

## Area Association of Religious Communities (AARC)

Meeting Minutes: September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 3pm

Student Union 324

### **Member Attendance:**

OCCSS: John Armstrong, Cru: Scott Thomson, Generation of Hope Ministry: Ray Riddell, Reformed University Fellowship: Lucas Dourado & Jonathan Keller, Spirit and Truth Apostolic Church: Joseph Black, St. Thomas Aquinas (Toms Council): Emily Golec, St. Mark's Chapel: Brian Blayer, The Navigators: Brandon Wilson, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship: Kyle Van Etten, St. Paul's Church-AIA: Keith Anderson, Redeemed Christian Church of God: Kunle Okele, The Bridge Church: Aaron Campbell

### **Welcome to New Members of AARC**

- St. Timothy's Church, Emily Gierer
  - [Link to website](#)
- If anyone is still seeking affiliate status and is a member of AARC, please contact John Armstrong at [j.armstrong@uconn.edu](mailto:j.armstrong@uconn.edu)

### **Dean of Students (DOS) Office: Maureen Armstrong, Associate Dean of Students/Director**

- Food Insecurity
  - Currently, the University does not have a food pantry on [the Storrs campus](#)
  - Food pantries are available within the Faith community and the Town of Mansfield, which students are referred to
  - [Two committees](#) have been formed to further discuss the topic of food insecurity at UConn, [one from Student Affairs](#) and [one from the Provosts office](#).
  - University administration is working to partner with student government individuals
  - Swipe Out Hunger- a nation-wide program that partners with colleges to help put an end to student hunger and assist those who struggle with food insecurity
    - [UConn Swipes Program](#)- aims to provide students who are food insecure, and/or who are experiencing an emergency situation, access to healthy and well-balanced meals in our campus dining halls. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled at UConn
      - UConn Swipes Program does not require an application, instead it requires a [meeting with an Assistant Dean of Students](#) and needs assessment to determine the individuals' level of food insecurity. [The needs assessment is completed at the time of the meeting.](#)
      - On 10/16 and 12/4, student will be able to donate their swipes to the "Give a Meal" initiative at the Dining Halls
- [DOS Resources](#)
  - Students First Fund- created by the Division of Student Affairs and is supported by private donations. Students who have experienced an **unanticipated hardship** may receive a gift through the fund to help ease the burden they may be experiencing. By providing resources in time of need, the Students First Fund allows the Division of Student Affairs to demonstrate the care and concern they have for students, reminding them that they are an important and valuable part of the UConn community.
    - [Nomination Form](#) or email [studentsfirstfund@uconn.edu](mailto:studentsfirstfund@uconn.edu)

### **Suicide Prevention Week**

- September 22<sup>nd</sup>-September 28<sup>th</sup>- theme is "Listen Louder"
  - [Lineup of events](#)
- [Ask. Listen. Refer.](#) - online suicide prevention training

- Suicide Prevention Committee seeking a representative from AARC to attend meetings
  - Meets first Wednesday of the month during the academic year
- For more information about suicide prevention at UConn, visit [here](#)

### Welcome to the Pack: Diversity Education Online Module

- [Welcome to the Pack](#) is a diversity and inclusion module created by UConn students, alumni, staff and faculty, for UConn students just like you. The scenarios in the module are real events that have occurred at UConn

### Rainbow Center: Gender and Pronoun Poster Series

- [The Rainbow Center](#) is excited to announce the completion of a [three-part gender & pronoun poster series](#) for the 2019-2020 school year.
  - Gendered & Gender-Neutral Pronouns
  - How Can I Ask People for Pronouns?
  - What If I Mess Up Someone's Pronouns?
- A message from the Rainbow Center:
  - "As we enter into this school year, we are hopeful that these posters can serve as helpful tools to educate and begin conversations about pronouns and gender. Pronouns can sometimes arise as a point of concern at the start of a new semester – with many people to meet, some UConn community members have expressed hope that a tool such as these posters could help to open minds."
  - The Rainbow Center, is committed to the work of fostering a community that is welcoming to all. We hope that you will read, print, and share these posters in an effort to join us in this mission."

### AARC Name/ Website

- Discussion of current name (ARRC)
- The AARC website and name are trademarked by a non-member of the university or AARC.
- "Faith" seems to be a better term/fit for the group
- Current AARC members were all in agreement that they want students to flourish not just in faith but in all aspects of their life- Present members had positive response to exploring new name.

### Announcements / Discussion/Other

- St. Mark's Chapel
  - Talking Ted on 9/18 at 6pm
  - Organ Concert on 9/20 at 7pm
  - Apple Picking on 9/21 with Yale
- Generation of Hope Ministry: Pam and Ray are hosting 22 students from the Young South East Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) program from 11am-4pm on 9/21 at their home

### Next Meeting: Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### Academic Calendar

- Thanksgiving Recess November 24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>
- Last day of Classes before Final Exams: Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Reading Days: December 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Final Exams: December 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Semester Begins: Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>