

L A S I E R R A U N I V E R S I T Y

To Seek, To Know, To Serve



2011-2017
SPIRITUAL
MASTER
PLANNING
DOCUMENT

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The Strategic Spiritual Master Plan

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The Strategic Spiritual Master Plan

I. The Mission and Aims of La Sierra University

Central to the strategic Spiritual Master Plan for La Sierra University are the Mission and Aims of the university itself. Drawn from a wide diversity of faculty, administrators, staff and students, the Mission and Aims provides much of the central concerns of La Sierra University's Spiritual Master Plan. The mission and its aims form a backdrop for the spiritual development of what La Sierra University considers its best alumni. (See Appendix A)

- *Seeking truth* suggests more than just looking for truth for truth's sake, but shares insight into the whole university family's concern for the centrality of religious truth as seen in Scripture and evidenced by the search for truth that enlarges human understanding through scholarship and specifically evidenced by understanding by our student body of the beliefs and values of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- *Knowing God* introduces our corporate and personal quest for God, personal understanding, and of the mission in which we both work and serve through reflection, instruction, mentoring, programming, sharing, witnessing, and maturing in faith.
- *Serving others* solicits our response to the university's understanding of God and moves us to explore with our students, faculty, administration and staff how we might best be used to fulfill the message of the Christian gospel and Seventh-day Adventist mission ideals.

II. Campus Ministry Mission Statement

The Department of Spiritual Life (DSL) houses the Campus Chaplain and staff who are uniquely tasked as one of the University groups that helps the implementation of the Spiritual Master plan. Their goals and mission are important, as is assessment of those goals. The Office of Campus Ministries works in concert with overall goals of the University Strategic Plan; however, since their focus in ministry is directly related to this Spiritual Master Plan it is important to note their mission emphasis and targeted outcomes. In summary, the Campus Ministry Mission Statement is three-fold, and is particularly concerned with creating an environment where students, faculty and staff of the university can:

1. Meet God (Expressed as **Encounter**)
2. Develop their Spiritual Relationship and opportunity for personal experience (Expressed as **Believe**)
3. To live out their Walk (Expressed as **Gospel Living**)

For the academic year of 2010-2011 those activities and/or programs reviewed were: University Worship, Collegiate Sabbath School, Tuesday Tunes. For the complete assessment document see (Appendix B)

III. La Sierra University's Commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist faith and life

La Sierra University is committed to the Seventh-day Adventist faith and life. In saying this, it recognizes the biblical revelation as foundational for religious experience, belief and practice. In addition, it regards the biblical account of Jesus Christ as the clearest expression of the character of God: of what God is, and what God does, and what God wants for our students, faculty, administration and staff.

La Sierra University embraces the biblical Sabbath as a gift of sacred time, presented to humans for their individual enjoyment, communal benefit, and spiritual regeneration. Therefore, the activities available to students, faculty and staff during this sacred time should represent the clearest expression of the biblical understanding of this special day as possible.

La Sierra looks to the future with eagerness, anticipating the fulfillment of the Advent hope, and in this journey encourages and values physical health as an essential part of human well-being, and encourages activities and regimens that enhance the pleasures of a full and rewarding life.

In its activities, planning and implementation of this plan, La Sierra University recognizes the importance of the developing person in terms of spiritual, moral, and intellectual integrity as responsible believers, neither content with easy answers nor afraid to stand for the right.

La Sierra has a commitment to social responsibility and to engaging the contemporary world in comprehensive and continuing interaction through word and deed by educating our students as lifelong learners who will discover and apply new ways to address the realities of our church, its beliefs, their profession, and society in general. We aim to teach students to bear witness in every situation and to every person with openness and acceptance, preparing our students to become effective citizens of this century who are able to negotiate successfully a world of diversity bound together by a global economy and driven by information technology.

La Sierra University pursues its mission (to seek, to know, to serve) for God and society with recognized excellence, integrity, compassion, and mutual respect.

Because a life of faith is best nurtured in community, La Sierra University finds a close partner in the La Sierra University Church, its pastoral staff, and its church campus. The La Sierra University Church eagerly welcomes students to fully experience worship, Bible study, community outreach and fellowship in the context of a diverse faith community living in the real world of Riverside, California. The experiences identified in this Spiritual Plan are designed so students can imagine themselves as vital participants in local faith communities long after they graduate and leave our campus.

IV. Spiritual Master Planning Committees and Process

This document represents insights gathered and assembled by the Spiritual Master Planning Task Force (SMPSC) a sub-committee of the University Religious Life Committee (RLC). Input for the final draft of the La Sierra University's Spiritual Master Plan was reviewed by the Uni-

versity Religious Life Committee and voted approval with minor changes on October 18 2011. The Spiritual Master Plan was reviewed by the University Council on November 3, 2011. Copies were made available on-line for the Student Life Committee for review on November 8, 2011. The Spiritual Master Plan was provided to the University Board on November 10, 2011.

The Spiritual Master Planning sub-committee membership includes:

- Sam Leonor, Campus Chaplain—Chair
- V. Bailey Gillespie, School of Religion, Professor of Theology and Personality, Director of the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry
- Sue Curtis, Associate Vice President for Student Life
- Steve Hemenway, Assistant Campus Chaplain
- Linda Biswas, Missions Director

University Religious Life Committee

- Sam Leonor, Campus Chaplain—Chair
- Sammy Acosta, Enrollment Counselor / Church Relations
- V. Bailey Gillespie, School of Religion, Professor of Theology and Personality, Director of the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry
- Sue Curtis, Associate Vice President for Student Life
- Steve Hemenway, Assistant Campus Chaplain
- Chris Oberg, La Sierra University Senior Pastor
- Maury Jackson, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
- Yamileth Bazan, Vice President for Student Life
- Nancy Guerro, Director Residential Life, Dean of Women
- Randal Wisbey, President
- John Webster, Dean, School of Religion

V. Spiritual Growth Outcomes

A review of our earlier Spiritual Master Plan reminded us of the work faculty and administration accomplished in looking at a model of an ideal alumnus of La Sierra University and in identifying La Sierra University's spiritual life opportunities. In our earlier Spiritual Master Plan we identified a number of personal goals which were consonant with La Sierra's mission and aims. After review of these, the University has again identified spiritual growth outcomes that directly relate to the goals of this master plan. They include the following characteristics we desire in our graduates.

- *A sense of vocation and calling*—Have our students articulated or demonstrated in their college experience a sense of purpose, vocation and calling?

- *The ability for critical thought*—One of the important concerns in the national studies of Adventist young people coordinated by La Sierra University for the North American Division is the value of critical thinking skills and their strong correlation to a rich and growing mature faith life. Do La Sierra University graduates use critical thinking skills as they build their world view and religious commitments?
- *Decidedly concerned about mission*—Do La Sierra University students show interest in being involved in community service, mission service, or evangelistic outreach?
- *Personal religious development*—Do students demonstrate mastery in those qualities that constitute personal religious or spiritual growth through involvement in the religious life on campus, in their local church, or in their community involvement?
- *Awareness of personal Stewardship*—are students learning responsible stewardship of the world and their own personal possessions in relationship to the ongoing mission of the church?
- *A Rich and Growing Mature Faith*—Recognizing the need for individuals to grow in all areas of life which constitute Christian maturity, are students growing in mature faith in areas such as trusting and believing; experiencing a sense of personal well-being, security and peace; integrating faith in their life as part of their religious commitments; seeking spiritual growth; holding life-affirming values; and advocating social and global change to bring about greater social justice along with serving the world compassionately through acts of love and mercy?
- *Understanding of Seventh-day Adventism*—Do students understand and accept that as part of the community of faith, Seventh-day Adventist mission, message, beliefs, values, and commitments are central for their self-understanding?

Because of these commitments to our graduates, the La Sierra University Spiritual Plan holds four concepts as especially key elements in the following research-based concerns:

- A. *Recognizing the place for grace as a commitment and belief as evidenced in Scripture and in the life and relationships of Jesus Christ.* The university is committed to sharing God’s rich grace as seen in Jesus to others and fostering a sense of justice and mercy in its actions throughout the educational process.
- B. *Fostering a faith community.* The activities sponsored by the university through the Student Life Office, Campus Chaplain’s office, School of Religion, clubs, and schools build a faithful community that reflects the biblical understanding of religious faith life.
- C. *Creating a University climate of warmth and thinking.* La Sierra University assists the growth of personal commitment, loyalty to one’s denomination, and nurtures faithfulness to God.

D. Providing service opportunities. As a faith-building issue, there are ample opportunities for service to others and to the community at large. There is a balance between both cognitive learning of religious issues and practical application in active participation within the community of faith at La Sierra University.

