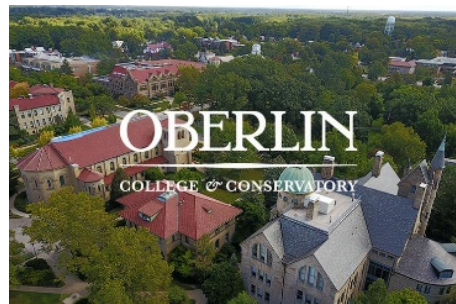


## **A 2020-2021 Campus Ministry 1-1-1 Funding Recipient**

### **Campus Missionary: Pastor Josh Moldenhauer and God's people at Grace, Oberlin, OH**

What does campus ministry look like?!? It's as varied across the English District as the English District is itself. Here is a glimpse of what it is like in Oberlin, a relatively small city (population approx. 8,000). Grace Lutheran Church is a relatively small congregation – we normally worship less than 50 on a Sunday. Yet in this small town there is also a small liberal arts college named Oberlin College, which consists of roughly 3,000 students.



Throughout Grace's history they have reached out to Oberlin College students in various ways and with various connections and success. In year's past it was as simple as asking the college chaplain for a list of all incoming Lutheran students. However, due to privacy concerns this is no longer possible.

So how then can a congregation like Grace maintain any sort of campus ministry?!? In a word: CONNECTIONS.

Here are three ways we try and build connections with students:

First, we try and keep our website updated and helpful. That's the first place students – with their smartphones – will look to learn more.

Second, at the start of the school year we mail "welcome boxes" (filled with all sorts of snacks, goodies, and a church flyer) to all the Lutheran students on campus. We do this through the Office of Religious



and Spiritual Life. They are not able to give us the names of these students. But they can tell us how many Lutheran students there are. Then we drop off that many boxes (usually it's about a dozen), and they take care of distributing them to the students (through campus mail or drop-ins). The delivery is FREE for us.

Third, we employ an Oberlin College organ performance major as our regular organist. Through this person we can keep up on college happenings and sometimes get other college students to serve as guest musicians for us. Positive word of mouth can open doors.

Another thing we are trying to do is for our pastor to become one of the Religious Life Affiliate Volunteers on campus (most of them are clergy) who have official "office hours" on campus to meet with students. (This is accomplished through the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life on campus – so it's a good idea to meet and get to know the director/leader of that office).

The importance in all of this is connections. When college students do come to visit our church (for whatever reason) we try and be especially welcoming and kind to them. Pastor emails them periodically

just to check in on how classes and things are going – especially during this pandemic when in-person worship is more difficult and restricted.

For any pastors or parishioners who are near a college (of any size) Pastor Josh strongly encourages you to pursue some sort of campus ministry there. You can borrow the ideas in use at Oberlin or other campus ministries. Please contact the English District Campus Ministry Task Force (headed by Rev. Dave Dressel) for more information and encouragement.

Please participate in the 1-1-1 mission initiative and encourage others to join in with you. Participating in 1-1-1 with the focus on campus ministry and mission will further the cause of the entire Church: making disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19).