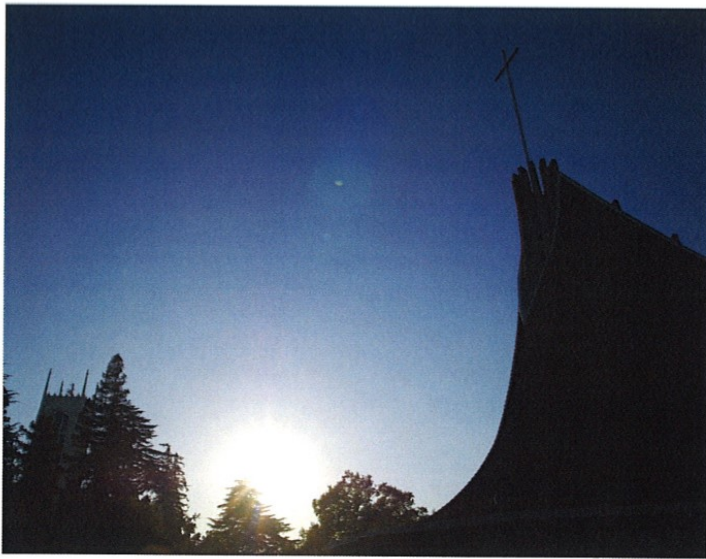


UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC CHURCH RELATEDNESS

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*The United Methodist Church
on Pacific Avenue*

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC CHURCH RELATEDNESS

Pacific and the United Methodist Church have experienced mutuality and held each other in high regard for most of their shared history. The relationship between Pacific and the United Methodist church has consistently been described by Pacific historians as one of long-standing affiliation, mutual affection, and shared values (Jacoby, 1990, Crummey, 1994). More recently, Dr. Philip Gilbertson, retired Provost, captures the nuances of this relationship in his draft of Pacific's history (Gilbertson, 2012) when he writes:

Pacific continued its positive relationship with the Church, even to keeping a director of church relations (ending in the late 1990s when the incumbent retired) as well as a full-time interfaith chaplain, continuing today as a partially endowed position. The University readily acknowledges its Methodist heritage in its publications without stating any formal affiliation with the UMC. Many core values of Pacific today were planted by the Methodist founders long ago, the most important of which are respecting academic freedom and honoring the relationship of reason and faith, whole student development, close community, and preparation for future community leadership and service.

While both acknowledge that universities have grown more secular, each affirms the importance of the spiritual life of students in their engagement with meaning making and development of core values. Inherent in whole student learning and in the Methodist tradition is reasoned faith, responsible leadership, service to others, and development of community.

Jacoby (1990) recalls that while students once chose Pacific because it was identified as a Methodist institution, after the University moved to Stockton students had only a vague awareness of that relationship because they had limited opportunity to learn about the institution's historical roots. Yet, interestingly, local geography does provide a symbolic and visual reminder of Pacific's relationship with the Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church of Stockton is located directly across the street from the primary entrance to the University. Pacific shares a well-traveled road and an investment in the future of Stockton with this flagship church. Many members of the University community have joined this parish. President Pamela Eibeck identifies herself as a Methodist and also attends the United Methodist Church of Stockton.

The University catalog continues to specifically reference the relationship of affinity between the United Methodist Church and Pacific with the following language:

University of the Pacific was established by pioneer Methodist ministers in 1851 as California's first chartered institution of higher learning. Pacific has earned widespread recognition for its student-centered approach to education, its many firsts and innovations and the accomplishments of its 55,000 living alumni.

Catalog.Pacific.edu/Undergraduate

Though not required by the University bylaws, the University has regularly recruited Methodist clergy to serve on its Board of Regents. These Regents have contributed to the University's vision, strategic priorities, student welfare, and decision-making. Pacific's Methodist heritage is also actively celebrated on an annual basis through Founder's Day activities, the Methodist-Teacher Scholar awards, the Colliver lectures, and recognition of Bishop's Scholars.



Medallion embedded in the sidewalk outside of the Pacific Arch

FOUNDER'S DAY ACTIVITIES:

The Founder's Day celebration held in October each year includes a luncheon that honors the Methodist heritage of the University, while also acknowledging those who serve as current stewards of the institution through their generous financial support.

