

Celtic Cross

Responding to invitations for student assistance at Presbytery/Congregational events.
(Draft of August 2008)

Over the course of a year several invitations will come to the staff/faculty of Presbyterian College seeking the participation of *Celtic Cross students* in leadership roles at local church or presbytery retreats, workshops, seminars, etc. These invitations are welcomed and encouraged, and when they can be fulfilled usually lead to very meaningful experiences for *Celtic Cross students*, a great reflection of the nature of the college as a church-related institution.

It has become clear that some guidelines would usefully clarify the issues these invitations raise for individual students, the *Celtic Cross* program and the College as a whole, as well as help prepare the way for the most meaningful experiences for students and inviting groups or organizations.

All those planning events who might like to invite the involvement of *Celtic Cross* students are asked to consider carefully the following guidelines:

- The nature of the *Celtic Cross* Program

At Presbyterian College, *Celtic Cross* provides PC (USA) students, who apply and are selected to become members of the program, a supportive community within which they can explore the meaning of vocation and call as Christians engaged in the journey of faith, recognizing the validity and importance of both lay and professional ministry.

Involvement in *Celtic Cross* already asks a lot of these students. To be active in *Celtic Cross* requires that students commit to: weekly lunch meetings, mandatory monthly meetings, two weekend residential retreats, reading requirements and regular responsibilities within their assigned mentor churches.

In addition, *Celtic Cross* students are involved in other activities of campus life including athletic events, artistic practices, work study and social events. Likewise, there are special times when student availability is reduced due to exams, holidays, fall and spring break and major on-campus events such as Homecoming and Winter Conference.

- Receiving and responding to invitations to students within the *Celtic Cross* Program

All invitations received-using the Invitation Form (see below) will be reviewed by the staff/faculty leadership before being presented to the students. The primary reason for not presenting a request would be the above-mentioned concern for student schedules, priority academic requirements and student tendencies to sometimes overcommit themselves. It is important to stress to those inviting the involvement of *Celtic Cross* students that it will be up to individual students to assess their ability or availability to accept any invitations offered.

As the staff/faculty leadership of *Celtic Cross* we value your awareness of and interest in the students who today belong in this important leadership development program. Our aim is to continue providing opportunities for *Celtic Cross* students to serve the PCUSA and to realistically consider the increasing number of requests for their participation.

Your prayers and support for *Celtic Cross* and its past, current and future participants are vital to the program's unique and essential ministry.

Please know we welcome your requests and suggestions and look forward to continuing and deepening our relationships with each of you.

Dr. Al Masters, Interim Chaplain

Lucy Strong, Coordinator of Student Volunteer Services

Dr. Jim Simpson, Director of Church Relations

Dr. Peter Hobbie, Department of Religion and Philosophy

Invitation for the participation of Celtic cross students.

Please review the attached Guidelines (From October 2008 this will also be available on the Presbyterian College website at: http://www.presby.edu/campus/chaplain/celtic_cross.html)

A. Event Information

Name of event: _____

Organization sponsoring this event: _____

Date(s) and times of event: _____

Location of event: _____

Please attach/provide a brief description of event (e.g. Confirmation Retreat for 8th Grade students; Presbytery Middle School Retreat; High School Sunday School Class etc.)

Number of attendees expected at the event: _____

B. Event Leadership

Name, Title and Contact information of event planner / leader submitting this invitation:

Tel: _____ Email address: _____

Name, Title and Contact information for event leader AT THE EVENT (if different from above)

Tel: _____ Email address: _____

Number and brief description of adult Leadership expected to be present at the event:

C. Previous Celtic cross involvement

Have Celtic cross students participated in this event or similar events for your church/presbytery in previous years? If so, please provide information about these events from the last 3-5 years.

D. Celtic cross involvement for this event

Number of Celtic cross students invited to participate: _____

Any preference for the number of males/females: Male ____ Female ____

Provide a brief description of the responsibilities and roles expected of Celtic cross students:

In advance of the event:

(e.g. Plan energizers; Plan Worship; Provide publicity materials; Meet with Planning Team etc.)

At/during the event:

(e.g. Lead energizers for three 20 minute sessions; Lead Worship; Led Bible Study etc.)

Following/after the event:

E. Honorarium and Travel expenses:

In recognition of the contribution of the **Celtic cross** students as detailed in this invitation we anticipate offering the following Honorarium and Travel Expenses.

Honorarium: \$ _____ per student/ per group of students

Travel expenses- the sum of \$ _____ or the amount of \$ _____ per mile for _____ (number) vehicles

F. Provide a brief narrative describing why participation in this event would be a meaningful experience for Celtic cross students.

G. Other Information

If you are aware of any other pertinent information or resources (e.g. people who shared leadership at this event in prior year; website information; please indicate this here:

Please complete this Invitation and mail or email it to:

Rev. Dr. Al Masters, Interim Chaplain
Presbyterian College
Office of the Chaplain
503 S. Broad St.
Clinton, SC 29325

FAX# 864-833-8516 Email: afmasters@presby.edu