



Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World CCCUC & IFYC Grants | Calendar Year 2021

Request for Proposals

Today we are reckoning with systemic racism in our nation and a pandemic in our world. These crises emerge against a backdrop of growing diversity and deepening division. We are at a critical crossroad in our national history: will we continue to divide further, or will we choose to come together across lines of difference to build a stronger society? The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and the Interfaith Youth Core believe that individual religious identities can and should serve as a bridge, not a barrier, to working together with others from diverse backgrounds toward the common good.

We know that interfaith engagement can deepen Christian faith formation and build resilient discipleship. A recent groundbreaking longitudinal study of 3,500+ nationally representative college students showed that students who took part in activities that intentionally engaged religious diversity simultaneously deepened their commitment to their own religious identity.¹ Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) works with students, educators, and other campus partners to create precisely these kinds of educational experiences, identifying shared values across religious communities and equipping college and university graduates to build bridges across religious lines. Together, CCCUC and IFYC are committed to elevating the importance of civic religious pluralism among evangelical communities and planting the seed for a commitment to interfaith learning and engagement among the CCCUC network.

Through generous support from The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, CCCUC and IFYC are developing an online curriculum titled, "[Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World](#)" that explores the Christian foundation for interfaith engagement, builds students' religious literacy, and equips students to lead bridge-building activities in their communities. The curriculum offers a series of online activities that are intended to be incorporated into existing courses or co-curricular leadership programs on CCCUC campuses. CCCUC and IFYC are offering grants in the amount of \$1,000 (\$500 individual stipend + \$500 for programming costs) to individual faculty and staff on CCCUC campuses to use the pilot curriculum with their students in 2021 and offer CCCUC and IFYC feedback on ways to strengthen the activities for future use.

All CCCUC staff and faculty in the United States are eligible to apply for a grant. **We will offer two selection cycles for fall 2021 grants. The first application deadline is April 1, 2021 and the second application deadline is May 15, 2021. Grants will be awarded to qualified applicants in the first cycle and remaining grants will be awarded to qualified applicants in the second cycle.** All grant funds must be spent between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

¹ "Best Practices for Interfaith Learning and Development in the First Year of College." Rockenbach, A. N., Mayhew, M. J., Correia-Harker, B. P., Dahl, L., Morin, S., & Associates. (2018). Chicago, IL: Interfaith Youth Core.
https://www.ifyc.org/sites/default/files/resources/IDEALS_20182.pdf

Please contact Megan Johnson megan@ifyc.org with any questions pertaining to grant submission.

Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World Curriculum

The pilot *Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World* curriculum explores the Christian foundation for interfaith engagement, builds students' religious literacy, and gives students the tools to lead bridge-building activities in their communities. The curriculum is comprised of a series of activities that can be used in sequence or as a stand-alone experience. The curriculum is designed by CCCU and IFYC in partnership with Bethel University (MN) faculty Marion Larson, Amy Poppinga, and Sara Shady.

The curriculum is comprised of three modules: (1) The Christian Foundation for Interfaith Bridge-building, (2) Religious Literacy, and (3) Interfaith Cooperation and Civil Rights. Each module includes between 6-8 activities, which are intended to be accessible to students on CCCU campuses who are new to interfaith engagement. The curriculum is designed to focus on the framework and skills needed to positively engage religious diversity as a Christian in a diverse workplace; instructors in pre-professional programs such as nursing, education, and social work may find the modules particularly relevant to their students.

The outcomes for the curriculum were shaped by a series of virtual roundtable conversations held in July 2020 with 25 Christian thought leaders in higher education and in the broader civic sphere.

Overall Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in the curriculum, students will:

- increase their understanding of the Christian theological foundation for interfaith engagement
- deepen their own religious or philosophical commitments
- be able to articulate the importance of civic religious pluralism
- increase their religious literacy
- make connections between interfaith engagement and historical movements for racial equality
- implement one bridge-building project

"Pilot" Curriculum

The curriculum is primarily rooted in Marion Larson, Amy Poppinga and Sara Shady's previous coursework in interfaith engagement at Bethel University (MN) as well as Larson and Shady's foundational text, *From Bubble to Bridge: Educating Christians for a Multifaith World*. Grantees will pilot this first iteration of the curriculum in Spring 2021 on CCCU campuses and offer feedback on how to strengthen the curriculum for future use. A set of advisors from within and outside of the CCCU network will review the curriculum and offer feedback over the same time period.

How to Access the Curriculum

For a comprehensive overview of the curriculum, please see [Introduction to the Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World Curriculum](#). For a complete list of all of the modules and activities including links to all of the materials, please see [Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World Curriculum Outline](#).

Civic Religious Pluralism

Guiding the CCCU-IFYC partnership is a foundational belief that engaging with difference allows for a deepening of one's own tradition, in all of its distinctiveness, without the need to minimize differences. Individual religious identities can and should serve as a bridge, not a barrier, to working together with others from diverse backgrounds toward the common good. This foundational principle is rooted in a deep commitment to the importance of religion and religious identity as an essential element of a strong democratic society.

Civic religious pluralism is defined as: 1) respect for diverse religious traditions; 2) mutually inspiring relationships across religious lines; and 3) common action for the common good. Based on these commitments, IFYC advances the idea of *civic religious pluralism* which preserves and uplifts the distinctiveness of individual religious communities while affirming the possibility of mutually enriching relationships across difference that are anchored in a commitment to the common good. CCCU shares this commitment, building on its advocacy for the right of each of its member institutions to practice its religious beliefs while also participating fully in civic life and public discourse. Civic religious pluralism underscores CCCU's existing commitments to the importance of distinctive religious identity while also contributing to a thriving civic space.

