Barnabas
Position Description

BARNABAS VISION

The vision of the Barnabas team is to help fellow students foster communities in which students are encouraged and empowered to *Love God and Love others.* That means we want to see students praying, worshiping, and forming Bible studies in their living communities. It also means supporting and partnering with students as they encourage their residence halls to serve and love others through cultural discernment, participating in community partnerships, learning to live sustainably and unlearning patterns of racism. It’s all work for the Kingdom of God.

The name Barnabas means “son of encouragement” according to Acts 4:36 and in the Barnabas program we hope to create daughters and sons of God who are encouraged to go deeper in their relationship with God, love others well, and encourage others to do the same. Encouragement necessitates community. Therefore, all that we do is done within the framework of community with the hope that students embrace their floors and halls as part of their ministry.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The *Barnabas Team* works to provoke whole-life transformation. Like in Isaiah 61:1-4 this starts with knowing God and moves out to engaging the world beyond. Therefore, Barnabas members are first of all responsible for organizing dorm worship, Bible studies, and prayer times within the residence halls. Secondly, the *Barnabas Team* partners with Residence Life staff and other student leaders to foster Christian community in the residence halls and beyond. We do this by cross-pollinating with other hall leaders so that we can promote and support each other and help direct students to the activities that will most encourage their faith journeys. *Barnabas Team* members will be supervised by Rev. Nate Bradford, Co-Associate Chaplain for Residence Life; they will work closely with and be mentored by a Seminarian Team Leader, and will work in partnership with their Resident Director.

QUALIFICATIONS

The *Barnabas Team* is a volunteer position comprised of (usually) sophomore Calvin students who exhibit a commitment to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ lived out in down-to-earth ways. If you are a team member, we do not expect you to have your life and faith all figured out but you should long to see your community grow in its love of God and love of neighbor. To that end we are looking for students who desire to walk as Jesus walked, are committed to encouraging and equipping others to do likewise, but who know that they themselves need Christ’s mercy and grace. Students who long for renewal, restoration, reconciliation, service, healing, worship, and prayer to grow in their living communities make great *Barnabas Team* members.

Prophets, beggars, priests, and sinners are welcome but you should maintain a minimum 2.75GPA, have your conduct in good standing with the college, and have had at least one semester of past residency in Calvin’s on-campus housing system. It would be wise that, while serving on the Barnabas team, other extra-curricular activities and employment not dominate your life outside of school.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

*Barnabas* members serve in teams alongside other residence hall leadership, and are required to live in the Residence Halls. They are required to be present on-campus for the duration of the 2014-2015 academic year (interim not included).

The *Barnabas Team* members are responsible for an average or 5 hours a week during the school year, which includes the following responsibilities:

- Working closely with RDs, the Associate Chaplains for Residence Life, other residence hall staff, and other *Barnabas Team* members to:
  - Discern the needs for Christian growth within their residence hall
  - Promote opportunities, including those already happening on campus which address these needs
  - Challenge and support fellow students to address these needs as a living community
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- Delivering programs and activities, the Barnabas Team members:
  - Identify potential leaders from among their floor to lead Bible studies, small-group discussions, and larger-group worship meetings.
  - Support leaders in their ongoing activities.
  - Recognize they are part of a team. Specifically Barnabas Team members should regularly seek out their MAC, CD, RHET, SC, CPC, AHA and RA to explore ways to work together in living out a Kingdom vision in their living communities.

- Training and continually developing their skills. The Barnabas Team members meet regularly with their Seminarian Team Leader, their team and receive training from the Associate Chaplains.

- There are two types of Barnabi. You could be either a Floor Barnabas or a Worship Barnabas.
  - A Floor Barnabas is responsible for making sure that a weekly Bible or small group study happens on her or his floor and also plays a role in visioning and planning the weekly dorm worship. Each team can decide how to divide dorm worship responsibilities up amongst the Floor Barnabas.
  - A Worship Barnabas is responsible for making sure that dorm worship happens each week although this in no way means that the rest of the team has no role in helping. Together the team comes up with the vision for their dorm worship, the Worship Barn then with some or all of the Floor Barnabi plan each week’s worship. The biggest responsibility of the Worship Barnabas then is to make sure that all the logistics are in place for the worship to happen. This could include communicating with other residents involved with the worship, rehearsing with the musicians, attending to audio-visual needs. Each team can decide how best to divide worship duties within the above parameters.

REWARDS

While the work is voluntary the pay comes in several currencies. First, students can expect to grow in their faith by being mentored and having regular sessions where the practical working out of theology and life is discussed—expect to be challenged in these sessions. Second, students can expect to grow in their knowledge of themselves through the experience of working on a team and leading others. Finally, students can expect to grow in their understanding of their place in the world. Everything we do is done in the context of living in a community that is part of the Kingdom of God. As such, students will be encouraged to see the world and others through the context that God reigns and his Spirit is present everywhere. While this may seem like old news, we believe that the implications for this simple fact take a life- time to master and require all the help possible. Therefore, expect to pick up some lifelong companions towards your pursuit of God.

TRAINING

Barnabas Team training lasts from the Monday through the Friday of the week before school begins (the last week of August). All housing, food, and training costs and meals will be covered by Campus Ministries. Barnabas Team members can begin moving into their room on the Saturday evening before training begins. There will also be a mid-year retreat that begins on the Tuesday night of the last day of interim and ends the next afternoon. All Barnabi are required to attend both of these. The only exception is if an off-campus interim class does not return in time for the mid-year retreat.

CLC PARTICIPATION

The Community Life Council (CLC) is facilitated by the RD and includes RAs, Barnabas, Cultural Discerners (CDs), Multicultural Activities Coordinators (MACs), Community Partnership Coordinators (CPCs), Sustainability Coordinators (SCs) and the Residence Hall Executive Team (RHET). The CLC meets twice a month to coordinate programming and discuss community issues. The CLC team plans weekly programs in the hall. In addition to weekly programs, the CLC is involved in planning/coordinating:

- September/October - Hall Retreat
- October - Collaborative programming with Unlearn Week (anti-racism)
- January - Collaborative programming on Kill-a-Watt (sustainability issues)