



OFFICIAL CAMPUS MINISTRY ORGANIZATION OF  
THE COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

[www.susoccm.org](http://www.susoccm.org)

# OCCM Life

Education ❖ Worship ❖ Fellowship ❖ Service ❖ Evangelism

**“BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.” (1 JOHN 1:7)**

## Our Mission and Vision

**OCCM CONNECTS COLLEGE STUDENTS IN FAITH, PRACTICE, COMMUNITY AND VALUES WITH THE ANCIENT FAITH OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH THROUGHOUT THEIR COLLEGIATE JOURNEY.**

Our mission statement stems from four pillars of the Orthodox Christian lifestyle: *orthodoxia*, *orthopraxia*, *orthokoinonia*, and *orthokrisia*. These are: the *correct* belief (faith), *correct* acts/practice, *correct* community, and *correct* judgment and values.

The vision of OCCM is to:

1. Inspire and instill in students the commitment to live an Orthodox Christian way of life daily.
2. Be an integral part of students' spiritual formation by nurturing them spiritually, scholastically, socially, and even emotionally.
3. Assist students who desire to start an Orthodox Christian campus ministry organization with the proper steps and support to achieve that interest successfully.
4. Support campus ministry organizations to ensure the organic growth and sustainability of the group in the Orthodox Faith.
5. Provide existing campus organizations with a forum to share ideas, programs, and events so as to better serve our brothers and sisters.



## Planning Your Year

It's always important to plan ahead. Whether you plan to meet weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, make a commitment to regular meetings and stick with that. It's important that you make this commitment before the academic year begins. People appreciate consistency, and if they know that meetings are on a regular schedule, they can plan around that or choose to come to an occasional meeting when they are unable to attend everyone. Make sure you involve your leadership team in the planning process, so that everyone has a chance to voice their thoughts before the new academic year begins.

As you plan meeting content, it's best to include elements that relate back to the **five pillars** of OCCM: Education, Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Evangelism. The most successful OCCM chapters include a good mix of all of these elements. Make a small list of goals for your Chapter during the coming semester or year, and revisit these frequently to make sure your Chapter's activities align with your goals.

When planning your calendar for the academic year, take major events from your university or local parish calendars and map out the coming Fall and Spring semesters. Fill in known dates for OCCM events at the Region or Diocesan level and make notes on months where you don't know specific dates, but you have a rough idea of what will go on around that time. Outline when your meetings will be and what format you would like them to have. Be open to adjusting this plan as the year goes on and you learn what works and what doesn't work but try to be consistent whenever possible.



## OCCM Life

Orthodoxy is a way of life, and our campus ministry endeavors should always reflect this way of life. Therefore, OCCM has five pillars, known as 'OCCM Life' by which our OCCM meetings and activities should revolve around: **Education, Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Evangelism.**

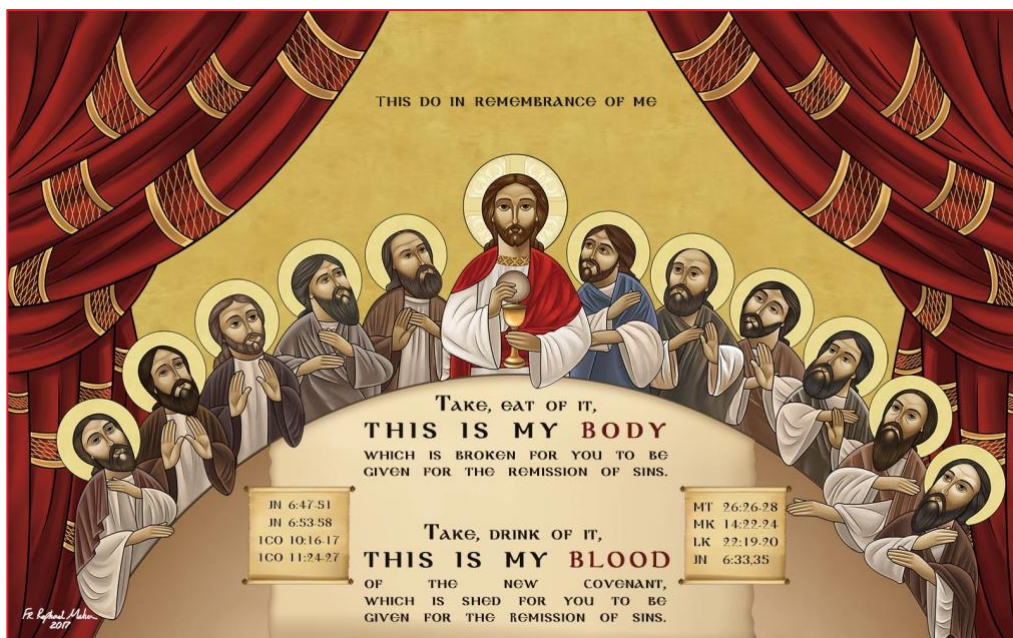
**Education** includes lectures, book studies, and other similar learning, educative activities. These activities stimulate discussion and allow students to delve deeper into the Orthodox Faith or share it with their campus community.

