

Catholic Campus Ministry Discernment Process General Information

What is Discernment?

Discernment is a process for placing new leaders into leadership positions on CCM's Ministry Team based on the leader's abilities, talents, and gifts. Rather than host elections, CCM uses a Discernment Process to ensure that the most qualified and capable students are discerned into leadership positions where the leader can utilize his/her abilities, talents, and gifts to grow as a student-leader, community member, and person of the Catholic faith.

Preparing for Discernment:

Students interested in a Ministry Team position should contact the current student in that position and discuss the position with him/her or attend an information session. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the position and have them answered before submitting their forms. Students should inquire about expectations of the position, time commitments, and accountability to ensure they are well informed of the expectations set forth by CCM.

Students are expected to review the CCM Bylaws, which outline the positions on the CCM Ministry Team. They are also expected to spend part of the Discernment Process in prayer, reflecting on their role as a Bucknell student and as a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Guidelines for Discernment:

The Discernment Process is a special and unique process for selecting a new Ministry Team; therefore, current Ministry Team members should take the entire Discernment Process seriously at all times especially since Ministry Team members play an integral role in the Discernment Process and successful functioning of CCM.

Students wishing to be discerned into CCM Ministry Team positions, as well as the faculty, staff, parents, priests, students, etc. who may serve as references, share confidential information regarding the student and his/her leadership potential. Please remember that any personal information you are privy to remains confidential at all times.

Ministry Team members who complete Reference Forms, should always respond with honesty, respect, and accuracy. In deciphering a student's leadership potential, please focus on the student's abilities, talents, and gifts.

A Discernment Coordinator will create and maintain yearly nomination packets for students interested in Ministry Team positions. The packets will be inclusive of all pertinent discernment information and forms.

Structure of the CCM Ministry Team:

As outlined in the CCM Bylaws, the CCM Ministry Team is made up of Directors and Chairpersons. Together, the Directors and Chairpersons make up the CCM Ministry Team.

Directors and Chairpersons on the CCM Ministry Team serve a one year term that coincides with the calendar year. This term begins in January and ends in December. Unless permission is granted by the CCM Chaplain, each student serving on the CCM Ministry Team may only fill one position.

Discernment Forms to Complete and Submit:

All forms must be submitted directly to either the CCM Chaplain or the Assistant Catholic Campus Minister.

To discern for a Director position, you must complete and submit:

- ◆ Nomination/Application Form: Director
- ◆ Member Attribute Form
- ◆ Reference Form from a Bucknell faculty member or staff member
- ◆ Reference Form from a parent, youth minister, or parish priest

To discern for a Chairperson position, you must complete and submit:

- ◆ Nomination Form/Application: Chairperson
- ◆ Member Attribute Form
- ◆ Reference Form from a current CCM Ministry Team member

Note:

At the discretion of the CCM Chaplain, current Ministry Team members that are discerning for another year on the Ministry Team may forgo the completion and submission of Reference Forms.

Discernment of Directors:

After completing and submitting the necessary forms, students being considered for Director positions within CCM's Ministry Team will meet with the CCM Chaplain, Assistant Catholic Campus Minister, Program Assistant, and members of the CCM Advisory Board for an interview.

After all students being considered for Director positions have been interviewed, the CCM Chaplain, staff, and CCM Advisory Board will meet to discuss the discernment of leaders into Director positions. Members of the CCM Advisory Board make recommendations to the CCM Chaplain.

The CCM Chaplain reviews the recommendations from the members of the CCM Advisory Board and makes the final decision of students who will be discerned as Directors.

The CCM Chaplain contacts the new Directors via telephone or e-mail. The newly discerned Directors must write a statement of acceptance of their position.

Discernment of Chairpersons:

After completing and submitting the necessary forms, students being considered for Chairperson positions within CCM's Ministry Team will meet with current Ministry Team members to discuss the position(s) they are discerning for.

Current members of each Directorate (i.e., current members of the different committees of the CCM Ministry Team) make recommendations for students to be discerned into positions of that Directorate by meeting with their committee's Director.

Each newly discerned Director meets with the outgoing Director of his/her Directorate to review the candidates that will potentially be members of that Directorate.

The new Director and the outgoing Director will compile a preliminary list of the students to be discerned to their committee.

Each new Director will bring the list of students to a meeting with the other new Directors and the CCM Chaplain to determine the discernment of students into positions within each Directorate. The new Directors and the CCM Chaplain finalize the discernment of the general members and compile a list of the entire Ministry Team.

The CCM Chaplain contacts the new Ministry Team members via campus mail. All discerned members, even those returning to the Ministry Team, must submit a written statement accepting their position. The Discernment Coordinator will be present at each of the meetings between the Directors and the CCM Chaplain in order to facilitate the Discernment Process and to ensure that the CCM Bylaws and Discernment Process Procedures are followed accurately.

Welcoming the New Ministry Team:

Following the Discernment Process, the new Ministry Team is welcomed into leadership during a Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass and Sunday 4:00 p.m. Mass. In addition, members of the outgoing Ministry Team and members of the new Ministry Team share in a celebration at Newman House.