

The University of Indianapolis: ‘Education for Service’

Editor’s Note: What does it mean to be a United Methodist-related higher education institution? The University of Indianapolis, profiled here, is one of three post-secondary schools in Indiana with United Methodist affiliation. The others are DePauw University in Greencastle and the University of Evansville.

This relationship is approved by the church’s University Senate and based on seven criteria related to organizational orientation and practice (story below). The University collaborates with the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) in various ways, and its Board of Trustees includes United Methodist clergy and laity. Resident Bishop Michael J. Coyner is an *ex officio* member of the board. (Photos courtesy of UIIndy.)

Meet UIIndy

The University of Indianapolis is a private, comprehensive, residential institution of 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students that is widely known for its strong, well-established academic programs in education, business, and health care – nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and psychology.

Located in the University Heights enclave on the south side of Indianapolis, the University was founded in 1902 by the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, which through mergers later became the Evangelical United Brethren and, ultimately, The United Methodist Church. A display of flags from more than 60 nations in the Schwitzer Student Center reflects the international diversity of the campus.

The University of Indianapolis consistently ranks among the top 25 percent of institutions in its class in the Midwest and is one of Indiana’s largest producers of doctoral degrees, graduating more physical therapists, occupation-



The UIIndy campus is located on the south side of Indianapolis.

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al therapists and clinical psychologists than any other university in the state.

The University’s motto of “Education for Service” emphasizes the development of ethical and moral values and

their application in every career. Students are encouraged to apply their unique knowledge and skills to real-world needs – to “do good with what they know” – through volunteering, service opportunities incorporated in their course of study, and internships.

In addition to some 200 international students, the campus extends its hospitality to students of all faiths while providing extensive social, religious and extracurricular opportunities to a broad mix of students.

The University is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II affiliate, fielding 21 varsity sports for men and women.

The seven marks of a United Methodist university

The University Senate of The United Methodist Church uses seven criteria to determine the integrity of the relationship of church-related colleges and universities. All 84 United Methodist-related colleges and universities (four-year institutions) are reviewed every ten years by a review team coordinated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the church.

- ♦ A church-related institution identifies itself as such in printed materials, official listings, and other statements of self-description.
- ♦ A church-related institution respects, honors, and provides the teaching of religion and, specifically, appropriate scholarly theological teaching in the Christian tradition within the curriculum. In the case of professional institutions and programs, the curriculum includes

opportunity for faculty and student reflection on the ethical dimensions of professional practice.

- ♦ A church-related institution respects and honors religious practice and, specifically, worship and service for students and faculty that choose to participate in the Christian tradition within the total life of the school.
- ♦ A church-related institution willingly allows faculty and students to explore the place of religious belief and practice and, specifically, the intellectual dimensions of Christian faith in all academic disciplines and co-curricular activities.
- ♦ A church-related institution encourages the exploration of the place of religious belief and practice in the larger society and advocates appropriate recognition of the contributions of religion to public life.

- ♦ A church-related institution recognizes the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and seeks to create a community of scholarship and learning which facilitates social justice.
- ♦ A church-related institution includes in its faculty, administrative officers, and board of trustees persons who understand and respect the relationship with The United Methodist Church.

Source: The 2009-12 edition of *The Organization, Policies and Guidelines of The University Senate of the United Methodist Church*, available at www.umc.gbhem.org.



Answers to questions about the University of Indianapolis

Who leads the UIIndy campus ministry?

The Rev. Dr. Lang Brownlee has been University chaplain since 2001. Dr. Brownlee is an ordained elder in the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Jeremiah Gibbs is the interim chaplain and director of the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation. He is a licensed minister in the Indiana Council of the Assemblies of God.

Mrs. Cindy Tyree (UIIndy classes of '77 and '03) is



Dr. Brownlee, Cindy Tyree and Rev. Gibbs stand in front of the Lantz Center.

office manager for Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs and serves as a program assistant in the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation.

How is campus ministry organized?

The chaplains use a modified version of the Covenant Discipleship model used in many United Methodist congregations. Students who participate in these ministries are led by chapel stewards of Justice, Compassion, Devotion, and Worship. There also is a chapel steward of Praise.

What is the Lantz Center?

UIIndy’s ecumenical center for Christian Vocations and Formation was founded by Dr. Michael G. Cartwright and Dr. Greg Clapper. From 2003 to 2009, Sister Jennifer Horner OSB served as director, and under her leadership this program grew and developed. Students in this program take a series of vocation exploration



Cartwright



Clapper

and vocation formation courses in which they are invited to learn about classic Christian spiritual disciplines, including the practice of discerning God’s will.

Faculty mentors work with students they discern prayerfully how God is calling them to lead lives of service.

The center is named for President G. Benjamin Lantz (1988-98).

Is chapel required?

