

Compassionate Peacemaking is focus of 2021-22 academic year at Goshen College

Goshen College President Rebecca Stoltzfus opened the 2021-22 academic year with a message about compassionate peacemaking, this year's core value focus.

Using the metaphor of the rifted rock, she encouraged students and faculty to find the rifted rocks we need to provide us sanctuary in the turbulence of these times, and to be rifted rocks for one another, building strong foundations of peace, protecting each other's backs, opening ourselves to one another and holding our boundaries, in the ways of peace.

Following the convocation, students took part in the annual applause tunnel, a 21-year tradition with a cheering tunnel formed by faculty and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores and finally the first-year students. The procession led out to Schrock Plaza, where everyone participated in a student-led cheer.

Conference connections

This academic year we have three students enrolled from three Western District Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$5,200 in congregational student aid for the academic year. The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

2021-22 Campus ministries message

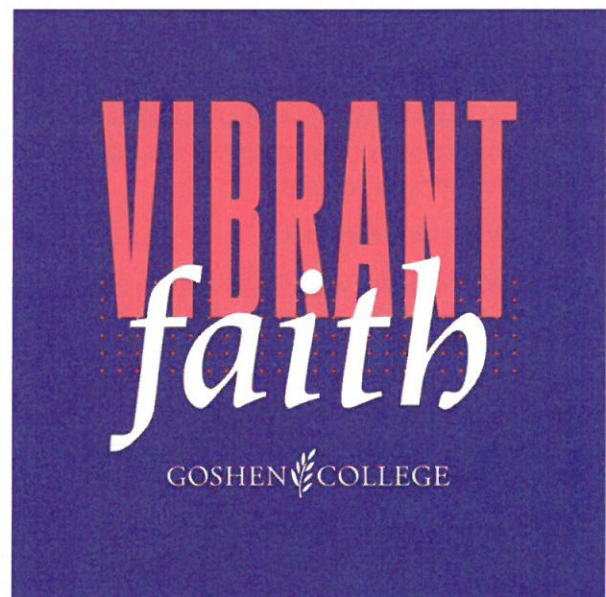
At the end of the academic year 2020-21 our outgoing campus pastor hired four Student Ministry Team (SMT) Leaders. SMT leaders serve in the campus ministries office and offer spiritual support to fellow students, coordinate chapel services, and publish a prayer booklet for the campus community.

The prayer booklet is filled with campus ministries resources such as centering prayer, GC prayer booklet, Inquiry programs, local churches directory, small groups, vigils, and Taizé worship services.

The academic year 2021-22 has started with an opening in campus pastor position. Despite not having a campus pastor, SMT leaders continue to meet regularly with their assigned student life leader.

One of the SMT leaders participated in a workshop at orientation week for first-year students and shared their personal faith journey while at Goshen College. Also, SMT leaders have already offered their first chapel service and everyone participated in the delivery of the service. SMT leaders are eager for the new campus pastor to be hired and they are looking forward to implementing several new campus ministries programs that create spaces for faith formation and study of the Bible. For example, one of the SMT leaders is particularly interested in leading a Bible study with their fellow students. SMT leaders are planning for ways to engage more students on joining them for SMT through attending the Club Day Fair and being available to talk with students in the residence halls, commuter lounge, and other places on campus.

-Dr. Gilberto Perez, Jr, Vice-President of Student Life



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