VI. Strategic Goal and Objectives

The Spiritual Master Plan for La Sierra University is an intentional one, one that is organized around the Strategic Goal #3 of La Sierra University's Strategic Master Plan. This Spiritual Master Plan is intimately woven into the overall strategic goals of the university, approved by all levels of the community at the university, as well as understood by our university board. The goal and its objectives are as follows:

STRATEGIC GOAL #3: Invest in the spiritual vitality of campus life and enthusiastically explore ways of expressing our Seventh-day Adventist vision.

To accomplish this goal, the strategic planning group, in consultation with the Religious Life Committee, The Office of Student Life, the School of Religion and the Campus Chaplain's office, along with other significant entities of the University, will target the following objectives during the duration of the Spiritual Master Plan—2011-2017.

- A. La Sierra University will update its Spiritual Master Plan by the end of 2011. (Revised plan completed, finalized, and approved, December, 2011).*
- B. La Sierra University will increase the understanding of Seventh-day Adventist values, beliefs, and identity among students in the campus community.*
- C. The University will collaborate with the School of Religion Faculty and the University Religious Life Committee for curriculum enhancements to increase the understanding of our denomination among our non-Adventist students.*
- D. La Sierra University will foster commitment to an abundant Christian life through a balanced approach, promoting healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interaction.*
- E. The University will create increased opportunities for students' spiritual life, worship, mission and service.*

VII. Meeting Our Strategic Objectives

Objective A. *La Sierra University will update its Spiritual Master Plan by the end of 2011. (Revised plan completed, finalized, and approved, December, 2011).*

We met this objective in the following ways:

This Spiritual Master Plan fulfills this objective. Like our University Strategic Master Plan, we view the Campus Spiritual Plan as a dynamic document, open to yearly review and potential revision and renewed implementation.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan.

1. *Spiritual Growth Commitment.* As we initiate new approaches to ministry and build on our on-going commitments to spiritual growth, and as we develop new strategies to meet our objectives, this plan should be reviewed in the Fall of each academic year, updated, and then enriched, to meet the religious and spiritual needs identified.
2. *Spiritual Plan Revisions.* Revisions and updates should be processed through the Department of Spiritual Life (DSL) in cooperation with the Office of Student Life, the School of Religion, and the La Sierra University Church pastoral staff.

Objective B. La Sierra University will increase the understanding of Seventh-day Adventist values, beliefs, and identity among students in the campus community.

An issue that is related to Objective B focuses on not just our students and their understanding of Seventh-day Adventist values, beliefs, and identity, but is seen in a broader sense to include new faculty who join the La Sierra family.

We meet this objective for faculty in the following way:

- *New Faculty Orientation.* Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the integration of faith and learning is addressed through a 17-week-long orientation with topics that cover the whole range of Adventist understanding. For example, included this year are such topics as “Integrating Faith and Scholarship,” and “Nurturing Our Students’ and Faculty Members’ Spiritual Growth.” (For a complete listing of the orientation topics, contact the Office of the Provost for the updated yearly schedule.

We will meet Objective B in the following ways:

- *The University Studies Initiative.* The La Sierra University Task Force on Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs and Values in UNST Curriculum provides a detailed approach to this objective. (See Appendix C). The student learning outcomes (SLO) that drive the 2011 revision of the UNST (University Studies) curriculum for all university students are as follows:
 - A. Students will develop adequate levels of understanding, complexity, and change in the growth of ideas.
 - B. Students will understand the issues of science and faith and their related conversations.

- C. Students will have an understanding of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and commitments, including the opportunity to grow their Seventh-day Adventist faith and/or personal faith.
- D. Students will have the tools to be able to integrate faith and learning.

Their recommendations for implementation include five University Studies requirements for all students in attendance at La Sierra University.

They are: UNST 1xx and the Science and Faith interdisciplinary seminar meets SLO 1 and 2 above. These classes, UNST 100/101 and the Science and Faith interdisciplinary seminar, prepare the groundwork needed for more mature and complex discussions and provide a framework on which students, especially in the sciences, can explore the issues of faith and science.

The third component requires a readjustment of our current religious requirements so as to better and more clearly define Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and commitments, while also nurturing the students' personal faith journey (SLO 3, Religion Component iiB) This recommendation requires of all students enrolled at La Sierra University who are completing an undergraduate degree a course in Adventist Beliefs taught by the School of Religion. (A more detailed description of this can be found under the discussion of Objective C and in Appendix C).

The last two components, NSCCI and UNST 404, drive students to a more mature understanding and appreciation of the faith and learning synergism.

University Initiatives. The Campus Chaplain and the Division of Student Life provide opportunities to meet this objective as well. Here is a summary of activities and their relationship to this objective in the myriad opportunities throughout the year for students to contemplate religious ideas, Adventist issues, and personal religious growth. What follows is a brief summary:

- *Campus Assemblies*—Many campus-wide events feature subjects that emphasize spiritual and Christian responsibility such as earth care, women's issues, service, mission, social justice, Christian responsibility. Most often these are presented through the lens of Adventist presenters, pastors, church administrators, and faculty provoking students to better understand how Adventist Christians should respond to the needs of the suffering and oppressed and how best to grow in grace towards a relationship with Jesus.
- *Baptismal & Bible Study Groups*—The chaplain, church pastors, or faculty coordinate study groups throughout the academic year on fundamental beliefs and key theological topics necessary for actively and responsibly participating as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. At the close of the school year, one key baptismal service is held with students who have been preparing during the quarter, and they are welcomed into the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- *CSS (Collegiate Sabbath School)* —Meets this objective as a weekly, year-round Sabbath morning discussion led by students who participate in Bible study based on topics designated by the leadership thought to be helpful and necessary for their Christian faith.

- *Evangelism*—The Missions program encourages students to participate in local and global evangelism. Opportunities available for students have included Share Him trips to El Salvador, Philippines, Costa Rica, Egypt, and Africa, as well as participation by students in Vacation Bible Schools in Kenya, and summer camps in Hawaii.
- *Faculty Home Vespers* —Throughout the year, faculty open their homes to facilitate small group worships and vespers. Students and staff are invited to come and fellowship together where they can participate in worship, Bible study, discussion, and prayer, faculty-led.
- *Faculty-Led Spiritual Emphasis Week*—A yearly week-long series of worship services where faculty speak about their faith journeys.
- *Rendezvous*—A weekly dorm worship service led by the Student Association. It meets Wednesday evenings at 10:00 p.m.
- *LSUC Worship Service*—The La Sierra University Church’s new worship service, Church at Noon (Fall 2010) is geared specifically for university students.
- *Residence Hall Worship*—Students attend weekly dormitory worships meeting their requirement of 10 worships per quarter.
- *Criminal Justice Program Worships* — An extension to our corporate University worships, special worships take place every Wednesday for students attending our Criminal Justice program at La Sierra University’s facility in Corona, California. The program attracts predominately non-Adventist students. This is an opportunity for effective witnessing for student leaders and faculty.
- *SALSU Spiritual Retreats*—The Student Association provides spiritual retreats for students to experience spiritual growth by worshipping and bonding with fellow classmates.
- *Short-Term Mission (STM)*—The Office of Spiritual Life has developed a program tied to their Missions Office that is designed to encourage students and faculty alike to participate in a life of servitude. Short-term mission projects (comprised of one- to four-week projects) are being planned for each quarter and are offered to students as a service choice during every break. The Office of Spiritual Life is currently trying to establish funds based on donations and sponsorships to defray the cost for each student. The goal of the Short-Term Missions program of the Office of Spiritual Life is to provide enough brief mission opportunities for each and every student to experience the life-changing impact of service at least once before transitioning from La Sierra. Over the past three years the short-term opportunities have included five trips to the Gulf States, offering support for those affected by Hurricane Katrina; four trips to Mexico, building homes for families in need; a trip to Puerto Rico, helping to restore a local school; a trip to Kenya, assisting in building a church for the Masai people; and a trip to Tanzania, working in a local clinic to help AIDS children and mothers.

Overall, the Short-Term Missions program has sent over 100 students to 12 locations, affecting thousands of individuals throughout the world. It is the hope of both LSU and the Office of Spiritual Life that after students encounter La Sierra University, they will not only

find a deeper understanding of what it means to be human, but they will also realize what it means to be an active Christian within a greater global community.

