

**Washington Adventist University  
Spiritual Master Plan  
2014 – 2020**

**“A deep Christian experience will be combined with the work of true education. Our schools are to advance steadily in Christian development; and in order to do this, the words and example of the teacher should be a constant help.”**

Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*,  
(Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing Association, 1923), p.  
516.

**Washington Adventist University  
Spiritual Master Plan**

***The true “higher education” is that imparted by Him with whom “is wisdom and strength” (Job 12:13), out of whose mouth “cometh knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).***

The Washington Adventist University Spiritual Master Plan has been prepared by the Office of Ministry under the direction of the Strategic Planning Committee of the University as the North Star of spiritual programs on campus. Goals and objectives for achieving the desired outcomes have been clearly defined.

**Mission Statement of Washington Adventist University**

Washington Adventist University is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to seize the opportunities for learning in the nation’s capital in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world.

*Spiritual Identity*—Students will understand the basic spirituality that is the heart of the University’s mission. They will be committed to a belief and value system that results in responsible moral choices and the care of the body, mind, and spirit.

**Washington Adventist University Office of Ministry: Mission Statement and Vision Statement**

**Mission Statement**

To foster a spiritual community that exemplifies a Christ-centered Biblical lifestyle through discipleship, worship, fellowship, leadership, and service in order to make a difference in the local and global communities.

**The Spiritual Master Plan/Office of Ministry mission statement expresses WAU’s commitment “to foster a spiritual community that exemplifies a Christ-centered Biblical lifestyle” through the following:**

***Discipleship.*** Discipling students and equipping them to share in their experiences of walking with the Lord.

***Worship.*** Students live in God’s presence, and integrate those things learned at worship services into their daily living.

***Service.*** Sharing one’s individual experience in the Lord, in which the disciplined Christian student will want to engage.

***Fellowship.*** Students are guided to discover and take part in meaningful recreation, in addition to learning how to deal with their leisure time.

***Leadership.*** Prepare and develop leaders of integrity who follow Christian principles.

**Vision Statement**

To cultivate a spiritually viable environment that is Biblically rooted in the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs that would make Washington Adventist University the most sought-after Christian community of higher learning.

**Values**

1. Respect
2. Integrity
3. Excellence

4. Stewardship
5. Faith
6. Service

**The Office of Ministry exists to provide hope and help by harvesting disciples for Jesus Christ.**

**Hope:** By teaching you to put your hands in the hand of God.

**Help:** By providing opportunities to serve globally.

**Harvest:** Reaping others through the word of God by way of the cross.

*The Office of Ministry: Where ministry and missions cross.*

#### **Spiritual Growth Outcomes**

**Upon graduation, Washington Adventist University students will demonstrate spiritual competencies in the following areas:**

**Spiritual Identity:** *They will be able to make life decisions based on Biblical principles.*

Bible study groups (focused on practical Christian living)  
Worship services  
Convocations  
Connection groups (In Residential Hall)  
Community groups

**Communication:** *They will be able to share Bible teachings with people they come in contact with their lives.*

Chapel 4 U  
Reflection Worship (A Friday Vespers)  
Leadership workshops  
Worship conferences

**Analytical Skills:** *They will be able to confidently analyze and discuss moral issues from a Christian worldview.*

Ignite (AY Program)  
Community groups  
Bible study groups  
Chapel 4 U

**Effective Citizenship:** *They will have acquired the necessary spiritual skills to impact their world with the spirit of service characterized by integrity. They will reflect Christian principles in their behavior while being able to appreciate all faiths.*

Community service projects  
Urban Ministry  
Service Day  
Interfaith convocations/forums

**Teamwork:** *They will be able to effectively participate and lead in small and large groups, having acquired the skills necessary for effective team building and peer collaboration.*

Community groups

Leadership workshops  
Connection groups

**Aesthetic Appreciation:** *They will be able to appropriate and celebrate other cultures in their lives and workplaces.*

Interfaith convocations/forums  
International Heritage Month  
Celebration of Black History Month/Latino Heritage Month/Asian History Month  
International Sabbath Day

**Discipline:** *They will be able to exercise discipline in their personal and professional lives.*

Leadership workshops  
Leadership training through participation in various Ministry initiatives.

**Washington Adventist University's Spiritual Master Plan supports Strategy One in the University's overall strategic plan: "To encourage faith development that is deliberate and critically aware." The following imperatives guide implementation of this strategy:**

1. Facilitate a life- and church-changing dialogue centered on Adventism, spiritual development, love, and action.
2. Nurture an atmosphere where persons of various faiths feel valued and respected.
3. Create a campus atmosphere in which service permeates life and learning.
4. Deliver spiritual care to commuter students.
5. Provide diverse opportunities for students to promote social change through their interactions in the broader community.
6. Provide spiritual counseling to students, faculty, and staff according to their needs.

### Spiritual Master Planning Committees and Processes

Institution wide involvement in implementation of the *Spiritual Master Plan* is demonstrated by the following chart of the multiple committees participating:

Area	Committee	Chair	Responsibilities
Board of Trustees	Subcommittee for Student Life	Board Personnel	Oversees and gives direction to meeting spiritual goals as it impacts the institution's spirituality. Meets three times a year.
Campus	Cabinet	WAU President	Plans, evaluates, and gives guidance to overall spiritual activities on campus. Meets weekly.
Campus	Spiritual Life Committee	VP for Ministry	Oversees all spiritual campus initiatives and offers support to institution's spiritual life. Meets monthly.
Campus Ministries	Office of Ministry Administrative Committee	VP for Ministry	Plans, assesses weekly activities. Evaluates chapel quality and how spiritual needs of learning community are met.
Campus Ministries	Student Leaders Committee	Chaplain for Ministries Chaplain for Missions	Plans, assesses, and implements inreach, outreach, and other campus ministries. Meets biweekly.
Student Life	Student Life Committee	VP of Student Affairs	Oversees and evaluates how spiritual programs impact student life on campus. Meets monthly.
Residence Hall	Residence Hall Management Committee	VP for Student Affairs	Oversees plans and evaluates spiritual programs in the student dorms. Meets monthly.

