

SY 22-23

Annual Report

UKIRK NASHVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY, INC.

UKirk Nashville
2301 Vanderbilt Pl., PMB 406311
Nashville, TN 37240
www.ukirknashville.org



A Season

UKirk Nashville exists to provide area college students a place for Christian community and spiritual growth by: deepening relationships through fellowship, experiencing God through worship, and encouraging discipleship through service.

The 2022-2023 school year was a time of post-pandemic recovery and growth.

Last year, the group of students regularly participating in UKirk Nashville's Presbyterian campus ministry grew from one to two dozen, with even more attending occasionally. As we head into 2023-2024, UKirk's core community is strong and diverse, including students of different cultural backgrounds, nationalities, and denominational upbringings. A diversity of viewpoints enriches our conversations about faith and our common life.

UKirk Nashville also had a successful year financially. We surpassed our goal for our main fundraising event Soul & Spirits and ran a balanced budget overall. We have grown our base of support; after a lag, the number of individual donors giving to UKirk is back to pre-pandemic levels, and we are developing new church relationships, too.



of Growth



Most importantly, students are growing in their faith and emerging as leaders. Students' voices shape every aspect of our ministry, from service projects to worship music. It was students' warm welcome, willingness to offer rides, and commitment to inclusivity that drew their peers into our community. We are starting 2023-2024 with a remarkable group, including a seven-person student leadership council. Those who graduated are pursuing goals in medicine, music, finance, teaching, sports management, and more! In addition, we are proud to share that two of our recent graduates are pursuing theological education at Presbyterian seminaries.

We are grateful to all the churches that made it possible. Churches that contributed time, talents, and treasure this year were

- Brenthaven Presbyterian Church
- Downtown Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church (Columbia)
- First Presbyterian Church (Franklin)
- First Presbyterian Church (Nashville)
- Harpeth Presbyterian Church
- Hillsboro Presbyterian Church
- Second Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Presbyterian Church
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Woodland Presbyterian Church

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our supporting presbyteries and synods in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

