

Center for Religious Life

RIT's Center for Religious Life is housed in the Schmitt Interfaith Center. Until 2001 it had been designated as the Center for Campus Ministry. At that time it was changed to Religious Life, a more inclusive designation reflecting its increasing diversity of traditions.

All CRL religious professionals are non-employees and provided to the campus by denominational sending agencies. Weekly hours on campus of these religious leaders are staggered and range from 5 hrs. per week to 20 hrs. per week on site. Many have multi-campus responsibilities as well. Limited time dictates focus on denominationally based community building and engagement while on campus.

Current Religious Communities:

- CRU [Campus Crusade for Christ]
- Gospel Fellowship [Traditions of the Black Church]
- Hillel [Jewish]
- Hindu
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Lutheran/Episcopal Campus Ministry
- Muslim Student Association
- Newman Catholic Community
- Zen Buddhist

Past and Present Recognized Religious Clubs

- AGAPE Christian Fellowship
- BASIC [Brothers and Sisters in Christ]
- Baha'i
- Chabad Lubavitch
- Greek Orthodox Fellowship
- Latter Day Saints
- Korean/Native Korean Christian Fellowship
- Pagan

Strength:

- Community building, “pastoral” care & personal relationships
- Virtually all communities have a global and ethnic composition
- Provide opportunity for exercise/observance of religious beliefs
- Provide and nurture spiritual balance in holistic education
- Development of leadership skills and mentoring
- Development of community service, service learning
- CRL itself signals respect and value – global and domestic - placed by RIT on student life and community
- Average of 800-1,000 student per week impacted by CRL outreach

Opportunity:

- Develop and expand the CRL into a *Center for Spirituality and Religious Life*
- Develop and nurture a focus on spirituality as global education opportunity for students
- Develop and nurture the complementary balance between “Athens and Jerusalem,” i.e., denominationally-specific pastoral care and community building with a non-religious or religious “spirituality” outreach
- Support and sustain professional leadership for student religious communities as resources of sending agencies diminish