Diversity can be engaged to build a spirit of respect and cooperation in communities rather than cause division and conflict. IFYC and CCCU believe that through interfaith engagement, religious diversity can be a source of strength and inspiration while also leading to growth in one's own faith commitments.

Grant Project Parameters

All US-based CCCU faculty and staff are invited to apply for a grant to pilot the first iteration of the new *Christian Leadership in a Multifaith World Curriculum* with their students. To be eligible for a grant from CCCU and IFYC, you must commit to

- using a minimum of 4 activities from the curriculum. For students who are new to engaging religious diversity, we recommend including *Introduction to Interfaith* or the *Introduction to Religious Literacy* activity.
- organizing at least one "bridge-building project" (see description below) with students, staff, and/or faculty on your campus.
- offering feedback on the curriculum in a final report at the end of the grant term.

Bridge-Building Project

In addition to incorporating at least 4 curricular activities into a course or co-curricular leadership program, grantees are also responsible for leading one “bridge-building project” with their students. The goal of the bridge-building project is to encourage students to put their new knowledge into action building bridges across difference in their community. Bridge-building activities will bring people together for action (virtual or in-person) whether to support a local social service agency (for example, a food drive for an agency focused on alleviating hunger) or to champion racial justice and will involve an interfaith dialogue component where participants share their inspirations for serving others. Examples of bridge-building projects can be found in the *Taking Action* activity at the end of the curriculum, though we encourage creativity and adaptation to make these activities relevant in the cultural context of the campus.

Sample Audiences

Here are several ways particular staff or faculty members might consider using the curriculum. This is not an exhaustive list, but meant to be illustrative:

In the classroom--

- **Nursing Students**

A faculty member teaching an undergraduate nursing course focused on community health may choose to use the activities as they invite students to explore how they can best care for people from diverse religious backgrounds during an upcoming clinical placement or in their future career.

- **Social Work Students**

An instructor who oversees a community internship program for undergraduate or graduate social work students might choose to incorporate elements of the curriculum into their internship orientation process to prompt reflection on how to engage diverse religious beliefs while strengthening their own faith.

In co-curricular programs--

- **Community Engagement Student Leadership Cohort**

A staff member who runs a community engagement leadership program for students—who perhaps meet regularly for leadership training and fellowship throughout the semester while they volunteer at a local social service agency—might incorporate the curriculum into their ongoing meetings as they consider how to “love their neighbor” in a religiously diverse setting.

- **Student Chaplains or Office of Spiritual Life Interns**

A chaplain or staff member in the Office of Spiritual Life might use the curriculum to prompt conversation with student chaplains or a student leadership team as they examine what discipleship and mission look like in a multifaith world.

Application Process Overview and Guidelines

To be considered for a CCCU-IFYC grant, applicants must submit an online application. Applicants can expect to enter demographic information, a brief description of how they intend to use the curriculum in their work with students, an anticipated number of students and other campus community members who will be reached, and initial ideas for how they plan to organize a bridge-building project (subject to change after consultation with students). While multiple applications from a single campus will be considered, grants are intended to be distributed broadly across the CCCU network. A link to the online application and a pdf of the application questions can be found at www.ifyc.org/grants/cccu.

The total grant amount is \$1,000. The grant dollars will be divided into two categories: \$500 will be given to the staff or faculty grant recipient as a stipend to acknowledge the time spent leading this initiative; \$500 will be used to support one or more bridge-building projects that engage students in the campus community (see 'Bridge-building Project' section above). IFYC encourages student leadership in carrying out bridge-building projects.

Bridge-building project funds could support, but are not limited to, the following:

- Program supplies (food, books, virtual or in-person speaker fees, etc.)
- Travel expenses if your project includes site visits within your community
- Stipends for student leaders

Funds should not be used for the following:

- Indirect or overhead costs. The entirety of the bridge-building project funds should go directly to project expenses.
- Costs associated with bringing IFYC staff to campus.
- Furniture or equipment as a standalone project, unless these are incorporated into a larger programmatic strategy.

Application Deadline and Funding Timeline

There will be multiple selection rounds—

For implementation in Spring 2021:

- Application deadline 1: November 16, 2020
- Application deadline 2: January 8, 2021

For implementation in Fall 2021:

- Application deadline 1: April 1, 2021
- Application deadline 2: May 15, 2021



Grant funds will go to support curricular and cocurricular initiatives on campus from January 2021 until December 2021.

Ongoing Support and Training

Throughout the grant period, grantees will have continued access to support including peer-to-peer coaching, virtual CCCU and IFYC staff support, and written resources.

Questions

IFYC staff members are available for consultation and feedback during the development of your application. Please contact Megan Johnson at megan@ifyc.org with any questions pertaining to your grant submission.

Project Partners

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

The [Council for Christian Colleges & Universities](#) (CCCU) is a higher education association of more than 180 Christian institutions around the world. Since 1976, the CCCU has served as the leading national voice of Christian higher education. With campuses across the globe, including more than 150 in the U.S. and Canada and more than 30 from an additional 18 countries, CCCU institutions are accredited, comprehensive colleges and universities whose missions are Christ-centered and rooted in the historic Christian faith. Most also have curricula rooted in the arts and sciences. The CCCU's mission is to advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth.

Interfaith Youth Core

[Interfaith Youth Core](#) (IFYC) IFYC is a national nonprofit that equips the next generation of citizens and professionals with the knowledge and skills needed for leadership in a religiously diverse world. Partnering with higher education, civic institutions, religious groups, government agencies and business, IFYC is making interfaith cooperation the norm and building Interfaith America in the 21st century.