

**Area Association of Religious Communities
(AARC)**

**Tuesday, September 4, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Members in Attendance

John Armstrong
Ray - generation of hope ministry
Matt Emory - Storrs congregational church united church of christ
John -Storrs community church
Scott Thompson- Athletes in action
Angelica (Intern)
Kyle (Intern)
Gill Banter - Kyle
Betsy- Counseling and mental health services
Scott - Hillel
Brian Blayer - Episcopal Chapter
Joseph Black - church in vernon
Betsy Black
Josh - TOMS
Emily - advisor to toms leadership council
Elizabeth - Insititual equity
Pam
Hannah- Intern reform university
Lucas- RUF Campus minister
Kyle - University christian fellowship

John- Facilitate groups to connect with student through their faith

Guests:

Elizabeth Conklin, Associate Vice President, Title IX Coordinator & ADA Coordinator

- This policy is a religious accommodation policy. It puts into words the policy that already existed
- The policy is to protect students and employees who request accommodation based on observing their religious faith. This can be needing to miss a class or test to observe a religious holiday or ceremony.
- The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) ensures the University's commitment and responsibility to foster equitable and inclusive working and learning environments. Our work focuses on administering the University's non-discrimination policies, as well as ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations related to equal opportunity and affirmative action. This includes OIE serving as the office of the ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator.
- The entire University community has a shared responsibility to promote affirmative action and provide equal opportunity in order to ensure non-discriminatory work and learning environments.

- The policy encourages students to reach out to their professor first however if there are problems that arise, they can contact Elizabeth's office or visit policy.uconn.edu or equity.uconn.edu to email Elizabeth.

Betsy Cracco, Director of UConn Counseling and Mental Health Services.

Overview of Services

- Betsy discussed how faith communities can be a resource or connection to distressed students
- Helping students find spirituality as a form of healing. Faith leaders can provide students the opportunity to connect with themselves through spirituality.
- October 11th world mental health day
- Their office is located on the 3rd floor of Arjona
- Their office spends time doing outreach, training, clinical service, every day from 1-3 there is drop in time non-emergency in Arjona drop in consultation Monday through Friday), 24/7 emergency services, referral network, UConn Helps training
- 860-486-4705 phone number to contact

New Members

Spirit and Truth Apostolic Church (Apostolic Fellowship Church)

Pastor Joseph Black / Leslie Black

- Pastor Black and Leslie Black provided an overview of their faith and ministry.
- Opening a church in Vernon November 1st, currently based in Bloomfield.
- Vision is teach others to love god, to love others and to serve the community

Redeemed Christian Church of God Chapel of His Glory, Storrs

Minister Kunle Okele

- Minister Okele provided an overview of his faith and ministry.
- Worldwide church 186 countries
- Vision is to make sure there is a place for people to go to worship within 5 to 10 minutes of where they live
- Small space at holiday mall at 4 corners in the courtyard

Young Life at UConn

- Rob Johnston, the Director of Young Life, has left UConn. Young Life is still active at UConn.

UConn Reads: A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin

- Activities include speakers, events, dinner, small group discussion
- <https://uconnreads.uconn.edu/>
- AARC members always welcome to take part in all aspects of the program

Faith Interest Lists

- Overview of how the process works during orientation and how the lists are generated.

- There is a drop down list of faith communities for students to voluntarily choose when the student completes their online Orientation reservation form. Parents are not involved in this process.

Announcements / Discussion/Other

- Discussion regarding AARC website (current and former)
- UConn Academic Calendar

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2018