- *Long-Term Mission Program (LTMP)*—The La Sierra University Long-Term Missions Program, a part of the Office of Spiritual Life, aims to offer students, and community members at large, a unique opportunity to worship, witness, and work in a venue that will change their lives forever. Primarily based in the international arena, individuals who choose to spend a year away from the campus are involved in volunteer activities that run the gauntlet. Previous missions have included, but not been limited to, students teaching at multi-grade classrooms in the Micronesian Islands, acting as deans to academy students in Europe, working at medical clinics in Africa, and serving as English Language tutors in Korea. Students wanting to volunteer their time and talent should consult with the Missions Office, which is designed to help in aiding and screening the prospective missionary with call placements, travel arrangements, academic deferments, fundraising, and overall preparation in regards to mental, physical, and spiritual health. The Missions Office also offers students the ability to travel for shorter periods of time, such as during the summer and for individual quarters. Summer trips have included such activities as teaching summer school abroad, working at orphanages, and participating in evangelistic trips, just to name a few. Organizations that have assisted in these trips include the Adventist Volunteer Services, with the General Conference, Share Him Evangelism, the Quiet Hour, as well as other independent ministries. The Missions Office continues to work with these organizations and others entities to ensure that they can help La Sierra University students answer the call to serve.
- *Small Group Studies*—Several small group studies are facilitated by student, faculty and staff at various locations and times during the week. Most common are groups that meet in residential halls.
- *Week of Devotion*—Each quarter the campus community gathers for a week of devotion, worship and prayer.
- *Student-Led Spiritual Emphasis Week*—A yearly week of devotion led by students who provide the planning, music and speaking.
- *Tri-Campus Retreat*—In January of each year 150 students from Loma Linda University, Pacific Union College and La Sierra University gather for a weekend of rejuvenation at Camp Wawona (in Yosemite National Park). This event is organized through the combined efforts of the student associations at each of these institutions.
- *University Worship*—La Sierra University’s equivalent of a biweekly chapel program. Attendance is compulsory for all full-time students.
- *Break-Out Worship*—Students and University faculty are actively involved together in our Break-Out worship schedule during the week. Students are required to be involved in these creative, topic-specific, Christ-centered worship series each quarter of the academic year.
- *Winter Blessing*—A Week of Devotion planned by the residential life staff. Open to the entire campus, but primarily targeted for dorm students.

- *Homebase Ministries*—A ministry team of between 10-20 students that coordinates and organizes worship services for area churches one to two Sabbaths per month.
- *Literature Evangelism*—Six to ten students per quarter participate in the Literature Evangelism Program in conjunction with the Southeastern California Conference.
- *Athletic Coaches Orientation*—In order for the team of coaches working closely with the Athletics Department of the university to understand Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle issues and Adventist beliefs, an orientation takes place each year at the beginning of the athletics season to increase understanding and provide positive leadership.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

3. *Timeline for Change.* Begin by development of reasonable timeline for implementation of the Spiritual Plan Task Force recommendations.
4. *University Studies Integration.* While three of the five core theme courses or components are included in this recommendation, it is suggested that the University Studies program investigate how to completely integrate all remaining University Studies core theme courses (SSCI and HUMN) into articulation with the proposed four SLOs in this revision.
5. *Course Assessment.* Regular course evaluations and assessments, working closely with the Assessment Committee of the University, should be done to see if the SLOs are being met and that faculty who teach these classes are targeting each SLO.
6. *Commitment to Research.* Recommit to using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the *Valuegenesis Survey for College and Universities*, and other relevant evaluation tools available to the university. Commit to research every two years to continue providing benchmarks for La Sierra University students in the area of faith, values, and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist church, attitudes toward university life, and academic excellence.
7. *Religion and University Studies Assessment.* Partner the School of Religion with the University Studies Assessment teams to evaluate the potential of the revised University Studies recommendations regarding university-wide requirement to see if they meet the School of Religion's needs as to Adventist beliefs and practice. Make adjustments in course objectives and faculty participation, as feedback is relevant for success.
8. *Graduate Religious Growth.* In cooperation with the other graduate entities on campus, recommend a plan by the end of 2013 that encourages graduate students to participate in the on-campus spiritual life activities available at La Sierra University

School of Religion Initiatives. The School of Religion, often in cooperation with the School Student Forum, plans and carries out activities intended to enhance social opportunities among religion students, to provide worship opportunities, to build worship and social emphasis through the annual School Autumn Retreat and annual Spring Consecration service, to develop the life of the mind through the annual publication of *Theology in Practice*.

School of Religion students are actively involved in the religious life of La Sierra University, such as holding the presidency of (SALSU) (Student Association of La Sierra University), planning weekend worship opportunities in cooperation with the Department of Spiritual Life, and participating and leading out in many of the break-out university worship options.

The School of Religion encourages participation in short-term as well as long-term mission trips and in addition to support for the university ministries, sponsors get-togethers at the beginning of each quarter to help build community with both graduate and undergraduate students and to provide an orientation of what lies ahead for the term. Worship opportunities also come through the school assemblies planned for the majors throughout the academic year.

The School of Religion also attempts the more challenging task of involving graduate students in the religious life of the campus. The School of Religion is working to create a unique space so that graduate students can meet and mentor undergraduate students in Religious Studies.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

9. That the School of Religion expand the shared worship opportunities with the larger campus in a more inclusive way.
10. *Graduate Learning Community.* The School of Religion should work closely with other graduate entities on campus in order to build a graduate community of scholars who fellowship, worship, and grow in their religious lives together
11. *Adventist Beliefs Requirement.* The School of Religion in collaboration with the University Studies Council and the Faculty Senate should proceed with legitimizing the new University religion requirement in Adventist Beliefs as a requirement for all students in the undergraduate programs of the University.
12. *Assessment Implementation.* The School of Religion should use the Profiles of Ministry assessment from the American Theological Association to assess all our graduate degree students as to their understanding of ministry and to help provide an Adventist profile for ministry as a benchmark.

Objective C: The University will collaborate with the School of Religion Faculty and the University Religious Life Committee for curriculum enhancements to increase the understanding of our denomination among our non-Adventist students.

School of Religion Initiatives.

The School of Religion also provides curriculum that advances the understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and commitments through a pyramid approach to growth in faith for non-Adventist students. Currently we provide the following opportunities to understand the Adventist church, its beliefs and values through coursework designed to build understanding by students not affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist church. The courses described below meet the goals of Objective C and the School's own mission and aims. (See Appendix D)

The first course available in our religion curriculum serves as an introduction to Christianity (RELT 104)—*An Introduction to basic Christian beliefs for students from a non-Christian culture*—and an Introduction to Seventh-day Adventism (RELT 106)—*The biblical basis, formulation, and implications of the theological convictions of Seventh-day Adventists, with emphasis on those beliefs that distinguish Adventists from other Christians*. This course is limited to students who are not Seventh-day Adventists. Students of other Christian and non-Christian traditions who want to reflect with the others in class regarding Adventist beliefs and their implications for the wider world often take RLG 304—*Adventism in Global Perspective*, and an Adventist specific course in *Adventist Beliefs* (RELT 245)—Fundamental doctrines of Christianity as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church—to be required of all students during their stay at La Sierra University in the University Studies theme requirements, helps meet this objective.

A number of elective courses are also available with a religion faculty equipped to discuss world religions in light of the Christian heritage of Adventism and its beliefs (RELG 237). *Religious Development and Moral Learning* (RELT 464), is a course designed for students who want to learn about how their faith develops and how to facilitate faith growth in others. And *Introduction to Religious Studies* (RELG235)—a class that examines how religion provides meaning, societal structure and ethical guidance. Issues of method and theory are considered in the context of such religious phenomena as the sense of the sacred, religious language, sacred narrative, sacred time and place, ritual, symbolism, and religious community. The class provides an elective choice for a large group of students as they move through their curriculum. In addition, another curriculum offering is the course, *Religious Faith and Life* (RELG 267). This class is for the students who want to understand their religious experience, build a relationship with God through Bible study and prayer, and understand the New Testament message of salvation and religious responsibility.

Currently, all students take a total of 16 quarter units in religion for every undergraduate major. All students are required to take a Scripture class in their course requirements as well as part of their University Studies program.

The School of Religion is actively working on Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) that target the goals and objectives of the Mission of La Sierra University in its ongoing evaluation and assessment of its coursework.

The School of Religion provides a number of other resources to the whole student body which may provide additional help in building their religious foundation and meeting the School's goals for its students. For example:

- *Ana and Fernando Stahl Center for World Service*—The Fernando and Ana Stahl Center for World Service is committed to the mission of “passing a vision of world service to a new generation of students.” Based in the School of Religion and drawing upon other campus entities, the Center serves the world church and the wider academic community by promoting world service tours and sponsoring lectureships, archives, and displays at La Sierra University and in other settings. Students may take advantage of this valuable service-oriented center.

