

What is the Wayland Interfaith Clergy Association?

The Wayland Clergy Association is a local interfaith association of ministerial leaders representing ten Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist congregations in Wayland, MA. The congregations are: First Parish (UU), Trinitarian Congregationalist, St. Ann Catholic, St. Zepherin Catholic, Community United Methodist, Temple Shir Tikva (Reform), Congregation Or Atid (Conservative), the Islamic Center of Boston, Peace Lutheran, and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. The Wayland Clergy Association has a long history of commitment and support for interfaith ministry.

What does the Association do?

As an interfaith association we seek to promote understanding and cooperation among our various congregations, foster professional collegiality among their leaders, support social service and educational efforts in the community, and offer thoughtful programs on timely issues from a religious/ethical perspective. The Association meets monthly for program planning, and professional learning and fellowship. Recent programs have included a minister's group for reflection on ministerial practice, youth service days, a concert

for Darfur, an interfaith dialogue series, advocacy on local issues such as low and moderate income housing and domestic violence, and support for Hurricane Katrina relief and rebuilding. The Association is represented on several town boards and organizations, particularly those dealing with housing and youth services, and maintains supportive relationships with local public school and safety officials. The Association also works in conjunction with the Wayland/Weston Interfaith Action Group to support its initiatives for interfaith understanding and cooperation.

What is Wayland like?

Wayland is a western suburb of Boston located between exits 15 and 13 off the Massachusetts Turnpike (approximately ten miles west). Among MetroWest towns, Wayland is affluent, and religiously diverse with all its houses of worship in near proximity to each other; the community is notable for the variety of religious congregations housed in its relatively small geographic area. The community is characterized by high energy/high pressure lifestyles, excellent public schools, many children/youth, adults over 30, families, and a sizeable senior population. Wayland is not served directly by public transportation,

although trains come to nearby Natick, Framingham, and Lincoln – each about three miles away. Some use of a car is necessary.

What would a student do?

A student's work would focus on learning about the life of a local interfaith organization, and planning and implementing its programs during the year. Essentially, the student serves as a liaison and coordinator among the ministers and their congregations, and as an educator at large. Learning opportunities may include program planning and implementation, teaching of youth and/or adults, fostering dialogue and cooperation across religious differences, interpreting the different religious traditions represented in the Association and their relationships with each other for the congregations and for the community, facilitating connections among the congregations for adult and youth learning about religious difference (e.g. arranging a time/place for a Christian young people's Confirmation class to meet with a class of Jewish young people preparing for Bat Mitzvah/Bar Mitzvah), organizing cooperative community service projects involving people from the various faith communities, and promoting awareness and respect for religious difference.

What is expected of the student?

Expectations of the student include attending monthly meetings of the Association (as the student's schedule permits), being present in a different congregation each week for a service of worship or other major gathering of the congregation (generally a Friday afternoon or evening, Saturday morning or evening, or Sunday), being present for Association programs in the community and/or the congregations, and meeting weekly with the supervisor and periodically with the site advisory committee (comprised of other ministers from the Association) for reflection. Supervisory meetings will include theological reflection, program planning, discussion of successes and challenges in the interfaith environment, and feedback. There are also opportunities for meetings and learning relationships with ministers of the various congregations as the particular student's interests dictate.

What Arts of Ministry competencies does this site address?

This site is particularly suitable for developing competencies in Administration and Program Development, Community Organizing and Planning, and Religious Education. The Association is very interested in tailoring field education

experiences to the gifts and needs of individual students, and is open to considerable flexibility in designing the learning agreement.

What does this site pay, and who pays it?

The stipend is the standard stipend recommended by the HDS Office of Ministerial Studies each academic year. Each Wayland congregation contributes equally toward stipend, which is administered by one of the congregations. The treasurer of that congregation writes checks to the student. Normally half of the stipend is paid in the fall semester, and the other half in the winter.

Who is the supervisor, and how does one apply?

The supervisor is the Rev. Dr. Frederick Moser, an Episcopal priest, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland, and Convener of the Wayland Clergy Association.

To apply please contact:

The Rev. Dr. Frederick Moser
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Wayland, MA 01778
508:655-7224
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Wayland, MA

**A collegial association of
Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and
Unitarian Universalist
clergy collaborating to offer
interfaith field education**

**in partnership with
Harvard Divinity School
Office of Ministerial Studies**

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