**Worship** includes services at a local parish, or even prayer services on campus. This is foundational to the Orthodox way of life. We join each other to praise and give glory to God together!

**Fellowship** includes potlucks, game nights, and the like. This is foundational to 'building' a community of the OCCM chapter because this is where relationships are formed.

**Service** includes helping out with the local soup kitchen, homeless shelter, orphanages, volunteering to help new students move into the dorms, or otherwise offering aid wherever you can!

**Evangelism** includes participating in tabling events to raise awareness of OCCM, inviting friends to attend the Chapter meeting; even participation as an OCCM Chapter in service and community events is a means of evangelism. Ever heard of Mother Theresa of Kolkata? The ministry of Mother Theresa and the nuns did not include preaching the word, but it was through their serving of caring for others that brought many to Christ and made them hungry to know His word.







## Pillar 1: Education

Education is a foundational pillar of OCCM that advances the edification of the youth and provides guidance and tutelage to the members of OCCM. Education provides the youth with an opportunity to learn more about the unique message of the Orthodox Christian Faith so that they are more equipped with the information necessary to evangelize this message.

### What is Education?

Education encompasses all activities that are intended to teach members more about the Orthodoxy. These activities provide the resources for a deeper understanding of what is necessary to reach the heavenly kingdom. Educative events are there to promote interactive discussions about the Orthodox Christian Faith with learning as the primary objective.

### What's the purpose?

The purpose of education is to arm ourselves with the spiritual knowledge that is provided for us from our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, as well as the knowledge passed down to us from our Church Fathers so that we can differentiate between what is right and what is wrong.

As St. Anthony the Great said, *“Men are often called intelligent wrongly. Intelligent men are not those who are erudite in the sayings and books of the wise men of old, but those who have an intelligent soul and can discriminate between good and evil.”* We must focus on providing the most important type of education on college campuses, which can often be neglected.

### How to implement Education within OCCM:

- Lectures
  - Invite a speaker that is well-informed on a particular topic and have him/her speak to the group about it. This speaker can be a member of the clergy, a servant of the church, or any other layman. Speaker selections should be made under the advisement of the Chapter's Clergy Advisor.
- Q&A/Group Discussion
  - Have a moderator guide a discussion about a particular topic while having the entire group contribute to the discussion. This kind of activity typically sparks interest and encourages participation, so it is highly recommended. These discussions generate high-gain questions that are educative for the entire group. Discussions should be presided by the Clergy Advisor or a delegated representative according to his discretion.
- Book Studies
  - Organize a reading schedule for a particular spiritual book, and have the group reading the book meet and discuss what they've learned.



## Pillar 2: **Worship**

*“Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.”*

(1 Chronicles 16:23-26)

### **What is Worship?**

Worship is the individual or collective expression of adoration towards God. Scripture is full of examples of people pouring their hearts out to their Creator, whether it's David whose soul longed for God “as the deer pants for streams of water” (Psalm 42:1), or Paul and Silas whose worship in prison literally shook off their chains.

### **What's the purpose?**

The Lord delights in our awe and exaltation of Him. We are in communion with Him when we praise Him with our hearts, and even more so when we do so in fellowship with others. A primary goal for OCCM is to extend worship beyond the four walls of a church and bring it to our college campuses, and to hopefully increase the numbers of people who seek to worship the Lord with us.

### **How to implement Worship within OCCM:**

- OCCM Worship Nights
  - Create and advertise worship events hosted by the ministry itself. Choose a location on or near campus with enough space for the worship. Designate who will be able to provide the instrumentation and lead the worship.
- Alternative Worship Nights
  - Be on the lookout for worship being held by other Christian groups on campus and advertise them within OCCM. That way OCCM members can meet with other denominations and worship in unity with them.
- Incorporation of Worship into Events
  - During Bible studies, game nights, potlucks, etc., set aside some time for worship in the beginning or end of the event to make sure God is the center of the occasion.



