

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on September 1, 2011  
Hillel House

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Steve Burnett; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Bill Cron; Kristi Gessler; Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Katie Jo Sewell; Justin Spicer;

Absent: Claude d’Estree; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Brittany Johnson; Daniel Maxwell; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Chad Stewart; Ken Tankersley; Chris Xanthos

The meeting began at 9:35 with a period of silence.

No minutes from from prior meetings were discussed.

**(Re-)connecting**

After brief introductions, including the most awesome experiences of each person’s summer, we broke into dyads/triads to discuss the following questions:

Describe the best, most winning teamwork that you have ever seen or been a part of.

- What was it about that team’s activities that cause you to define them as the best?
- What were all the conditions that allowed that winning teamwork to emerge?

What can we do to foster winning teamwork at an even higher and more consistent level, throughout the DURC

Upon re-gathering, we shared our conversations and responses to the questions. What emerged most as elements of good, winning, teamwork were

- Having a common goal
- Having built good internal relationships
- Selflessness
- Strong leadership (including student leadership)
- Trust/mutual respect/responsibility

We will revisit these as we move into the academic year, and our work together!

**I Scream for Ice Cream**

We then turned to a discussion of the logistics surrounding the Ice Cream table on Monday, Sept 5, from 12:30 - 2:00 pm outside at the Ritchie Center. Decisions made:

1. We would locate the table/tents (if possible) right outside the Coors Fitness Center, between the entrance(s) to the Gates Field House and the entrance to the Ritchie Center. Back up location would be the “grassy knoll” in the center of the plaza, or the trees/benches near the Art School
2. Kristi Gessler will pick up a couple of table between 11:30 and 12:00 from the Information Desk at the Driscoll Center.

3. Kristi will purchase several hundred small ice cream sandwiches (of varying flavors) and a couple hundred Otter Pops, and keep them in her freezer 'til Monday.
4. Gary and Katie will supply tent/canopies; Katie will supply some lawn games.
5. Gary will print some stick-on DURC name tags
6. Gary and Paul (and ??) will provide coolers for the ice cream/otter pops.
7. Gary will provide little “flyers” with directions to the “University Faith Groups” website (in lieu of brochures, which he will have available inside the Ritchie Center at the Parents’ Resource Fair).
8. Individual group brochures are welcome at the table! If a DURC member cannot be present, but would like brochures at the table, they need to be at Gary’s office by 10:00 am Monday morning.
9. Once Kristi knows the cost of the goods, Gary will email that out so that folks can “share the love”.

### Chaplain’s Corner

We then turned to Gary’s announcements:

1. Janet’s back! And Albert’ll be here!—Gary reported that Janet Gold would be re-joining the Office Staff for 2011-2012. He also reported that he would have a work-study student to help as well.
2. Chaplain’s Student Advisory Council—The council will “re-up” this fall -- a great way for students to make a difference in religious life on campus.
3. Discoveries: Ice Cream Table (9/5) and Pioneer Carnival (9/10)— Much of this we covered, and/or people were aware of it. There was a question about confirmation about participation in Carnival Gary will check into that.
4. 9/11: Ten Years Later — 9/12 observances (Lunch on the Circle; Service at 5:45pm)— Gary talked about the observances for the 10 year anniversary of 9/11, and asked that folks pay close attention to his newsletter for details.
5. Constitution Day Program: 9/15 — “The Constitution, the Budget and Morality”—A program in observance of Constitution Day will feature faculty from Daniels College of Business, the Law School and the Economics Department discussing the moral issues involved in the recent budget debates. Time: 4:30; 1864 Conference Room.
6. Methodist Visit: 9/19 — Need volunteers to meet with them (2:15 - 2:45)—The United Methodist Church visits DU every 5 years to re-accredit us. the team would like to meet with students who will be willing to speak about religious life on campus. Send the names of the volunteers to Gary.
7. Metro CareRing Volunteering: 9/23, 10/24, 11/18—Gary will continue with monthly service project trips to Metro CareRing, and welcomes the participation of any of the religious groups’ members.