### Office of Ministry

The Office of Ministry will coordinate spiritual activities to increase the understanding of our denomination among students.

Washington Adventist University sees nurturing leaders who will be agents of change in the local and global communities as central to its mission. The Office of Ministry, along with the faculty and the Sligo Church pastoral

staff, has the responsibility of creating the environment and developing the opportunities for students to develop a healthy spiritual appetite, resulting in holistic spiritual growth.

In order to produce such results, the Office of Ministry has re-organized to increase opportunities for leadership development and spiritual growth among students, and opportunities for collaboration with Sligo Church.

The Office of Ministry is headed by the Vice President for Ministry, who oversees a variety of branches: Student Missions, Campus Ministries, and Student Association Religious Life. Under the Office of the Vice President for Ministry, the chaplain for ministries works with student leaders and the Student Association Religious Vice President to oversee three major areas:

1. Inreach ministries
2. Outreach ministries
3. Short- and long-term mission trips

The Chaplain for Missions coordinates the latter two efforts.

The Campus Ministry and Student Missions branches are led entirely by students and for students under the coordination of the chaplains. Crossroads and Homeless Ministries are led in collaboration with the Sligo Church Young Adult Pastor in order to provide a holistic approach to spiritual development.

The Office of Ministry helps to create a spiritual environment through Spirit-inspired art and framed quotations throughout the campus. This will help direct the campus attention via the arts to the Source of all wisdom, knowledge, and love through ministry-inspired language. A yearly Spiritual Theme is promoted during each school year. All co-curricular and academic activities on campus are built around the annual theme.

#### **Campus Church and Pastor**

The senior pastor of the campus church (Sligo) plays an important role in the spiritual formation and life of the students. Priority is given to close *communication* between the campus church and the University, which fosters *participation* by students in church life, as well as the church participating in the life of the University. Each semester, the senior pastor teaches *Principles of the Christian Faith*, one of the main religion courses in WAU's main general education requirements, as a way of connecting with students.

The relationship between the church and University may be outlined as follows:

#### **Visible Relationship**

Sligo Church has added the tag line "Washington Adventist University Campus Church" to all of its official communication forms, thereby establishing its role and relationship to the University.

#### **Cooperative Planning**

The Chaplains for Ministries and Missions conduct weekly planning sessions with campus ministry team members. The Vice President for Ministries meets once a month with Sligo church leadership as a part of an open format for joint planning and exchange of information. The Chaplain for Ministries also meets weekly with the Sligo pastoral staff. This facilitates student participation in the life of the church and strengthens the overall partnership between church and campus.

The Sligo Church Young Adult Pastor and the WAU Chaplain for Ministries work together in a cooperative manner with students' best spiritual interests in view. For example, they jointly oversee the Homeless Ministry and Crossroads.

### **Joint Programs and Activities**

Crossroads weekly Sabbath worship service (described below).

The student Week in Spiritual Emphasis is planned so that it concludes on Sabbath rather than Friday night, thus involving the entire Sligo congregation, not just the campus.

The church seeks to welcome and establish connections with new students during the orientation process of the First Year Experience and registration period:

- A survey is given out to ascertain where they might like to serve in church life.
- Every new student and transferring student is given a Bible from the Sligo church during the First Year Experience.
- Social activities such as a pizza social are provided for all new students and freshmen, sponsored by the church.

### **University Initiatives**

#### **Inreach**

The following activities and programs offer avenues for student involvement primarily on campus:

*Convocation/Chapel*, held every Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. until 12 noon at the Sligo Church sanctuary, is one of the premier ways in which WAU enriches the spiritual and personal lives of its students, faculty, and staff. Convocation is central to our expression as a welcoming community of faith within the context of academic excellence. The services embrace the Seventh-day Adventist heritage while at the same time addressing the spiritual needs of all people, regardless of denominational background. Convocation exists to point all people to Christ and worship Him through music, word, and other creative means.

*Singspiration* is a dynamic praise and worship service, filled with drama and dance, poetry and testimony, geared to those who are looking for contemporary worship. *Singspiration* meets on Friday nights at 8:30 p.m. following the University Vespers program.

*Reflections* is a worship initiative to give the campus community an opportunity to welcome in the Sabbath in a creative and exciting manner through pottery and poetry, singing and studying, storytelling and worshipping in a multicultural setting. *Reflections* meets on Friday nights at 7:30p.m.

*2 and 5* is a vespers program during the summer months, geared to provide food and fellowship for students who remain in the area.

*Small Group Bible Studies* seek to provide adequate opportunities for students who are committed to Christ to grow spiritually or to prepare those for baptism who are seeking to know more about Christ through the study of God's Word.

*Thursday Night Live* is a student-led Christian comedy show that seeks to provide a safe Christian environment for students to explore their creativity through poetry, song, music, and comedy that is neither offensive nor secular.

*Ignite (AY Program)* is a Saturday afternoon service geared at providing the campus community a time of fun, fellowship, and worship. It is intended to be Christ-centered and spiritually creative, providing a space for learning, growing, and gathering.

*Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE)* occurs once per semester. It is a special "week of prayer" program dedicated to the spiritual needs of the student body. The fall WISE is led by an external speaker while the spring WISE is led by the students.

*Silent Judah* is a sign language ministry that seeks to share God's love to His people through signing and praise-dancing. It also serves as a worship enhancer for all campus worship services and programs.