The chapel requirement persisted into the 1980s but has evolved into a Lecture-Performance Series. Chapel has been voluntary at UIIndy for almost 20 years. Students are invited to join the University chaplains for an afternoon Prayer Break twice a week at 4:40 p.m.

On Thursday evenings, more than a hundred students gather for a Praise and Worship service (more commonly known among students as “P-Dub”) that alternates each week with a Taizé Service of contemplative prayer and songs.

More answers to questions about UIndy



UIndy provides a chapel with services several times each week for student and faculty.

Whom do I contact if I know a student interested in attending this UM-related university?

The Admissions Office at the University of Indianapolis is pleased to host visits from prospective students. Contact Marylynne Winslow for details at 317-788-3216 or 800-232-8634. Students who have particular interests in the Pre-Theology program are encouraged to contact Dr. Perry Kea at 317-788-3242. The Rev. Dr. Lang Brownlee (317-788-3382) directs UIndy's Youth Ministry training program.



Winslow

Whom do I call if my church group wants to hold an event at UIndy?

Call Christie Beckmann, 317-788-3566, the director of Conferences and Scheduling. The University can accommodate conferences of 150 to 200 people and can host dinner events for up to 400. Ransburg Auditorium seats 750; the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center seats 500.



The Schwitzer Student Center is a hub of campus activities.



The Schwitzer Student Center

Who is in charge of church relations at UIndy?

Dr. Michael G. Cartwright is the dean of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs. He can be reached at mcartwright@uindy.edu or by phone at 317-788-2106.

Cartwright serves on the Indiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and chairs the Steering Committee for the Wesleyan Connexion Project. He is one of the co-conveners of the new Institutional Relations Table.

What service projects does UIndy offer students?

UIndy students can select from a variety of service projects and experiences ranging from service-learning trips to Appalachia during Christmas break to Spring Term trips to West Africa.

Students and staff traveled to Sierra Leone in 2008 to help residents rehabilitate and expand a library as part of the United Methodist Church's Operation Classroom mission program. The 1,500 students of UMC Koidu Secondary School had been without a library and its resources for more than a decade.

UIndy students and staff will return to Sierra Leone next year. Congregations and individuals who would like to donate funds to assist with the cost of materials for the 2010 trip should contact the Rev. Dr. Lang Brownlee at 317-788-3382.



The Sierra Leone group is dressed in native clothing.

How can I receive updates on the work of University?

The Office of Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs is responsible for coordinating the production of a newsletter that comes out three times a year. This resource is circulated internally at UIndy and is made available via e-HUM as a URL. See <http://eip.uindy.edu/publications/connections.php> for the United Methodist Connections newsletter.

Does the University provide resources that assist The United Methodist Church in carrying out its mission?

The Lantz Center has developed a series of "Crossings Reflections" publications about vocational discernment. Most of these are available in PDF format on the Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs office Web site at <http://eip.uindy.edu/crossings/publications/>.

Contact

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www.uindy.edu

Conferences and Scheduling: 317-788-3566
Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs: 317-788-2106
University of Indianapolis Press: 317-788-3288
Sierra Leone service trip: 317-788-3382

The University of Indianapolis Press has published two books recently for United Methodist audiences. Dr. Kevin Corn's book *Forward Be Our Watchword* is an historical study of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Indiana (1880 to 1920). This resource is used in the Wesleyan Connexion Project. In addition, Dean Michael Cartwright has recently completed a book of United Methodist perspectives on Christian mission. *Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom* will be available for sale later this fall.

Contact UIndy's Patricia Cabrera at 317-788-3288 if you are interested in purchasing copies of either of these resources.

What United Methodist programs are offered at UIndy?

The Indiana Area Extension Course of Studies School for part-time local pastors is directed by UIndy Philosophy and Religion Professor Emeritus Dr. Herb Cassel. The Wesleyan Connexion Project, a program for United Methodist seminarians from the Indiana Conference, meets earlier the same week of annual conference and is directed by Rev. Dr. Andy Kinsey, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin.



Schwitzer Student Center in the middle of campus, is marked by the United Methodist cross-and-flame.

UIndy by the numbers

- 1 University motto: Education for Service
- 3 Number of name changes in the University's history; number of denominations (due to merger) to which the University has been affiliated; number of ordained United Methodist ministers who teach at UIndy
- 6 Schools and colleges of the University (in addition to a thriving Honors College)
- 8 Individuals who have served as president during our 105-year history
- 16 United Methodist Youth Leader Scholars (four cohorts or classes of four scholars at any given time)
- 230 Full-time faculty of the University
- 300 Approximate number of international students (from more than 60 nations)
- 1400 The University's address on Hanna Avenue in Indianapolis
- 1902 The year the University was founded (as Indiana Central) by the United Brethren
- 2,859 Full-time undergraduates in the fall of 2009
- 4,978 Total number of students enrolled at UIndy in the fall of 2009