- *The Women's Resource Center*—housed in the College of Arts and Sciences but tied closely to the School of Religion, serves students and faculty by providing information, resources, and support with regards to gender issues. The Women's Resource Center encourages and advocates for women clergy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and for those studying for ministry. It collaborates to increase awareness of abuse of women and provides resources for healing. The Center also focuses on career and leadership development of women in all professions, both for students and those already in the workplace. The Women's Resource Center offers opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Adventist women to their world and church. To this effect, the Center sponsors lectures and events, gathers material concerning the experiences and service of women, develops resources on women and the Bible, and supports gender equality within the Adventist Church.
- *John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry*—The School of Religion faculty has long been recognized as a leading resource of skills and materials for helping young people develop in their personal relationship to Jesus Christ. This resource now exists as the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry. Named after an outstanding Seventh-day Adventist leader in the spiritual nurture of young people, the Center provides help and information to youth and family workers throughout North America and increasingly as a resource for students at La Sierra University who seek research in personal faith and religious education, youth and young adult ministry, family ministry and the teaching of religion. Major activities include the occasional John Hancock Lecture-ship and the Youth Ministry Symposium, which feature presentations by leading Christians who work with young people. Other services to La Sierra students and Adventists and other Christian pastors and teachers include research (such as *Valuegenesis*), workshops, and educational programs that focus on religious family life.
- *The H.M.S. Richards Library*—The School of Religion was honored several years ago with the donation by his family of the entire library and additional resources of H.M.S. Richards. It is involved in archiving its considerable set of documents and records. This is an invaluable resource for students on both the graduate and undergraduate level to learn about an Adventist pioneering great, whose contributions to the church and its evangelism continue strongly to this day.
- *Campus Church Pastoral Team*—The School of Religion values its close relationship with the University Church. The campus pastor ministers to students' needs by providing spiritual direction and nurture, opportunities for outreach in the community, pastoral counseling, Engaged Couples' Seminars, worship services, and Bible study groups. The faculty of religion also teach a continuing conversation Sabbath School class each Sabbath for students and community.
- *Archaeology at La Sierra University*—With a rich collection of antiquities, a strong archaeology teaching staff, and direction and participation in major archaeological digs in Jordan and Israel, the School of Religion provides practical application in the field to explore the relationship of the Bible to archaeological discovery. Students participate on

our Jordanian excavations every other summer which builds confidence in biblical studies and supports an understanding of the historical importance of Scripture.

- *Archaeology Discovery Weekend*—The archaeology program also plans and puts on an annual autumn Archaeology Discovery Weekend which brings to campus prominent archaeologists to lecture, a teachers workshop and a “campus dig” opportunity for elementary school students. Every spring they also provide an opportunity at Homecoming Weekend for alumni to learn about archaeology and the Bible. La Sierra University students assist in planning and hosting this important event which helps encourage an understanding of the history of the biblical stories.
- *Spring and Summer Study Tours*—La Sierra University is committed to producing graduates grounded in a spiritual, intellectual, and social community who are global citizens informed by faith and learning. La Sierra University, as with academia in general, is coming to recognize that in strategic planning for recruitment, for retention, and for general education curriculum design, offering international study tours effectively contributes in preparing students for citizenship in an ever shrinking planet. Study tours offered by the University and the School of Religion specifically, evidence the University’s commitment to take students beyond the classroom and to experience learning in global contexts. “The need to think globally is not reserved for would-be diplomats or for students in international business,” noted La Sierra’s President Randal Wisbey. “The need to think globally ideally impacts every academic discipline, and La Sierra’s international study tours plant seeds for looking beyond one’s inherited culture context and comfort zone.”

Tours to Peru to explore students’ relationship to community service and mission work, archaeological study tours to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Greece and the Greek Islands have a long history at La Sierra University. For over 30 years students and many parents have participated in the religious reflection done as an integral part of the tour program by the faculty of religion. This contributes to the students’ understanding of themselves, God, and world in which they live.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

13. *Journal Growth.* Continue to update the yearly journal, *Theology in Practice*, to involve both graduate and undergraduate students and to broaden its readership to include non-Christian and non-Adventist students.
14. *A Space for Community.* Make plans through the School of Religion for a community space or meeting room whereby students can meet on a casual basis for religious and theological discussions, mentoring, and tutoring current Adventist students and non-Adventist students..
15. *Assessment Tool Development.* Development of an assessment tool in cooperation with the Office of Assessment in order to evaluate the impact of the tour program of the School of

Religion as to its relationship with the objectives of understanding how they contribute to an understanding of Adventism among both our Adventist and non-Adventist participants.

16. *Continued Assessment of Classes.* Complete course assessment with the University Office of Assessment to see if the Adventist beliefs class for all students is meeting their religious needs and the objectives of the Spiritual Master Plan.
17. *Chaplain Consultations for Action.* Begin consultations with the Campus Chaplain to assist more non-Adventist students with their understanding of Adventism.

Objective D: La Sierra University will foster commitment to an abundant Christian life through a balanced approach promoting healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interaction.

Office of Student Life Initiatives: The Office of Student Activities was reorganized in an effort to provide more intentional and mission-driven programming for students. A student engagement record will be piloted in Fall of 2011 for the purpose of tracking all co-curricular activities.

- *Orgsync.* Orgsync, a computer-generated community, was purchased and introduced to the campus as a means of facilitating communication between and to campus clubs and communities. Social groups and departments are organized and open to all students to join. Calendars and postings of announcements happen in real time, and requests for activities are streamlined.
- *Weekend Activity Coordinator*— This position has been developed to coordinate weekend activities, making sure things are going well with planned activities and filling in the gaps where there is lack of activity.
- *Office of Student Activity Out Days*—These are events that highlight a particular type of activity and one time per month feature something on healthful living.
- *The La Sierra University Counseling Center*—The Counseling Center has relocated into new space adjacent to Student Health Services. This enables them to better serve students in a confidential manner. They have sponsored a variety of better living activities as well as providing therapeutic and career counseling.
- *The Mental Health Fair*—This event, coordinated by the Counseling Center, has become an annual event which brings together many different mental health providers in the Inland Empire. This event provides an opportunity for students to explore the varied aspects of good mental health and available services.
- *De-Stress Day*—Sponsored by the Counseling Center, this event provides opportunities for students to interact and spend time with therapy dogs or to enjoy the benefits of a five-minute massage provided by certified massage therapists.

- *Student Handbook Update*—The Student Handbook will receive its annual review of all student polices including those concerning lifestyle and healthful living in order to address the continuing needs of students.
- *Health Services*—La Sierra University Health Services is looking for funds to provide free blood work exams in order to identify potential health issues.
- *Patterning*—The Student Association of La Sierra University, SALSU, is partnering with Student Life directors to provide intentional mentoring to the elected SALSU officers.
- *The Collegiate Association for Better Living, CABL*— working under the auspices of the student government, sponsors programming addressing the Christian philosophy of better living through purposeful healthy living, exercise, and spiritual development.
- *Athletics Department Changes*—The Athletics Department has resigned from NCAA and joined NAIA. NAIA is an organization based on Christian principles and includes the program “Champion of Characters.” This program addresses a balanced and ethical lifestyle. An added bonus is the intercollegiate association with SDA and other faith-based institutions.
- *Athletic Seventh-day Adventist Orientation*— At the beginning of each academic year, the campus chaplain conducts a seminar with each athletic team to help student athletes further understand and adequately represent the Adventist values held by La Sierra University. All university athletes are required to complete this training.
- *Sabbath Guidelines*—The Athletics Department has implemented Sabbath guidelines for weekend travel. Activities include Sabbath worship with local churches and possible community service events.
- *Learning Labs*—The Residence Halls have established learning labs and business centers in all residence halls. These centers give space for group study and are equipped with large screen monitors and white boards. The business centers have a computer, copier, printer, and fax machine. Wireless Internet is also available in the residence halls enabling students to use Internet and email for completing and submitting assignments.
- *Leadership Responsibilities*—Residential Life designed new leadership responsibilities for RAs in the area of spiritual nurture, administration, social and academics in an effort to maximize individual skill and interest of the student leaders.
- *Music Guidelines*—As a faith-based institution, La Sierra University promotes Christian values by requiring Christian music to be played at campus events.
- *International Student Orientation*—The Office of International Students has included a two-day orientation event for all new students and also provides worship and social programming and events. These may include off-campus trips, food and games, as well as seasonal and holiday activities.

- *A Green Campus*—The Security Department, in conjunction with the local Air Quality Management District, supports and encourages activities that encourage car pooling, walking, bicycling, and the preservation of natural resources. The University encourages the use of iPads for documents for Faculty Senate and Administrative committees to highlight our “Green” campus.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

18. *Family Group Target*—During the Ignite Orientation, the family groups will target living a balanced lifestyle in their meeting. Ignite also addresses other aspects of healthful living such as substance abuse.
19. *Student Life Office Targets*—Student Life will be targeting activities and programs to better incorporate healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interactions among all students with special emphasis on any non-Adventist students.
20. *Program Evaluations*—Student Life will be evaluating the success of the the residential hall leadership program and its impact on residence living. Target areas of Objective D will be emphasized—healthful and productive growth. Special emphasis will be on the International Student Orientation and Learning Labs in the Residence halls in their assessment program over the next six years.
21. *Adventist Cultural Development*—Student Life along with the School of Religion and Chaplain’s Office will incorporate Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values and lifestyle during freshmen orientation, for residence hall students, students athletes and coaches, and with the ESL department of the College of Arts and Science.