*Encouragement Ministries* is geared at providing encouragement and support to students, staff, and faculty who are going through rough times or celebrating a special occasion. Encouragement Ministries participants also serve as worship facilitators. It is the goal of the ministry to empower and encourage students to fulfill their goals as students and future citizens of the global community.

*The Audio/Visual team* is responsible for the sound and video projection of all Campus Ministries services, events, and happenings, such as Chapel, Friday Night vespers, Missions week, and Week in Spiritual Emphasis (WISE).

*Crossroads* is a Sabbath worship service geared to the college community, conducted in collaboration with Sligo Church.

*Young Adult Sabbath School* is a ministry of Sligo Church geared at providing students with the opportunity to participate and study together the Sabbath School Quarterly.

*PULSE* (Pray Until Life Shows Evidence) is the prayer ministry on campus. It consists of group prayer in the Wilkinson Hall Lobby, weekly night prayer meetings, and Friday night worship services throughout the semester. PULSE Friday night worship is a combined worship that allows the campus to come together and check their "pulse" on campus several times throughout the semester.

*Residence Hall Worship*s. Ministries and worship opportunities in the residence halls take a variety of forms:

- *Real Talk* is a place for male residential students to talk openly about personal issues, problems, and any spiritual concerns.
- *IMV* is the women's ministry on campus. It stands for "I Am Valuable," and the goal is to help the ladies on campus transition from girls to women, as well as to help students understand that they are valuable and they should never be ashamed to be who God called them to be. This program also serves as a mentorship, allowing several faculty/staff women to interact with the students. The group meets bi-weekly and has several events and outings throughout the semester.
- *Iron Man Men's Ministry (IMMM)* is a ministry inspired by Proverbs 27:17. Its purpose is to provide a platform for young men to "sharpen," or encourage, one another to be "men of God." Its pillars are brotherhood and manhood. The leader serves as coordinator of activities and student leader to the Office of Ministry, where resource are provided to aid in spiritual needs and/or areas identified. Activities consist of "Brotherhood & Manhood" sessions (monthly), social activities, seminars, and enrichment events (e.g., Chivalry Day, etc.).
- *Dare to Share* is a place for female residential students to talk openly about personal issues, problems, and any spiritual concerns.
- *Annual Spring Revival* is a week focused on renewal of the purpose of being on this campus, more importantly on what it means to be a Christian. It is used as a time to boldly call the students to make a decision to live for Christ. The revival encompasses several facets of worship: preaching, singing, dramatic presentations, poetry, and more. The revival is held under a big white tent on the lawn; this allows the University to reach non-Adventist students who may generally not want to enter a church by taking a non-traditional approach.
- *Bible Unplugged* is a joint, midweek worship service for both male and female residential students consisting of preaching, worship, and fellowship.
- *Morning Devotionals/Evening Worship*s are provided in the residence halls as is customary with all Adventist campuses.

#### **Outreach (MIND=Meeting Immediate Needs)**

The following ministries involve students in service primarily for those beyond the WAU campus:



*Homeless Ministry: Fishes & Loaves*, conducted in collaboration with Sligo Church provides students and staff of Washington Adventist University with the opportunity to care for and minister to the needs of homeless people in the D.C. metropolitan area. Activities consist of meal preparation; distribution of food, literature, and clothing; and encouragement of individuals receiving these services.

*Project Sunshine's Nursing Home Ministry (PSNHM)* provides students and staff of Washington Adventist University the opportunity to visit and minister to nursing home residents in the D.C. metropolitan area. Participants sing, read, pray, and provide encouragement for residents at bedside and in small groups.

*Reaching Hearts Prison Ministry (RHPM)* provides students and staff of Washington Adventist University the opportunity to visit, encourage, and minister to the needs of incarcerated citizens in the D.C. metropolitan area. Activities consist of Bible studies, singing, and prayer.

*All Shades of Christ (ASC)* is a ministry of Washington Adventist University that provides students and staff the opportunity to encourage and support survivors of terminal disease, those currently battling life-threatening illness, and their families. Activities and projects vary according to the age and needs of individuals served, but will largely consist of gift giving, visitations, prayer, singing, and short inspirational messages.

*Take It to the Street: Street Evangelism* is a ministry of Washington Adventist University that provides students and staff the opportunity to connect directly with patrons in local malls and shopping areas. Prayer, literature, encouraging words, and singing are all tools used to connect and transform. These activities lead to the "invitation" to come to programs and/or events by the Office of Ministry (e.g., *Singspiration*, *Missions Week*, etc.).

*Grace Fund (GF)* is a student-centered initiative consisting of the collection and distribution of clothing, meal tickets, food, gift cards, Metro Smartcards, and financial contributions of staff, students, and community members. Its purpose is to provide emergency basic necessities for students in need, with the intent of helping them meet their academic goals. Supplies and funds are allocated confidentially to individuals in need.

#### **Student Missions**

The Student Missionary Program provides opportunities for students to deepen their spiritual experience and gain exposure to other cultures and peoples. It strengthens their understanding of global leadership, and provides them with a healthy outlook on diversity. The program has two branches:

- *Long-Term Missions* gives students who are baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church the opportunity to serve for a year in another country in their areas of interest, such as: teaching, healthcare, or pastoral ministry.
- *EMERGE* (Extended Mission Experience Reaching Globally to Everyone) is a short-term missions program open to all students. Each summer the Office of Ministry gives students several opportunities via EMERGE to explore the world around them and impact the global community.

*ENACTUS* is a student organization sponsored by the School of Business, is a leader in providing creative business solutions to provide for basic human needs. Students involved have been privileged to witness as they represent Washington Adventist University yearly on national and international competitions. SIFE teams embrace students who want to make a difference.

