

Chaplains in university life: A retrospective

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Abstract

Having been a chaplain to two universities (1992 – 2006), I reflect on some of the principles I learned and some of the ways I believe that chaplains can effectively interact within a university environment. The principles are identified under themes such as professional service, working with the sacred, compassion, translation, mediation and protection, and importantly for the university context, intellectual integrity. The argument is that while there may be some generic elements to chaplaincy, the university environment requires specific skill sets that make chaplaincy in this context unique when compared with other chaplaincies (e.g. hospitals or schools).

Keywords

Chaplaincy in higher education, chaplaincy roles, community intellectual integrity, spirituality

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