Objective E: The University will create increased opportunities for students’ spiritual life and worship, mission and service.

University Initiatives. La Sierra University provides ample opportunity for the student body to become involved in those aspects of religious life that involve worship and personal growth. In addition, mission and service opportunities abound on campus. The Office of Service Learning coordinates the required units per student involvement in approved service and mission opportunities. The following activities target Objective E.

- *Best Buddies*—The La Sierra University Best Buddies chapter works with schools and organizations in the Inland Empire to connect students with intellectually and developmentally disabled buddies they can mentor, encourage, and support. With an average participation of ten students per year, Best Buddies enables student involvement through a number of fundraising opportunities, awareness events and weekly interactions with members of Best Buddies.
- *Bible Camp Staff*—La Sierra University students serve as leaders at local conference academy Bible Camps. A camp recruitment fair is held once a year for camps and camp staff to meet

and interact with students. Over a dozen La Sierra students served at five summer camps across the country in 2011. The ability to mentor children, network with friends from different Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities and lead out in worship planning all tend to foster a community founded in God.

- *First Service*—First Service is a vibrant worship service that meets every Friday night on the campus of the La Sierra University Church. Created primarily for collegiate and young adults, this seeker friendly service is a unique place for those searching for God and who wish to become a part of an active church community. The goal and motto for First Service is to connect humanity with divinity through community.
- *RASK@LS*—Random Acts of Sabbath Kindness @ La Sierra is a by-product of the Collegiate Sabbath School service Sabbath mornings. Students volunteer their time by signing up for various service activities. These include working with inner-city organizations in Los Angeles, mentoring at a local teen shelter, helping at community service and more.
- *REVO*—A student-led community fund-raising event that benefits various charities and projects. In 2010 La Sierra REVO raised over \$23,000 for an orphanage in Rwanda where La Sierra student missionaries were serving.
- *Short-Term Outreach Missions (STORM)*—Students participate in short-term mission opportunities with options to serve in clinics, hospitals, orphanages, and/or refurbish churches for communities in need. Over 400 students, faculty and staff have participated in a STORM trip in the past five years.
- *SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise)*—This student organization sponsored by the School of Business is a leader in providing creative business solutions to provide for basic human needs. Students involved have been privileged to witness as they represent La Sierra University yearly on national and international competitions. SIFE teams embrace students who want to make a difference.
- *Student Missions*—Each year a number of students dedicate a year of their lives to serve others throughout communities around the world. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the year-long student missions program begun at La Sierra College in 1962, hundreds of student missionaries have made a stance for change, for clothing the poor and feeding the hungry, for giving humans the right to an education and the means for a future. Students who return prepare worship retreats, presentations at elementary schools, campus-wide events, church services in the local area and in challenging other students to be actively engaged in making a difference.
- *Department and School Retreats* – A number of departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education, and the School of Religion plan and implement retreats for students in their majors for students and staff during the academic year.

- *Service Learning Course Requirement*—La Sierra University offers students a variety of out-reach programs through our Homebase Office. Students seeking the blessing of service can participate in community mission projects organized through our short-term mission office. Service Learning courses provide students with the opportunity to apply classroom learning in service to the community. The considerable number of Seventh-day Adventist churches in the area enables students to gain experience serving large and small congregations.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

22. *Student Participation.* Increase the number of students who participate in summer Camp Staffing and Evangelism through the Missions program of the Department of Spiritual Life.
23. *Survey Development.* A “get involved” survey will be taken during the first weeks of school to gather information about student interest in assisting the office of the Chaplain in campus ministries. Worship programs intentionally integrate learning and worship styles, music, and ethnicity in all aspects of public worship experiences at La Sierra University.
24. *Multi-Style Worship.* The worship programs should intentionally integrate learning and worship styles, music, and ethnicity in all aspects of public worship experiences at La Sierra University.
25. *Year-End Assessment.* At the conclusion of the academic year the Office of the Chaplain will provide an assessment of at least five of the the religious activities which will aid in planning and meeting spiritual needs of La Sierra University students. An ongoing plan for complete assessment of all activities should be presented to the Religious Life Committee by the end of 2013.
26. *Task Force Implementation.* The establishment of a task force representative of the graduate students at La Sierra University to understand their unique needs and how the University religious life committee might plan to assist in their religious growth, involvement, and faith.

VIII. General Plan Recommendations and Actions—In reviewing our earlier Spiritual Master Plan a number of issues have yet to be resolved and need to be identified

27. *Ongoing Assessment.* Since an Office of Assessment has been established and functions at the university, the Office of Spiritual Life should use this resource in regards to how to do the best assessment of religious life activities on campus. We recommend their working closely with this office in their assessments of seminars and workshops on campus that assist in building a growing faith. Clear goals and objectives should be developed for each activity listed in this Spiritual Plan. Next, proper assessment tools and proce-

dures need to be identified in order to assess growth in the spiritual life on La Sierra University's campus.

28. *Residence Hall Ministry.* Continue to organize and support the pastoral ministry in residence halls through training residence chaplains and studying the use of fieldwork assignments in the graduate pastoral ministry program.
29. *Campus Ministry Center.* Secure and support a campus ministry center with office space for chaplain and assistant chaplain as funding is allocated and space becomes available.
30. *Religious Sensitivity.* Foster sensitivity to other belief systems through workshops, seminars, worships, and course objectives. Proper assessment should accompany this foci.
31. *Cross-Cultural Ministry.* Assistance in cross-cultural support ministries to international students should be encouraged and a concrete plan of programs, activities, discussions, and learning opportunities should be addressed and developed.

IX. Actions, Responsibilities, and Target Timeline

Summary of Actions and Assignments for La Sierra University's Spiritual Master Plan 2011-2017

Objective A. *La Sierra University will update its Spiritual Master Plan by the end of 2011. (Revised plan completed, finalized, and approved, December, 2011).*

This Spiritual Master Plan fulfills this objective. Like our University Strategic Master Plan, we view the Campus Spiritual Plan as a dynamic document, open to yearly review and potential revision and renewed implementation.

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
1. <i>Spiritual Growth Commitment.</i> As we initiate new approaches to ministry and build on our on-going commitments to spiritual growth, and as we develop new strategies to meet our objectives, this plan should be reviewed in the Fall of each academic year, updated, and then enriched, to meet the religious and spiritual needs identified.	University Religious Life Committee & Spiritual Plan Task Force	Yearly

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
2. <i>Spiritual Plan Revisions.</i> Revisions and updates should be processed through the Department of Spiritual Life (DSL) in cooperation with the Office of Student Life, the School of Religion, and the La Sierra University Church pastoral staff.	Department of Spiritual Life, Office of Student Life, School of Religion, & Pastoral staff	Yearly

Objective B. La Sierra University will increase the understanding of Seventh-day Adventist values, beliefs, and identity among students in the campus community.

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
3. <i>Timeline for Change.</i> Begin by development of reasonable timeline for implementation of the Spiritual Plan Task Force recommendations.	Religious Life Committee Spiritual Planning Committee	January, 2012
4. <i>University Studies Integration.</i> While three of the five core theme courses or components are included in this recommendation, it is suggested that the University Studies program investigate how to completely integrate all remaining University Studies core theme courses (SSCI and HUMN) into articulation with the proposed four SLOs in this revision.	As approved by University Studies Council & related Task Forces	As approved or by the Fall, 2012
5. <i>Course Assessment.</i> Regular course evaluations and assessments, working closely with the Assessment Committee of the University, should be done to see if the SLOs are being met and that faculty who teach these classes are targeting each SLO.	University Studies Council	Yearly

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
6. <i>Commitment to Research.</i> Recommit to using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the <i>Valuegenesis Survey for College and Universities</i> , and other relevant evaluation tools available to the university. Commit to research every two years to continue providing benchmarks for La Sierra University students in the area of faith, values, and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist church, attitudes toward university life, and academic excellence.	Office of the Provost, Office of Assessment, Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry	Ongoing
7. <i>Religion and University Studies Assessment.</i> Partner the School of Religion with the University Studies Assessment teams to evaluate the potential of the revised University Studies recommendations regarding university-wide requirement to see if they meet the School of Religion's needs as to Adventist beliefs and practice. Make adjustments in course objectives and faculty participation, as feedback is relevant for success.	School of Religion University Studies Council	Ongoing
8. <i>Graduate Religious Growth.</i> In cooperation with the other graduate entities on campus, recommend a plan by the end of 2013 that encourages graduate students to participate in the on-campus spiritual life activities available at La Sierra University.	Graduate Council and coordinators in Education, Religion, and English	December, 2013
9. <i>Shared Worship Opportunities.</i> That the School of Religion expand the shared worship opportunities with the larger campus in a more inclusive way.	School of Religion Department of Spiritual Life	Ongoing
10. <i>Adventist Beliefs Requirement.</i> The School of Religion in collaboration with the University Studies Council and the Faculty Senate should proceed with legitimizing the new University religion requirement in Adventist Beliefs as a requirement for all students in the undergraduate programs of the University.	School of Religion University Studies Council & Faculty Senate	Ongoing

