

Report from the Office of Church Relations at Chapman University
May 2024

This has been a good year at Chapman.

Nancy Brink continues to fill the role of Director of Church Relations even as she has officially been promoted to Executive Director of the Fish Interfaith Center. Having filled the role of Director of Jewish Life, there is now a search committee working on filling the position of Director of Church Relations.

The DOC community has had a good year. We have just over 50 UCC and Disciples students from across the county and we have a number of students join us because they want a progressive Christian environment. Several of our seniors have offered senior sermons, a long-standing tradition. Usually there are far more who choose to speak, but this is the class that did their first year at Chapman on zoom. The class never really gelled because of it. It will be wonderful to be able to host them actually, physically walk across a graduation stage.

We had an EXCELLENT DOC retreat each semester, at the Disciples camp, Loch Leven Conference Center. Our DOC leadership board has been particularly effective.

Founders Day was spectacular. Having Diana Butler Bass with us was very special.

Because of the FAFSA debacle, we likely will not know how many of our DOC students actually say yes to Chapman prior to this board meeting. We know that 27 were accepted (and likely a few we don't know about), but Admissions leadership says it will be weeks before we know who is actually coming. Students finally began to receive their financial aid letters in very late April. So much for the national MAY 1 decision day! But we are HOPEFUL that our numbers will INCREASE for with this class.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Brink, Executive Director of the Fish Interfaith Center and Kari Kempf, Program Director of Church Relations