

St. Paul's Cathedral to Restart Campus Ministry for Burlington Area Institutions of Higher Learning

Back in October, I asked you to pray for the possibility of begging campus ministry at St. Paul's Cathedral. I specifically asked your prayers around a grant proposal. In November, we applied to the Episcopal Church's office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry for two program years: 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. In short, we did not receive the \$30,000 we asked for. We were granted \$25,000! St. Paul's Cathedral was the primary grant winner of all those who applied.

The good news gets even better. From the sale of St. Anselm, the Diocese of Vermont has a fund that is restricted for campus ministry in the Burlington area. We will receive at least \$30,000 from that restricted fund for those two program years, and to do that which is necessary leading up to that start.

This work builds on ministries already flourishing with young adults here at St. Paul's. It is a natural extension of our thriving community of Younger Adults (aged 18 after-high-school to 40ish). I have talked with many involved in what has gone before: all the way back to those engaged in Episcopal campus ministry at the University of Vermont in the early 1980s – beginning around the time my wife was born – including the Rev. Al Stefanick, and our own the Ven. Catherine Cooke. I hope to continue with those and more conversations to learn from the wisdom of those who have been engaged in this work for years. I also bring my fifteen years of experience in campus ministry and “non-traditional” church to bear.

Naturally, as I step into this campus ministry role, some of my responsibilities at the Cathedral will change, but this partnership between the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Vermont, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and area institutions of higher learning – and the funds that come with it – mean that a young adults/campus ministry/adult formation position is secured at least until fall of 2028. I don't know about you, but I sleep better knowing that.

Our work is just getting started. I continue to ask your continued prayers for this ministry, that we might find who we need to find and be found by those who need to find us. Beyond your prayers, I am asking for introductions, as well. If you or anyone you know has a connection with Champlain College, the Community College of Vermont, St. Michael's College, the University of Vermont, or any online university, please let me know. You can [email me](#) to keep the ball rolling. Let's talk.

For now, our plans are to provide opportunities for students to gather, dine, and create fun videos for distribution on social media. In this way, we will engage in our shared Sacred Story — the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement — while sharing who we are as we attempt to follow Jesus in our present context.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve here. I am humbled by the way the Holy Spirit is moving in and through this place and this people.

Many blessings and thanks,
Bobby+