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
11. <i>Graduate Learning Community.</i> The School of Religion should work closely with other graduate entities on campus in order to build a graduate community of scholars who fellowship, worship, and grow in their religious lives together	School of Religion	Ongoing
12. <i>Assessment Implementation.</i> The School of Religion should use the <i>Profiles of Ministry</i> assessment from the American Theological Association to assess all our graduate degree students as to their understanding of ministry and to help provide an Adventist profile for ministry as a benchmark.	Associate Dean School of Religion Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry	Ongoing

Objective C: The University will collaborate with the School of Religion Faculty and the University Religious Life Committee for curriculum enhancements to increase the understanding of our denomination among our non-Adventist students.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
13. <i>Journal Growth.</i> Continue to update the yearly journal, <i>Theology in Practice</i> , to involve both graduate and undergraduate students and to broaden its readership to include non-Christian and non-Adventist students.	Student Forum of the School of Religion	October, 2012
14. <i>A Space for Community.</i> Make plans through the School of Religion for a community space or meeting room whereby students can meet on a casual basis for religious and theological discussions, mentoring, and tutoring current Adventist students and non-Adventist students.	School of Religion University Space Committee	Ongoing

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
15. <i>Assessment Tool Development.</i> Development of an assessment tool in cooperation with the Office of Assessment in order to evaluate the impact of the tour program of the School of Religion as to its relationship with the objectives of understanding how they contribute to an understanding of Adventism among both our Adventist and non-Adventist participants.	University Study Tour Directors University School Deans	Summer, 2012
16. <i>Continued Assessment of Classes.</i> Complete course assessment with the University Office of Assessment to see if the Adventist beliefs class for all students is meeting their religious needs and the objectives of the Spiritual Master Plan.	School of Religion Associate Dean, School of Religion Faculty	As approved
17. <i>Chaplain Consultations for Action.</i> Begin consultations with the Campus Chaplain to assist more non-Adventist students with their understanding of Adventism.	Department of Spiritual Life, Campus Chaplain & Staff	December, 2013

Objective D: La Sierra University will foster commitment to an abundant Christian life through a balanced approach promoting healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interaction.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
18. <i>Family Group Target</i> —During the Ignite Orientation, the family groups will target living a balanced lifestyle in their meeting. Ignite also addresses other aspects of healthful living such as substance abuse.	Ignite Leaders Office of Student Life	Fall, 2012
19. <i>Student Life Office Targets</i> —Student Life will be targeting activities and programs to better incorporate healthful living, rigorous academics, and meaningful and responsible social interactions among all students with special emphasis on any non-Adventist students.	Office of Student Life, CABL Student Leaders Department of Spiritual Life	Fall, 2013

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
20. <i>Program Evaluations</i> —Student Life will be evaluating the success of the the residential hall leadership program and its impact on residence living. Target areas of Objective D will be emphasized—healthful and productive growth. Special emphasis will be on the International Student Orientation and Learning Labs in the residence halls in their assessment program over the next six years.	Office of International Student Services (OISS), Office of Student Life	Ongoing
21. <i>Adventist Cultural Development</i> —Student Life along with the School of Religion and Chaplain’s Office will incorporate Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values and lifestyle during freshmen orientation, for residence hall students, students athletes and coaches, and with the ESL department of the College of Arts and Science.	Office of Student Life, Department of Spiritual Life Freshman Orientation staff	Ongoing

Objective E: The University will create increased opportunities for students’ spiritual life and worship, mission and service.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
22. <i>Student Participation.</i> Increase the number of students who participate in summer Camp Staffing and Evangelism through the Missions program of the Department of Spiritual Life.	Office of Spiritual Life, Mission Program Director and staff	Ongoing
23. <i>Survey Development.</i> A “get involved” survey will be taken during the first weeks of school to gather information about student interest in assisting the Chaplain in campus ministries.	Office of Spiritual Life, Chaplains staff, Office of Student Life	Ongoing
24. <i>Multi-Style Worship.</i> The worship programs should intentionally integrate learning and worship styles, music, and ethnicity in all aspects of public	Office of Spiritual Life, University Worship Director, Break-Out Worship Leaders	Ongoing

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
25. <i>Year-End Assessment.</i> At the conclusion of the academic year the Office of the Chaplain will provide an assessment of at least five of the the religious activities which will aid in planning and meeting spiritual needs of La Sierra University students. An ongoing plan for complete assessment of all activities should be presented to the Religious Life Committee by the end of 2013.	Office of Spiritual Life in cooperation with the Office of Assessment	December, 2013
26. <i>Task Force Implementation.</i> The establishment of a task force representative of the graduate students at La Sierra University to understand their unique needs and how the University religious life committee might plan to assist in their religious growth, involvement, and faith.	University Graduate Council, University Council Task Force	Ongoing

X. Reflecting our Outcomes and Actions—In reviewing our earlier Spiritual Master Plan a number of issues have yet to be resolved and need to be mentioned as more general recommendations for strategic growth for the Department of Spiritual Life and the University.

Recommendations for the Spiritual Master Plan:

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
27. <i>Ongoing Assessment.</i> Since an Office of Assessment has been established and functions at the university, the Office of Spiritual Life should use this resource to do the best assessment of religious life activities on campus. We recommend their working closely with this office in their evaluation of seminars and workshops that assist in building a growing faith. Clear goals and objectives should be developed for each activity in this Spiritual Plan.	Department of Spiritual Life, Chaplain's Staff, Office of Assessment as a resource	Ongoing
28. <i>Residence Hall Ministry.</i> Continue to organize and support the pastoral ministry in residence halls through training residence chaplains and studying the use of fieldwork assignments in the graduate pastoral ministry program.	Office of Spiritual Life, Chaplains staff, Office of Student Life	Ongoing

Recommendation for the Spiritual Plan	Responsibility	Date
29. <i>Campus Ministry Center.</i> Secure and support a campus ministry center with office space for chaplain and assistant chaplain as funding is allocated and space becomes available.	University Administration, University Budget Committee, Department of Spiritual Life	Ongoing
30. <i>Religious Sensitivity.</i> Foster sensitivity to other belief systems through workshops, seminars, worships, and course objectives. Proper assessment should accompany this foci.	Office of Spiritual Life	Ongoing
31. <i>Cross-Cultural Ministry.</i> Assistance in cross-cultural support ministries to international students should be encouraged and a concrete plan of programs, activities, discussions, and learning opportunities should be addressed and developed.	University Diversity Director, Office of Spiritual Life	Ongoing

X. Appendices

A. La Sierra University Mission, Aims and Objectives

B. La Sierra University Action regarding Adventist Beliefs and the Student Body—Task Force Report

C. School of Religion Commitments

Appendix A

Our Mission:

Voted by Board of Trustees on May 21, 2009

As members of the diverse La Sierra Community, we are committed to inquiry, learning, and service. Our community is rooted in the Christian gospel and Seventh-day Adventist values and ideals.

Our mission is:

TO SEEK truth, enlarging human understanding through scholarship;

TO KNOW God, ourselves, and the world through reflection, instruction, and mentoring;

TO SERVE others, contributing to the good of our local and global communities.

We pursue this mission with excellence, integrity, compassion, and mutual respect.

Aims For La Sierra University:

Taken from the Faculty Handbook, Appendix A

As a community of learning that is also a community of faith, La Sierra University fulfills its mission by engaging in three kinds of activity. It educates undergraduate and graduate students; it promotes research in the areas in which it offers instruction; and it contributes to the good of the larger society.

The University educates its students through a broad offering of studies in the liberal arts and sciences and in selected professional areas. It promotes research through encouraging and facilitating original investigation, critical reflection, and scholarly publication. It serves its various communities through adult education, resource centers, cultural events, nontechnical publications, and professional consultation. Among these varied activities, the University maintains as a vital concern the education of its undergraduate students.

Thus, this University does the things most other universities do. But it does these things as the fruition of its Adventist heritage and commitment, even as it welcomes students from all religious and cultural backgrounds. The University's religious orientation provides a perspective for its educational programs and projects, a motivation for its intellectual vitality and rigor, a framework for its moral values and lifestyle, and a basis for its social consciousness and public service. Convinced that God is the author of all truth, the University maintains an atmosphere of freedom and openness for intellectual exploration and expression.

As La Sierra University does its work of teaching, research, and service, it strives to exemplify its ideals of educational comprehensiveness, community interaction, and intellectual excellence.

The University intends to address the needs of a wide range of students who are both academically qualified for and genuinely interested in the kind of education it offers. It serves Adventist and other high school graduates and transfer students from all parts of the world.

