

Relationship between Established Religious Communities and the Chaplaincy at Tufts

The Chaplaincy at Tufts University relates to multiple established religious organizations in the community including but not limited to Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Buddhist communities of faith.

In addition, the Chaplaincy has recognized two religious organizations dedicated to Campus ministry, Hillel Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. In recognizing these organizations we recognize their staff as Advisors on campus who are accountable to the University Chaplain.

The University and these organizations are resources for one another. As the Chaplaincy interacts with religious communities inside and outside of the University, we are grateful for and dedicated to honoring the University's commitment to religious diversity and freedom and non-discrimination. Other groups may apply for recognition by the chaplaincy. For information on policies relating to the vetting of religious groups on campus see our "Policy on Religious and Spiritual Groups."

Between and within each religious community there is a rich diversity of beliefs and worldviews regarding social issues and theology. The Chaplaincy is challenged to respect these differences while seeking to identify opportunities for Interfaith and intra-faith learning and cooperation. Bringing together the richness of religious and spiritual practice on campus, we encourage deep ethical reflection and action.

Understanding the Relationship between Chaplains and Religious Student Organizations and Religious Organizations with connections beyond Tufts.

Chaplains. All Chaplains paid by the University are responsible to the University. At the same time, Chaplains whose ordination or position connects them to parent organizations also have responsibilities to those organizations. It is up to each Chaplain to balance this dual loyalty to the benefit of their ministry on campus and their service to their religious organization.

Student Organizations. The relationship between student organizations, on-campus chaplains and Advisors, and faith groups outside of the community, is multidimensional as student groups worship, program, and engage in service and social action.

The University employs a Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant Chaplain who are responsible to the University, are available as a liaison and resource for their counterpart religious groups and are available to connect individual groups with University and community resources.

Student religious organizations that are approved by the Chaplaincy are not required to have Advisors outside of their group though they may seek out Advisors. Each group, however, has a constituting

document which acknowledges ties to a particular faith group and philosophical position, and in some cases provides Advisors.

Where religious groups do not affiliate with a University Chaplain or Advisor, the University Chaplain is a liaison and resource for them.

Worship. Where student groups affiliate with particular religious traditions, they are expected to follow the universally agreed upon practices for worship of that group.

Student Leadership. When electing leaders and relating to the TCU, student groups will do so within the limitations of their constitution and without the intervention of advisors or chaplains.

Programming. In programmatic matters, the Chaplaincy requires all programs offered by religious groups on campus to originate with those groups or with the Office of the Chaplaincy. The University is not a programmatic venue for outside groups. (Groups outside of the University will not broadcast on-campus events even when they are hosted by on-campus groups.)

When planning programs and engaging in service and social action, we can expect religious groups on campus to reflect the diversity of social and ethical perspectives and theological and world views existing in their communities.

In addition, we look to these groups to foster interfaith and interreligious cooperation and to deal with differences with civility and integrity utilizing the services of Chaplains and Advisors.

Conflict. When conflict arises, the Chaplaincy is committed to helping individuals and groups address that conflict responsibly and creatively, honoring the University's commitment to diversity, academic and religious freedom, and non-discrimination.