

Pre-Ministry

Students who are considering careers in ministry are encouraged to take a broad range of courses, especially within the various disciplines of the humanities. A major in religion is not usually a prerequisite for admission to a divinity school or seminary. Some basic courses in the study of religion, however, may provide helpful background. The chaplain is available to meet with any student considering such a career to discuss the student's own sense of calling to this vocation and to help the student get in touch both with other pre-ministry Converse students as well as people from the community who may be of help in clarifying the appropriate steps toward such a career.

At the end of their years at Converse, students considering a vocation in ministry should have a clearer idea regarding their own sense of "calling to the ministry" as well as practical guidance and information necessary to determine what the next step might be for them. To accomplish this, the chaplain will:

1. meet with individuals and groups of students to discuss the meaning of calling to ministry, as well as the practical aspects of ministry and the different forms that ministry may take.
2. attempt to ensure that students who are considering ministry have been placed in touch with other students who are considering the same profession and with religious leaders from their own faith communities who are equipped to guide them in the particular process required by their faith community to move toward a career in ministry.
3. work with Professional Development to ensure that there are opportunities for Converse students to meet and talk with other people, but particularly women, who are presently engaged in ministry and to provide religion internships for those who want to explore the possibility of this profession in a more in- depth and structured manner.
4. arrange for the return to campus of ordained alumnae who will serve as role models for Converse students as they lead campus worship.
5. work with other members of the Department of Religion, as well as representatives of various faith communities, to inform students about the opportunities available at various seminaries and divinity schools.