



## **Chaplaincy Mandate Memorial University, St. John's, NL**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Chaplaincy is to provide spiritual guidance, resources, and support for students, faculty, and staff at Memorial University.

### **Implementation**

In an institution that encourages reflection, growth, change, decision making, and testing, Chaplaincy provides resources, guidance, and support for those involved in this process. Chaplaincy brings a faith dimension to contemporary issues encountered in the University community. It provides a forum for interaction, a non-threatening environment, opportunity for fellowship, and individual pastoral counselling and support. This is achieved in the following ways:

**- *Promotion of ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue:*** Chaplains support and contribute to an open and collegial atmosphere within the Chaplaincy Office. Respect and tolerance is given to differing religious practices, theologies and beliefs both within and outside of the Chaplaincy Office. Each Chaplain is willing to work with and be open to pastoral care/counselling with students, faculty, and staff of all faith traditions. Chaplains cooperate in facilitating regular and periodic spiritual observances, as well as providing spiritual observances specific to their own faith communities.

**- *Promotion of Chaplaincy Team as service provider to entire student body:*** Chaplains work as a team on various University projects and events, which may be scheduled during weekdays, evenings, and/or weekends.

**- *Respect and support of secular environment:*** Within a secular environment, Chaplains encounter and work productively with students, faculty and staff with wide-ranging beliefs, attitudes, social/political views, sexual orientations and cultural practices. When the beliefs, attitudes, views and practices of students, faculty and staff are in conflict with those of the Chaplains, Chaplains model openness, tolerance, respect, and a nonjudgmental attitude.

### **Qualifications and Accountability**

Preference for Chaplaincy positions is given to candidates who hold a bachelor's degree from a recognized university or affiliated college, or equivalent experience. Qualified candidates must be approved by an official sponsoring religious body prior to making application for a Chaplaincy position.

Chaplains are expected to report to the Coordinator of the Student Support and Crisis Management Unit (SSCM) on a regular basis, as well as to their respective religious bodies. Yearly reports submitted to sponsoring faith organizations should be copied to the Coordinator. Monthly reporting to the Coordinator will be done at regularly scheduled meetings of Student Support and Crisis Management. The Chaplaincy Chair, who is elected from among the Chaplains, will meet with the Director or delegate regularly to discuss programming, policies, and issues related to Chaplaincy, Student Life, and the campus at large. On behalf of Chaplaincy, the Chair will also make an annual report to the Coordinator.

### **Appointment and Application Process**

Chaplains are appointed for a term of up to five (5) years, renewable in consultation with the sponsoring faith organization. The first twelve (12) months of the appointment will be a probationary period, with a review done by the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee prior to the first anniversary of the appointment.

To apply for a Chaplaincy position, a letter of recommendation by the sponsoring faith organization, along with a CV and letter of intent from the candidate, which indicates that the candidate has read, understood, and accepted the Chaplaincy Mandate, must be received by the Director of Student Life at least two (2) months in advance of the appointment start date.

The Coordinator of SSCM will call a meeting of the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee to review applications, interview qualified applicants, and make recommendations for appointment. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the Director of Student Life for a final decision on the appointment. Successful candidates and sponsoring faith organizations will be notified in writing of the appointment by the Director of Student Life.

*(Mandate was adopted at the June 27, 2006 meeting of the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee, revised at the meeting on June 11, 2008, and further revised at the meeting on February 17, 2016. Final approval by University Chaplaincy, the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee, and the Director of Student Life is pending.)*