

# MULTI-FAITH CHAPLAINS



**THOMPSON  
RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY**

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<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	ADM 21-1
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>	June 10, 2021
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	President
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Administrative
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT</b>	Associate Vice President Students and Dean, Faculty of Student Development (AVP Students)
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT</b>	(TBD)

## **POLICY**

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The role of a Multi-Faith Chaplain is to provide spiritual and pastoral care, and short-term interventions for populations disconnected from their faith communities while they attend the University.

The University recognizes the importance of spiritual well-being to members of the University community. Accordingly, the University may allow local representatives of faith communities to become Multi-Faith Chaplains on its campus(es) in order to provide spiritual support and care to those seeking chaplaincy services.

Multi-Faith Chaplains are representatives of their faith communities and are not employees, agents, or representatives of the University by virtue of their role as Multi-Faith Chaplains, though a Multi-Faith Chaplain may also be an employee of the University.

## **REGULATIONS**

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1. In order for an individual to become a Multi-Faith Chaplain on campus, the faith community sponsoring that individual must provide the following to the AVP Students (or designate) at TRU:
  - a. an official letter of on-going support, on letterhead, identifying the individual from its organization chosen to attend TRU as a Multi-Faith Chaplain. The letter is to be signed by a representative in a leadership or equivalent role. The letter must stipulate that if there are changes to the on-going support of this individual, the organization will contact the AVP Students or designate in writing;
  - b. a purpose statement setting out the roles and activities the faith community wishes its representative to undertake at TRU;
  - c. evidence that the proposed Multi-Faith Chaplain has the training, credentials and qualifications to serve in the faith community in a pastoral role, and as a Multi-Faith

Chaplain in a University setting. This will normally be established through recognition from the religious or spiritual body to which the proposed Multi-Faith Chaplain belongs.

2. Upon receipt of the letter of support from the faith community, the AVP Students (or designate) will convene a panel to review the application. The panel will consist of up to three (3) TRU employees, up to two (2) TRU students, and up to two (2) Multi-Faith Chaplains. The role of the panel will be to determine if the application meets the requirements and standards of the University and to make recommendation to the AVP Students on whether or not to accept the application. The AVP Students (or designate) will communicate the decision to the faith community.
3. Multi-Faith Chaplains must comply with all applicable laws and TRU policies.
4. Multi-Faith Chaplains may be invited by the University to participate in campus-based celebrations or observances (e.g., Convocation, Remembrance Day) at the discretion of the University.
5. Multi-Faith Chaplains may not promote membership in any specific off-campus faith community nor may they use manipulative, deceptive or coercive means to enlist individuals in any specific faith community.
6. The University may, at its discretion, provide office space and equipment for the Multi-Faith Chaplains at its campus(es).
7. The AVP Students (or designate) will correspond with the Multi-Faith Chaplains annually to confirm ongoing activities and sponsorship in the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy. The AVP Students (or designate) will also review and ensure each Multi-Faith Chaplain's compliance with the regulations set out within this policy. If there are concerns with a Multi-Faith Chaplain's performance or sponsorship, it is the responsibility of the AVP Students (or designate) to review the concerns and determine an appropriate course of action. The decision of the AVP Students is final.