### Other Stuff?

A question was raised about the nature/logistics of Pioneer Carnival; the group was able to address the concerns.

### Next Meeting

Gary will send out an email SOON to set the regular meeting times.

Adjournment at 11:30

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on October 27, 2011  
Hillel House

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Brittany Johnson; Brian Kelsch; Daniel Maxwell; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski;

Absent: Steve Burnett; Shawn Cramer; Bill Cron; Claude d’Estree; Br. John Ignatius; Dn. Andrew Kearns\*; Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Katie Jo Sewell; Justin Spicer; Ken Tankersley; Chris Xanthos

(\* Dn. Andrew was present in spirit, attempting to find Hillel!)

The meeting began at 9:35 with a period of silence.

No minutes from from prior meetings were discussed.

### **(Re-)introductions**

The meeting began with self-introductions, along with each individual’s “highs and lows” of the quarter (whether personal or professional).

### **Students’ Interests**

In answer to the question “What are YOU hearing that students are interested in. or concerned about?”, the answers included:

- Jobs (Law students)
- Acclimation with DU culture, including homework (International students)
- Seniors/Super Seniors concerned about whether DU prepped them for the job market, and about the meaning of life, in general
- Anxiety about the economic impact on families
- Occupy Wall Street/Occupy Denver
- The intrusion of “reality” on the secluded DU world
- Campus Abuse of Alcohol
- Time Management
- Lack of quiet study space (with Library off-line)

### **Best practices**

In answer to the question :”What has worked well for you in your ministries?”, the answers included:

- 1-on-1’s (i.e., individual conversations with students) and follow-throughs
- Viewing the International students as assets, rather than “issues to be dealt with”
- Opening up homes to students
- Listening more and trusting the students’ ideas/experience

## Chaplain's Corner

We then turned to Gary's announcements:

1. Gary informed folks that Navigators had decided not to put any resources into their DU ministry, and that that group would not be present for the time being.
2. A reminder that Chad Stewart of Cru had been "bumped upstairs" and was overseeing many ministries in Denver. His local "replacement" is Shawn Cramer (who could not make the meeting).
3. Update on renovations to Evans Chapel (new brick walkways and cabinetry, with more to follow).
4. Brief comments on the *Clarion's* coverage of the issues surrounding Menorah Ministries' presence on the Bridge. Conversation about, and agreement, an identifying table-tent that would clearly mark a group on the Bridge as DURC-related (which Menorah is not).
5. Reminder of upcoming Book Discussion: Rob Bell's *Love Wins*. Co-facilitated by Brittany Johnson. Tuesday, November 15, noon, Fireside Room.
6. Heads-up about observance of Religious Awareness Week/World Interfaith Harmony Week (first week of February). Gary, Janet and Albert are starting to work on this.

## Student Leaders' Contact Info

Gary requested each group's contact information for student leaders. The purpose would be for him to gather THEM occasionally for conversation.

## Other Stuff?

Kristi Gessler informed the Council that she had been reimbursed sufficiently for expenses related to the Ice Cream Social. If anyone had committed to paying her, the \$20 check instead should be sent to Gary (made out to the "University of Denver"), and it will be used to defray other DURC-related expenses (there being no "DURC" account).

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 9:30.** Gary will send out an email reminder confirming location.

Adjournment at 10:30

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on December 7, 2011  
Young Life House

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Brittany Johnson; Dn. Andrew Kearns; Brian Kelsch; Justin Spicer; Ken Tankersley;

Absent: Steve Burnett; Ryan Canaday; Shawn Cramer; Claude d’Estree; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Katie Jo Sewell;

The meeting began at 9:35 with a period of silence, holding Rabbi Yossi in our prayers.

No minutes from from prior meetings were discussed.

### **(Re-)introductions**

The meeting began with self-introductions, along with each individual’s plans for the holidays.

### **DCB Class Results**

Gary reminded folks that a Market Research class at Daniels College of Business had used his office for their class project. Roughly 12,000 students were surveyed; there were about 1960 responses (both graduate and undergraduate). He passed out two charts from their results, one of which gave a religious affiliation breakdown, and the second a breakdown on how much religion plays a role in students’ lives. He pledged to give more data once he had had time to drill down into the survey results.