*Honors Program* exists to help talented, motivated students better prepare for a life of service through mentorship in supportive co-curricular activities, and practice leadership and service in the WAU community and beyond. By participating in Honors, students are consecrated into a type of priesthood whereby scholarship and leadership empower them to perpetuate Christ's ministry.

## WAU's Commitment to the Adventist Faith and Life

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is committed to train young men and women for efficient service and Christian living. WAU's current statement of mission declares it to be "a learning community dedicated to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service."

The mission statement further declares the goal of educating students "to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world." WAU's strategic plan reflects the priority given the institution's faith commitment. The seven strategies of the plan guide the institution's administration in planning, assessment, and decision-making. **Strategy One declares that the University will "encourage faith development that is deliberate, personal and critically aware" in a Seventh-day Adventist context.**

This strategy is implemented both through WAU's academic program and the co-curricular programs coordinated by the Office of Ministry and Office of Student Life.

### Ministry Strategic Plan

1. Create a spiritual formation master plan.
2. Implement initiatives that connect campus with SDA congregations.
3. Implement ideas for faculty, staff, and student spiritual growth, such as a symposium focused on personal spiritual growth, an annual retreat, Bible study groups, etc.
4. Continue to involve the Sligo Church pastoral staff and other area pastors in our worship programs and in the spiritual training of the campus faculty, staff, and students.
5. Reinvent the weekly faith-building chapel service for students, staff, and faculty to include · a general community chapel, a greater degree of interaction with the campus community, · local speakers from the General Conference (GC), local churches, community leaders, and other professionals.
6. Continue to enable students to worship in a wide variety of settings.
7. Offer co-curricular classes that respectfully examine belief systems of other faiths and ways in which they intersect and diverge, and that expose our students to respectful dialogue with other belief systems.
8. Implement initiatives on spiritual formation, which would involve training faculty as spiritual mentors who would lead small groups, in order to focus on integrating campus spiritual life.
9. Implement faith-building initiatives that connect the campus with non-SDA congregations.
10. Implement initiatives that connect the campus with non-SDA Christian high schools.
11. Implement initiatives for faculty, staff, and students that demonstrate the openness, welcoming spirit, and respect for diversity of faith.
12. Implement initiatives that encourage faculty, staff, and students to support and participate in organized service opportunities, e.g., Service Day. This will help foster the true culture of service promised by our "Gateway to Service" motto.
13. Implement service initiatives that connect K-12 and Columbia Union constituency with campus academic and non-academic activities.
14. Provide students with service-related networking and resource opportunities as well as training and leadership development.
15. Establish more ministries that involve and inspire students to develop Christian virtues.
16. Involve at least 50 percent of boarding students, 24 percent of faculty and staff, 25 percent of day students, and 5 percent of evening students in organized campus activities.
17. Increase the number of students taking leadership roles in University activities/ministries.
18. Involve at least 50 percent of residence hall students, 25 percent of faculty and staff, 25 percent of commuter students, and 5 percent of evening students in Service Day.
19. See an increase in those who take part in Mission Trips.

20. Implement programs that will prepare students to live as responsible and productive Christians, including worship with themes and objectives centered on empowering residents to live spiritually accountable lifestyles.
21. Recruit student, faculty, and staff help in planning and executing the weekly chapel/convocation program. Conduct various surveys for chapel feedback.
22. Continue involvement with Action in Montgomery (AIM). Continue to invite students to get involved with AIM and with the many community service opportunities.
23. Witnessing will result in baptismal increase.
24. Supply Communication & HR stories related to staff achievement and appreciation to ensure coverage in WAU and external publications/media.
25. Review website monthly for accuracy, navigation, and attractiveness.

Washington Adventist University is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service.

Students are taught how to shape their personal and professional lives as Adventists in the contemporary world, and are shown how Scripture can be applied to engage the problems of contemporary life in many other classroom encounters outside of the required religion courses. In addition, a great many class sessions in all fields begin with prayer or more extensive devotionals framing the interactions of the hour, and many courses have ethical, moral, and/or spiritual components that raise these issues.

The religion general education requirement is structured so as to fulfill two basic values that run through the institution's statements of mission and ethos: 1) all students are required to take some courses that teach of the content of Biblical, Christ-centered, Adventist faith, such as *Jesus and the Gospels* and *Principles of the Christian Faith*; 2) students may, and in some majors are required, also to take a course(s) in world religions and/or religion in American culture, that promotes understanding of and respect for diverse religious perspectives, as well as critical discernment. Similarly, in all courses, faculty are called upon to 1) incorporate the particular faith perspective to which the institution is committed into every course through such means as prayer, devotional commentary, and insights connecting course content with Biblical principles; and 2) exemplify the University's *ethos* and values by showing genuine respect for the dignity of all students and their diverse convictions.

The administration and faculty seek to find ways to enhance the inculcation of Christian values and mission on campus. The Department of Religion is, of course, focused on them, but there are many courses in other departments featuring these aspects of human life.

All WAU programs emphasize the beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and therefore encourage a commitment to these principles. Whether trained in religion, English, foreign languages, history, science, business, or any of the other disciplines offered by WAU, students who leave WAU clearly bear the imprimatur of this institution and its parent church. Arguably some disciplines are more oriented to direct church employment than others, primarily the service-oriented programs.

#### **The Academic Program and Church Mission**

The academic program, the heart of the University, supports the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the religion component of the general education requirement. Students are required to take 12 hours of religion courses that cover a range of topics, including Biblical studies, Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, world religions, and moral issues of the contemporary world.

The Department of Religion also facilitates student involvement in evangelistic and community service campaigns. WAU encourages integration of Christian faith and values throughout its curriculum.

