

2017 – 2018

Willmar Area United
Campus Ministries
Annual Report

By Jeff Schmitz
UCM Chaplain

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Mission Statement:

“Willmar Area United Campus Ministries will communicate with students of Ridgewater College, proclaiming the magnificence of God and His grace through the person and work of Jesus Christ.”

Our Goal:

“On this two-year campus, we will prepare students to respond to God’s call, to live the truth of Jesus Christ, equipping them to live by faith.”

Willmar Area United Campus Ministries
Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Voting Representatives
3. Agenda Approval
4. Chairperson's Report
5. Financial Report
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 - a. Year in Review
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This was my sixth year serving as chaplain for United Campus Ministry. I'd like to think it was a good year.

When I went back through the photographs to jog my memory for this report, there are things I had forgotten had taken place during the year. We had a lot of fun, we built a lot of relationships, and we helped and served a lot of students. I could tell story after story about individual interactions. These students are awesome, and our volunteers keep growing in number and have been a real blessing to everyone who enters the Center.



The school year of ministry actually started before the school year started. It happens like that every year. I spoke with the incoming football team and made connections with some of the students. From there, it was full speed ahead.

Like previous years, we had a Welcome Day table. We gave away care packages that included a laundry bag, toilet paper, trash bags, pens with our contact info on them, and a bible. We distributed roughly 125 packages, and that gave us a good start with a lot of new faces.



Our meals during fall semester would routinely be around the 200 student range twice per week, and to pull this off, we had a ton of volunteer help from the local faith community. The local churches, organizations and individuals who come and assist us keep increasing. There were many meal days when I could not even get into the kitchen because we had so many capable volunteers freeing me up to spend time with the students.

In September, Puerto Rico had Hurricane Maria. This actually impacted more than a dozen of our Ridgewater students. We kept in contact with them and prayed for them and with them at our meals while they waited to hear from their families or continued to get updates from their homes. A number of our volunteers prayed around the dinner tables with the guys, and we were always checking in with them and anything they may need during the school year.

Other things we did during the fall semester included an Alpha



Course, Campus Church, bringing in Bobby Jones, and helping Dawn Clouse unload a semi trailer for Community Basics.

The Alpha Course wasn't as well-attended as previous years. It still served a purpose and initiated discussion, but the outreach wasn't what we hoped for. Numerically, it was kind of a let down, but for those who attended, it was a good experience.

We also took a chance at running a Campus Church. This consisted of a brief devotion, prayer and then musical worship. We did this for most of the fall semester, and had as many as ten guys attending, but it was inconsistent. The times when students were there had some sweet moments of prayer.

We had about a dozen students hear Bobby Jones speak. Bobby is a Christian hip hop artist who also played college football. Bobby shared his story and spoke to the importance of prioritizing God over the temporary things of this world, specifically how short a life in sports can last. It was a really good session.



When Thanksgiving rolled around, we hosted another meal. We had around 20 college students and young adults in attendance this year. That continues to be a blessing to the students who can't travel to family for a holiday.

The last thing from the fall semester that I'd like to recognize is that we had a crew of a few football players and some local volunteers help unload a semi trailer for Dawn Clouse. It's my hope that we can do more things like that in the future.

Our meals continue to be our main outreach. I believe that this year we served around 10,000 meals, and that impact allows us other avenues to be an influence in the lives of these students. We're known as a blessing. That's huge. It also helps shape how the students view Christ and the church.



We have had so many churches and individuals step up in this effort, that it really freed me up to spend more time in front of students. Regular volunteers like Don and Missy engage the students in profound and significant ways. Don has hosted the basketball team to his cabin, and Missy takes young ladies out for coffee or lunch fairly frequently. Many of our other volunteers serve and clean and take time to sit down and know the students. It's incredible.



To have the different generations interact with one another is a really powerful element of this ministry. To witness it is to watch the encouragement and experience be exchanged. These students love it when the local community visits or helps out at the Center, and we did not have a shortage of that this year.

We have various churches, community members and organizations visit routinely. Hope Pregnancy visited multiple times. Bethesda helped out with a meal. Different ministry groups came out and presented. Students were given multiple opportunities to talk to potential employers or connections.

At the end of the year, we did a survey, and we received sixty back. The survey consisted of four questions: How has the Ministry Center helped you during the school year? What else do students at Ridgewater need? What's something you'd like the local community to know about Ridgewater students? What are three words you think about when you think about Jesus?

I'm going to break down two of the questions for this report, and attach the results in the overall report separately.

How has the Ministry Center helped you during the school year?

Thirty-six students mentioned that the meals as being really helpful to them this year. Twenty-three surveys mentioned things having to do with relationships or being safe and able to relax. This means that we are helping the students grow in community and stay healthy mentally and spiritually, as well.

The other question: **What are three words you think about when you think about Jesus?** There were fifty-three surveys that responded to this question. There were fifty-five different answers given. Thirty-six students mentioned the word "love" or "loving." Fourteen used the word "saving" or "savior." Ten used the word "faith."