THE UNITED METHODIST-SCHOLAR-TEACHER AWARDS:

Because of the continued generosity of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the United Methodist Scholar/Teacher of the Year award is available to recognize faculty who exemplify the excellence, care, and commitment modeled by the three pastors who founded Pacific. Faculty who are selected for this honor (see appendix for a list of honorees) meet the following criteria: demonstration of exceptional teaching; recognized concern for students and colleagues; sensitivity to the mission of the church-related university; a record of significant contributions to the scholarly life of the university; and commitment to high standards of professional and personal life. **Pacific.**

Pacific.edu/Academics/Schools-and-Colleges/College-of-the-Pacific/Professor-Carrie-Schroeder-Receives-United-Methodist-ScholarTeacher-Award



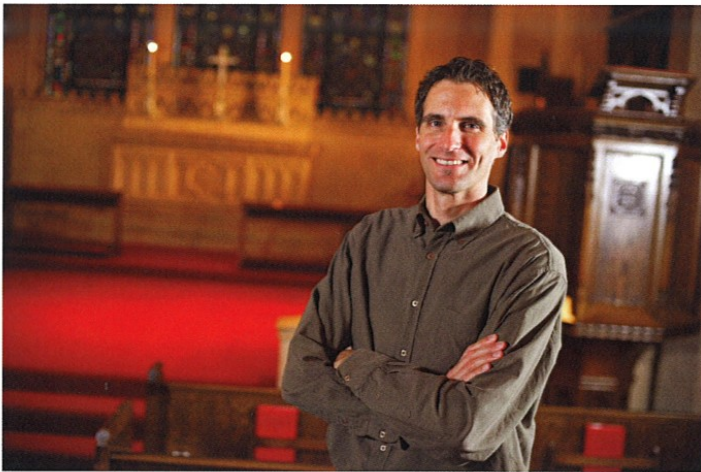
Professor Carrie Schroeder, recipient of the 2010 United Methodist Scholar Teachers Award

COLLIVER LECTURES:

The Colliver Lecture Series was established in 1957 to honor the memory of George Colliver, a religious studies professor at Pacific. The College of the Pacific's Religious & Classical Studies Department sponsors and organizes these events. On at least an annual basis, a nationally or internationally recognized speaker is brought to campus to discuss an aspect of religion in society (see website below for a more complete list of speakers). In recent years these lectures have been offered by Margot Adler, National Public Radio correspondent and best-selling book author; Asra Nomani, Muslim feminist, former Wall Street Journal reporter, and friend to the late Daniel Pearl; and Jacques Berlinerblau, acclaimed author and professor of Jewish Civilization at Georgetown University, among others. The lectures are free and open to the public. go.Pacific.edu/ColliverLectures.

BISHOP'S SCHOLARS:

While students who formally identify as Methodist comprise only 2–3% of the student population who choose to disclose a religious affiliation, this percentage appears to be in line with the percentage of the general population identifying as Methodist in California and surrounding states from where the majority of Pacific students are recruited. The statistic also appears to be consistent with the 3.8% of college students who identify themselves as Methodist nationally (Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac, August 31, 2012). Pacific students who formally identify themselves as Methodist during their first year at the university are invited to participate in the worship, exploration, study, and social opportunities offered to Bishop's Scholars. The number of Bishop's Scholars has ranged from a high of 30 students in 2004–2005 to a low of 10 students in both 2008–2009 and 2011–2012. Bishops Scholars are selected based on an application process, with most applicants in any given year being awarded the scholarship go.Pacific.edu/BishopsScholarships. In years where the group reaches a critical mass on Pacific's campus, the Reverend David Bennett from United Methodist Church of Stockton has played a key role in stimulating liturgical options, fellowship and group study.