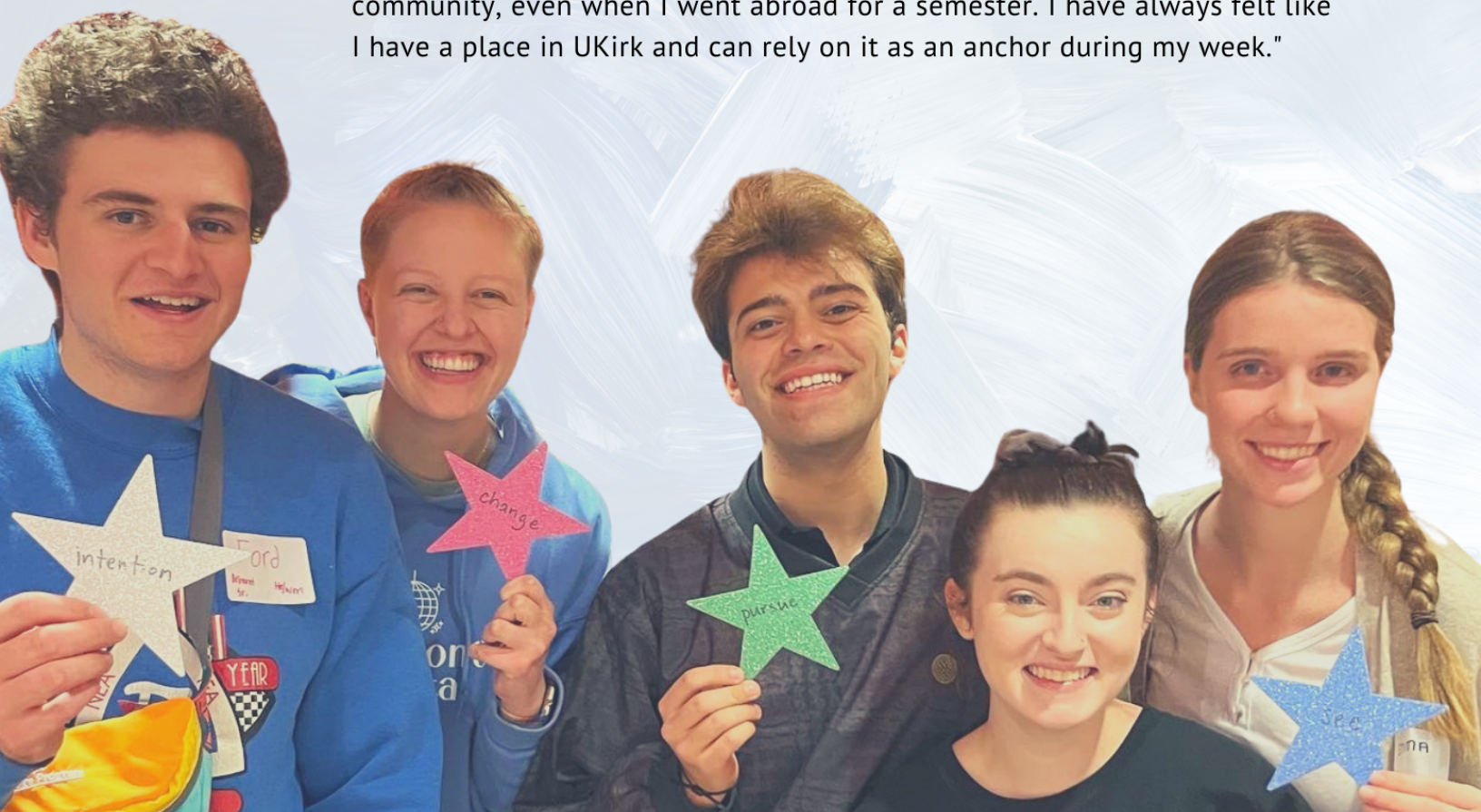
What Students Are Saying

Asked to describe UKirk "in a word," here is what several students said:

"UKirk is *rest*. Not only does UKirk provide wonderful moments of rest from the often frantic rhythm of the school week but also a rest from many of life's expectations. You don't need to 'perform,' 'produce,' or 'achieve' or be any particular way. All you're asked to do is to show up as you are, ready to spend time deepening your relationships with others and with God."

"UKirk is *joy*. It has been such an incredible part of my undergraduate experience. It's truly a family where I can be my authentic self. I feel so joyful every time I'm at a UKirk event because it's just full of laughter and fun."

"UKirk is *steadfast*. Since I first joined, I have felt an unwavering sense of community, even when I went abroad for a semester. I have always felt like I have a place in UKirk and can rely on it as an anchor during my week."



The Year in Numbers



36+

STUDENTS

At least three dozen students were served at UKirk events in 2022-2023, with two dozen participating regularly.

11

LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERS

Congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church gave time, funds, and/or volunteers.

\$26K

IN INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Beyond the steady support UKirk receives from congregations, individuals give generously as well. In fact, this was our most successful fundraising year in recent memory, with the highest total for individual donations since at least 2007.

\$112K

BALANCED BUDGET

With effective fundraising and careful stewardship, UKirk did quality ministry within our means.



Looking Ahead



In Spring 2023, the UKirk Nashville Board of Trustees defined focus areas for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year:

- To continue increasing student participation;
- To further develop the unique culture and community of UKirk as open and affirming, Reformed/Presbyterian, and student-led;
- To further meet students' needs with regard to mental health, deep friendship, and authentic, faithful discussion even of difficult topics;
- To strengthen our service and community outreach in partnership with the local church; and
- To enlarge our base of support, in terms of both friends and funds, so that UKirk's program can grow responsibly and sustainably.

Thank you for your faithful
support of our ministry.
Here's to another great year!

The 2023-2024 UKirk Nashville Board of Trustees

Rev. Dr. Rachel Thompson Orfield, Chair, Harpeth Presbyterian

Dr. Nathaniel Freymeyer, Vice-Chair, UKirk Alumnus

Ms. Kelly Christie, Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian

Ms. Barbara Fay, Woodland Presbyterian

Dr. Ryan Fox, Treasurer, First Presbyterian Franklin

Ms. Kate Armstrong, UKirk Alumna, Westminster Presbyterian

Ms. Tania Carter, Second Presbyterian

Dr. Bill Christie, Westminster Presbyterian

Rev. Mary Sellers Shaw, First Presbyterian Franklin

Rev. Shane Smith, Hillsboro Presbyterian

Rev. Ean Taylor, Brenthaven Presbyterian

Rev. Claire Berry, Executive Director and Campus Minister

Please contact us to learn more about UKirk Nashville

campusminister@ukirknashville.org

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[@ukirknashville](https://www.instagram.com/ukirknashville)



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