What this shows me is that people have a lot of different thoughts about Jesus, and there are openings to discuss him and nurture those thoughts and help build young faith. This is encouraging. It's also exciting, because this mission field is constantly turning over with new students every year.

I'm going to close with this. They're actual statements from our surveys from actual students. They're edited only to make grammatical sense, but it's their words.

Quotes:

The ministry was able to provide meals for me. I did not have to worry about my next meal.

I want them to know about how we are able to come in here (the Ministry Center) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Ministry Center has helped me meet a bunch of new people and gave me something to look forward to on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

[We're] across the tracks, many of us commute and don't really know the community.

Not only has [the Ministry Center] fed me, but it helped me create extra interaction with kids at my college.

I have long days of school and live far away so it was nice to come and get a nice meal here.

[The Ministry Center has] fed me, provided help and friendship.

[The Ministry Center] got me through some hard times.

It helped me to be able to have a full meal two days a week.

I can come [to the Ministry Center] to talk to friends, do homework and eat lunch. I usually don't eat lunch because I don't have time to run home, but I can on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

[The Ministry Center] helped by giving me food and entertainment. Some days I would've gone without lunch if it wasn't for the Ministry Center.

Thank you for serving us!

Thanks for reading. Thanks for supporting.
God bless.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Schmitz
Chaplain, WAUCM

How has the Ministry Center helped you this year?

- 60% of responses said **meals**
- 23% of responses said **meet or make friends**
- 18% of responses said they valued the **conversations** there
- 17% of responses said they **saved financially**
- 15% said that they **felt welcomed, safe and could relax**

It's pretty easy to see that the meals are the most obvious outreach we do, however, you can see the community and supportive element we do is also incredibly important. It's probably a safe assumption that if the students were asked directly, that a higher percentage would answer with relationship-oriented responses.

It can also be seen that a significant amount of students felt safe and could relax at our Center. We're kind of a calm within the storm for a number of students. We've heard comments like this for years.

What do students at Ridgewater need?

- 20% of surveys said **food**
- 17% of surveys said **financial help**
- 15% of surveys said **friendships and encouragement**
- 8% of surveys said the Ministry Center meets most of their needs
- 7% of surveys said student discounts at local businesses

This was a scatter-shot question in terms of answers, but there seems to be a longing to know the community better, and to be known by the community better. Whether that's relational or just physical support, it was an underlying vibe throughout a lot of conversations that we had this year.

What's something that you'd like the local community to know about Ridgewater students?

- The #1 response was some form of **"We're good kids."**
- The #2 response was **"We work hard."**
- The #3 response was **gratitude** towards the Ministry Center
- The #4 response was that **they want to know the community** better, and **they want to be known by the community better.**
- There were **24 different responses** to this question.

This ties in well with the previous question, as the students want to be known and to feel like they're not wasting other people's investments in them. They had a lot to say, just like the previous question's responses, but the overall tone was a desire to be more involved in the community, whether that looks like the students engaging, or more likely, the community engaging with them.

What are words you think about when you think about Jesus?

- 60% of surveys said **LOVE**
- 23% of surveys said **SAVIOR/SAVING**
- 17% of surveys said **FAITH**
- 12% of surveys said **FORGIVENESS**
- 12% of surveys **left it blank or said N/A**
- **55 different words** were used in describing Jesus, this is just a small sample from the 53 surveys that put down an entry for this question.

Fifty-five different words for fifty-three surveys that answered the question. It's our hope to paint Jesus in an accurate light and to continue to engage the students with the reality of who he is and what he means to not only the world, but to each individual student.

Of the students who left it blank or put "NA," most of them were of the Islamic faith. Two also put "Prophet."

Students may not always think about Jesus or consistently live in a manner that reflects him, but there are seeds there, and there is a familiarity to work with for a majority of students. This is actually a good sign when it comes to exploring a faith beyond mere religious activity.

Future Needs

I am going to ring the same bell that I rang at last year's annual meeting. We need a dependable board to oversee this ministry for its future health. There are a lot of potential growth areas in this mission field, but we need to do better and we need oversight.

We also need to be ready in case something happens to a chaplain or there needs to be a new hire. This is a reality, and sometimes reality comes at us unexpectedly. It's best to be organized and prepared.

As for being on a board, there are a few possibilities:

1) **United Campus Ministries** – I'm cool with meeting quarterly, but this past year, we didn't meet at all. That is unacceptable, and cannot happen that way again. This is an incredible gift, and we need to steward it well. I need help with oversight of this mission field.

2) **Friends of Campus Ministry Board** - They oversee the use of the building and maintaining the property. The building is paid for, and two ministries (UCM and Lutheran Campus Ministry) occupy the space, paying rent through a monthly fee. The Friends Board consists of a few representatives of each ministry so that everyone has a say in how the building is maintained and updated. We have representation here, but the board has been inconsistent with carrying out its duties of maintaining the building and meeting.

There's a lot of other possibilities. We're talking about possible building expansion or student housing. We need to fundraise better. We need to reach these students better. And the exciting part is that we can. The challenge is to get the ball rolling. If you're reading this, please pray for this and then help us take action in getting some kingdom work done.

