July 15, 2013

Dear SSW Student Leaders,

I am writing to introduce myself and my colleague, the Dean of Religious Life at Smith College, Jennifer Walters. Jennifer and I are beginning what we think is an exciting collaboration with the School for Social Work and we want to inform you and seek your input. We are now offering spiritual services as part of student life at the School for Social Work Summer Program and want to make you aware of our presence and let you know that you may see us at open meetings in the second term in order to get to know some of you and have a sense of the campus climate with respect to meaningful and significant issues and experiences within the student body. Even more importantly, we would love to get a specific invitation to attend a meeting to listen and receive feedback about how we can support the work of your group when and if appropriate.

We are currently:

- Offering a group, *Spirituality in Action*, which meets on **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. in Dewey Common Room**;
- Beginning a partnership with the Holistic Healing Group;
- Available for individual pastoral care, consultation, and presence during particularly stressful and complex times.

(Please note that I and student participants are open to a discussion of a different group time in light of conflicts with other meetings on campus.) We are eager to hear from you about:

- How you think spiritual services could best benefit the student body during the summer program;
- How we can participate in the building of strong community and development of peer leadership;
- How to augment services that already exist such as individual psychotherapy.

Administrators and faculty at the School for Social Work recognize that significant personal stressors co-exist with the program’s academic rigor and richness of training experience and together we hope to expand the resources that students have to draw upon during the program. There is certainly a “parallel process” of needing to develop and maintain methods of self-care and “meaning making” that one undergoes while developing as a professional helper to others. To learn more about SSW’s collaboration with Religious Life, and interfaith pastoral care, click on the links below.

Sincerely,

The Revered Matilda Rose Cantwell, MSW
SPIRITUAL SERVICES AT SMITH COLLEGE SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL WORK

- The Rev. Matilda Rose Cantwell, MSW, mcantwel@smith.edu, (413) 585-4595
- Jennifer Walters, Dean of Religious Life, jwalters@smith.edu, (413) 585-2753

http://www.smith.edu/religiouslife/contact.php

Please feel free to contact us at ext. 2750 or 2753; or email or call Matilda directly to make an appointment or seek consultation on a group matter.