## Pillar 3: Fellowship

Fellowship is foundational for OCCM; in that it is a major component in building a community where relationships can be formed. Fellowship will encourage group building, leadership building, and reduction of youth apathy.

### What is Fellowship?

Fellowship is the act of meeting with those who share similar beliefs, values, and goals. Fellowship promotes stronger bonds to be made within your community. In Christian fellowship, it means to go beyond ourselves and extend ourselves to one another to bring each other closer to God.

### What's the purpose?

The purpose of fellowship is to encourage spiritual growth and development. As stated in the Bible, *“Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls. For he has no one to help him up.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Fellowship is more than just meeting to get together. It is to encourage the community to open up to one another, help each other in times of need, and rejoice with each other in times of happiness. Participating in fellowship should foster a sense of community and belonging.

### How to implement Fellowship within OCCM:

- Potlucks
  - Create a sign-up for members to record what dish they will be making/bringing. Organize a night at a location of your choice for everyone to come together and share what they have made.
- Game Nights
  - Host a game night that has games that will include the entire group. Games that require teams to be made will help encourage team building and working together. You can also ask members to bring in some of their own games as well.
- Park/Lake Day
  - Organize a day at a local park/lake area. Have the group participate in outdoor activities such as soccer, kayaking, rock climbing, etc.



## Pillar 4: Service

Community Service is a key branch in OCCM and is significant to building a strong well-connected community along with many other benefits.

### What is Community Service?

Engaging in community service provides us with the opportunity to become active members in our community and has a lasting, positive impact on the community as a whole. Community service enables us to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as help those who are most in need.

### What's the purpose?

Participating in community service allows students to develop real-world skills such as leadership, time management, collaboration with others, communication, problem-solving, and many more. Moreover, students learn that their work can make a real difference.

Volunteering engages students with their community, creates a special bond with the population being served, and increases social awareness as well as responsibility. On a more personal level, it can enhance their personal knowledge and help them grow.

As Christians we are called to serve for it says in the bible *“I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in.”* (Mathew 25:35)

### How to implement Community Service within OCCM:

- Retreats
  - During a retreat, the committee can create a community service event where they can pass out sandwiches to the less fortunate.
- Blood Drives
  - Hosting a blood drive on campus where students can come and donate blood.
- Construction Service
  - Participating construction of homes or the non-profit housing organization working in local communities to build homes and affordable housing for families in need.
- Charity Race
  - Run for a good cause!
- Bake Sale
  - Host a bake sale where all profits go to a charity of your choice.





## Pillar 5: Evangelism

Evangelism is crucial for OCCM because it is a major component for growing a community where anyone can find God through the Orthodox Church. Evangelism increases awareness of the Orthodox Church, helps return those who have left the Church, and helps bring newcomers to the Church.

### What is Evangelism?

Evangelism is simply making our presence known, and then showing visitors the same love that God shows us. By showing everyone kindness and through our fellowship with one another, we bring others to Christ.

It is important to remember that it is God who draws people to the Church, brings them in the door, and convinces them of the Truth. It is our duty as Christians to make sure the doors are visible and open to all. In other words, each of us should welcome visitors with a warm smile and get to know them. Through these small acts of love, we evangelize and share Orthodoxy with others.

### What's the purpose?

The purpose of evangelism is to spread God's love and the True Faith in order to deliver the message of who God is and why He is worthy of our unconditional love. Christ's final command is to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:19-20). This command is for all Christians, not just the Apostles.

Evangelism is more than going door-to-door or preaching on the street corners, nor is it obnoxiously imposing a message on people. These approaches are not particularly effective, actually. Rather, evangelism is constantly seeking to be the medium by which God attracts everyone to the Church and brings them to repentance.

### How to implement Evangelism within OCCM:

- Inviting Friends
  - Simply ask members to invite their friends throughout the year to Bible Study, social events, community service events, or even to Church. This can also be a competition where members who bring the most friends earn a reward.
- Tabling events on campus
  - Pick at least one day every month to set up a table on campus. Ask members to donate money in order to print the Evangelism Pack (available on [susoccm.org](http://susoccm.org)), and hand out the evangelism materials to people who are interested.