

Vision for Campus Ministry – by CRHM

I. Source

All praise and glory be to the Triune God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Sisters and brothers,
joyfully and thankfully, we acknowledge
that our vision and ministry come

from the Triune God
Who created, sustains, and redeems the world.
Who is revealed
in Christ, the Scriptures, and the world,
Who indwells the Church
and empowers it for ministry;
from the Triune God,
Who is the source of all wisdom and knowledge,
in Whom we live and move and have our being,
to Whom we belong, in life and in death,
unto Whom we commend the work of our
hearts, minds, and hands.

II. Higher Education

We see places of higher learning

as institutions of education
where people originally sought the truth,
found it most completely in submitting to God, and
shaped curricula and administration for that end;
where now many, seeking the truth, though not God,
claim their academic freedom, and
reshape curricula and administration for that end;

as centers of power and privilege that
shape and are shaped by cultural values,
give initial clues to cultural trends,
propagate life-and-world views,
critique the church's proclamation of the Gospel, and
provide one of society's principal means
for preserving and accumulating knowledge,
for probing into undiscovered secrets of the cosmos,
for applying discoveries to profitable ends,
for equipping the younger generation
to replenish the supply of workers needed
by academic institutions,
by the professions,
by the government,
by industry and the market place.

We see places of higher learning

as gatherings of persons that often
live by the rules of divisive competition
rather than the promises of integrated community,
erect barriers between academic disciples
rather than the bridges of collegial accountability,
take religion to be just a phenomenon for objective study
rather than the orientation of every human heart;

as places where we can, following Christ
form authentic community around
God's compassion, truth, and justice,
reform, in obedience to Him,
our Gospel proclamation,
our hermeneutics and theology, and
our ability to discern the signs of the Kingdom
in the world,
change, for the sake of the Gospel,
our patterns of ministry and
our administrative structures for mission.

III. God's Promises

Through faith

we know that Jesus, the Christ, through the Holy Spirit,
is already present in institutions of higher learning,
holding all things together
as the first-born of all creation,
lighting our darkness
with his liberating truth,
reconciling all things to Himself
through the blood of His cross,
freeing the whole creation, as risen Lord,
from the power of the Kingdom of Death,
giving us a pattern for life and ministry
in the hope of His coming again,
making all things everlastingly new
in His love, justice, joy, and peace;

we recognize that
students, faculty, and staff, like ourselves
must have more than diplomas, money and jobs
to be successful,
to be fulfilled,
to live!

we confess that
it is impossible for any of us, as sinners
to overcome, by our own learning and strength,
the bondage into which we have fallen;

we affirm in joyful celebration that God reigns,
that the Kingdom is breaking into the world
so that scholars can
be forgiven and reconciled
with their Creator, each other, and the cosmos;
so that they can
follow, with integrity, both
the Lord
and the rigours of their studies
at the same time!

we acknowledge that, in the Kingdom, God joins
knowledge with wisdom,
learning with humility,
facts with meaning,
technology with purpose,
specialization with Shalom;

we discover, with gratitude, that the church on campus is made up of many denominations and traditions, called together to herald the coming of God's reign through reconciling-work and servant-deed.

IV. Ministry on Campus

In obedience to Christ we shall take up this ministry

being present on campus
because Christ through his Spirit is already there
extending the Reign of God
to the academic enterprises of men and women,
because people and their institutions need
to see and hear the Word of God
in order to be redeemed,
because the Church itself needs
to see and hear the word of the campuses
in order to be faithful
to Christ's own mission in the world;

confessing that we might
be tempted to adopt a triumphalistic posture that
eclipses the cross of Christ and
isolates Christians from one another;
be deceived in the pursuit of
authority that does not serve others,
community that is exclusive, and
worship that insulates and protects us
from the anger and anguish of others;

testifying that
Christ is still in the world, and that,
through His body, the church,
Christ still proclaims the Word that
brings good news to the poor,
freedom for prisoners,
sight for the blind, and
justice for the oppressed so that all can
join the new community and
sing the New Song together;

praying that God will
sustain the church in ministry
for the sake of the new order that is coming
in which there is neither
Jew nor Greek,
Slave nor Free,
Male nor Female,
but where
all are one in Jesus Christ;

trusting that God will
create caring community on campus,
uphold it in its witness,
nurture and strengthen it through prayer,
revive it through the promises of the Word,
nourish it through the life of Jesus
in the sacraments, and
support and encourage it
through the gifts of God's people.

V. Doxology

Sisters and brothers, as we follow Jesus,
we will rejoice in the Lord always,
we will be gentle to all people-
the Lord is near;
we will not be anxious about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and petition with thanksgiving,
we will present our requests to God.

And we will be assured that the peace of God,
which transcends all our understanding,
shall guard our hearts and our minds
in Christ Jesus.

Glory be to the Triune God:
Source, Guide, and Goal of
our ministry
our lives, and all that is,
now and forevermore!
Amen.

February 1989