

## **Additional Information / Campus Ministry / University of Houston**

### **History of the Ministry**

The “Church of Christ Student Foundation,” known on campus as *The Point-UH* and *Cougars for Christ*, is a 501(c)3 ministry on the University of Houston Main Campus. Founded in 1950 by the McGregor Park church of Christ, the ministry was guaranteed an office suite in the A. D. Bruce Religion Center when the Central Church of Christ donated \$10,000 toward its construction. The ministry moved into the Bruce Center in 1965.

As an original funder to UH for construction of its on-campus A.D. Bruce Religion Center, the Churches of Christ secured permanent space in this large building, including dedicated office and meeting space, along with common areas which can be reserved for activities.

The ministry is led by an independent Board of Trustees who actively work with the Campus Minister, considering approaches taken with students, promoting the ministry to congregations and individuals, and raising supporting funding.

Campus Ministers through the years have included: Jack McCall, Ponder Wright, Steve Smith, Rick Oster, Ed Pennington, Ron Highfield, Ginger Yocum, Lynn Mitchell, Richard Kuehn, Mike McAlister, and Clint Boyd who has served in this role for the past eight years.

Clint Boyd plans to become a preaching minister in Houston August 1, 2024, but will remain in the Houston area and be available to advise the new Campus Minister as desired. This should allow a new campus minister to become familiar with students, resources, and activities in their present form.

### **The Board of Trustees**

The UH Campus Ministry is led by a Board of Directors made up primarily of members of supporting churches. The board is seeking additional and younger members. The theology of the board can generally be described as compatible with ACU and Oklahoma Christian University.

The Campus Minister meets with the board in regular sessions on a 6-8 week schedule. The board does not tell the minister what to do, but is generally concerned with the overall effectiveness of the program and spiritual health of the minister.

### **Facilities**

We hold charter privilege in the A. D. Bruce Religion Center on the main campus of UH. We have an office suite and use of other rooms in the facility at no cost. We pay no utilities, maintenance, or housekeeping fees. Our suite consists of three rooms (1 large & 2 small) with a total of 335 square feet.

### **Finances**

The ministry depends on three streams of support: regular congregational support, individual gifts largely solicited through an annual dinner, and investment income.

### **Current Student Activities:**

Regular group Bible studies, fellowship, and activities help build bonds between students. They are encouraged to invite others, to seriously study God's Word, seek the meaning of His Word and His call to their lives, and enjoy time engaged in service, fun and just hanging out together. Due to the nature of the campus, the number of students involved is limited but growing. There is great opportunity to enlarge the group.

Individual Bible studies, discussions, and counseling with students frequently occur. These may be ongoing or with a student who simply walks into the office. Thursday evenings are for our Group Bible Study, which includes food and then a study directed by the Campus Minister. Additional personal studies with students go on throughout the week which fit the schedule and interest of the student.

Based upon the current student group, service opportunities, retreats, mission trips, small groups, and social events are planned by both the Campus Minister and the student leaders. Student are encouraged to step out in planning and leading events and encouraging others to come. Tuesday evenings include food and some kind of activity either in our building, out on the campus, or away from the campus.

In addition to administering plans for these direct activities with students, the Campus Minister prepares internet newsletters, announcements, etc. about once a month. A Printed newsletter is mailed each semester. This includes maintaining in Excel the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of supporters and contacts. Access to the information is available to Board members via Dropbox, which the Campus Minister maintains. The website is maintained, with input from the Board as well as Campus Minister.

Recruiting and working alongside volunteers, directly and indirectly serving the students, also multiplies the impact of the ministry.

Meeting with the Board every couple of months (often by Zoom), the Campus Minister actively works with them in detailed efforts for raising funds and for ministry expansion. The largest event is the annual gala dinner in March, which provides a major portion of funding and also requires work throughout the year in preparation.

## **The University of Houston**

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier-One public research university recognized throughout the world as a leader in energy research, law, business and environmental education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning, strategic industry partnerships and state-of-the-art facilities such as the interdisciplinary Energy Research Park and the Nanofabrication Facility. Located in America's fourth-largest city, UH is one of the most ethnically diverse metropolitan research universities in the United States, serving more than 40,900 students in one of the most culturally diverse regions in the country. Extensive construction in recent years has added more dormitories, though historically a large portion of students commute to campus, which impacts approaches to activities of a ministry.

In addition to preparing its students to succeed in today's global economy, UH is a catalyst within its own community - changing lives through health, education and outreach projects that help build a future for children in Houston, in Texas and around the world.

Other distinctive merits of UH include a strong student experience, a historic Division I athletics program, top-level arts programs and an internationally recognized faculty that includes a Nobel Laureate, National Medal of Science winners, Pulitzer and Tony awards winners and members of prestigious National Academies.

The Princeton Review has chosen UH for inclusion in its guidebooks of the nation's best colleges and the nation's best value colleges for undergraduates. Nestled on a tree-lined campus, UH is just minutes from downtown Houston, the Texas Medical Center, and Houston's bustling theater and museum districts. The University of Houston is home to world-class teaching, revolutionary research and nationally recognized students - all working together to create a globally competitive educational environment. (Provided by the UH)