

## UCA Code of Ethics

1. We will respect the dignity and integrity of persons on campus.
  - a. When working with faculty, staff, and students at Old Dominion University, we will be sensitive to the permission the person is or is not giving us (overtly or covertly) to enter his or her life and have influence there. We will not violate the right of any person to make choices, even if we feel those choices are not in the best interest of the person. We will endeavor carefully to walk the narrow line between the necessity of offering wise counsel or passionate persuasion and the injustice of usurping the individuality of another person.
  - b. In advertising and personal contact, we will always act with integrity. We will not seek to mislead or covertly influence another for our cause. All information and conversation will reflect the values and beliefs of our faith tradition and practice. We will speak clearly and directly about our purpose and allegiances to our faith traditions. We will follow Old Dominion University's guidelines for advertising our student organizations and events which includes always identifying the sponsorship and details of programming.
  - c. We will be sensitive to and have respect for the religious heritage and backgrounds of all persons. We will endeavor to discover their allegiance to a faith tradition, and will counsel them in appropriate involvement. Our primary task will be to aid others in making informed choices concerning their religious lives and not just promote our own faith tradition or programming. We will refrain from surreptitious, deceptive, or coercive proselytizing.
  - d. We will be aware of the fact that religious zeal and a sense of duty to our faith may desensitize us to the rights and needs of people as individuals.
2. We will respect the dignity and integrity of colleagues as professionals and as persons.
  - a. We will respect the theological orientations of one another. Our relationship is professional and focused on fulfilling the mission of the UCA. We will agree to disagree on matters of faith and practice. We will not understand silence to signify consent, nor will we feel the need to defend our own positions to our peers. We will maintain an atmosphere of respect, cooperation and mutual concern for the spiritual well-being of the University community.
  - b. We will assume the sincerity and goodwill of other chaplains. Should questions of violations of ethics and breach of trust occur, we will assume proper motives and investigate with such expectations. The appropriate response is to approach the chaplain whose action or group's action is in question. The UCA Chairperson should be notified of this confrontation and will also be available for mediation. Further response is noted in the membership section and operating procedures listed below.

- c. Respecting one another, we will listen when questions arise concerning relationships among chaplains or the groups we represent. When it is necessary to offer recommendations about conduct, we will endeavor to do so from a concern for each other and the good of spiritual life at Old Dominion University.
3. We will respect the dignity and integrity of the programs of other campus religious organizations and the students involved in them.
  - a. Understanding that there are many students, faculty, and staff on campus with varying degrees of religious affiliation or commitment, we will be sensitive to prospective members' interests. When visiting with students, faculty, and staff, we will make it a primary responsibility to discover any current religious involvement and seek to help the student, faculty, or staff learn of any opportunities for connection with his or her faith tradition, rather than solely promote interest in our own programs.
  - b. We recognize the individual rights and development of the student, faculty, and staff as primary. Therefore, we will view a student's, faculty's, or staff's voluntary approach as permission to share with him or her concerning our personal convictions and the programs of our particular ministry. Our actions in publicity and recruitment will be above reproach.
  - c. We will not recruit those who are deeply committed or leaders in one religious group into a leadership position of another.
  - d. We will encourage cooperation among our participants to create a unified spirit among the various campus religious groups. In this spirit, we will help participants to appreciate and uphold the diversity of religious programming at ODU.
4. We will respect the mission and the policies of Old Dominion University..
  - a. We will voluntarily uphold the Old Dominion University Code of Ethics that relate to employees and honor all administrative policies that relate to our role as advisors to our student organizations. We will act with integrity concerning the internal policies and communication of Old Dominion University.
  - b. We will understand ourselves to be cooperative members of the university community. We will work with appropriate university officials as necessary when we are invited to offer spiritual support. We will offer public comment about ODU when appropriate and in consultation with University officials.
  - c. We will conscientiously protect our freedom to protest or criticize with a dignity of our office as religious leaders. We will endeavor to seek a peaceful solution to any conflict with the university system.