

The **OUTDOOR CHURCH** *of Cambridge*

39 Brown Road ✧ Harvard, Massachusetts 01451 ✧ (401) 339-9578 ✧ www.theoutdoorchurch.net

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2003, the Outdoor Church is a church among chronically homeless men and women in Cambridge. Our mission is to take to the church to those who, for a variety of reasons, cannot or will not reach it on their own. We carry out this mission through our five core ministries: outdoor worship services, street outreach, pastoral visiting, Saturday evening meals and memorial services. Student ministers at the Outdoor Church have the opportunity to participate fully in all of these ministries. Additionally, student ministers engage in one hour of supervised theological reflection each week.

Outdoor Worship Services

Student ministers participate in all aspects of liturgy at the Outdoor Church, including preparation for worship, leading prayers, preparing and offering exegetical comment on the day's Scripture reading and participating in the administration of the sacraments. Our worship services take place every week, year-round, at 9 a.m. outside the T station in Porter Square, at 1 p.m. in Cambridge Common, and at 3:45 p.m. at the corner of Green St. and Western Ave.

Student Minister Activities

- ✧ Join in at least one outdoor worship service every Sunday
- ✧ Attend and assist in leading the Porter Square service at least twice each month
- ✧ Attend and help lead in the Cambridge Common service at least twice per month
- ✧ Read the lectionary text each week before Sunday and prepare to comment on it during the scripture-reflection portion of the liturgy
- ✧ Welcome and help orient visiting groups to our services

Street Outreach

After our 1 p.m. service on the Cambridge Common, student ministers walk with our clergy through Harvard and Central Squares carrying sandwiches, juice, snacks, socks, and toiletries, to reach homeless members of our community who did not attend our earlier services. They also offer communion, prayer, and pastoral care to those who request it.

Student Minister Activities

- ✧ Prepare supplies for street outreach each week
- ✧ Help hand out socks, juice, sandwiches and toiletries each week
- ✧ Offer parishioners prayer, communion, and pastoral care when asked

Pastoral Visiting

During the course of our work on Saturday and Sunday, our ministers often hear about individuals who have fallen ill, been imprisoned, or who have entered into a detoxification program. Following up on these leads, our clergy and student ministers make pastoral visits to the hospitals, jails, DMH facilities, prisons, and other institutions in which our parishioners are confined. On a more regular basis, our student ministers join our clergy in making pastoral visits to a local homeless shelter and participate in local meals programs.

Student Minister Activities

- ✦ Participate in a local meals program at least once per month
- ✦ Accompany clergy on visits to the homeless shelter at 240 Albany at least once per month
- ✦ Accompany clergy to hospital, prison, and other indoor visits on occasion

Saturday Evening Meal

Now in its second year of operation, our Saturday Evening Meal combines the efforts of our clergy, our student ministers, and volunteers from our supporting churches to distribute a meal of sandwiches, fruit, juice and snacks to homeless men and women in Harvard and Central Squares each Saturday.

Student Minister Activities

- ✦ Coordinate and accompany HDS volunteer team on 4th Saturday of month (student ministers will alternate months to take responsibility for HDS participation)
- ✦ On occasion, accompany other first-time volunteer teams and student groups when they participate in Saturday meals program.

Memorial Services

The circumstances surrounding the deaths of members of our community are often quite tragic and the friends and loved ones of the deceased are often left without an opportunity to formally mourn their loss. In such cases, the Outdoor Church provides memorial services for the deceased at either local homeless shelters or at Christ Church Cambridge.

Student Minister Activities

- ✦ Help clergy prepare and lead memorial services

Supervised Theological Reflection

Student ministers meet weekly with Rev. Mannis for supervised theological reflection, as outlined in the HDS Handbook for Field Education. They prepare a written theological reflection in preparation for this meeting. Every month, one student minister submits a reflection to be used on the Outdoor Church's blog.

Student Minister Activities

- ✦ Meet weekly for one hour of theological reflection
- ✦ Write theological reflection paper each week
- ✦ Submit a reflection as a blog post for Church website on occasion