



Barnabas Job Description 2024-2025

BARNABAS VISION

The vision of the Barnabas team is to help foster faith communities at Calvin University in which students are encouraged and empowered to ***know Jesus and make Jesus known***. The name Barnabas means “child of encouragement” (Acts 4:36), and in the Barnabas program we hope to form children of God who are encouraged to grow deeper in their relationship with God, to love others well, and to encourage others to do the same through a wholistic lens of faith formation.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The *Barnabas Team* works to provoke whole-life transformation. This starts with knowing God and moves out to engaging the world beyond. Therefore, ***Barnabas create and facilitate healthy rhythms for faith formation in their own lives and in their ministry contexts through Bible study, worship, prayer, and community***. Barnabas serve in the Residence Halls, KE apartments, and the Outdoor Rec Ministry.

Barnabas who serve in Residence Halls also partner with other student leaders in their dorm to foster Christian community. They do this by serving on CLC, collaborating with hall leaders to promote and support each other, and helping direct students to the activities that will most encourage their faith journeys.

Barnabas Team members are supervised by Campus Ministries staff members Susan Burner and Sarah VerMerris, and are also mentored and led by a Discipleship Assistant (DA, upperclassmen student leader).

QUALIFICATIONS

The Barnabas Team is a volunteer position comprised of sophomore, junior, and senior Calvin students who exhibit a commitment to grow in their faith, who long to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ lived out in down-to-earth ways, and who desire to see their community grow in its love of God and love of neighbor. If you are a team member, we do not expect you to have your life and faith all figured out. We are simply looking for students who desire to walk as Jesus walked, are committed to encouraging and equipping others to do likewise, and who know that they themselves need Christ’s mercy and grace.

All are welcome to apply but we ask that you maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA and have your conduct in good standing with the university. Barnabas should have the skills to maintain a good balance between academics, work, church, and other priorities. Those applying to be a Barnabas in the Residence Halls or KE apartments should have at least one semester of past

residency in Calvin's on-campus housing system. Those applying to be a Barnabas with the Outdoor Rec Ministry should have some previous involvement with Outdoor Rec at Calvin.

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- **Discern** the needs for Christian growth within their ministry context.
- **Promote** opportunities, including broader Campus Ministries and discipleship events on campus.
- **Challenge** and support fellow students.
- **Plan and offer** ways for students in your dorm to experience and grow in their faith, focusing on the areas of **Word, Worship, and Community**
- **Identify and equip** others within their context to help with programming.
- **Support** and partner with leaders (such as SC, RHET, SET, and RAs in their ongoing activities, including CLC meetings for dorm Barnabas).
- **Report** issues of concern to appropriate staff.
- **Grow** in personal spiritual formation through faith practices.

Each Barnabas Team is responsible for 1 Bible Study per week for the dorm, 1 worship offering per month, and 1 community event per month. Barnabas are also asked to engage in one campus-wide prayer event put on by Campus Ministries each semester. These help to provide a holistic offering of faith formation practices for residents.

To continually grow and develop in their ministry gifts and roles, **Barnabas Team** members meet regularly with their DA and team and also receive ongoing training from Campus Ministries staff. **Bi-weekly Sunday meetings from 6-8pm are an important part of this rhythm during the semester.**

Barnabas members in the dorms or KE apartments serve in teams alongside other residence hall leadership and are required to live in the Residence Halls. They must live on-campus for the duration of the academic year (there may be certain accommodations for unique situations).

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 conversations about faith formation practices with their peers and Campus Ministries staff. 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 and find ways that they can participate in the Kingdom of God.

TRAINING

Barnabas Team training takes place the week before classes begin. All housing, food, and training costs and meals will be covered by Campus Ministries. Official dates TBD.

APPLICATION: <https://forms.gle/KBLuxUk9nngV3jvr9>