It serves graduate and professional students within the areas of business, education, religion, and the liberal arts and sciences. It serves adult students whose education has been interrupted and who desire to complete the requirements for a university degree or credential. Meeting the needs of this wide diversity of students requires a corresponding diversity of educational programs and strategies.

The University intends, furthermore, to respond to the needs of students and teachers as whole persons. Accordingly, it seeks to challenge the intellect to acquire the knowledge and skills essential to an effective, productive, and satisfying life in the coming decades. It seeks to engage the spirit in establishing fundamental values and attitudes of moral integrity, intellectual curiosity, religious commitment, and social concern. It seeks to nurture a mature sense of personhood through the development of appropriate self-esteem and self-direction as well as significant interpersonal relationships. And it seeks to enhance the body by encouraging and facilitating life-long physical well-being.

Believing that all humanity is created in the image of God, the University celebrates the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff with regard to race, national origin, gender, and age. The University recognizes this diversity as a valuable asset in the preparation of all its students for positions of service and leadership in the professions, in business, in government, in the civic community, in the church.

The University intends to interact vigorously with its multidimensional world—including its founding and sponsoring church, its growing urban community in California’s Inland Empire, its neighboring educational institutions, and its wider intellectual and cultural environment in the world of the twenty-first century.

The University intends to teach its students how to make the world a better place in the future by involving them in making it a better place now. It intends to be, for both its religious and its secular publics, a significant influence—a reasoned and relevant, critical and constructive voice; a light on the way to the future; and a source of knowledge and energy for responding to a wide spectrum of human needs.

The University intends to promote intellectual excellence in four complementary ways. It seeks to encourage and enable each student to learn as much as he or she can. It seeks to draw individual students into the ongoing scholarly conversation in their own academic and professional disciplines. It seeks to prepare students both for further education in graduate and professional schools, and for employment in the world they will inhabit in the future. And it seeks to initiate students into a responsible life that is intelligent and informed, unselfish and involved, open and growing.

In its drive toward recognized excellence, the University intends to recruit, support, and nurture teacher-scholars who are distinguished for their intellectual competence and vigor; for the breadth and depth of their educational background; for their continuing involvement in research, reflection, and publication; for their personal integrity and religious commitment; and for their enthusiasm for teaching.

Besides promoting research and publication by both faculty and students, the University intends to develop courses and curricula that will anticipate the future opportunities and needs of its graduates. Although there is room for growth in student enrollment and educational programs, the University intends to maintain among its students, faculty, and staff a quality of personal relationship that energizes and enriches all of its activities of teaching, research and learning, and service.

Our Directional Values:

Reviewed by Board of Trustees, Feb 10, 2011

Voted by the Strategic Planning Committee on February 13, 2011.

The following stipulations provide an important context, parameters, and directions for our goals and institutional decisions.

We are committed to:

1. Embracing our Seventh day Adventist beliefs, values, and identity in a spirit of openness, contributing reflectively to their continuing development, and pursuing the integration of faith and learning.
2. Fostering research and scholarship by faculty members and students, undergraduates as well as graduates.
3. Nurturing a culture of improvement and innovation, facilitated by internal assessment and external accreditation.
4. Encouraging excellent performance and sustained engagement in learning.
5. Achieving an enrollment level that will maximize the efficient use of human, financial, and physical resources.
6. Offering every student a robust liberal arts education, faithful to a Seventh-day Adventist vision of global citizenship, service, and diversity.
7. Encouraging student development and sustained engagement in learning through a co-curriculum rooted in a philosophy of nurturing the whole person.
8. Acting in responsible ways with the resources entrusted to us by students, parents, donors and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
9. Using technology to develop a more discerning, informed, and connected university community.

We reaffirm our dedication to fulfilling each of these commitments in an ethically appropriate manner.

Appendix B

Annual Assessment of Outcomes for Non-Academic & Academic Support Departments Department of Spiritual Life, Academic Year 2010-2011

Department Composition

Samuel Leonor, Jr. – Chaplain (Department Head)

Steven Hemenway – Assistant Chaplain

Linda Biswas – Missions Director

Department Mission and Outcomes

Our mission is three-fold, to create an environment where students, faculty and staff of the University can: Encounter God, Develop their Spiritual Relationship and opportunity for personal experience to live-out their Walk.

ENCOUNTER:

1. Worship Services:
 - a. Places and opportunities where students can encounter God and seek truth offered weekly
 - i. Measure: Track the number of services and/or worship opportunities available to students
 - ii. Goal: Offer a minimum of one worship service and/or opportunity everyday through the school year
2. Student Participation:
 - a. Cumulative student attendance of offered worship services and/or opportunities.
 - i. Measure: Quarterly surveys.
 - ii. Goal: 50% attendance in 2010 with an increase to 70% attendance by 2015

BELIEVE:

1. Baptisms
 - a. Students committing to membership through baptism
 - i. Measure: Yearly count of student baptisms
 - ii. Goal: 10 student baptisms per year
2. Faith Development
 - a. Attempt to measure students' current state of faith, Christian and Adventist belief.
 - i. Measure: Faith Index Survey
 - ii. Goal: 10% increase in believers by academic years end

GOSPEL LIVING:

1. Local Outreach
 - a. Encourage student involvement in local outreach ministries and service.
 - i. Measure: Yearly count of student participation
 - ii. Goal: Maintain 25 students involved yearly

2. Short-term Missions (STORM)
 - a. Encourage student involvement in short-term service trips
 - i. Measure: Yearly count of student participation
 - ii. Goal: 50% increase in student involvement in the next 5 years
3. Long-term Missions
 - a. Encourage student involvement in long-term mission service
 - i. Measure: Yearly count of student participation
 - ii. Goal: 50% increase in student involvement over the next 5 years

Assessment

4. Describe assessment activities for the year.
 - a. Which target outcomes were assessed during 201011 (should be about 20%)?

Each target was assessed over the year utilizing various methods. The first target was measured through personal interaction with students on campus as well as a survey of the student body University Worship, Break-out Worship, Collegiate Sabbath School as well as Student Missions. The second target, Believe, regarding baptisms, bible studies and other forms of personal testimony were assessed through the measures described. The third target, Gospel Living, was assessed through the measurement of student participation.

- b. What methods of assessment were used?

Surveys, personal interactions, online questions, number of participations. The methods vary by ministry.
- c. What were the outcomes of the assessments (i.e., what was found)? Include evidence.

Below is an assessment by student leaders of their ministries:

TUESDAY TUNES:

Part !:

Linda has asked each member of the Spiritual Life Department to consider how we would conduct a survey of the people involved with our ministry. I think it would be important for my ministry, first of all, to ask if the student has ever been to Tuesday Tunes before.

My questions would be:

1. *Have you ever attended a Tuesday Tunes event?*
2. *Did you enjoy yourself?*
3. *Did you stay for the whole event?*
4. *Would you like to attend Tuesday Tunes in the future?*
5. *How did you hear about Tuesday Tunes?*

6. *Would you like to know more about it?*
7. *Have you considered involving yourself in the process of putting on Tuesday Tunes?*
8. *What didn't you like about the event?*
9. *Did you feel there was anything "spiritual" or "religious" about the event?*

Overall, the important feedback for me would be how people heard about the event, what their favorite act was, if they plan on attending in the future, and if they felt there was anything "spiritual" or "religious" about the event. In addition, I would like to know if people felt a sense of community, but 1) I feel like I've stripped that word or any meaning and 2) That is a hard question to ask and to understand.

Part 2:

If I were to assess the relative success or failure of Tuesday Tunes as a ministry out of the Spiritual Life Network in comparison to other years of its operation, I would say that we reached a wider audience this year with more students attending every show. The crowds were more consistent. More people knew about the event and more students from the university performed at open mic nights or other interactive show platforms.

There were no embarrassing moments and the content of the music was consistently 'safe,' involving no expletives or crass language. In the future, however, I think adding more christian artists to our roster would be a valuable decision.

Next year we are transforming our format to a single show per quarter – putting all our eggs in one proverbial basket. I think that this will give us the opportunity to consolidate our advertising campaign, give us more time to devote to each performance, and to lighten the load placed on the I.T. department.

We are also going to a more interactive show format. For example, the first show that has been confirmed for Fall quarter is a two part show. The first is a performance during the fifth week of the quarter by The Freedom featuring Keith Tutt and Elayna Boynton, who will perform a show. Then, any interested filmmakers will receive a recording of the performance, which they will incorporate into a short film. Five weeks later at the end of the quarter, the second event will be a black tie film festival featuring all of the best films.

I have found that the best performances and the best attendance always result from some form of audience interaction. My goal for the upcoming year is to make every show qualitatively better by devoting more time to a single show and making each show more interactive.

