



## **Campus Minister and Director** IGNITEnorfolk—The Wesley Foundation at Old Dominion University Norfolk, Virginia

### **Ministry Description:**

The IGNITEnorfolk is the United Methodist campus ministry at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. It is an extension ministry of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church and has served the students of ODU for over 70 years. The heart behind IGNITE is to help people experience the love of Jesus in real and tangible ways: bringing people together AND sending them out; speaking about God's love AND embodying it; going to church, AND being the church.

IGNITE believes worship and discipleship are essential. Worship services are casual, relevant, and welcoming. People say that they attend because of the judgment-free environment where messages speak directly to the issues they are facing each day (e.g. self-image, depression and anxiety, dating and sexuality, failure, finances, fear, etc.). Services are geared towards the campus community and provide a safe and comfortable space for young people to discover and to grow closer to God. Similarly, small groups build upon worship, discussing questions that further the conversation, giving students opportunities to deepen their relationships with God and each other.

IGNITE's roots in worship in discipleship grow outward towards service and mission. Service and mission have become foundational to IGNITE's engagement in the ODU community and beyond. IGNITE engages in two ministries of service. IGNITEpantry serves hungry students from ODU. IGNITEmentoring serves children throughout the city. These ministries connect the campus community and the city to God's transformative work in the world.

IGNITE is also blessed with a capable staff of student interns. Staff are supported by IGNITE's family-like atmosphere where they can grow in ministry and fellowship. Staff are encouraged to grow together by building a community that supports their growth emotionally, spiritually, personally and professionally.

Finally, IGNITE is an incredibly diverse ministry. Its diversity falls along racial, socio-economic, LGBTQ+ and even religious lines. Many of the students who come to IGNITE are unchurched, searching for answers. In IGNITE, they find a place where they can safely ask questions, unafraid of judgment. In this way, IGNITE has been able to overcome many of the social stigmas associated with church and connect with people who otherwise may never have been introduced to a relationship while at ODU.

IGNITE has strong financial support from the Virginia Annual Conference, the Elizabeth River and Eastern Shore Districts, and local churches. IGNITE also has strong relationships with staff and offices throughout campus. The IGNITE building is located across the street from the ODU campus, very close to the main dining hall.

---

## **Office of Learning Ministries**

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

T: 804-521-1139  
10330 Staples Mill Rd.  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

*Learn more at [www.vaumc.org/learning](http://www.vaumc.org/learning)*



## Office of Learning Ministries

### BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

#### Position Description:

The Campus Minister/Director is a pastor to the student community who provides ongoing preaching and teaching, mentoring and discipleship, care and counseling, and relational leadership to grow and equip students for a life of faith and servant leadership. The Campus Minister/Director is also a director for the organization who provides strategic and administrative leadership for IGNITE in partnership with the student leadership team and the campus ministry board. They will develop relationships on campus, in the community, and throughout the annual conference that help grow and strengthen the ministry. The Campus Minister/Director will also be supported by local churches, districts, and strong relationships with conference leadership and the conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

A successful candidate for this position will be a creative community organizer who can strengthen the connections between the campus ministry (staff, students, and local board), local churches, and ODU's faculty and staff and is adept at managing the transitions of student ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Qualifications:

A servant leader and disciple of Jesus Christ who:

- is called to campus and young adult ministry
- has experience in campus ministry
- is knowledgeable about and experienced in ministries in diverse communities
- has completed a Bachelor's degree and is pursuing theological studies OR has a seminary degree
- has experience working with, leading and empowering teams of college students
- has experience planning and leading Bible studies, small groups, worship, and missions/service
- has gifts for relationship, community and team building
- has experience with organizational leadership, strategic planning, and fundraising
- is an ordained United Methodist Elders or Deacons, or those who are candidates or licensed for ministry

#### Preferences:

- An ordained Deacon or Elder in The United Methodist Church
- A Master of Divinity from a United Methodist accredited seminary
- At least 2 years of experience leading a campus ministry or serving in university chaplaincy

#### To apply for the position:

Please submit a resume including at least 3 references along with a cover letter describing your interest in campus ministry, and this position specifically. All submissions should be emailed to [learning@vaumc.org](mailto:learning@vaumc.org). Specific questions about the position may be directed to Rev. Max Blalock, [mwblalock@wm.edu](mailto:mwblalock@wm.edu) or 757-634-7406.

#### Timeline:

Resumes are being accepted now and will continue to be accepted until March 31, 2021.

#### Salary & Benefits:

Compensation (salary & housing allowance) depends on experience. Benefits package includes health insurance, UMC pension, reimbursable account, and continuing education. A moving stipend will be provided, amount to be negotiated.