BYLAWS OF WILLMAR AREA UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES PREAMBLE

We, the Christian churches in and around Willmar and West Central Minnesota, separate from but cooperating with the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches, and/or other members of the Friends of Campus Ministries, Inc., at Ridgewater College, agree to the following bylaws and believe:

II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Romans 10:9-10 ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Acts 1:8 ...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization is “Willmar Area United Campus Ministries.” (Hereafter referred to as “organization” or “WAUCM”)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to minister to the students and faculty at Ridgewater College.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this organization shall be those Christian churches, as designated in the preamble, who choose to cooperate in the Friends of Campus Ministry, as expressed in ARTICLE II and who support the organization. Each member church shall have a maximum two votes at any business meeting. The voting representatives are to be designated at the beginning of the business meeting.

ARTICLE IV – WAUCM BOARD

Sec. 1. The WAUCM Board shall be composed of eight elected members and the chaplain who represents this organization on campus. Other than the chaplain, not more than two may be from the same member church. They shall be elected at the Annual Business meeting and begin their term of office July 1.

Sec. 2. Each term shall be 4 years, with a maximum of two terms. After serving 8 years, a Board member cannot be re-nominated until one year lapses.

Sec. 3. The WAUCM Board shall serve as consultant to the chaplain in matters too urgent to wait for a regular or special business meeting.

Sec. 4. The WAUCM Board shall serve as Nominating Committee to the Annual Business meeting.

Sec. 5. The WAUCM Board shall present a proposed budget to the Annual Business meeting.

Sec. 6. Unexpired terms shall be filled by appointment of the WAUCM Board until the next annual meeting at which time the appointed member will be voted on.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers shall be from member churches and shall be four (4) in number: a president; a vice-president; a secretary; and a treasurer. All terms of office begin July 1 and the WAUCM Board shall establish the respective positions at an organizational meeting in May following the Annual Business meeting.

Sec. 2. The president shall preside at all regular and special business meetings of the organization.

Sec. 3. The vice-president shall be responsible to serve in the absence of the president.

Sec. 4. The secretary shall keep a list of all member and potential member churches, as agreed upon by those present at the Annual Business Meeting. Notice of all business meetings shall be sent in writing to all member churches, by the secretary, not less than seven (7) days before such meetings. Such notice shall specify location, time, and general nature of the business to be transacted. The secretary shall keep a true and complete record of the preceding of all meetings. Potential member churches may also be notified.

Sec. 5. The treasurer shall keep a true and complete record of the treasury; collect funds; pay bills in accordance with the budget or as directed by the WAUCM Board. The treasurer will submit an annual financial report. It shall be from annual meeting to annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI – FRIENDS OF CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD

Sec. 1. The two (2) representatives on the Friends of Campus Ministry Board shall each be from a member church, with no more than one from the same church.

Sec. 2. The representatives shall be members of the WAUCM and shall be designated by the WAUCM Board at their organizational meeting. The designations are for a 3-year term.

ARTICLE VII – CHAPLAIN

Sec. 1. The chaplain shall be appointed by the WAUCM Board and shall be approved by the member churches at the Annual Business Meeting. The chaplain shall be a person in good standing in a member church of the organization.

Sec. 2. The chaplain shall represent the member churches of this organization in the Friends of Campus Ministry. In ministering to students and faculty through counseling, prayer, and in all ways open to him/her, the chaplain shall pursue a truly “united ministry” that represents Jesus Christ.

Sec. 3. The Chaplain shall fulfill those responsibilities as defined by the WAUCM Board and submit a written ministry report to the WAUCM Board at least monthly.

Sec. 4. The Chaplain shall submit a written annual report.

Sec. 5. The Secretary shall maintain these reports.

Sec. 6. The Chaplain shall be employed from June 1 to May 31.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL YEAR AND MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The fiscal year shall be June 1 – May 31.

Sec. 2. The Annual Business Meeting shall be held in June, at a time and place selected by the WAUCM Board.

Sec. 3. Special meetings may be called by the WAUCM Board, being careful to give the reasons for the meeting.

Sec. 4. The WAUCM Board shall meet monthly to have direct input into the ministry of the organization.

ARTICLE IX – QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of those voting members present at any duly called business meeting.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at any duly called business meeting.

(amended on June 15, 2014.)

Board Members

Chairperson

Kristen Westby
Litchfield, MN 55355
(C) 320-979-1614

Vice Chairperson

Jenea Lien
11408 Jackson Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64137
(C): 763-218-1756

Treasurer/Secretary

Jan Turner
3781 Cty Rd 27 NW
Willmar, MN 56201
(C): 320-220-2214

Bill Oakleaf
704 24th Ave SW
Willmar, MN 56201
(H): 320-235-0230
(C): 320-292-0761

Layton Meyer
Clara City, MN 56222
(C) 320-894-8916

Nick Rekieta
Willmar, MN 56201
651-334-7280