



EMORY

CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

Candler Formation Communities 2022-2023

Program Description

The program in formation communities offers Candler students an opportunity to participate in an intentional community (residential or nonresidential) during their graduate studies. These communities of discernment and commitment are animated by distinct charisms that orient the rule of life of each community. Communities are organized around common prayer, meals, and celebration, and each is served by a student rector who provides day-to-day leadership and a house chaplain who provides worship leadership and long-term guidance.

The program in formation communities has three primary aims:

1. to provide a platform for *vocational discernment*;
2. to form student capacities for *community building* and *spiritual practice*;
3. to cultivate communities that allow residents to *integrate* their theological studies, their vocational aspirations, their spiritual practices, and their diverse identities.

The program in formation communities is supported by a curriculum that aids communities in constructing a rule of life, events that facilitate ongoing learning, formation, and skill building, and personnel that focus on the relational and logistical needs of the houses.

For one perspective on life in community see: <http://candler.emory.edu/news/releases/2019/12/journeying-together-living-in-community-at-candler.html>

There are three pathways for students who wish to participate in Candler's Formation Communities: chartered, non-residential, and student organized.

- 1) **Candler chartered formation communities:** Over the last three years, Candler has initiated a number of communities gathered around common charisms. Students in chartered formation communities apply to be a part of one or more communities and are selected based on their fit with existing members of the community and the stated charism of that community. In chartered communities, Candler helps to match students with a student cohort, and match that student cohort with a property owner, property manager, or landlord. All members of chartered communities sign an annual lease that runs from August 1 to July 31 the following year.

The program plans to support six chartered formation communities in the 2022-2023 academic year, five of which we anticipate will have openings for new residents. Even where a house shows no vacancies the program will still receive applications as plans of current residents sometimes change.

Bethany House is an inclusive community of Catholics and Christians attracted to Ignatian spirituality who pray together and share meals regularly. Bethany House's charism is hospitality, especially in hosting dinners and student gatherings. Bethany House is a four-bedroom, two-bathroom dwelling with space for four students located right on the edge of campus on Ridgewood Dr. We anticipate the monthly rent will be \$650

per resident (not including utilities). Bethany House is a pet friendly community; pet fees must be negotiated with rental management company. (Anticipated vacancies: 2)

L'Arche Friendship House is an intentional community of five students with a focus on building relationships and sharing life and faith across differences in ability. The house is a 5 bed, 2 bath duplex, located at 633 Clairmont Circle, and rent is \$590 a month (not including utilities). Our formation community is partnered with L'Arche Atlanta - a non-profit residential community where adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities live together in intentional community. As part of this connection, we seek to build relationships with the members of L'Arche Atlanta through shared meals, prayer, and events. (Anticipated vacancies: 0)

St. Clare's House is located adjacent to Park Avenue Baptist Church, a vibrant, multiracial, inclusive congregation in the Grant Park neighborhood. PABC is a congregation that emphasizes God's welcome for all people and has a special ministry to LGBTQIA+ members. The house is steps away from beautiful historic Grant Park, dozens of restaurants, the Oakland Cemetery, and around a 15-30 minute commute to campus. This house may be for you if you are looking to cultivate values of neighborliness, hospitality, joy, inclusivity, and good humor. St. Clare's house is committed to being a safe space for LGBTQIA+ members. There is space for five students in the four-bedroom, three-bathroom parsonage. There is one shared room at \$475 per student per month, and three single rooms at \$550 per student per month (price includes utilities). (Anticipated vacancies: 1)

St. Joseph's House is one of the two Episcopal formation communities at Candler located at 2422 N. Decatur Road. This community's spiritual life is informed by an Anglo-Catholic expression of the tradition, placing an emphasis on the rhythm of the observation of the Daily Office, devotion to the saints, and exploration of spiritual practices of the early Church. Also, part of the spiritual life of the community are Anglican prayer beads as well as the smells-and-bells associated with the Episcopal Church. Student residents do not need to be Episcopal or Anglican to be considered, but will need to commit to the rhythms of prayer commended by the Book of Common Prayer. The community seeks to encourage continued discernment, relationship building, and growth not only with its house but also with the St. Vedast's House and the wider Episcopal Anglican Studies Program at Candler. (Anticipated vacancies: 0)