The commitments of faculty members are of decisive importance in achieving this goal. Thus, in the selection and hiring of faculty, WAU seeks candidates who not only possess requisite academic qualifications but are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who share the SDA Christian vision of excellence and service articulated in the mission statement. Faculty members show acceptance of the mission statement and the standards expected by the University when they sign their contracts, which are issued yearly.

New staff members sign a hiring letter in which they agree to abide by the University's policies and procedures, including those set forth in the institution's employee handbook, which contains the mission statement and the "Statement of Community Ethos."

WAU regularly schedules a Service Learning Day—a full-day experience in both the fall and spring semesters. Classes are canceled, and all students, faculty, and administrators are encouraged to participate in selected community service opportunities.

The mission of training "moral leaders" in the context of a "Seventh-day Adventist vision of excellence and service" is in turn directed toward the Seventh-day Adventist Church's broader mission of preparing people from all nations of this world for eternal life in the world to come.

#### **In the School of Arts & Social Sciences...**

The Business Department, with its emphasis not only on profit-making enterprise but on training in accounting, finance, business organization, and other generic skills, prepares many for service roles in the Church.

The Department of Education trains teachers, many of whom will find their way into Seventh-day Adventist schools.

The Department of Music, steeped in sacred compositions, prepares musicians for churches and other SDA musical venues.

The Department of Religion is most clearly oriented to church service and requires no further comment.

The Department of Social Work is also oriented in this direction, and students are typically strongly motivated to provide these services in ways that promote the beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices of the Church.

#### **In the School of Health Professions, Science & Wellness...**

The Department of Biology/Chemistry supports the overall needs and outlook of the Church, inasmuch as many of their students are preparing for careers in the medical professions.

The Department of Nursing is in its fundamental spirit oriented toward service, particularly in Seventh-day Adventist health care organizations, as parish nurses, and to serve as medical and health missionaries.

#### ***BIO/CHEM curriculum***

- *HWPE*: Teachings of the health message in courses such as PETH and HLSC.
- *RESP*: Religious beliefs are discussed in class sessions on topics about "death and dying." *NURS*: Class schedules are arranged to accommodate the attendance of campus Chapel. Prayer and devotion are also incorporated into class sessions.

#### ***Courses with a distinct Adventist component***

- *BIO/CHEM*: BIOL 425 *Life Origins and Speciation*. This course examines the arguments that support and destabilize belief in both creation and biological evolutionary theories. Introductory science classes touch on similar issues to a much lesser extent.
- *HWPE*: PETH 315, HLSC 120, HLSC 270 and HLSC 250. *Sport Ethics*, *Adventist Heritage*, and *Ellen G. White and the Church* are all courses that have a distinct SDA component.

- *MATH*: Ethics and the health message are both addressed in *Statistics*, when addressing the numbers of people suffering from drug abuse and alcohol addiction.
- *NURS*: Ideas of spirituality are related in *NURS 222 Professional Nursing Foundations I*.

*WAU is sensitive and attentive to the needs of students not identifying with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to the needs of off-campus students*

- *BIO/CHEM*: The department addresses this on a case-by-case basis. This most commonly shows up as Islamic students who request “excused absence” for religious observations. Any student who makes this type of request is accommodated with a cheerful, supportive attitude.
- *RESP*: Class schedules accommodate students’ days of worship.
- *HWPE*: No games are scheduled on Easter Sunday.

*Spiritual goals for students in the School of Health and the goals assessment*

- *BIO/CHEM*: The department identifies students’ development of a personal spiritual identity as a learning outcome goal. It is assessed in capstone courses within the Biology and Chemistry curriculum. In chemistry, the assessment tool is a question on the final, inviting students to discuss how the biochemical concepts discussed in the class have affected their understanding of the origin of life.
- *NURS*: Spiritual goals are a part of the program outcome, and are assessed in how students treat their patients.
- *HWPE*: Christ-centered wellness is emphasized, as well as field work.

*School of Health faculty members are prepared/encouraged to convey Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices*

- *BIO/CHEM*: The majority of faculty members in the department are members of the SDA church. During General Assembly meetings, Faculty Meetings, and colloquiums, important Adventist values of current concern are shared with the faculty and staff.
- *HWPE*: Church and volunteer activities are done by many of the faculty members.
- *NURS*: Both devotion and prayer are conducted in class. Participation in mission trips and Service Day Learning are also encouraged.

*Adjuncts prepared to transmit SDA beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices in their classrooms*

- *BIO/CHEM*: The department attempts to hire Adventist adjuncts who will convey SDA beliefs, values, and lifestyle. However it is sometimes difficult to find appropriately credentialed adjuncts in all areas of our programs.
- *HWPE*: During the interviewing process, interviewees are asked about their religious beliefs/affiliation. We hire adjuncts who we believe will uphold the SDA beliefs.

*Department intentionally transmits SDA beliefs, values to non-Adventists*

- *BIO/CHEM*: Outside of the classroom, informal conversations with students frequently occur as a means of explaining the SDA beliefs, values, and lifestyle. The rationale behind institutional rules and how those flow from the Adventist value system is commonly explained.
- *HWPE*: Biblical connections are made to the health message both in and outside of the classroom, throughout the academic year. Dorm life also focuses on healthy eating and clean living. Christianity is promoted as well as prayer and devotion.

#### **Recommendations for the *Spiritual Master Plan***

1. Hold annual faculty and staff one-day retreats on ways to ensure the powerful presentation of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices to our students in every aspect of student life, not only in course offerings but in other activities, as well. Such retreats would be designed to highlight both the theoretical and practical aspects of this matter, grounded in Biblical texts.
2. Include a discussion of SDA beliefs and values in Faculty and General Assembly meetings.

