

CONTRIBUTING TO THE KINGDOM THROUGH FACULTY LIFE

Faculty Serving Others: Missional Ideas Organized Around the Four Loves and Available Time

Because God first loved us, we are invited to love in response. Faculty can invest in the kingdom in unique ways, often for extended periods of time, because of their positions and location in the university. Below are starter ideas for ways you (faculty) might contribute, through the lens of the four loves. Most ideas can be expanded or done in partnership with other faculty, and some may involve other organizations in the campus ecosystem.

 LOVE GOD & ONE ANOTHER God invites us into a life of loving relationship with Christ and with one another. As we gather for prayer, friendship, and spiritual formation, the Holy Spirit strengthens us to live faithfully and bear witness to God's presence in the university.	 LOVE YOUR CAMPUS We love our campuses by caring for students, colleagues, administrators, and staff with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. Through our teaching, research, service, and hospitality we seek the flourishing of our institutions and everyone who belongs to them.
 LOVE YOUR ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE Every discipline offers an opportunity to explore God's creation and pursue truth. We love our fields by engaging them with intellectual excellence, humility, and imagination, seeking scholarship and teaching that contributes to justice, wisdom, and human flourishing.	 LOVE OUR WORLD The work of the university shapes the future of our communities and our world. As Christian scholars, we seek to use our gifts in ways that promote reconciliation, cultivate hope, and participate in God's work of renewing all things.

How to read this resource

Each love is organized by level of investment. No level is better than another. Explore activities that fit where you and your community are right now.

Low lift <i>Limited time and effort</i>	Medium lift <i>Some time and effort</i>	High lift <i>Significant time or effort</i>
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Low lift <i>Limited time and effort</i>	Medium lift <i>Some time and effort</i>	High lift <i>Significant time or effort</i>
• Connect a senior faculty member who is willing to mentor a junior faculty colleague • Host a gathering for faculty, involved or uninvolved, simply to get to know one another • Reach out to welcome faculty new to campus, personally and as a group	• Gather faculty to volunteer together in a shared service project • Keep track of the tenure clock for pre-tenure faculty; pray with and for young professors • Host a half or quarter-day prayer retreat for faculty, with a meal or coffee to debrief	• Help launch a regular rhythm of faculty community: fellowship gatherings, silence and prayer, small group formation • Help start Developing a Christian Mind on your campus • Explore Alpha for Faculty or similar entry-point gatherings

"I assumed I was one of the only believers in my building. When we started the monthly prayer gathering, twelve colleagues showed up the first morning. I didn't realize how hungry faculty were for this kind of community. We just needed someone to start it."

— Professor, William & Mary

"I had been at this university for seven years thinking I was alone as a Christian in my department. One lunch changed that. Within a semester I knew a dozen colleagues who shared my faith and my questions. I didn't know what I'd been missing."

— Professor, Washington University



LOVE YOUR CAMPUS

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Low lift <i>Limited time and effort</i>	Medium lift <i>Some time and effort</i>	High lift <i>Significant time or effort</i>
- Attend an undergraduate or graduate student large group or prayer meeting - Host students in your home or on campus for tea or a meal - Invite students and faculty to pray together for the campus community - Host international students for a meal - Attend a lecture or course from another faculty member you'd like to get to know - Facilitate a Veritas or Roundtable discussion group	- Help host a "Meet Your Faculty" event for campus groups, in partnership with other campus ministries - Help host a Faculty-Student Fellowship dinner - Host a lunch to equip faculty to help students plan academic and career goals - Host an interfaith faculty panel on a topic of campus significance - Invite faculty to share their perspective at a campus event	- Moderate a Veritas Forum - Participate in planning and hosting a Faculty Roundtable - Speak at a Veritas event - Help start Developing a Christian Mind on your campus

"I was nervous about standing up and saying publicly how my faith shapes my research. But three colleagues came up afterward and said they'd been wondering the same things for years. You don't always know who else is asking those questions until you're willing to say it first."

— Professor, William & Mary

"I've given a lot of talks in my career. The one I gave in our university's 'What Matters to Me' series was the only one where a student came up and said, 'I needed to hear that.' Faculty have a platform. It's worth deciding what to do with it."

— Professor, Kansas State



LOVE YOUR ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Every discipline offers an opportunity to explore God's creation and pursue truth. We love our fields by engaging them with intellectual excellence, humility, and imagination, seeking scholarship and teaching that contributes to justice, wisdom, and human flourishing.

Low lift <i>Limited time and effort</i>	Medium lift <i>Some time and effort</i>	High lift <i>Significant time or effort</i>
• Get to know Christian academic associations in your field and share them with other faculty • Invite graduate students and faculty to talk about how you each explore values and faith in your work • Invite graduate students or faculty to hear relevant talks on faith and vocation on campus; follow with discussion • Host a one-time meeting to discuss a relevant book or article	• Partner to start a book group based on Mapping Your Academic Career • Host a luncheon with a speaker from your discipline to discuss their field and faith; invite grad students and faculty • Share how your research and faith connect at a gathering (Square Inch talks) • Invite faculty group members to share their research and how it connects with their values and faith • Host a book group to discuss a book	• Start an apologetics group for faculty and graduate students • Help start Developing a Christian Mind on your campus

"I've been thinking about the relationship between my faith and my field for twenty years. Inviting students into that conversation through a shared book gave language to questions I'd been holding privately. By the end of the year, students were asking me things I hadn't even thought to ask yet."

— Biology Professor, William & Mary

"I expected our Bible study to feel separate from my academic life. Instead it became one of the most intellectually honest spaces on campus. Some of the richest questions have come from colleagues who don't share my faith. They read Scripture with fresh eyes and it's pushed my thinking."

— Professor, Washington University



LOVE OUR WORLD

The work of the university shapes the future of our communities and our world. As Christian scholars, we seek to use our gifts in ways that promote reconciliation, cultivate hope, and participate in God's work of renewing all things.

Low lift <i>Limited time and effort</i>	Medium lift <i>Some time and effort</i>	High lift <i>Significant time or effort</i>
• Host a discussion for graduate students and faculty on a book addressing a pressing world topic • Create an opportunity for faculty and students to volunteer together with a local organization • Sponsor a child or family through community connections with a trusted organization	• Lead students and faculty in a prayer session on lament and hope • Host a book group on a pressing world concern; create space to learn and discern faithful engagement	• Make an ongoing commitment to invest alongside students or faculty in a local organization's work

"I've been to a lot of academic conferences. I've never been in a room where a hundred faculty from different schools were trying to honestly connect their scholarship with their deepest convictions about the world. That's the conversation I'd been wanting to have for most of my career."

— Professor, UNC Chapel Hill

"My work takes me into some of the deepest failures of well-intentioned people doing harm. My faith doesn't let me look away from that — it demands I look harder and stay longer. When I was invited to speak about that publicly on campus, I thought: this is exactly the kind of conversation universities need more of."

— Global Health Specialist, UNC Chapel Hill