

DCPC Campus Ministry Endowment FAQ's

Why an endowment for DCPC campus ministry?

- The campus ministry endowment represents an opportunity to sustainably fund DCPC's commitment to invite college students (both Davidson and DCPC members away at college) to explore, renew and deepen their relationship with God at a critical time in their faith journeys. Its proximity and deep ties to the Davidson campus uniquely position DCPC to serve this community.
- DCPC Campus Ministry has historically been funded through the annual church budget. In the last few years, short term grants have enabled the church to expand the campus minister position to full-time (10 months), strengthening and deepening this ministry. The endowment will provide predictable, stable funding for a full-time Associate Pastor to continue to build PC(USA) ministry to the Davidson College campus.

Why is it important to have a full-time Associate Pastor dedicated to campus ministry?

- Ministry to college students is often described as a "ministry of presence." A theologically trained pastor is important to engage Davidson students as they explore deep questions about their faith and seek spiritual guidance, inspiration, and support. DCPC's campus minister provides programming, leadership development, one-on-one pastoral care and mentoring in the context of an accepting, inclusive multi-generational faith community.
- We know from experience at DCPC, that when the campus minister's time commitment is reduced or the position is shared, participation declines. Also, uncertainty about funding year to year has prevented long term strategic planning to further strengthen this ministry.

What is UKirk?

- As a welcoming, affirming and inclusive faith community, UKirk, the PC(USA) Campus Ministry for Davidson College students, is at the core of DCPC's campus ministry.
- Activities include affirming and theologically-sophisticated programming, mission experiences, ecumenical bible study, leading worship and engaging with the broader life of the church.
- UKirk nurtures and supports students with an interest in exploring seminary and a calling to serve the church as a vocation.

What is the relationship between the Davidson College Chaplain's Office and DCPC's Campus Ministry?

- The Chaplain's office serves as the hub of Davidson College religious life. Shaped by the Reformed Tradition heritage, it fosters openness to and respect for a diversity of religions and worldviews.
- While Davidson Chaplain, Rob Spach, is an ordained Presbyterian minister, the Chaplain's role has changed over time from ministering to Presbyterian students to addressing the breadth of student spiritual interests.
- Davidson UKirk is one of sixteen different student religious groups supported by the Chaplain's office. Most groups draw funding and support from affiliated religious organizations or local congregations.

How does DCPC's Campus Ministry interface with the broader congregational life at DCPC?

- Campus ministry enriches student and congregational life through intergenerational interactions, engagement with faith formation, mission work, church leadership roles, worship leadership.
- There are a number of facets to DCPC campus ministry:
 - UKirk - Approximately 25 students are active participants, and there has been an upward trend in participation since the campus ministry position became fulltime (10 months) three years ago.
 - Integration into church life - Pre-pandemic (2019) 49 different students volunteered with the church, often in multiple capacities, though music, childcare, youth ministry and preschool ministry, enhancing multigenerational opportunities and relationships.
 - Hospitality to all Davidson students – DCPC is a vital presence on campus, demonstrating a welcoming, loving, inclusive Christian community. Pre-pandemic (2019), 170 different students used the student center nearly 2000 times. DCPC's campus minister also touches students through leadership of Ecumenical bible study and participation in other activities through the Chaplain's office.

How does DCPC's Campus Ministry contribute to future leadership of PC(USA)?

- The number one reason people answer the call to be a minister is because someone invited them to do so. In that effort of calling new ministers, every

church is responsible. DCPC just happens to have a unique opportunity to do it on a larger scale. To forego this responsibility, with our own young people or with those who come to Davidson College, would be to abdicate the responsibility that all churches have.

- Every PC(USA) ordination candidate has a church sponsor. DCPC is currently sponsoring four ordination candidates out of just 51 total for the denomination. In addition, several past UKirk participants are in seminary or various stages of exploration of ministry as a vocation.

How much is needed to fund the campus ministry endowment and how are the funds being raised?

- We need to raise \$1.5 million to fund an endowment for a full-time, ordained campus minister to serve Davidson College Students, as well as support DCPC members away at college. This endowment will supplement the church's contributions through its annual budget. The endowment effort is a partnership between DCPC and Davidson College alumni and friends. We expect to raise half of the \$1.5 million need (\$750,000) through DCPC's current Open Doors Capital Campaign and the other \$750,000 through outreach to non-DCPC members. The Mulliss Foundation has provided a challenge grant of half of the outside campaign goal. A committee is working on the raising the remaining \$375,000 to capture this generous pledge.

How is the endowment structured?

- The endowment will be a restricted fund held by the same organization that manages DCPC's broader church endowment (currently Foundation For The Carolinas). Oversight of the campus ministry endowment fund will be provided by the Session of DCPC through its Endowment Committee. A memorandum of understanding states that funds from the campus ministry endowment will only be used to support campus ministry and, in the unlikely event that DCPC ever significantly reduced its commitment to campus ministry, funds could be transferred to another church or nonprofit providing PC(USA) ministry to the Davidson College campus.

Is Davidson College contributing to the campus ministry endowment? If not, why not?

- Yes, Davidson College is a partner in many ways. Davidson College has pledged \$30,000 in 2022 and again in 2023 to bridge the interim gap while the endowment is being built. While the College relies on partners to support the various ministries to Davidson students, its deep Presbyterian roots are helpful in relaying the importance

of this critical ministry. As a nonprofit educational institution, we do not expect the College to otherwise contribute financially to the endowment campaign.

How can I learn more about the Campus Ministry mission of DCPC?

- *Visit the Campus Ministry endowment site: www.dcp.org/campus-ministry-endowment-fund*
- *Contact Ann Browning at annhbrowning@aol.com or Lewis Galloway at lewisgalloway1951@gmail.com*