3. Involve students in open discussions of these matters with emphasis on the practical nature of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices. The difficulties of sustaining these beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices in the contemporary world should be confronted candidly and openly.
4. Entertain testimonies of persons who lived according to worldly beliefs, values, and lifestyle practices, then converted to Seventh-day Adventism. This would help many to understand the functionality of the providential gifts of Scriptural guidelines for human behavior.
5. *Assessment of Classes*. Complete course assessment with the Office of Assessment to see if the Adventist beliefs class for all students is meeting their religious needs and the objectives of the Spiritual Master Plan.
6. *Assessment Tool Development*. Develop an assessment tool in cooperation with the Office of Assessment in order to evaluate the impact of the program of the Department of Religion, showing how it contributes to the understanding of Adventist and non-Adventist participants.
7. *Senior Exit Assessment*. Invite seniors to assess their stay on campus and how their lives have been affected: "In what ways has WAU influenced your knowledge/appreciation of Seventh-day Adventists' major beliefs and values?" "Did your experiences in and out of the classroom work together to help you understand and appreciate these beliefs and values?"

#### **Ministry to Non-Adventist, Commuter, SGPS, and Online Students**

**The University will collaborate with the Department of Religion Faculty and the University Spiritual Life Committee for curriculum enhancements to increase the understanding of our denomination among our non-Adventist students, commuter students, and online students.**

Washington Adventist University is sensitive and attentive to the needs of students not identifying with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to the needs of off-campus students.

Providing an inclusive environment for such students in a setting dominated by Seventh-day Adventist students, faith practices, and subculture poses a challenge. On a day-to-day basis, much of Washington Adventist University's success in this arena relies on the sensitivity of individual faculty and staff members. In programs such as Nursing, Athletics, or Graduate Professional Studies, where there are higher concentrations of students who are not Adventists, faculty and staff may be more attuned to this group's varied needs.

WAU has devoted considerable attention and effort to meeting the challenges and opportunities involved by means of the First Year Experience program, the high profile given Adventism's Biblically based principles in the academic curriculum, and multifaceted co-curricular endeavors to communicate the claims of the gospel and nurture faith development.

#### **Recommendations for the *Spiritual Master Plan***

1. *A Space for Community*. Make plans through the Department of Religion for a community space or meeting room where students can meet on a casual basis for religious and theological discussions, mentoring, and tutoring current Adventist students and non-Adventist students.
2. *Assessment Tool Development*. Develop an assessment tool in cooperation with the Office of Assessment in order to evaluate the impact of the program of the Department of Religion, showing how it contributes to the understanding of Adventist and non-Adventist participants.
3. *Continued Assessment of Classes*. Complete course assessment with the WAU Office of Assessment to see if the Adventist beliefs class for all students is meeting their religious needs and the objectives of the *Spiritual Master Plan*.
4. *Chaplain Consultations for Action*. Begin consultations with the Office of Ministry to assist more non-Adventist students with their understanding of Adventism.
5. *Student Life Office Targets*—Student Life will be targeting activities and programs to better incorporate healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful, responsible social interactions among all students, with special emphasis on any non-Adventist students.

6. *Adventist Cultural Development.* Student Life, along with the Department of Religion and Office of Ministry, will incorporate Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and lifestyle during freshmen orientation, for residence hall students, for student athletes and coaches, and with the ESL program.
7. *Student Participation.* Increase the number of students who participate in Summer Camp Staffing and Evangelism through the Missions program of the Office of Ministry.
8. *Survey Development.* A “get involved” survey will be taken during the first weeks of school to gather information about student interest in assisting the Office of Ministry in campus ministries.
9. *Multi-Style Worship.* Worship programs should intentionally integrate learning and worship styles, music, and ethnicity in all aspects of public worship.
10. *Residence Halls.* Housing staff pray for seven tenants each day, specifically mentioning prayer requests received in response to a “What can we pray for?” e-mail query to each resident.
11. *Seventh-day Adventist Orientation.* At the beginning of each academic year and semester, the Office of Ministry will collaborate to conduct a seminar with each of the three schools to help students further understand and adequately represent the Seventh-day Adventist values held by Washington Adventist University. All students in Nursing, Athletics, and the School of Graduate Studies are required to complete this training.
12. The Department of Religion also provides curriculum that advances the understanding of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and commitments through a pyramid approach to growth in faith for non-Adventist students.
13. The Office of Ministry staff will strive to assist non-Adventist students with their understanding of Adventism.
14. The Office of Ministry provides spiritual care to off-campus and online students.
15. The School of Graduate Professional Studies will create a single graduate school introductory course, to be taken by all graduate students, that would incorporate the current research course in Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values.

#### **Department of Religion Initiatives**

Until a few years ago, the main avenue for student involvement in evangelism and nurture was the one-semester course RELP 370 *Field School of Evangelism*. It became obvious; however, that this gave students only limited experience in evangelism and nurture. Thus, the Department of Religion launched a new educational initiative in 2010–2011: the Ministerial Field Training Program. This program offers directed and supervised long-term training in pastoral ministry to all theology and religion students at WAU.

The department assigns students to a local Seventh-day Adventist church for the duration of their education at the University. Students transfer their church membership to their assigned local churches, regularly attend services, and train under skilled senior pastors in order to understand the nature of congregational life, the duties of ministry, and the methods of successful pastoral leadership.

Theology and religion majors are also involved in spiritual leadership on campus in cooperation with the chaplain’s office. Spiritual leadership activities on campus include involvement in Friday evening vespers (preaching and leading in worship) as well as leadership in campus ministry outreach programs to the community at large.

