

## ***Boston University Religious Life Guidelines***

*Religious Life Groups:* Student groups seeking recognition as a Religious Student Group apply both through The Religious Life Office (RLO):

<http://www.bu.edu/chapel/religion/religiouslifepolicies/religious-life-group-application/>

and through the Student Activities Office (SAO): <http://www.bu.edu/studentactivities/>

Recognized groups whose mission and vision are unique and distinctive have the ability to engage a Campus Minister or Religious Affiliate, as directed by the Office of Religious Life. If your Religious Life group intends to call a Campus Minister or Religious Affiliate, here is a link to the Application Form: <http://www.bu.edu/chapel/religion/religiouslifepolicies/campus-minister-application/>

Ongoing recognition requires adherence to Religious Life Guidelines, the submission of an annual report form documenting the groups' activity (available through the Director of Marsh Chapel), and occasional meetings as requested by the RLO. All groups come under the coordination, guidance and oversight of the Dean of Marsh Chapel, or designated staff (i.e., the Director of Marsh Chapel). The Director will gladly provide advice about the timeline for the Religious Life Group application in coordination with SAO.

*Religious Life Procedures:* Marsh Chapel, through the Religious Life Office, provides coordination, guidance and oversight of religious life and religious groups on campus. Groups or members in violation of religious life guidelines may be referred to SAO or the Dean of Students Office for possible sanctions.

*Ethical Conduct:* 1. Clarity and Transparency: groups will clearly identify their traditions and lineage, including any affiliated outside organizations. 2. Outreach and Engagement: groups will refrain from coercion, harm, hazing, or harassment (see *Lifebook*, 'Tolerance of Others' Beliefs' section). 3. Areas for particular care and attention include proselytizing and church planting. Student leaders will lead group recruitment activities, with Campus Ministers or Religious Affiliates providing participation and support. Groups should not invite unaffiliated community members to undertake recruitment. Ethical conduct involves both actual and virtual activities.

*Campus Minister/ Religious Affiliate Approval Process:* 1. Complete the application form, for review by the RLO for possible approval by the Dean. 2. Submit a letter affirming adherence to Religious Life Guidelines. 3. Approval is contingent on completion of the BU Mandatory Sexual Misconduct Training, and on submission of a current resume, and a credentialing letter from the minister's judicatory, or similar group (showing criminal/sexual offender registry check, record of training for campus ministry, CORI and SORI checks, and ongoing procedures for accountability to the judicatory). The norm is one campus minister per group. Campus ministers work only with their own groups, are uncompensated by BU (though some limited benefits—ID, email, library access—are provided). In some cases, the minister's title may be 'spiritual director', 'religious affiliate', or other similar appellation.