

**OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN-DIRECTOR OF
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

**CODE OF BEHAVIOR FOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS
AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

Vanderbilt University has committed itself to helping students acquire knowledge and standards of value, develop a sense of civic responsibility, explore their religious concerns and issues, and develop their own sense of purpose. The University, therefore, provides both directly and indirectly for the religious and moral development of its students and others in the University community.

This aspect of personal development has been given expression in the Office of University Chaplain and Affiliated Ministries, in the recognition of qualified off-campus staff persons, and in the registration of student religious groups whose goals are in keeping with those of the University. The purposes of the University are harmonious with the purposes of addressing issues of religion, values, ethics, and morality of life; in helping members of the University community to articulate a personal philosophy of life, and in understanding the interactions of faith, intellectual inquiry, and social responsibility as bases for finding and affirming meaning and satisfaction in life.

Specific University goals for moral and religious development include the development of programs to help those in the University community to:

- 1) understand their own faith and the faith of others;
- 2) examine and affirm a personal life or life philosophy;
- 3) express that faith through association with others, through opportunities for worship, study, and service, and through campus forums for the presentation and debate of ideas;
- 4) examine the relation of their faith or life philosophy to current moral, ethical and social issues and to various academic disciplines and professional and vocational fields. These goals shall be met by the University itself in a non-sectarian manner, and the University expects all religious groups on campus to give evidence of tolerance, fairness, and respect for the religious traditions represented in the University, to respect the non-sectarian natures of the University itself, and to uphold the commitment to creating a diverse and pluralistic community on campus.

The University expects that all religious groups that are affiliated, recognized, or registered, will conduct their affairs so that their policies, programs, and personal actions are in accordance with University catalogues, handbooks, and manuals; e.g. the "Student Handbook", "The Procedures Manual for Student Organizations", and the "Faculty Manual." In particular, the University expects all religious groups to abide strictly by the rule on "Soliciting for Religious Activities" ("Student Handbook") and with the provision that student groups must be led by full-time Vanderbilt students. (See attached)

The University also expects that all such religious groups on campus will conduct their affairs in such a manner that no one will be intimidated or coerced and that participants in any group may freely express their beliefs and values.

The University requires all registered groups not to discriminate on the basis of unlawful or irrelevant criteria in policies, practices, programs, and activities.

The University reserves the right to make other regulations as necessary, without notice, to secure maximum freedom, comfort, safety, and convenience for all.

Violations of this Code of Behavior will be addressed through the Judicial System of the University and/or the Office of University Chaplain.

