

RELIGIOUS LIFE/CAMPUS MINISTRY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Does Manchester have a church affiliation?

Manchester University is one of six colleges and universities of the Church of the Brethren, a Christian denomination in the Anabaptist-Pietist tradition. That relationship has shaped Manchester's heritage and continues to inform the University's values and practices, but Manchester is open to people of all faith traditions or no faith tradition. About 5 percent of the students at Manchester are from the Church of the Brethren. Many participate in a student group for "Brethren and friends" called Simply Brethren, which meets every other week.

2. Do students or faculty and staff at Manchester have to sign a statement of belief?

No. Manchester values and respects differences and believes it is important to have a variety of voices and perspectives represented.

3. Are chapel services mandatory?

No. Weekly worship services in Petersime Chapel (currently 7 PM Wednesdays) and a variety of other groups and events are offered by the Office of Religious Life and Campus Ministry, but all of them are voluntary. Members of the campus community are encouraged to connect at the places that are helpful to them and their faith journeys.

4. Are Sunday morning services offered on campus?

No. With a variety of congregations in North Manchester, many of them within walking or biking distance, members of the campus community are encouraged to take part in the worship life of one of these congregations if they so choose. If assistance with transportation is needed, please contact the Office of Religious Life and Campus Ministry in Petersime Chapel.

5. Does Manchester employ a full-time chaplain?

Yes. The office of the University Pastor/Director of Religious Life is located in Petersime Chapel, and it is staffed throughout the academic year. Several student workers also serve as assistants.

6. Does Manchester have any interfaith opportunities?

Yes. A Campus Interfaith Board composed of students, a faculty advisor, and the campus pastor plans a variety of interfaith awareness and education events during the year, including "Sacred Spaces" trips to larger metropolitan areas, a Focus on Faith Week, Peace Week, and more. The nearest houses of worship for most non-Christian religious traditions are located in Fort Wayne. A list can be found on the Religious Life website.

7. Does Manchester offer a Religion major?

Yes. A major, or minor, in Religious Studies is offered through the Philosophy and Religion Department. You can find out more at <http://admissions.manchester.edu/degrees-academics/areas-of-study/religion>.

8. Are students required to take religion courses at Manchester?

Currently all undergraduate students must take one Religion course, selected from a variety of offerings, as part of the CORE curriculum requirements.

9. What Religious Life groups and opportunities does Manchester offer?

In addition to the weekly chapel worship service, a variety of student groups meet through the week. These include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Simply Brethren, Manchester Catholics, Soul Café', Campus Interfaith Board, various Bible study and discussion groups, one-on-one discipleship through Intercollegiate Ministries, and more.

10. Where can I find more information?

Check out the various pages of the Religious Life/Campus Ministry website (including the calendar of events), stop by or call (x5243) the Religious Life/Campus Ministry office in Petersime Chapel, take a look at the chapel's bulletin board, or visit the Religious Life/Campus Ministry table at the Activities Fair that occurs at the start of each semester.