



Overview: Great Plains Campus Ministries

The Great Plains Conference affiliates with four United Methodist Colleges and operates ten state-school campus ministries in Great Plains United Methodist Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Inc. The campus ministries are all part of the same corporation, which is governed by a board elected by the annual conference. The members of the corporation entitled Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministries, Inc. are the District Superintendents of each of the districts campus ministries reside. Rev. Nicole Conard is the staff liaison to the board as the Coordinator of Young Leadership Development, and she is an employee of the conference.

Twice a year the board meets at each campus ministry for site visits and updates on the campus ministry. Goals and benchmarks are established and reviewed for each campus ministry at each visit. Since more than 50% of the funding for campus ministries comes from the Great Plains Conference, each campus minister is an episcopal appointment. The campus ministers are in frequent contact with one another and are present at youth and conference events. Each campus ministry has a local board, which governs day-to-day operations and ministry to students. Local Boards are also expected to raise funds. We consider campus ministries as a key leadership development strategy, igniting a passion in young people for a lifetime of lay and clergy leadership.

The conference contributes to ten campus ministries from the operating budget, and each campus ministry must raise enough income to stay solvent. The conference contributes out of Mission Agency Support (additional 1% mission shares) for four United Methodist Colleges.

Here is a brief summary about each United Methodist Colleges:

Southwestern College is located in Winfield, Kansas. Dr. Brad Andrews is the college president. Rev. Ben Hanne serves as campus minister. Weekly chapel, Discipleship service learning track, student and faculty bible studies, worship outreach teams, religion majors are some of the primary ways the college infuses the United Methodist theology for approximately 500 students. The Richard and Julia Wilke Institute of Discipleship is located at Southwestern College and supports initiatives for faith and leadership development.

Kansas Wesleyan University is located in Salina, Kansas. The college president is Dr. Matt Thompson. The Campus Minister is Scott Jagodzinske. The school has approximately 700 students. Monday Night Alive is the weekly worship serve ranging from 20-70 students and strategic planning for campus ministry continues to involve the United Methodist Church, small groups and student life on campus.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is located in Lincoln, Nebraska. The college president is Dr. Darrin Good. Rev. Eduardo Bousson is the University Chaplain. The school has approximately 1200 students. Chapel and bible studies are offered each week. The chaplain oversees the numerous campus ministries of Campus Crusade, FCA, and other ministries on campus.

Baker University is located in Baldwin City, KS. The college president is Dr. Lynne Murray. Rev. Kevin Hopkins is the University Minister to Students. Weekly chapel takes is in Osbourne Chapel and is filled with students and faculty each week. Baker Ambassadors is a student leadership group overseen by the chaplain who travel to churches and make connections. Baker is the first United Methodist College in the state of Kansas.

Here is a brief summary about campus ministries:

Kansas State University: K-State Wesley is located in Manhattan, KS. At a school of 25,000 students, Rev. Chelsea Shrack is the campus minister to this Wesley Foundation. It has a 40-bed residential facility that was remodeled fraternity house on campus, overseen by a full-time Resident Director. Students are involved in leadership, weekly worship, weekly bible studies, and mission opportunities. The district-based local board has established a functioning foundation that provides for a portion of debt reduction, maintenance and operating costs.

University of Kansas: Wesley Foundation is located in Lawrence, KS. At a school of 27,000 students, the campus minister is Susan Mercer. The ELCA Westwood Lutheran House and Lawrence: First United Methodist Church are in partnership with the campus ministry, with Lilly Foundation providing seed money for Impact Interns. With these partnerships, students oversee ministries and spiritual formation.

Emporia State University: United Methodist Campus Ministries is located in Emporia, KS. At a school of 7,000 students, the campus minister is Rev. Kurt Cooper. There is a 4-bed residential building located off of campus. Students are involved in leadership, weekly worship, fellowship, studies and mission trips. The students lead worship once a month at neighboring churches.

Wichita State University: Connect is located in Wichita, KS. At a school of 12,000, the campus minister is Melissa Hasty. The ministry is a historically ecumenical campus ministry that is based in the congregation of Wichita: University United Methodist Church. The campus minister is pioneering discussions and events on campus.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Motive is located in Lincoln, NE. At a school of 29,000, the campus minister is Lyn Seiser. The ministry is congregation-based with Lincoln: Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Students are involved in this campus ministry, in small groups, weekly worship and fellowship. It is partially-funded by the sale of the building (2014).

Fort Hays State University is located in Hays, KS. At a school of 7,000, the part-time campus minister is Kathy Bannister. There is a 4-bed residential building with a chapel, located off campus. Over 15 students are involved in multiple weekly bible studies, fellowship, service opportunities and mentorship.

University of Nebraska- Kearney: United Campus Ministry is located in Kearney, NE. At a school of 5,000, the campus minister is Pastor Laura Stubblefield. It is an ecumenical campus ministry and is the only campus ministry incorporated on their own. There are two-converted houses for up to 6 students, located near campus. Students are involved in bible studies, worship and Monday night basketball.

University of Nebraska-Omaha & Creighton University: Urban Abbey is located in Omaha, NE. Urban Abbey is a new church-campus ministry hybrid model, based in a coffee shop in the Old Market of Omaha. Nicole Guthrie is the campus minister as the community coordinator of Urban Abbey with bible studies, events on campus and worship at the Urban Abbey.

Washburn University: New Ministry Topeka is located in Topeka, KS. At a school of 7,000, the quarter-time campus minister is Jacob Martin. There is a 4-bed residential house located across the entrance of campus. In 2019, a new board and a new outreach on campus begins.

Pittsburg State University is located in Pittsburg, KS. At a school of 9,000, the campus ministry is primarily directed through Pittsburg: Korean Love United Methodist Church who resides in the 4-room residential building, and oversight by Rev. Ryong Jae Jung.