

Commonwealth University at Mansfield
United Campus Ministry
Business Report 2024

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” - 1 Timothy 6: 11-12

Commonwealth University at Mansfield continues to persevere through many changes in name, personnel and organizational structure, but students are intensely resilient in not only understanding the changes, but expecting them. In the midst of natural hardship, we are seeing spiritual hunger, as student attendance for the MU Navigators saw a significant increase this past year. Additionally, we’ve seen Worship Night attendance increase to 20-25 students, which is really encouraging. In April, for the first time I had a student walk into my office and accept Jesus as His Lord and Savior. This spring, we had two student be baptized into local congregations and become active participants in local church ministries.

This summer as I prayed about the year to come, I felt the Lord prompting me to increase the frequency of worship nights on campus from once a semester to once a month. While I didn’t feel that I had the capacity for that, I felt compelled to invite local churches to lead once a semester as well. This really helped to widen the base and make multiple worship nights possible. Vineyard Church of Wellsboro and Impact Church of Canton both lead a worship night this fall and hopefully will repeat this coming semester.

We are seeing an increase in not only student participation but in leadership, as we have had multiple students join with churches who lead worship nights as well as students who are leading on their own. This semester, we are seeing students actively hosting Bible studies in their dorm rooms which is always an encouragement.

In the fall semester, our campus had a visit from an infamous regional person who calls themselves “Pastor Aiden”. He goes onto college campuses with a megaphone and a few other people to yell at college students and tell them that they are all going to hell. They hold Bibles and shout scripture out of context and all in all, they do a tremendous job of misrepresenting God from every angle. They successfully stirred up the LGBTQ+ community so the afternoon became a shouting match of pride flags on one side and choruses of “God hates you” on the other. After hearing about the commotion, I rushed up to campus and sat at a table near the demonstration and prayed and wept. I felt grieved for the misrepresentation of who God is from people who are claiming to know and represent Him. After an hour of this, I walked

around engaging students who were walking away with the gathering and had many meaningful conversations about who God is and His character. That night at the Navigator's meeting, I encouraged students to begin conversations with students around them about the Gospel. This was a shared experience that everyone was eager to talk about and process together, and it presented an amazing opportunity for them to invite others to open the Bible and explore what it actually says.

I pray that this coming year would be a season where students would become curious about God, the Gospel and find themselves longing to know God and be known by Him.