



**wittenberg**  
UNIVERSITY



The Search for the Next

# Matevia University Pastor

Position Overview

2019 / 05

## About Wittenberg University

Since 1845 and as per its mission, Wittenberg University has provided a liberal arts education dedicated to intellectual inquiry and wholeness of person within a diverse residential community. Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg challenges students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity.

Located in the heart of Southwest Ohio, Wittenberg enjoys a national reputation for excellent academic standards. The University is currently home to 1,039 students from Ohio, the Great Lakes States, and across the United States and the world. Wittenberg offers majors in the humanities, arts, and sciences, and in pre-professional disciplines, including business, nursing, and teacher education certification. Key partnerships with other universities provide cooperative programs in athletic training, engineering, forestry, social work, and environmental management, among others. Student success and results are an important focus at Wittenberg, as is the proud, long-standing relationship with the University's hometown of Springfield, which Wittenberg's Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Civic & Urban Engagement exemplifies.

## Summary of Religious and Spiritual Life on Campus



The fourth-oldest Lutheran college in the country, Wittenberg offers a nurturing environment to help students understand the meaningful connection between self-fulfillment and service to the world. Students of all faiths and religious backgrounds consistently seek out Wittenberg's Lutheran-inspired learning environment, one that helps them discern their calling, embraces compassion in action through service to the local community and abroad, and one that prepares them for purposeful, fulfilling lives.

At Wittenberg, campus ministries encourage students through the University's Lutheran heritage and mission, helping them to express themselves and to continue their spiritual journey while at the University.

## Position Overview

The Rev. David P. and Carol Matevia Pastor to the University provides institutional leadership for religious and spiritual life at Wittenberg, and is called to lead the campus community in ministry and pastoral care. The Campus Pastor partners with a variety of offices and senior administration to lead the community to define and articulate a vision for religious and spiritual life while directing programs and activities to nurture the spiritual growth and development of students. Additionally, this person will assist students eager to discern their calling and develop their own spiritual identities. The Campus Pastor will also create and implement strategies to promote a creative and faithful culture of worship; wholeness and growth among a diverse and changing student body; pastoral support for students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University community; and stewardship and representation of Wittenberg's long-standing affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The position was established thanks to the vision and leadership-level support of the late Rev. David P. Matevia, class of 1960, and wife Carol Matevia.

## Qualifications

The candidate must:

- Be a person rostered for Word and Sacrament ministry in the ELCA and a pastor in good standing.
- Have at least 3-5 years of successful experience of rostered ministry with preference given to campus ministry experience, college chaplaincy, or service as a pastor of a congregation with a strong focus in youth or young adult ministry.
- Have proven ability in creative and innovative worship leadership.
- Have a clear understanding and support of ecumenical and interfaith contexts with a commitment to interfaith work and experience working with individuals of other faith and non-faith traditions.
- Be culturally agile with a dedicated commitment to creating an inclusive culture that embraces difference with an ability to facilitate dialogue on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and identity development.
- Demonstrate strength in planning and executing faith-related programming, especially for college students, including those who are still engaged in spiritual self-discovery.
- Have excellent leadership and managerial skills with the ability to supervise, lead, and mentor professional and student staff members.
- Have strong communication skills, both written and oral.
- Be familiar with the traditions and values of Lutheran higher education.
- Demonstrate a commitment to full and visible participation in the formal and informal life of the campus community.

# Responsibilities

## ***Leadership, Supervision, Management***

- Serve as a compassionate, visionary leader in assessing the spiritual needs of Wittenberg University, meeting students where they are at in their respective faith-based journeys, and developing plans for the future that embrace the University's Lutheran heritage.
- Collaboratively plan, coordinate, and execute programming in a faith-based environment.
- Reporting to the President, advise the University on a range of issues and ideas.
- Provide leadership for the religious community on campus, including the Interfaith Committee.
- Guide and support the ministries of faith-based student organizations, including but not limited to Weaver Chapel Association and other Christian student organizations recognized on campus.
- Serve on appropriate University committees as assigned, which may include but not be limited to the President's Council on Mission and Values, the Bias Incident and Education Response Team, and as a liaison to the Board of Directors' Committee on Academic and Student Life.
- Support Wittenberg University's relationship with the ELCA and relate to the Southern Ohio Synod and clergy.
- Understand and follow Title IX reporting obligations as the campus pastor has specific exemptions with regard to confidentiality.
- Administer operating budget and endowed funds associated with Weaver Chapel and campus ministry.
- Oversee use of Weaver Chapel for various events and activities.
- Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

## ***College Worship, Ceremonies, Traditions, and Spiritual Leadership***

- Be responsible for planning and organizing public worship life of the University. This includes Sunday services and weekday chapel during the academic year, the Baccalaureate service in partnership with the senior class each May, and other special worship services.
- Lead services to address particular communal needs, such as memorial services following the deaths of members of our community and/or weddings of alumni.
- Represent the religious life of the University by offering prayers and/or blessings at large gatherings such as Welcome Week, Honors Convocation, Commencement exercises, and special events.
- Provide leadership and guidance in discussions of the religious identity of the University, including organizing the annual Wittenberg Series-sponsored Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium, in consultation with the Wittenberg Series' implementation team.

## ***Understanding, Compassion, and Care***

- Maintain a ministry of presence and care that helps the University community manage life's many challenges: loss of a loved one, shifts in student identity, homesickness, disconnectedness, family obligations, health concerns, etc.
- Nurture the spirit of community on campus.
- Seek opportunities for fellowship with students both formally and informally.
- Provide counseling and support to the University community during times of crisis on campus, nationally, and around the world.

## ***Appreciating Differences***

- Appreciate Christian traditions and customs outside of the ELCA heritage and at the cross section of culture.
- Study and learn elements of current and incoming student faith traditions so as to make students feel more welcomed and at home on campus.
- Encourage students in their preferred faith traditions to engage in those traditions on campus more.
- Be willing to serve as a guest lecturer at the invitation of University faculty, and/or participate in classes offered at the invitation of a department or program.



# Requirements & Timeline

- Master of Divinity degree. Additional or advanced education (doctorate) and training is valued.
- An ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA, in good standing.
- Letter of recommendation from applicant's current Bishop.

## **Preferred Starting Time** **Spring 2026**

For fullest consideration, submissions are encouraged prior to Jan. 15, 2026.  
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

