the National Anglican Church of Canada, being a voice for ministries outside the parish context.

In addition to community-based work, I enjoy the one-to-one time I share with students through spiritual direction sessions. I offer spiritual direction, sometimes informally during walks or over coffee, and sometimes more formal sessions during office hours or over Zoom. I am grateful for the depth that is cultivated in these intentional conversations.

I want to extend my gratitude to all those who support my work as a Spiritual Care Provider. Thank you to Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee and the synod staff. Through the support this ministry receives, my leadership at Multifaith is rewarding and meaningful.

Peace and Blessings,  
The Rev. Ruth Dantzer (she/her)  
Anglican Spiritual Care Provider, University of Victoria