

Advertisement

Do you have passion and gifts for discipling young adults for vocation in an increasingly diverse world? Classis Hamilton is hiring a half-time campus minister (chaplain) for Mohawk College, a culturally and religiously diverse campus. This position gathers and equips Christian student leaders in meaningful fellowship and fosters a Christian presence within the larger campus community. For more information or to inquire, contact chaplainjob@classishamilton.ca.

Outline of Hours and Remuneration

Hours: The average expected hours for the position is about 20/week. However, there is a level of flexibility inherent in where those hours fall across the year. There is a natural ebb and flow to the school year, making some weeks busier (like those at the beginning of a new school year) and others less busy (like the weeks over the summer break).

Annual Compensation: The annual compensation, including salary and benefits (CPP, EI), for this position is \$30,000, paid out in a flat amount monthly on the last day of the month.

Expenses: Within the Campus Ministry Budget there are funds available to reimburse costs related to the ministry, such as: Transportation, Books, Meals & Hospitality.

Hiring Process

Application Window: March 2-March 31

Application: **Applicants are asked to submit a Letter of Interest and Resume to chaplainjob@classishamilton.ca by no later than midnight, March 31.**

Interviews: If selected for an interview, candidates will be asked to submit prior to their interview a document outlining their:

1. Experience in pastoral care, discipleship, and mission and a
2. Description of their aspirations/goals/dreams for the ministry.

Successful candidates may also be asked for references and a second interview.

Interview Window: First round: First two weeks of April
Second round: Last two weeks of April

Start Date: Monday, July 6

Following the interview process, a candidate will be recommended to Classis Hamilton's Interim Committee & Ministry Team, who, being satisfied with the recommendation, will offer employment pending ratification by Classis Hamilton. Classis Hamilton next meets on Tuesday, May 24, at which time said candidate would be presented to Classis for their ratification.

See the following pages for more on the Context of Ministry and Job Description...

Context of the CRC Campus Ministry at Mohawk College

Campus Ministry began at Mohawk in 2010 as a pilot project, and over the years has included a weekly gathering, bible studies, weekends away, fun outings, and other various engagements. Classis Hamilton has now deemed it time to expand it into a permanently staffed ministry. There are CRC students at Mohawk, and a few of them from churches across Canada have been a part of the ministry over the years. However, the ministry has continued to draw more and more non-CRC and even non-Christian students into its fellowship over the years.

One Mohawk page suggests that there are over 4,000 international students enrolled from over 90 countries around the world.¹ This is, in part, due to Mohawk's dedicated effort in expanding its international population through an initiative begun in 2015 called "Welcoming Communities." Since the initiative began, the population of international students at Mohawk has at least doubled from where it was in 2016 (around 2,000).² The College itself recognizes that these students, as new immigrants to Canada removed from home and family, have a substantial need for broader community support, including connections with worshipping communities.³ Some of these international students come from Christian backgrounds, some from other faith backgrounds or non-religious backgrounds. The Mohawk Campus Ministry has received students, both domestic and international, from each of these backgrounds in the past, and is well-suited to further engage with these demographic realities in being a community of support and relationship where faith can be learned and shared into the future.

Furthermore, not only international students, but all students are in need of pastoral care through their time in college. Along with other institutions, Mohawk has recognized the increasing mental health and wellness concerns among the student population.⁴ Chaplains have long been recognized as experts in providing pastoral care for the stresses of school and life. Not only that, but though the CRC Campus Ministry began as a student club, it has since found an institutional home at Mohawk as a group within the space of "Social Inc" (standing for "social inclusion") which the College formed in recognition of students' need for a place of community and belonging.⁵ The ministry is then also strategically placed to be a part of these kinds of conversations of care and belonging within the college going forward.

The ministry has already built good relationships with Social Inc, the International Student Department, and Indigenous Studies, but further opportunities exist to deepen relationships across the life of the college. While Mohawk has no history of Christian roots or including spiritual/religious care within its offerings, the reports already referenced (A Place of Belonging, New Vision of Wellness, Welcoming Communities) reveal Mohawk's increased awareness of the importance of caring for more than just the academic and career outcomes of their students and campus community. Indeed, their Business Plan for this academic year includes focus on social inclusion and supports for international students.⁶

In an institution like Mohawk with 13,000 full time students and limited Christian presence on campus (only 2 groups: LIFT Church arrived in 2018 and the CRC Campus Ministry), there is need for, and plenty of space for a CRC Campus Ministry with and among the students, staff, faculty and structures of the College.

¹ mohawkcollege.ca/international-students, accessed 8-21-19

² "[Mohawk College Takes Action to Welcome International Students and Newcomers to Hamilton](#)." Mohawk News Desk, April 14, 2016.

³ [Welcoming Communities Task Force: Report and Recommendations April 2016](#), 10.

⁴ [New Vision of Wellness: A Timely Strategic Shift](#).

⁵ [A Place of Belonging: Report on Social Inclusion at Mohawk College](#).

⁶ [Mohawk College 2019-2020 Business Plan](#). 6.

Job Description for Chaplain at Mohawk College (half-time)

1. Ministry Mandate: To further the purposes of the CR Campus Ministry at Mohawk College, Classis Hamilton employs and mandates a CRC Chaplain
 - 1.1. to take the lead in being Christ's witness to the non-Christian faculty, staff, and students on campus and also
 - 1.2. to disciple, equip and mobilize the Christian community on campus to take up their calling as Christ's witnesses at Mohawk College.

2. Qualifications:
 - 2.1. Evident love for and devotion to Christ, His Church, and its Kingdom Mission
 - 2.2. A member in good standing of a local Christian Reformed Church fellowship
 - 2.3. Pastoral capacity, experience, and training are assets, ordination is not required
 - 2.4. Discipleship training and/or experience is an asset
 - 2.5. The ability and interest to invest long-term in the role and ministry
 - 2.6. Entrepreneurial, promotional, and networking skills are assets

3. Tasks: The mandate of the chaplain shall include, but not be limited to, the following tasks and responsibilities:
 - 3.1. Provide pastoral care to students, particularly among international students.
 - 3.2. Promote the ministry.
 - 3.3. Develop Christian leadership to participate in on and off campus ministries.
 - 3.4. Interact with other faith groups, faculty, and administration on campus as a Reformed Christian presence.
 - 3.5. Provide opportunities for worship, Bible study and small group discussions.
 - 3.6. Bring the fruit of what Christ is doing through our ministry at Mohawk to our congregations through teaching and speaking at appropriate venues within Classis and beyond.

4. Evaluation
 - 4.1. The Chaplain shall ordinarily provide a report at every Campus Ministry Committee meeting. A written report will be provided to the Classis Ministries Team for every meeting of Classis and the Chaplain will be present to report verbally to classis when requested by the Classical Ministries Team.
 - 4.2. In addition, the work of the Chaplain and the campus ministry shall be reviewed annually by the Campus Ministry Committee and once every three years by Resonate.

5. Remuneration: Classis Hamilton will pay the Chaplain according to the compensation package (salary, allowance(s), etc) annually mutually agreed upon by the Chaplain, recommended by the Campus Ministry Committee to and ratified by the Classis Interim Committee.

6. Flexibility: The Campus Ministry Committee will consider and make adjustments to the responsibilities of the Chaplain over time in light of the changing needs of the Chaplain, his/her family as applicable, the campus and its ministry.