



Guidelines for On-Campus Student Religious/Spiritual Groups and Clubs
The Claremont Colleges

**Approved and adopted by the Chaplains and the Student Deans Committee of The Claremont Colleges,
January 29, 2014**

Introduction

The Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges honor the religious freedom, human dignity, conscience, personal spiritual welfare and the diversity of beliefs represented in The Claremont Colleges community and are committed to creating a safe and open environment for students to learn about their own faith paths and listen respectfully to those who believe differently.

Student religious/spiritual groups and clubs provide essential contexts for nurturing faith and spirituality, community formation, and leadership development. Interactions within and between student organizations offer opportunities for multifaith learning and interfaith dialogue. The Chaplains provide guidance to student religious/spiritual organizations to work toward these ends.

Guidelines for On-Campus Student Religious/Spiritual Groups and Clubs

The Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges seek to support vibrant student religious/spiritual life on campus. As members of the broader college community, student religious/spiritual groups/clubs registered * by the Smith Campus Center (Pomona) and/or the relevant campus' body of registration and by the Office of the Chaplains must abide by the policies and procedures that apply to all student groups/clubs at The Claremont Colleges.

*Registration of a student religious/spiritual group or club by the Office of the Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges does not signify endorsement of the group, its practices, beliefs or claims.

In addition, groups/clubs registered by the Smith Campus Center (Pomona) and/or the relevant campus' body of registration and by the Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges agree to:

- **Demonstrate through their actions and policies a commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and interfaith and multifaith respect.**

Students and other college community members, as individuals and in groups, have the right to expect that their personal religious or spiritual commitments (or lack of them) will be honored by others. Statements sponsored by any religious/spiritual group or club recognized by the Office of the Chaplains shall observe a commitment to this respectful communication.

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- **Honor personal boundaries by not engaging in proselytization, harassment, or any kind of religious pressuring or coercive recruiting practices.**

Members of the college community, as individuals and in groups, have the right to expect that when they decline invitations to religious activities, or express the desire not to be contacted by their sponsors, these expressions will be respected. Thus, when persons decline invitations to meetings, conversations, programs, services or any other activities, they can be sure that they will not experience pressure, judgment, or harassment in response. Examples of inappropriate recruiting practices include but are not limited to any activity that violates the solicitation policies of The Claremont Colleges, targets a particular individual or group, or deprecates or demeans other individuals or groups.

- **Clearly identify in all publicity the name of the sponsoring group(s)/club(s) and contact information.**

Students and all members of the community have the right to expect that events sponsored by particular religious groups, or events that will espouse points of view that are associated with a particular religious/spiritual tradition, will be clearly identified as such. Posters, flyers, email messages, etc. will carry the name of the sponsoring group and must not be false or misleading.

- **Appoint a representative(s) of student leadership and a faculty/staff advisor, if applicable, to meet regularly with the Chaplains, one of whom will be designated, in consultation with the group, to serve as a liaison to the group. These include regularly scheduled meetings and those called as needed by either the Chaplains or the club/group.**
- **Disclose in writing any relationship to an off-campus religious/spiritual organization, group, or individual. Off-campus persons seeking to associate with a student group must make application to serve as a Religious Affiliate. For information concerning Religious Affiliate status, please contact the Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges (<http://www.cuc.claremont.edu/chaplains/>)**

Due to the strong tradition of multifaith respect and interfaith cooperation in the college community, the Chaplains of The Claremont Colleges expect that student religious/spiritual groups and clubs will honor and abide by these guidelines and all policies of The Claremont Colleges. Failure to do so may result in the loss of registration by the Office of the Chaplains and loss of recognition by the Smith Campus Center (Pomona) and/or the relevant campus' body of registration.

Please note that this document draws on sources from other colleges and universities, particularly Williams College and Harvard University.