St. Vedast's House is a welcoming community of Episcopalians, Anglicans, and all who seek greater exposure to liturgical church traditions. St. Vedast's embraces a rule of life that consists of praying, eating, and celebrating together. The prayer life of this community is shaped around the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer with an emphasis on Morning Prayer and Compline. The community spends a lot of time in our common spaces talking, watching tv, and doing work together. They also cook together and carve out intentional time for fun activities at least once per week. St. Vedast's House is located at 1968 N. Decatur Road, which is a twenty-minute walk from the Candler School of Theology. Rent for one of the four single rooms is \$565 a month (not including utilities). This house along with St. Joseph's House serves as a hub for the wider Episcopal Anglican Studies Program. (Anticipated vacancies: 3)

Tubman-Thurman-Tutu House started in 2021 through a partnership with the Black Student Caucus and Black Church Studies programs and focuses on the needs and interests of Black students. This house is animated by the charisms of academic excellence, an orientation toward justice, and the spirituality of the Black church. The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house is located at 1986 Ridgewood Drive, very near Emory's campus. There is one shared bedroom that rents for \$450 per person per month, and three single rooms that rent for \$531.67 per month (not including utilities). (Anticipated vacancies: 2)

- 2) **Nonresidential formation communities:** The program in formation communities supports nonresidential communities that covenant to a rule of life and shared charism. While these communities do not have the gift and challenge of co-living, they do have the opportunity to build a robust shared life. Like residential formation communities, each nonresidential formation community has a house rector and house chaplain and discerns a unique rule of life and charism.

Bonhoeffer Formation Community is a non-residential community entering its third year made up of teaching parish students who commit to a rule of life that is rooted in virtual modes of connection, prayer, and fellowship. Participants do not live together, and thus must work out their own housing arrangements. But, this formation community is especially suited to students who are interested in exploring modes of common life and accountable spiritual practice beyond their homes.

- 3) **Student organized formation communities:** Students who have already formed a community of house- or roommates are invited to apply to participate in the Formation Communities Curriculum as a cohort (each house member will need to apply individually but the applications will be considered as a group). In this case, students will organize their own housing. This option will make the most sense for students who are already living together, or who are committed to living together and looking for a house or apartment this spring or summer. While Candler does not have the institutional capacity to work out the details of this housing, we can support creating intentional community. Student organized formation communities will participate in the beginning of the year and mid-year retreats, be assigned a house chaplain, host a meeting for the clarification of thought each semester, and participate in the wider curriculum of formation. Preference will be given to applicant cohorts who display the racial, gender, denominational, and theological diversity of the Candler student body.

Formation Communities curriculum

1. Beginning of the year retreat: The academic year for the formation communities begins with a retreat, required for all formation community residents and house chaplains. The retreat is designed to build community amongst residents, provide space and support for writing a common rule of life, and to covenant to shared intentions for the year ahead. This retreat models the elements of the rule of life of eating, praying, and celebrating together; provides teaching about the spirituality of historic rules of the Christian tradition; and enables community members to articulate personal and collective intentions.
2. Community building events: Each formation community hosts one gathering per semester on some theme pertinent to community life in consultation with their house chaplain. Residents may prepare to present on the topic themselves or invite an outside expert to present or facilitate. These meetings will be open to all Candler students, faculty, and staff, but strongly encouraged for members of formation communities.
3. House meetings: Each formation community meets at least on a monthly basis and with ad hoc meetings as needed to discuss house issues and return to the covenant of the rule of life. These meetings are mandatory and are organized by the student rectors. House chaplains are available for support of these meetings as requested by community members.
4. Mid-year retreat: A one-day retreat marks the mid-point of the year before the beginning of the Spring semester. This retreat focuses on the practices of discernment and invites participants to a renewal of their commitment to their rule of life.
5. Closure celebration: At the closure of the year, and in keeping with the importance of celebration in the rule of life, the formation communities gather to celebrate the learnings of the year.

Rule of life

Each formation community will identify its own rule of life and covenant to keep it for the year. While each rule of life is contextually suited to those in the community, they include at least commitments regarding 1) shared prayer, 2) shared table, and 3) shared celebration. Each formation community's rule of life is created during the beginning of year retreat and affirmed (or changed) at the mid-year retreat.

Applications

Applications for new members of chartered formation communities and for renewal for current members of formation communities are due by March 15, 2022. We will notify students of the review committee's decision by Monday, April 1, 2022.

Applications for student organized formation communities are due by April 15, 2022. We will notify students and student cohorts of the review committee's decision by Friday, May 1, 2022.

Applications for non-residential formation communities are due by June 15, 2022. We will notify students of the review committee's decision by July 1, 2022.

All applications can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/CandlerFormationApp>

For more information contact the Director of Formation Communities
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