COLLEGIATE SABBATH SCHOOL

(Kelli)

1. *What our goals for the year were and if we've achieved them so far (and how). Our goals for the year were to create and run a Sabbath school that fostered an environment in which people felt comfortable enough to discuss and share their own opinions openly with one another. We accomplished this by changing the format of the Sabbath school by implementing*

moderators for discussion and inviting people to be more discussion leaders than solely speakers each Sabbath. Each week meetings were held during the week before that Sabbath with just the moderators and discussion leaders so that the discussion leader that week could introduce their topic and share their direction and thoughts that they hoped to present that week. This way, any challenges could be worked out and all of the moderators knew what direction to take when the discussion Sabbath morning began. Each month also had a chosen theme. The actual direction of the week was up to the designated discussion leader.

2. What awesome brilliance your division has been involved in?

- *Located on campus at Angwin dorm chapel*
- *Weekly programs: breakfast, music, small group prayer, and then discussion of the weekly topic*

Appendix C

TASK FORCE

SDA Beliefs and Values in UNST Curriculum

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Barbara Favorito, Co-Chair
 Elvin S. Rodríguez, Co-Chair
 Bailey Gillespie
 Fritz Guy
 John Jones
 Eugene Joseph
 Suzanne Mallery
 Cindy Parkhurst
 Adeny Schmidt
 John Webster
 Jim Wilson

TASK FORCE STATEMENT

Mission Statement

As members of the diverse La Sierra Community, we are committed to inquiry, learning, and service. Our community is rooted in the Christian gospel and Seventh-day Adventist values and ideals. Our mission is:

TO SEEK truth, enlarging human understanding through scholarship;!

TO KNOW God, ourselves, & the world through reflection, instruction, and mentoring;

TO SERVE others, contributing to the good of our local and global communities.

We pursue this mission with excellence, integrity, compassion, and mutual respect.

Whereas:

- As an Adventist **University** we participate in the tasks of research, education, training, and service toward the end of a more just, humane and sustainable world.
- As an **Adventist** University we seek to help bring the heads, hearts and hands of the church into coordinated and effective participation in God's cause in the world.
- As an **Adventist University** we straddle the boundary between the known and the unknown, faith and open investigation, the past and the future.
- As a community of **Adventist scholars**, we combine our intellectual effort in the attempt to unite existentially what our secular culture all too often assumes to be inher-

ently in compatible:freedom to pursue truth wherever it leads; and fidelity to the One who is the source of all truth. From "University and Church," *Dialog: LSU Faculty Journal*, (2004).

As a Learning Community we affirm that:

- **With Respect to *Scholarship*:** Faculty approach each course (and curriculum) with the goal of providing students with the relevant discipline's best knowledge and practices. They are guided by the standard scholarly criteria in their discipline, exploring current theories, and providing both the **best available data and the generally accepted means of assessing such data. Accordingly, we ensure that our faculty are well qualified to teach any subject within their disciplinary expertise that they need to present in their classes.**

With Respect to *Adventist Beliefs*:

- Our Adventist faculty recommend to our students our Seventh-day Adventist consensus beliefs and ideals as expressed in our *Statement of Fundamental Beliefs*, both in interaction and counseling with our students and in classes where their academic expertise invites attention to these issues. Faculty who are not Seventh-day Adventists vigorously support the ideals and mission of La Sierra University as an enthusiastically Adventist University.

With Respect to *Development*:

- Faculty recognize, and help students understand, that beliefs and ideas in any field are not static but are the result of historical processes that are ongoing. We inform our students of the history of the development of Adventist beliefs, and share with them the uniquely Adventist concept of 'present truth' (which includes belief in the ongoing work of the Spirit). We believe that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." We also seek to be sensitive to the different developmental needs of our students at each stage of their own products of history, but responsible 'shapers' of the future.

With Respect to *Perspectives*:

- Faculty inform our students about differing perspectives on an issue, when appropriate and relevant, in their areas of scholarship. This includes divergent voices within Adventism, Christianity, and the wider world. This might not be the appropriate role of a training institute or Bible College, but it is essential to the mission of an Adventist University that combines both research and teaching for the purpose of producing leaders for church and society, both now and in the future. Where there are beliefs and doctrines within their respective disciplines on which there are multiple significant viewpoints within the church, the faculty discusses these variations with the students, presenting the context in which these viewpoints are held.

With Respect to *Solutions*:

- Faculty are encouraged not only to teach but also, through research, study and creative endeavors, to advance the state of knowledge in their respective fields. This explicitly includes using the knowledge, skills and insights gained in pursuing their disciplines to help explore problems, and develop and propose viable and responsible potential solu-

tions with respect to issues where Christian and/or SDA doctrines, beliefs and practices face challenges from science, culture or society. These efforts are to be welcomed as a genuine service to the whole community, and as a means of moving the church forward in its relationship with academic knowledge and its understanding of truth. Thus accordingly, LSU as an Adventist University, is not a threat to the Church but one of its most valuable resources.

With Respect to *Service*:

- Faculty serve, not only as sources of wisdom and knowledge, but also as mentors in how to be dedicated, responsible, and caring members of both an academic and a religious community. They are there to nurture students in their faith development journeys. Every day faculty have the opportunity to demonstrate that it is not impossible to be fully informed, intellectually honest, and authentically Adventist, at the same time. They also serve as role models for students in what a serving community is all about. Accordingly, LSU expects that students graduating from degree programs, through exposure to a complete curriculum and involvement in campus life, will be: competently trained in their chosen field of scholarship so that they are well prepared for their chosen profession, and/or able to matriculate to ongoing educational endeavors; thoroughly informed by the breadth of Adventist ideas, beliefs, values and practices, and well grounded in their worldview and faith; conversant with the history and development of ideas and beliefs, including possible areas of conflict between scholarly data in their chosen discipline and current SDA thought; given the critical thinking skills to be able to evaluate differing ideas and perspectives whenever they are faced with seemingly divergent or contradictory ideas in their academic, professional and spiritual life journeys; informed by a range of potential solutions and/or options for dealing with apparent or real conflicts between faith and learning, particularly in their chosen field of study; inspired by faculty and other mentors to make room in their own lives for serving others, whether near or far, with sensitivity and compassion.

Overarching Student Learning Outcomes

The task force is recommending four learning outcomes that will complement the University Studies Curriculum and its outcomes, while further enhancing the connection to the University's student learning outcomes.

1. Students will develop adequate levels of understanding, complexity, and change, in the growth of ideas.
2. Students will understand the issues of science and faith and their related conversations.
3. Students will have an understanding of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and commitments, including the opportunity to grow their Seventh-day Adventist faith and/or personal faith.
4. Students have the tools to be able to integrate faith and learning.

Recommendations

The task force is interested in seeing a holistic approach to the integration of SDA beliefs and

values in the University Studies curriculum. We believe this will allow for the maximum exposure and development in a systematic and equally distributed way. This approach also takes into account a careful consideration of student development, course sequence and spiritual growth potential. As such, we hereby recommend the following curricular slots and levels of mastery, to be considered and implemented by the appropriate University Studies committees.

CURRICULAR SLOT	MASTERY LEVEL 1= INITIAL, D=DEVELOPING, M=MASTERY
UNST 1xx	I
Science and Faith Interdisciplinary Seminar	I
Religion Component IIIB	D
NSCI 4xx	D
UNST 404X	M

The first two components relate directly to SLO 1 and 2. These classes, UNST 100/101 and the Science and Faith Interdisciplinary Seminar, prepare the groundwork needed for more mature and complex discussions and provide a framework on which students can explore the issues of faith and science. The third component requires a readjustment to our current religion requirements so as to better and more clearly define Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, values, and commitments, while also nurturing the students' personal faith journey (SLO 3, Religion Component (IIB)). The last two components, NSCI and UNST 404, drive students to a more mature understanding and appreciation of the faith and learning synergism.

While three out of 5 core theme courses or components are included in this recommendation, the task force further recommends that the University Studies program study how to completely integrate all remaining University Studies core theme courses (SSCI and HUMN) into articulation with the proposed four SLOs in this report. This would start to strengthen the particular outcomes by the diversity of subject matter, approach, and systematic and intentional applications.

L

Appendix D

School of Religion Mission and Aims

The School of Religion is committed to the following endeavors.

In seeking truth, the School of Religion fosters the scholarship of discovery by:

- encouraging research on the part of faculty and students;
- encouraging faculty participation in the discourse of scholarship;
- encouraging students in continued personal and academic study of the Scriptures, theology, and religion.

In sharing knowledge and understanding, the School of Religion fosters the scholarship of teaching and learning as follows:

- with regard to the academic and professional needs of specialists, the School provides five graduate programs.

In serving campus, church, and community, the School of Religion encourages its faculty to provide pastoral leadership by:

- regularly participating in ecclesiastical consultations, continuing education programs, lecture series, conferences, and workshops. This is in addition to regularly preaching and leading out in other functions in local congregations.
- producing resources for pastors and lay members.
- providing to both church and community the expertise and resources available within the School.