

Campus Ministries Report 2013

The past year witnessed a wide variety of change in the campus ministries, changes that reflect the commitment to growth and creative ministry with students and young adults embraced by our diocese. Significantly, two of our campus ministry programs experienced ministry transitions. Alongside the continuing diaconal service of the Rev. Nancy Pennekamp, EcHouse at San Francisco State welcomes Pastor Matt Pearson (UMC) and Stanford Canterbury called the Rev. Andy Shamel (TEC) as a two-year interim. All of our campus ministries continue working with ecumenical partnerships and the collaboration with the ELCA continues at both Stanford and Berkeley. The Big Gain continues to raise money in a process of fun and spirited rivalry between Stanford and Cal. The funds raised are split between the campus ministries. The diocese was also represented by one of our own at the National Chaplains conference in Chicago with Grady Tarplee, a junior at Cal, giving voice to national restructuring committees on the future of ministry in higher education.

EcHouse at SF State — The continuing partnership between the Episcopal, UMC, UCC and PCUSA churches runs both an intentional spiritual community housing program as well as on campus events such as themed bible studies around justice issues, monthly trainings for social change, tabling on campus, food pantry service, music “jam sessions” for students of all skill levels, and regular opportunities of engagement with the broader community of San Francisco. In addition to the eleven students living in the EcHouse students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, nationalities, and other campuses in San Francisco with approximately 25 students engaged in one way or another with weekly events.

Stanford Canterbury — This year Stanford returned to having a separate Episcopal Chaplain who will work alongside the ELCA campus pastor and other ministry colleagues. Although regular programming is establishing new patterns with the change in leadership, the goals of the ministry are to provide weekly Eucharistic celebration at the Memorial Church, bible studies, engagement with environmental and social justice theme, and regular student fellowship and dinner opportunities. The chaplain is also committed to exploring the intersections of story, the arts, and sciences with theology and how music shapes and builds community.

UC Berkeley, University Chapel — The campus ministry at Cal continues its ecumenical work with Chaplain Tom Poynor and Pastor Jeff Johnson. Activities for the campus ministry include a weekly Eucharist called “magnificat” followed by a vegan dinner with approximately 20-25 students and young adults in attendance. There are also small groups and numerous coffee outings facilitated by the Chapel staff on campus. Additionally the campus ministry works closely with the office of residential life in trying to build and sustain interfaith work on campus. The program is in its second year of having an intern from the Episcopal Service Corps funded in part by the Fund for Theological Education. The ministry also seeks to build and maintain ministry relationships and collaborations with ELCA and Episcopal Congregations in the Berkeley area.