### **Student Experiences in the Res Halls**

Resulting from a conversation Gary had at a recent conference, he proposed the idea of developing a video for RA training of religious-affiliated students’ experiences in the Residence Halls. Experiences could include “uncomfortable” situations, clear bias/bigotry, etc. (including, of course, GOOD experiences. There was general interest in pursuing this over the next few months.

### **Chaplain’s Office Retreat**

Gary reported that he and his “staff” had held a mini-retreat a few days ago. Out of that retreat came two ideas for potential DURC participation:

- Quarterly DURC Social: The idea would be to draw together interested students from throughout the DURC groups (and other religious groups) for the simple purpose of gathering together and getting to know one another. There was some question about whether there was a felt need for such an event, and also whether once a quarter would be too frequent. We decided to keep the idea afloat for conversation.
- Occasional Interfaith Dinner: A slightly different option than the above -- perhaps an invitation-only meal to which each group might send a representative. Keep alive.

### **University Chaplain**

## ***“Chaplain’s Corner”* Agenda Items**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. “Blue Holidays”, December 13 at Noon (a service for those folks who will feel the absence of a loved one especially acutely at this time of year)</li><li>2. “Singing in the Season”, December 15 at Noon</li><li>3. Religious Awareness Week/World Interfaith Harmony Week (first week of February),<br/>potentially including:</li></ol> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I-Faith Panel (with meal??) — Topic for Panel to be determined.</li><li>2. Art Gallery/Music/Crafts (prayer beads) over a couple of days in the Chapel</li><li>3. Multi-Faith worship</li><li>4. Service project</li></ol>   |

**Next Meeting: TBD** Watch for the email asking for suggested times.



DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on February 2, 2012  
Hillel

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Brittany Johnson; Brian Kelsch; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Justin Spicer;

Absent: Steve Burnett; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Shawn Cramer; Claude d’Estree; Kristi Gessler; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Ricky Ketchum; Katie Jo Sewell; Ken Tankersley

The meeting began at 9:35 with a period of silence.

No minutes from from prior meetings were discussed.

**(Re-)introductions**

The meeting began with self-introductions, along with each individual’s “best things about the holidays”.

**DCB Class Results**

Gary reminded folks that a Market Research class at Daniels College of Business had used his office for their class project in the fall. In the winter quarter, a creative marketing class will be making use of that data, and providing numerous marketing strategies for the office. This should end up benefitting all of the DURC.

**Student Experiences in the Res Halls**

Gary reminded folks to pitch the idea of a video montage of students’ experiences in the residence halls to their students.

**DURC “re-fitting” -- paperwork, etc.**

Gary reported that, for many reasons, he needs to revisit some of the paperwork everyone has had to submit. Mostly it is to clean things up; no substantive changes should be expected. The only annoyance might be needing to resubmit some forms.

**Conversation Time**

Gary invited the group to break up into triads to discuss the question: “What do YOU want/need to know to be most effective at DU?” The responses, after some conversation, were:

- Getting contact info to the RA’s
- Offering a “Religion 101” class -- practical stuff
- Meeting with someone from Housing/Residential Education -- maybe something with RA training
- Meeting with the English Language Center

**University Chaplain**

- Wondering if there were analytics on the Portfolio site (tracking hits, etc.)

### **“Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items**

1. World Interfaith Harmony Week
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. African Community Center (tomorrow)</li> <li>2. Wellness LCC poster session and talk-back (2/9, 10 in the Chapel); talk-back on 2/9 from 2-4</li> <li>3. Music from religious traditions, and prayer-bead making (Chapel, 2/9, 10)</li> <li>4. Interfaith Dinner (“What We Bring to the Table”) on 2/9 from 6:30 - 8:30</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Valentines on the Bridge: The Gathering Place</li> <li>3. Metro CareRing (2/17)</li> <li>4. Book Discussion (2/21 at noon): <i>Unprotected Texts</i> (with Br. John!)</li> </ol>

**Next Meeting: March 1, 10:00 am.**

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on April 5, 2012  
Hillel

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Kristi Gessler; Br. John Ignatius; Brian Kelsch; Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Justin Spicer;

Absent: Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Shawn Cramer; Claude d’Estree; Kelli Hayes; Brittany Johnson; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Katie Jo Sewell; Ken Tankersley

The meeting began at 9:35 with Br. John Ignatius leading the gathering in a responsive reading of Psalm 34.

