

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Province V of the Episcopal Church Announces New Campus Ministry Developer

After a couple of years of discernment and visioning, Province V of the Episcopal Church is pleased to announce the hiring of Eric Richey as the new Campus Ministry Developer (CMD). Eric will officially begin this role in January 2025.

Eric Richey brings nearly two decades of experience sharing in Christ's ministry alongside high school and college students. Most recently, he served for over nine years with CCO Campus Ministry, where he focused on training, coaching, and encouraging congregations to lovingly welcome and disciple college students within their unique ministry contexts. Since 2021, Eric has concentrated on equipping faith communities to engage students with hospitality, care, and intentional discipleship.

Richey lives in a racially, socioeconomically, and ideologically diverse urban neighborhood in Cincinnati, OH, with his wife, Alicia, and their six children. In recent years, they have found a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church and actively participate in the life of the Church of the Advent.

Filling a Growing Need

"The process of discernment led us to understand that leaders want to reach out to institutions of higher learning near them, and often don't know how to start that conversation," said the Rev. Heather Barta, Province V Coordinator. "The CMD will be a mentor and coach to these leaders to help them build up the campus ministry that fits their context the best."

The Rev. Stacy Alan, chaplain at Brent House—the Episcopal campus ministry at the University of Chicago—and a representative to the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Advisory Council, shared her excitement:

"Our churches have so many gifts to share with young adults, and vice versa. Eric's experience and gifts will certainly encourage worshiping communities in their process of discernment and outreach. I am delighted that the province can provide this kind of support."

Looking Ahead

Expressing gratitude for this new opportunity, Richey said, "I am extremely humbled and thankful for the opportunity to serve the church in this capacity. I deeply believe there are many gifts and experiences inside the Episcopal Church that form us to encounter Christ as we come alongside college students in a ministry marked by hospitality, solidarity, and mutuality."

He continued, "I look forward to connecting with many different worshiping communities around Province V in the coming months as I learn more about how God is already at work in

your midst. These conversations will help us discern how Christ is calling you to lovingly engage the institutions of higher education in your particular ministry context and begin taking practical steps to build or deepen your relationships there.”

About the Role

The Campus Ministry Developer will serve as a resource and mentor for congregations seeking to engage local campuses. By providing coaching, training, and discernment tools, Richey will help leaders create meaningful, contextual campus ministries that reflect the hospitality and love of Christ.

About Province V

Province V is a network of 11 dioceses of the Episcopal Church in the Midwest. Each diocese contributes an apportionment to the Province, supporting ministries and creating valuable networking opportunities that connect congregations, leaders, and resources across the region.

In Province V, we “tell it in the light” (Matthew 10:27-31), celebrating God’s promise of renewal within the Episcopal Church in the Midwest. To fulfill this vision, we:

- Connect people to people and people to resources.
- Support each other in a variety of ministries, resourcing from within and without.
- Collaborate across multiple dioceses to build capacity for demonstrable impact.