Furthermore, theology and religion majors have spearheaded numerous mission trips to South America, Africa, and Europe. Evangelism has been especially emphasized, involving students in preaching, visitation, and conducting Bible studies, leading to baptism of hundreds of new church members. At the same time, these trips have entailed working for social justice and the building of God’s Kingdom. Numerous evangelistic styles have been utilized, in partnership with such groups as Share Him, Columbia Union Conference–sponsored evangelism, and efforts directed and sponsored by WAU Campus Ministry/Chaplaincy. Department of Religion majors have also been involved in many major evangelistic events and programs in the local area and have been speakers at many local Adventist academies’ mission-related initiatives.

### **Recommendations for the *Spiritual Master Plan***

1. *Community Service.* In serving campus, church, and community, the Department of Religion encourages its faculty to provide pastoral leadership.
2. *Learning Community.* The Department of Religion should work closely with other departments on campus in order to build a community of scholars who fellowship, worship, and grow in their religious lives together.

### **Office of Student Life Initiatives**

The Office of Student Life and the Office of Ministry take primary responsibility for promoting a campus atmosphere outside the classroom that fosters personal development and practice of faith harmonious with the fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Office of Student Life coordinates and manages the residence halls, dining and health services, and student activities in accordance with the Spiritual strategic priority.

Several innovations during recent years demonstrate the residence hall Deans' commitment to promoting spiritual life among students residing on campus.

### **In the Residence Halls**

- Morning and evening worships provided daily (Monday–Thursday, and mornings only on Friday)
- Deans meet, pray, and provide leadership tips to residence hall leaders (RAs, etc.) weekly
- Deans assist and review RA worship plans to ensure adequate content and focus (RAs lead worship on Tuesday evenings, in their respective halls)
- Deans visit and worship with RAs during hall worships, throughout the year
- Deans pray with and often counsel students, each day, throughout the day
- Provide Sabbath fellowship dinners, and invite each resident to the Dean's home (Halcyon Hall)
- Make certain a spiritual component is included in the freshmen mentoring program for residence hall students
- Deans develop, facilitate, and lead out in the weekly *Love Actually* program (Morrison Hall)
- Deans assist and mentor students who lead the *Real Talk* and *Bible Unplugged* programs (Morrison Hall)
- Deans assist in the planning and execution of Parent Weekend once each year
- Deans invite residents to monthly Women's Ministries meetings at Sligo Church (Halcyon Hall)
- Deans invite spiritual leaders from World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Columbia Union, and local conferences to participate as guest speakers, panelists, facilitators, etc., for various meetings and programs throughout the year
- Deans instituted FAST (Faculty And Staff Tuesdays), to meet every first Tuesday for sharing of spiritual and inspirational insight with students in a co-curricular activity.

***Co-curricular activities.*** The Division of Student Life recognizes that the spiritual nurture of WAU students is tantamount to their success; therefore, co-curricular activities and programs are guided by the intentional commitment to support Christian values on a Seventh-day Adventist Christian campus.

***Watering the Seed.*** A program designed to train prospective and current student leaders to begin to understand the rigors and responsibilities of leadership in general, and peer leadership in particular. The model used is always Christocentric.

***Moments of Prayer.*** The Student Association leads out on some Friday afternoons, with a special focus on prayers of thanksgiving and supplication. These sessions last from 15 minutes to half an hour, and are held in the Student Association office.

***Sabbath Surge.*** Students take an excursion into nature, or sometimes participate in or with a community service initiative, on a Sabbath afternoon.



**Prayer Breakfasts.** Two prayer breakfasts are conducted each semester by the Student Association, and in addition, the residence hall Deans lead the RAs in conducting prayer breakfasts throughout the year.

**Leadership Retreat.** Student leaders are introduced to the theme for the upcoming academic year, and they are trained for spiritual leadership. Guest presenters include WAU faculty and staff, as well as pastors and other community leaders.

**Greater focus on student leadership.** Student employees are appointed to serve as the Spiritual Life Coordinators (SLCs) for the respective halls. SLCs collaborate with the Student Chaplain for Residence Life. These student leaders connect with their peers to get a better understanding of the kind of worship offerings that would edify the student body. As a direct result of their interactions, worships such as Bible Unplugged, Real Talk, and Open Word Bible Study were all launched.

**Gender Weeks.** One week each semester is devoted to ensuring that WAU students develop into exemplary men and women. Special presentations address student concerns in such areas as health, etiquette, and interpersonal relationships. A number of highly qualified, experienced professionals make presentations for Gender Weeks, including physicians, counselors, pastors, and officers from the Takoma Park Police Department.

**Faculty/Staff Worship Presentations.** Faculty and staff are encouraged through email to identify dates of their availability to conduct worship in the residence halls. Numerous faculty, staff, and administrators have accepted the invitation, including WAU's president and the senior pastor of Sligo Church.

**Prayer Rooms.** Both residence halls have designated a Prayer Room, where students can visit at any time for private or small group prayer, meditation, or Bible study. The Office of Ministry provided furniture, Bibles, prayer journals, prayer cushions, and stationery on which students may record prayer requests and testimonies.

**Washington Adventist University Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center has relocated to a new space adjacent to the Counseling Department. This enables them to better serve students in a confidential manner. The center sponsors better living activities and provides therapeutic and career counseling.

**Student Handbook Planner.** The Student Planner will conduct an annual review of all student policies, including those concerning lifestyle and healthful living, in order to address the continuing needs of students.

**The Department of Athletics Changes.** The Department of Athletics has resigned from NCAA and joined NAIA. NAIA is an organization based on Christian principles, and includes the program "Champion of Characters." This program addresses a balanced and ethical lifestyle. An added bonus is the intercollegiate association with SDA and other faith-based institutions.

**Athletic Seventh-day Adventist Orientation.** At the beginning of each academic year, the Office of Ministry conducts a seminar with each athletic team to help student athletes further understand and adequately represent the Adventist values held by Washington Adventist University. All University athletes are required to complete this training.

