



Community Learning

P L A T F O R M

Packet

for

Charter Communities

For more information (and to send a completed Charter Community Covenant):

Rachel McGuire, CRCDS, 1100 South Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14620

585-340-9628

rmcguire@crcds.edu

Revised October 25, 2016



The Program

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School is working with “Charter Communities” to collaboratively design, build and test a next generation platform for learning and social change, during the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years.

Purpose Statement

Our purpose is to partner with communities, networks, institutions and movements to:

- engage in spiritual, intellectual, practical, and social formation;
- to gather, craft, curate, and share quality, relevant education;
- expand and deepen relationships through transformative conversations;
- discern the changing face of our callings through life;
- awaken and support one another’s unique gifts;
- develop leadership capacity; and
- nurture and refresh each other

as we work together to establish justice and build the Beloved Community.

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Who is joining?

Charter Communities include churches, community organizations, social justice networks, educational networks, interfaith organizations, denominations and denominational entities, community-minded businesses, and educational (and other) institutions that are socially-engaged.

Charter Communities are interested in being part of shaping the platform design and setting content priorities.

Charter Communities participate in the development phase through June 2018, bringing time, talent, and a financial contribution to the project (average \$3000).

Please note: If your community has passion for the project and is unable to bring a financial contribution (or if your community is not able to commit people at this time and would still like to make a financial contribution) be in touch with our Director.

As a Charter Community, what will we be doing?

This academic year, cohorts of Charter Communities are entering during Fall 2016, in January 2017, and in April 2017. Through the development phase (Fall 2016-June 2018), 2-5 people from each Charter Community will be engaging in a collaborative design process. This will entail several design sessions (with in person and web conference attendance) each year, as well as opportunities for informal conversation and testing of platform features. The first design session will focus on the structure of Charter Community learning spaces. In the second session, we will choose topics and hosts for a set of groups to develop together on subjects of shared interest. During these sessions we will also be seeking input from Charter Communities on content development priorities, policies, overall Platform design, and other dimensions of the program. At key points, we'll evaluate our progress and look at how to move forward.

How do we sign up?

To sign up, fill out the Charter Community Covenant at the back of this packet and return it to CRCDS at the address below. That lets us know you are on board. On the covenant, you will establish the timing for your payment(s). The last step is a Memorandum of Understanding which seals the arrangement. We will forward that document to you on request.

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Timeline

Community Partner Covenants Due

Cohort 1: November 2016

Cohort 2: January 30, 2017

Cohort 3: April 15, 2017

November/December 2016

Design Session (Learning Spaces) with Cohort 1

January/February 2017

Design Session (Learning Groups) with Cohort 1

Design Session (Learning Spaces) with Cohort 2

April/May 2017

Design Session (Evaluation and Further Evolution) with Cohort 1

Design Session (Interest Groups) with Cohort 2

Design Session (Learning Spaces) with Cohort 3

2017-2018

Continuing to grow and refine the program together.

Fall 2018

Soft Launch

Fall 2019

CRCDS bicentennial celebration and full launch of program.

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Some Frequently Asked Questions

We understand we can have up to five participants. Who should we invite?

We recommend inviting people who enjoy quality education and/or who are interested in networking with others. We would appreciate you bringing along some of your most creative and innovative folks to help us really get our wheels turning! No special knowledge or technical expertise is needed to participate in this design and development phase. Interest and a collaborative spirit is all we ask. For organizational purposes, we need one main contact for your community.

Who will decide what goes in our Learning Space on the Community Learning Platform?

You will need to designate one person (could be the same as your main organizational contact or not) who will be the “Host” of your online learning space. This is the person your organization trusts to decide what information belongs in your space. This person does not need to be technical. If they can point and click on the Internet, they can do it. It is more important that your Host know the sensibilities of your community and that they have good judgment about what information will be important to your people.

How do we determine our contribution amount?

The range of contribution per community is \$2500-\$10,000. For most communities we recommend a contribution of \$3000. (\$3000 represents the average contribution we need, in combination with the seminary’s investment, to move forward with implementing the program.) This is a one-time gift that allows you to share significantly in getting this project off the ground. If your community is capable of offering a larger contribution, that would enable a more financially strapped community to be part of the development phase.

Can we negotiate on scheduling the payment(s) for our financial contribution?