No minutes from from prior meetings were discussed

**(Re-)introductions**

The meeting continued with self-introductions, along with each individual’s report on “How I spent my spring break”.

**DCB Class Results**

Gary reported on the recent developments in the DCB marketing class results Creative proposals were provided from an advertising class -- all focused on marketing Gary (as opposed to the “office”). He will have two marketing interns over spring quarter helping craft the campaign that will be implemented in the summer and fall.

**DURC “re-fitting” -- paperwork, etc.**

Gary repeated that, for many reasons, he needs to revisit some of the paperwork everyone has had to submit. Chief among changes will be the annual re-submission of some of the forms (primarily the insurance form, as policies change).

**“Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items**

1. Good Friday Service (noon, 4/6)
2. Music and Meditation (noon, 4/10)
3. “Sprint to the Finish” - Bridge Event (10 - 4, 4/16-18)
4. Book Discussion: *The Holy Vote* by Ray Suarez (noon, 4/17)
5. Metro CareRing (4/20)

**Psalm for next meeting:** Kristi Gessler agreed to bring a psalm for the opening of the next meeting.

**Guest Speaker:** We were then joined by Mr. Michael Johnson, the Director of Student Outreach and Support. He filled the DURC in on what his office provides for students who are in some sort of crisis (family, academic, social, etc.). He encouraged the DURC members to utilize his office, in the overall care we provide to DU students. He distributed a pamphlet (a pdf of which is attached).

**Next Meeting: May 3rd, 10:00 am.** and Hillel

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on May 3, 2012  
Hillel

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Brittany Johnson; Brian Kelsch; Ricky Ketchum; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Justin Spicer;

Absent: Ryan Canaday; Shawn Cramer; Claude d’Estree; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Paul Miller; Katie Jo Sewell; Ken Tankersley

Guests: Kelli Theis (Colorado Hillel); Cathy Grieve (Office of Special Projects)

The meeting began at 9:35 with Kristi Gessler leading the gathering in a responsive reading of Psalm 27.

The minutes from from prior meetings were not discussed

### **(Re-)introductions**

The meeting continued with self-introductions, along with each individual’s answer to the question: “Favorite place to hang-out at DU” (most popular answer: near the water areas by the Chapel).

### **DURC “re-fitting” -- paperwork, etc.**

Gary repeated that, for many reasons, he needs to revisit some of the paperwork everyone has had to submit. Chief among changes will be the annual re-submission of some of the forms (primarily the insurance form, as policies change). These would be available at the next meeting.

He also mentioned that the Annual Report would be a Qualtric survey -- all on-line.

### **Changes at The Foundation**

Gary reported that Ryan Canaday has received a call to serve a church in Highlands Ranch, and that he would be leaving his work at University Park UMC, as well as at The Foundation. A search is underway to fill the vacancy.

### **Interfaith Advocates**

Gary announced that he would be starting a program in the fall called “DU Interfaith Advocates.” This would be group of students (undergrad and grad/professional) from the various religions traditions represented on campus. They would commit to learn from one another, and to carry that understanding to the campus as a whole in a variety of different ways. He is interested in having folks from the DURC groups apply, and will also seek for interested incoming students.

Kelli Theis reported that, in a recent survey of Hillel at Denver students, this kind of endeavor was of high interest!

