



A. D. BRUCE RELIGION CENTER

During the dedication of the A. D. Bruce Religion Center fifty years ago the Reverend Philip G. Stephan, Chairman of the Campus Clergy and Religious Counselors, said of the connection between spirituality and our students, “On this day we are conscious of the trust the University of Houston gives to us, not only through concrete and glass, but also in recognizing religion’s desire to participate in the academic task of higher education.” The University of Houston offers nationally competitive and internationally recognized opportunities for learning, discovery and engagement to a diverse population of students in a real-world setting. Our students deepen their spirituality, engage with other faiths and apply this knowledge and experience to their academic pursuits. These elements create the next generation of global citizens who will shape the University of Houston, our local community and the world.

The A. D. Bruce Religion Center is home to campus ministry programs, eleven of which provided financial support for the construction of the facility in the early 1960’s, and are considered chartered ministries. The Religion Center also provides support to the Campus Ministries Association (CMA) which is composed of seventeen faiths and denominations. The CMA sponsors free lunches on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semester and host Inter-Faith Dialogue conversations during free lunches as well as through

collaborative events with other ministries. The Religion Center also provides office space to three spiritually based student organizations. The Religion Center is utilized for programs, lectures, meetings and special events. General purpose rooms are available for worship, study, discussions and reflection. The Religion Center’s University Chapel, with seating for 275, is



the site for weddings, memorials, funerals, baptisms and quinceañeras, including the University’s annual memorial service. The Meditation Chapel and two classrooms provide Friday Prayer space for the Muslim Student Association.

The University of Houston is looking to strengthen its original commitment of concrete, glass and academic discourse by recognizing our University’s spiritual diversity today. As the University of Houston has become



a Tier One research university, and the second most diverse campus in the United States, the University is working to:

- Recognize and support the additional faith communities among today's student body, and foster interfaith cooperation within our community
- Expand the A.D. Bruce Religion Center with the addition of program space for myriad spiritual and religious student organizations that now serve the University of Houston's diverse body
- Establish an endowment to support a full time University of Houston employee solely dedicated to our students' spiritual well-being and academic discourse among faiths

Since its opening in the fall of 1964 and its dedication in May 1965, the A.D. Bruce Religion Center has been a focal point for numerous on-campus religious activities for 50 years. While the building is a bustling center of many ongoing educational programs, activities and services, it is also a place for both quiet meditation and spiritual discovery and growth. For these types of programs to continue to succeed and grow, private funding is essential. Support for key musical instruments are critical to the viability and play an integral role in what the center provides not only to the campus community, but also the greater Houston community at large.

Areas of Need

REUTER PIPE ORGAN REPAIR: The Reuter Pipe Organ at the A.D. Bruce Religion Center was dedicated in 1966 one year after the opening of the Religion Center. While the Reuter has served well for special events, recitals and student instruction these past 49 years, restoration plans will increase the versatility of the pipe organ with the addition of digital memory and will enhance the sound quality experience that only a pipe organ can provide.

UPRIGHT PIANO: Many University Chapel events require a concert-quality piano to support special events, concerts and choral presentations. At this time the Religion Center is not able to schedule many of the University's school of music events with the current upright piano. In consultation with the Moores School of Music, the Religion Center's plans for a Baby Grand Piano will enhance the musical quality of special events and allow Moores School of Music students to present vocal and instrumental recitals as well as piano accompaniment for UH choral group concerts. The addition of a baby grand piano will be an asset helping to provide support for student success.

**For more information,
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