*Dr. Joel Lohr,
University Multifaith Chaplain*

PACIFIC CHAPLAINCY AND UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE

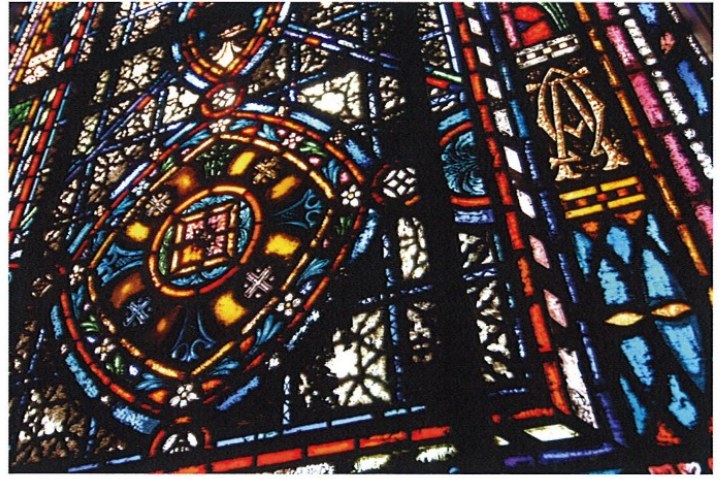
Maintaining relevance to students and preparing them for post-college life, is a shared priority of Pacific and the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church. At Pacific the Office of the University Chaplain is key to addressing this priority. With an increasingly diverse student body in terms of faith identity, the role of the Chaplain has evolved beyond pastoral care and liturgical performance to include assignments as educator, facilitator of meaning making, spiritual guide, and good listener. The Multi-faith Chaplain is a conduit for learning, relationships, support, and community outreach.

Located organizationally within the Division of Student Life, the Chaplain has ready partners for programming. Pacific has developed several Signature Programs, which address meaning and purpose in significant ways and in which the Chaplaincy has played a significant role. These initiatives include Pacific's One Word Program PacificOneWord.org, M.O.V.E PacificMOVE.org, LeadershipU Pacific.edu/Campus-Life/Student-Services/Student-Leadership-Development, MyWhy Project, and the recently implemented Wellness Initiative. This new initiative specifically names spirituality as one of the eight dimensions of wellness in addition to emotional, social, intellectual, physical, financial, environmental, and occupational aspects of well being. All these co-curricular programs are organized with strong faculty participation and with opportunities to assess the degree to which they foster whole student learning including spirituality. Recently Pacific has also participated in President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Initiative, and anticipates the Office of the Chaplain will take national leadership in this program.

In addition to the strong partnerships and teamwork in Student Life the Chaplain has traditionally enjoyed a close relationship with the faculty in the Religious and Classical Studies Department. The Chaplain teaches classes, joins in sponsored programs, and serves as an ex officio member of the faculty executive committee of the Academic Council.

INTERFAITH SERVICE

The University recognizes that students' exposure to opportunities for affirmation and exploration of faith and spirituality are essential to increased religious capacity and spiritual development (Astin & Astin, 2011). More specifically, community service is recognized as a vehicle for learning about the faith traditions of others, while also gaining enhanced understanding of individual belief systems. Through service, individuals start with shared recognition of an issue and a related call to respond and then come together to address identified community needs. When intentionally facilitated, the service relationship begins with similar values of social justice and care and progresses to learning about self and others as individuals work side-by-side. Pacific has many examples of where service programs have facilitated such inter- and intrapersonal development. Perhaps no example in recent years has been more powerful than the annual observance of the anniversary of 9-11, where our on-campus and off-campus Muslim communities are invited to campus to join with faculty, staff and students of all faith traditions for an outdoor program of talks, prayer, music, and faith observance. In 2011, the program concluded with planting four olive trees in containers to be transported to one of Stockton's neighboring mosques and other area faith communities. In prior years, students have participated in international travel, service, and interfaith learning with faith leaders and college students from the Philippines, Turkey, and Italy.



*Stained glass windows
at the Morris Chapel*

Bishop Brown of the California-Nevada Conference (and soon to be President of the Methodist Council of Bishops) has prioritized the creation of a leadership development position tuned in to the service orientation of younger Methodists, seeing this as a key element of remaining engaged with and relevant to the Millennial and Global One generations. A similar lens is provided by President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service initiative for colleges and universities of which Pacific has been an active partner. Pacific's participation in this initiative has brought students from across faith traditions and no named faith tradition together to respond to the struggles of foster youth in securing the basic items necessary for college success and in together grappling with the on-going impact of 9/11 and the Holocaust through interfaith gatherings and events. The University committed to sponsor a team of two staff members, a graduate student, and two undergraduate students for a week in Chicago in summer 2012 to receive further training to lead faith-based service initiatives on their home campus through participation in the national "Better Together" campaign. The parallel initiatives of Bishop Brown's leadership development and Pacific's interfaith service commitment will create growing and synergistic opportunities to more intentionally connect shared values of and commitment to service through visible collaboration in addressing pressing local, national, and international needs.