Yes. We understand that each community has a unique financial process. When you fill out the “Charter Community Covenant,” there is a space for you to fill in your contribution amount and the date or dates on which you will be sending payments to the school. For our budget year, we ask that your payments be completed by June 1, 2017.

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What costs can we expect for the Community Learning Platform cost after the development phase?

After launch, we anticipate that the Platform (with browsing library of learning objects, learning spaces, and learning groups) will be priced like a subscription web service with individual and organizational annual rates. Subscription pricing will take effect in the “soft launch” in Fall 2018. Setting subscription pricing amounts will be part of our conversations.

How will the school be pricing new kinds of curricula?

Educational curricula, such as tutorials, self-guided courses, small group curricula, and full online seminary courses will be priced accordingly. Questions of educational formats and costs will be considered in our Charter Community conversations. In all our discussions about financial modeling, we will always be seeking maximum access and mutual sustainability.

What if I/we want to share content and expertise?

Many Charter Community members are also experts in their own right and have content to share. We’ve begun sketching policies for author and instructor compensation, as well as vetting and curation. The seminary has hired an Instructional Designer & Content Manager who will ensure the quality of education throughout the system and will support content creators. We have begun growing a content creator community and will continue to grow this through the development phase and beyond. So, let us know if you are interested in content creation.

What do we do after the development phase?

We see the significance of your work as a Charter Community as nothing short of building a foundation for the next generation of theological education. After the “soft launch” during Fall 2018, we look forward to your continuing journey with us. We also anticipate special recognition of you – the ones who believed in the vision and stepped up to help make it a reality – in the Platform itself and in public sharing about the Platform during the bicentennial celebrations and beyond.

Do you have any additional materials to help us share this project with our communities?

In addition to this packet, we have a large format (11x17) image of the Community Learning Platform in PDF format. We can email this to you. We are also presently working on two animations. The first animation introduces communities to the vision. And the second animation reviews the basics of the platform. As soon as these are completed we will share them with all the communities who are in active conversations with us.

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CRCDS Highlight
President McMickle published his latest book titled "Be My Witness."
Learn more...
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Learning Highlight
Congregational Healthcare Initiative
Learn more...
See all partners...
Become a partner...



Community Highlight
Youth and Children Educators Hosts: Marilyn Thrall and Jen Lessard
Learn more...
See all groups...
Create a group...

Community Learning

P L A T F O R M

like a tree planted by the water... psalm 1



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Spiritual Formation Resources ⚙

ed: [Rachel McGuire](#)

Bible Research *i* ⚙

editor(s): [Rachel McGuire](#)

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Zip Code/Area Code Finder ⚙

Area Code | Zip Code

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 1100 South Goodman Street | Rochester, NY 14620 | 585-271-1320
www.communitylearningplatform.org | www.crcds.edu
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Charter Community Covenant

This covenant expresses a mutual commitment between a Charter Community and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS). It covers the development phase of the Community Learning Platform (through June 2018). During that time, we will explore and design community-based models of education together. It articulates a shared contribution of creativity, time, and financial resources in building an educational resource that includes an accessible and content-rich infrastructure for lifelong learning and formation. During this development phase, Charter Communities and CRCDS staff will work together to design, build and test the architecture of the program, including learning groups and educational modules in multiple learning formats.

As a *Seminary Partner*, we will bring the following to this endeavor:

- The enthusiastic commitment and support of our board of trustees, faculty, and staff
- Educational expertise, content, and resources
- Local, regional, and global relationships of leaders involved in social transformation and innovative thinking about the church, society, and the future
- An investment in staffing and technology, including program direction, instructional design, and technical and research support
- Sincere willingness to work in creative and discerning partnership to build the future together

As a *Charter Community*, we will bring the following to this endeavor:

- The enthusiastic commitment of leaders in our community
- Experience and expertise
- Innovative thinking
- Concern for ethical engagement and social justice
- Active involvement in conversations and design charrettes
- One time financial contribution of: _____ on date(s): _____
- Sincere willingness to work in creative and discerning partnership to build the future together

Name/Mailing Address/Phone Number of Community:

Key Contact & Email:

Learning Space Host & Email (may be the same as key contact):

Additional Participants & Emails (You may have up to 5 total participants):

Community Partner Signature:

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School Signature:

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