

OPERATION FOUNDATION PROJECT ANDERSON

Every spring, students — along with faculty and staff — reach out into the Anderson community through Operation Foundation Project Anderson (OFPA). The students help with spring cleaning efforts throughout the city while also demonstrating the love of Christ to the people of the community.



A RENEWED FOCUS ON CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

Spiritual development happens in almost every corner of the Anderson University campus, from focus groups in the residence halls to questions of how faith shapes our understanding in academic classrooms.

In 2015, Campus Pastor Tamara Shelton, SOT Professor Emeritus Guy Brewer, and Spiritual Formation Director Becca Palmer began a discussion on spiritual formation and how it affects students. The result is a renewed focus on Christian spiritual formation across campus.

A team of faculty and staff members from different departments joined the conversation and began an initiative of spiritual transformation. First they defined Christian spiritual transformation as “being transformed together into the fullness of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Using the word “transformation” rather than “formation” is intentional. University Provost Dr. Marie Morris

“The spiritual transformation focus is really an attempt to be a bit more conscious of the things that we have been doing for 100 years.”

— Dr. Joel Shrock

said, “Formation seems to be about forming oneself. We want to transform.”

Morris explained, “We so value Christian spiritual transformation, and because we value that really sincere pursuit of Christ, we will talk about the really tough questions in life, and God is going to guide us through those. We don’t have to be in fear of exploring ideas.”

Dr. Joel Shrock, associate provost and dean of the School of Humanities and Behavioral Science, added, “The spiritual transformation focus is really an attempt to be a bit more conscious of the things that we have been doing for 100 years.”

This initiative is not only for students, but faculty as well. Shrock explained, “No one is a finished product; even the faculty are not finished products. We are all works in progress. So this walk and journey with students is going to help the spiritual life of staff just as much.” — CHRISTINA NESSLAGE