### **University Chaplain**

## **“Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items**

1. “Love Your Mother” on the Bridge: today and tomorrow, 10-4
2. Music and Meditation (noon, 5/8)
3. Book Discussion: *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton (noon, 5/15)
4. Metro CareRing (5/18)

**Psalm for next meeting:** Brittany Johnson agreed to bring a psalm for the opening of the next meeting.

•**Preparing for the Debate:** As we waited for Cathy Grieve’s arrival we began to brainstorm ideas for how the DURC could be involved in the Debate. A variety of suggestions/ideas were offered:

- Grouping all of the ideas/offerings under a theme, such as “The God Factor in the 2012 election”
- An interfaith panel on Religion & Politics
- An interfaith panel on Religion and the Economy
- An interfaith panel on Religion and Peace
- Include a conversation between/among international students and their sense of how religion and politics interplay
- Does a candidate’s religion matter?
- What if we spent the money on elections on . . . . (relief, development, etc)?
- What are core religious goals? And what is the best avenue to reach those goals (i.e., are politics, government programs, etc.)?
- Invite local politicians to speak about how their religious views/values inform their political/governmental activities.
- Set up a large “Sukkah of Peace” as an oasis away from the Debate hubbub.

**Guest Speaker:** We were then joined by Dr. Cathy Grieve, Executive Director of Conferences, Events and Special Programs. Cathy is also the lead on the efforts surrounding the Presidential Debate (October 3rd). She encouraged us to think of ways we could program, including applying for funds. She encouraged us also to go to the [Debate website](#) to see what is being offered, and to volunteer. She then told us about many of the logistical challenges that will face the University -- primarily from 9/30 - 10/3 (although the campus will feel the impact for about 10 days prior to the 3rd). Cathy can be reached at: [cgrieve@du.edu](mailto:cgrieve@du.edu)

**Next Meeting: June 7, 10:00 am.**

DU RELIGIOUS COUNCIL  
Meeting on June 7, 2012  
Fireside Room, Driscoll Student Center

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Tom Balma; Ryan Canaday; Laura Compton; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Brittany Johnson; Brian Kelsch;

Absent: Shawn Cramer; Claude d’Estree; Fr. Andrew Kearns (couldn’t find the meeting room); Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Justin Spicer; Ken Tankersley

Guests: Liza Hanson

The meeting began at 10:00 with Brittany Johnson leading the gathering in a responsive reading of a Psalm.

Ryan introduced Liza Hanson, the new director of The Foundation. He also reminded folks that he was moving to south of the border (into Douglas County) for a position at St. Luke’s UMC in Highlands Ranch.

The minutes from from prior meetings were not discussed

### **(Re-)introductions**

The meeting continued with self-introductions, along with each individual’s answer to the question: “Favorite memory of the year”

- Planting the Peace Tree
- Going-away dinner
- Putting a name to a face
- Road Trip to Glenwood Springs with Bible Study group
- International Bible study for scholars
- Country Line Dance
- Baby Shower for International students
- Props from students
- Bible Study

### **Discussion of Discoveries Week**

We turned to a discussion of the schedule of Discoveries/Orientation week, and how the DURC might be involved. We revisited the Ice Cream stand from last year, and agreed to do it again.

Suggestions for improvements included

- keeping the ice cream in the boxes;
- DURC t-shirts;
- and handing out rolls of toilet paper (at move-in).

## Discussion of “The God Factor in the 2012 Election”

At the last meeting, we discussed how the DURC might be involved in the hubbub leading up to the Presidential Debate in October. The idea, then, was a series of programs under the heading “The God Factor in the 2012 Election.” Ideas were solicited, and included:

- Working with Parker Palmer’s book *Healing the Heart of Democracy* as a DURC (book concerns relationships and politics, and civility)
- Engaging international students -- their view of American politics and the economy
- How do we get beyond polarization/debate (see first bullet point)
- Prayer for beyond the Debate
- International panel on Politics and Religion
- Providing space to retreat -- even stations for prayer
- White boards around campus with questions prompting student answers

The idea that had some of the most energy behind it was the first bullet point. Gary mentioned that he would be attending a half-day workshop on the book, and might be able to provide some guidance.

## “Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items

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| 1. Metro CareRing (6/15) |
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### Sending Forth

While Gary took the lead, there was a general “go forth to a great, refreshing, renewing summer” from all present!

**Next Meeting: August!** (Gary will convene, probably with some sort of questionnaire as to best day/time)