

Position Description
Associate University Pastor, Chapel of the Resurrection
Valparaiso University

The Associate University Pastor will work with the Dean of the Chapel and other pastoral staff in providing for the overall pastoral care and worship life of members of the Valparaiso University community. The Associate University Pastor will also have specific responsibility for the Chapel's ministries in residential life, pastoral care for students, and spiritual formation, with a desired emphasis on developing significant and viable means for students to encounter the Bible.

Position relationships

The Associate University Pastor will maintain a professional consultative relationship with other members of the chapel staff. As a member of this staff, which operates with the oversight of the Dean of the Chapel, the Associate University Pastor will be accountable to the Dean, and through the Dean to the President of the University. The Associate University Pastor will also be an active participant and an ex-officio member of the Chapel Council.

The Associate University Pastor will be a rostered pastor in the ELCA.

In professional practice the Associate University Pastor is autonomous.

Principal responsibilities:

- 1. Ministry areas**
 - a. In consultation with the Dean of the Chapel and pastoral staff, coordinate and expand residential ministry and spiritual care of students, which includes in part:
 1. Recruit and supervise Residential Ministers.
 2. Provide regular opportunities for Bible study.
 3. Establish and coordinate a viable small group ministry.
 4. Identify other means to strengthen the overall spiritual formation of students.
 - b. Share in preaching, presiding, and planning for chapel worship services, which include in part:
 1. Sunday morning services.
 2. Weekday services of morning prayer.
 3. Festival worship services, choral vespers, and University celebrations.
 4. Holy Week services.
 5. Sunday evening "Candlelight" services.
 6. Other services as requested or needed.
 - c. Assist the Dean of the Chapel in coordinating and leading the Sunday evening "Candlelight" service.

- d. Oversee and further develop a ministry of spiritual formation, which includes, in part, the following:
 - 1. Oversee three to four vocational discernment retreats per year.
 - 2. Implement a variety of Bible study opportunities.
 - 3. Nurture a ministry of prayer that is integrated into the worship life of the community and the lives of students.
 - 4. Assist and consult with the Dean of Chapel in the catechetical instruction of students.
 - 5. Suggest and implement other means as needed (e.g. retreats, workshops, forums, discussion groups) to develop a vibrant ministry of spiritual formation and growth.
- e. Offer pastoral counseling of students, faculty, and staff. Depending on interest and ability, this may include pre-marital counseling and grief counseling.
- f. Participate in ministries of outreach as interested and able.

2. Planning

- a. Develop strategies to enhance and expand ministry opportunities and needs.
- b. Participate in regular staff meetings to plan and coordinate worship and other areas of ministry.
- c. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Chapel Council, consulting and providing direction to specific ministry teams.
- d. Participate actively in ongoing evaluation of chapel ministry and its long-range strategic-planning process.
- e. Serve the University's needs as requested and mutually agreed to in consultation with the administration of the University.

3. Administration

Perform functions necessary for the efficient discharge of ministry responsibilities.

4. Professional Relationships

- a. Develop and maintain professional relationships with
 - 1. Chapel staff.
 - 2. Faculty and staff of the University.
 - 3. Area church professionals.
- b. Embrace pastoral ministry in the special context of higher education, understanding that this position does not carry faculty responsibilities, is not tenurable, and should not be sought by candidates aspiring to undertake faculty duties.
- c. Hold an administrative appointment made by the Board of Directors of Valparaiso University. The Associate University Pastor (as well as other pastors in the chapel) serves in a University that by law, tradition, and practice is financially and administratively independent of all church bodies.

- d. Ecclesiastical supervision remains with the Bishop of the Indiana/Kentucky Synod, ECLA, to whom there is professional and pastoral accountability for doctrine and practice.

Qualifications

1. Essential

- a. A rostered clergyperson in good standing with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- b. A seasoned pastor who has been affirmed in ministry, preferably with at least five years of experience in ordained ministry, of which the majority is in the area of campus ministry.
- c. A leader who understands and embraces the rich liturgical and musical heritage of the Lutheran Church, and who is able to plan and lead excellent and faithful worship in this context.. In addition, the Associate University Pastor should be sensitive to and appreciative of worship forms that supplement traditional forms, and should be willing to assist in incorporating contemporary forms in the worship life of the chapel.
- d. A highly skilled preacher who has the ability to communicate effectively with University students, faculty, and staff.
- e. A mature professional who is excited about ministering to young adults and youth.
- f. A thoughtful pastor who is committed to the church's ministry in higher education and who is able to engage intellectually with faculty and students.
- g. An effective apologist for the Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith who also has an ecumenical perspective on ministry and the ability to serve with good conscience in a context that makes few distinctions between those who are served. This requires keen sensitivity to the restrictions placed upon clergy rostered in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. While not required to participate in services led by clergy of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the Associate University Pastor should be able to support and work comfortably with pastors, faculty members, students, and staff who are associated with both the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Church of America.
- h. An effective teacher possessing a variety of skills that can be adapted to various teaching environments, with special interest in spiritual formation, catechesis, and Bible study.
- i. A committed and compassionate presence to those who are often a minority within the University community, such as students of color and international students.
- j. A gifted spiritual counselor.
- k. A person who manifests an authentic presence and genuine self confidence.
- l. A colleague who can work effectively within a team of qualified professionals.

2. Desirable

- a. Familiarity with and desire to pursue further the integration of ministry to the catechumenate within the worship life of the Church.
- b. Significant interest in the field of spiritual formation and prayer.
- c. Background in clinical pastoral psychology.