**Office of the Chaplain**

The position of College Chaplain grew out of the YMCA program. In 1951, the replacement for YMCA secretary was given the title "Chaplain." The title briefly reverted back to Y secretary, was changed in 1956 to "Minister to Students," then back to “College Chaplain in 1957. The job was expanded to include conducting chapel and vespers services as well as directing Y activities. In 1993, the remaining YMCA program became a consortium of student organizations, now known as the Civic Engagement Council, under the supervision of the Center for Civic Engagement.

The Chaplaincy staff expanded in 2002 to include two adjunct (later “associate”) chaplains. One was Catholic (full-time) and the other Jewish (part-time). It expanded again in 2017 to include another full-time associate chaplain, this one in the Buddhist tradition. The Chaplain is the pastor to the college community and serves as the college liaison for all student religious organizations on campus. The Chaplain chairs the Religious Life Council, a multi-faith body comprised of student leaders and a faculty/staff advisor of each of those organizations, as well as campus ministers or para-church advisors who work with those organizations. The Chaplain also plays a major role in interpreting the Reformed Tradition for the college (addressing the question of what it means to be a Presbyterian Church-related college).

The Chaplain's Office administrates a variety of programs, including the annual Staley Lecture series and a variety of other public lectures, the Stapleton-Davidson Urban Summer Service Internship, the Staley, Spiritual Exploration, Warner Hall and McCall Grants, and the Davidson Ministry Fellows Program. The Chaplain serves on the Council on Campus and Religious Life and the Pre-ministerial Committee. The chaplaincy staff oversees a wide array of religious programming on campus, including weekly worship services, opportunities for meditation, Bible studies, retreats, interfaith programming, faith-based international experiences, discussions on spirituality, justice and peace, seasonal worship services/celebrations (e.g., Christmas Vespers, Hanukkah, Ash Wednesday, Passover, Eid, etc.) and memorial services.

**Retention Schedule**

**Administrative Files.** Records relating to the administration of the office. Includes files on public lectures, a variety of programming, all religious student organizations (Better Together, Campus Outreach, Canterbury Episcopal Fellowship, Catholic Campus Ministry, Davidson Dharma, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hillel, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Methodist College Fellowship, Mindfulness Community, the Mormon Student Group, the Muslim Student Association, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Reformed University Fellowship, UKirk, Virtuous Praise Gospel Choir, and Young Life College), budgets, scholarships, reports, faith-based international experiences, grants to students for service, study and mission, worship bulletins, and policy papers. Files may contain correspondence, annual reports, historical records, statistical data, memoranda, flyers, and reference information.

Disposition Instructions:Transfer to the College Archives after 3 years for appraisal and final disposition.