Pacific's mission-driven commitment to preparing "responsible leaders" and "global citizens," together with its current ethos of service and valuing of experiential learning are consistent with the United Methodist Church's commitment to leadership in responding to social justice issues. Discussions with Bishop Brown point to the opportunity for Pacific and the United Methodist Church to engage in service of shared purpose together through the development of internships and projects that contribute to student learning and social justice outcomes in various domestic and global arenas. The development of these co-curricular internships will be a developing initiative for Pacific's Career Resource Center, which is currently in the process of re-examining and re-formulating its mission and purpose statements that will include renewed focus on internships as a key Pacific focus.

INTERFAITH LEARNING

The values of faith, spirituality, and meaning making are further embedded in the broader priorities of the University through the general education program and three required Pacific Seminars. The Pacific Seminar series are organized around the key intellectual inquiry, “What is a good society?” for analysis and examination through many lenses, including through readings and discussion about how faith, good, and community might be related. Students wrestle with this overarching question and the many perspectives from which it might be considered as they simultaneously clarify and bring voice to their evolving understanding of their place and purpose in the world. In the capstone course, Pacific Seminar



Professor Brian Klunk, teaching a Pacific Seminar

III, students consider and articulate the development of personal codes of ethics and associated approaches to ethical reasoning and action.

Further, the formulation of Pacific’s seven University-wide learning outcomes two years ago has presented a renewed opportunity to better integrate how intersectionality of identity contributes to the development of intercultural and leadership capacity. To this point, initial efforts have been made to ensure that religious or spiritual identity and the associated work of developing religious fluency are integrated into the learning opportunities provided to students through collaborations between the Chaplain’s Office and the Multicultural Center, Pacific Seminars, student organizations, LeadershipYou, the new wellness initiative, regional faith communities, and other key partners. Pacific’s strong and developing practices of learning assessment and making expected learning outcomes intentional and transparent to students help focus the curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities that develop intercultural competence, community and global service, and leadership and collaboration.

More broadly, Pacific’s recently completed Taskforce Plan for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence highlights the importance of religious literacy and the relationship of faith-based and cultural identity to both learning and the development of an inclusive campus climate. This plan challenges the University to acknowledge the integral role of faith and spirituality in responding to the institution’s anticipated future and explicitly identifies faith identification and practice as both key components of Pacific’s rich diversity as well as some of the most promising areas for further learning and understanding.

(Below) Announcing University of the Pacific’s rejoining of the West Coast Conference.

(l-r)

*Executive Director of Athletics, University of San Diego, and Chair of the WCC Executive Council
Ky Snyder*

*WCC Commissioner Jamie Zaninovich
University of the Pacific President
Pamela A. Eibeck*

*Saint Mary’s College President and
WCC Presidents’ Council Chair
Brother Ronald Gallagher*



Finally, Pacific’s recent rejoining of the Western Collegiate Conference allows Pacific the company of faith-based institutions and the opportunity to learn from their approaches to including spirituality and faith as a part of whole student learning and the expected outcomes of a college experience. Pacific welcomes the emphasis on ethical action in play and in personal life as a fundamental component of intercollegiate athletics in this conference as accentuating our own existing institutional priorities and practices.

Pacific and the United Methodist Church both have the opportunity to partner in contributing to learning and meaning making, in addressing community needs, in advancing inclusion, in demonstrating compassion and care, and in securing the sustainability of both institutions. In that spirit, the following self recommendations are offered to guide Pacific’s future exploration and growth as a Methodist related university.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop new avenues of cooperation and collaboration between Pacific and the United Methodist Church in response to the ethical and social issues presented in shared communities, locally and globally.
2. Proactively explore specific opportunities for shared purpose, service, and leadership development focused on all aspects of social justice through Bishop Brown's service and leadership programs and Pacific's Better Together campaign.
3. Reinvigorate the Bishop's Scholars program at Pacific and create more opportunities for two-way flow across Pacific Avenue and between Pacific and the United Methodist Church of Stockton.
4. Identify mechanisms for more widely facilitating collaborative interfaith learning and dialogue and religious literacy learning outcomes.

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