

CAMPUS MINISTRY

It's an honor to report that as of August 1, 2016, I am the new half-time Episcopal Chaplain at the University of Pittsburgh. I'm excited to be back on a college campus and to build upon the foundation that the Rev. Philip Wainwright has laid over the past five years. I've decided to refer to the chaplaincy as "cruX," meaning both "the heart of the matter" and "cross." Before Jesus ascended, He commissioned His disciples to go to all people and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to do what He said (see Matt. 28:19). cruX is a ministry that seeks to obey this command by offering one-year apprenticeships to college students to train them to live in the way of Jesus for the life of the world.

Student apprentices will engage in three primary areas of Jesus-following together. First, they will learn how to participate in and design experiments in giving. These experiments will be semester-long commitments in which students will engage in giving to some portion of the community. After the first semester of participation in chaplain-designed experiments, students will then design and implement their own experiments in giving. In addition to helping students learn to engage in creative acts of giving, these experiments will also provide students who are not a part of cruX with a tangible example of what it looks like to live in the way of Christ.

Second, students will commit to meeting once per week to receive the grace of God together. During the first semester, this meeting will be organized around reading, conversation, and prayer. During the second semester students will develop a daily reading/prayer plan that suits them.

Third, student apprentices will unite together twice per month (once on campus and once off) for support and celebration. These gatherings will take place at our home (involving a meal, conversation, a Eucharist, and various activities such as music, board games, movies, etc.) and on campus (celebrating a simple Eucharist in a public space). These gatherings will provide a time for students to worship, unwind, check in with each other, have fun, and build deeper relationships. It will also be a time when students can invite friends to see what cruX is about.

The X of cruX represents Jesus Christ, who bled, died, rose from the dead, and lives, even today, ruling over all things to renew the creation in His good time. Jesus supports, sustains, and guides all that we do as both the Servant and Lord of all, and so the X is the foundation upon which cruX is built.

Trusting in the ever-present and all-powerful Jesus, students will be guided through these three disciplines of creating, receiving, and uniting over the course of a year to prepare them both to follow Jesus and to equip them to apprentice other students the following year.

I welcome parish and individual involvement in the chaplaincy. Please feel free to reach me at 412-360-9693, or IsadoreDJ1@gmail.com.

Dan Isadore
Campus Chaplain