**Sabbath Guidelines.** The Department of Athletics has implemented Sabbath guidelines for weekend travel. Activities include Sabbath worship with local churches and possible community service events.

**Leadership Responsibilities.** Residential Life designed new leadership responsibilities for RAs in the area of spiritual nurture, administration, social skills, and academics in an effort to maximize the individual skills and interest of student leaders.

**Music Guidelines.** As a faith-based institution, Washington Adventist University promotes Christian values by requiring Christian music to be played at campus events.

**International Student Orientation.** The Betty Howard Center for Student Success has included orientation events for all new students and also provides worship and social programming and events. These may include off-campus trips, food, and games, as well as seasonal and holiday activities.

#### **Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan**

1. **Student Life Office Targets.** Student Life will target activities and programs to better incorporate healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interactions among all students with special emphasis on any non-Adventist students.
2. **Program Evaluations.** Student Life will be evaluating the success of the residential hall leadership program and its impact on residence living.
3. **Adventist Cultural Development.** Student Life, along with the Department of Religion and Office of Ministry, will incorporate Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and lifestyle during freshmen orientation, for residence hall students, and student athletes and coaches.
4. **Residence Hall Ministry.** The Office of Ministry will plan and support pastoral ministry in the residence halls through training residence RAs in collaboration with the Office of Student Life.
5. **Religious Sensitivity.** We will foster sensitivity to other belief systems through workshops, seminars, workshops, and course objectives. Proper assessment to be done at the end of each session.
6. **Residence Halls Survey.** At the beginning of each semester, Deans of each residence hall will conduct a Spiritual Life Survey to determine where students are spiritually. The results will be shared with the different entities on campus.

#### **Assessing Spiritual Outcomes**

Measuring or assessing spirituality can prove very challenging. How does one measure internal experience? With regard to the SMP, therefore, we primarily assess the quality of what we are doing rather than attempting to evaluate the results of the process. The process of assessment includes the following components:

**The Spiritual Master Plan.** The SMP itself contains a list of many activities intended to achieve the goals of the plan. These are reviewed by Campus Ministries, the Spiritual Life Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the President's Cabinet, the Student Life Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees to see how well they are being maintained and what additional steps or changes might be established to help attain our goals.

**Noel-Levitz survey.** The Noel-Levitz assessment instrument was conducted on campus during the 2003–2010 school years. This survey measures student expectations and the degree to which these expectations were met by the institution. Items related to spiritual growth and campus spirituality are added for use at Washington Adventist University. Continued use of this instrument is a part of the assessment process.

**Campus Ministries survey.** In the fall of each school year, assessment also takes place with an instrument prepared by the Office of Ministry. The items on this instrument are specifically coordinated with each item in the SMP and students are asked to give their personal assessment of our success or failure in achieving the stated goals.

**Communicating results.** As requested, the Office of Ministry prepares a Spiritual Assessment Report summarizing the results of the Noel-Levitz survey, the Campus Ministries surveys, and any other relevant assessment information.

**Year-End Assessment.** At the conclusion of the academic year, the Office of Ministry will provide an assessment of at least five of the religious activities, which will aid in planning and meeting the spiritual needs of Washington Adventist University students. An ongoing plan for complete assessment of all activities should be presented to the Spiritual Life Committee by the end of each school year.

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**Constant Revisions to the University's Spiritual Program.** As needed, the Office of Ministry coordinates a discussion of the Spiritual Assessment Reports with the Spiritual Life Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, President's Cabinet, Student Life Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees. Adjustments are made to the SMP as needed, and action steps are developed to help achieve the goals of the plan.

#### **Annual Assessment of Outcomes for Non-Academic & Academic Support Departments**

##### **Department of Spiritual Life**

Baraka G. Muganda—Vice President for Ministry

Regina Johnson—Chaplain for Ministries

Kaneil Williams—Chaplain for Missions

##### **Department Mission and Outcomes**

Our mission is threefold: to create an environment where students, faculty, and staff of the University are Discipled, Spiritually Nurtured and given opportunities for Missions (Hope, Help, and Harvest).

##### *Discipleship*

#### 1. Worship Services

- a. Places and opportunities where students can encounter God and seek truth offered weekly
  - i) Measure: Track the number of services and/or worship opportunities available to students
  - ii) Goal: Offer a minimum of one worship service and/or opportunity every day through the school year

#### 2. Student Participation

- a. Cumulative student attendance of offered worship services and/or opportunities
  - i) Measure: Quarterly surveys
  - ii) Goal: 50 percent attendance in 2010 with an increase to 70 percent attendance by 2020

##### *Nurture*

#### 1. Baptisms

- a. Students committing to membership through baptism
  - i) Measure: Yearly count of student baptisms
  - ii) Goal: 10 student baptisms per year

#### 2. Faith Development

- a. Attempt to measure students' current state of faith, Christian and Adventist belief
  - i) Measure: Faith Index Survey
  - ii) Goal: 10 percent increase in believers by academic year's end

##### *Missions*

#### 1. Local Outreach

- a. Encourage student involvement in local outreach ministries and service.
  - i) Measure: Yearly count of student participation
  - ii) Goal: Maintain 25 students involved yearly

2. Short-term Missions (EMERGE)

- b. Encourage student involvement in short-term service trips
  - i) Measure: Yearly count of student participation
  - ii) Goal: 50 percent increase in student involvement in the next five years

3. Long-term Missions

- a. Encourage student involvement in long-term mission service
  - i) Measure: Yearly count of student participation
  - ii) Goal: 50 percent increase in student involvement over the next five years

*“The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service.”*

*—Daniel 1:19*

*The Spiritual Master Plan will be reviewed yearly.*