

# Changes to come in the funding of religious organizations

Money might soon affect how students participate in religious organizations

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Money might soon have an effect on how students participate in religious organizations at Elon University.

Currently, organizations like InterVarsity and Hillel are recognized as student organizations. This means they receive a portion of their funding from the student activities budget, which is decided by SGA, and from their affiliation with outside ministries.

But Assistant Chaplain for Protestant Life Joel Harter has had questions in the past about the way SGA funding is determined.

"[Organizational budgets are] supposed to be based on size and level of engagement. I know there have been questions about whether that's fully the case because often a group seems to get the same year to year," Harter said.

But this may change next year when the new budgets are released.

Because some religious organizations are affiliated with ministries outside of Elon, these organizations will soon be designated into one of two categories that will determine where their funding comes from. These two categories are: recognized student organizations and affiliated ministry organizations.



The McBride Gathering Space is a common venue for the different religious event on Elon's campus.

GRACE MORRIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon ministry organizations that are affiliated will be funded by the off-campus ministry they are affiliated with.

Harter says having this new category will give students support the university can't provide.

"There is no way the university could afford as large a team of folks that we have who are willing to care for students in this way," Harter said.

Some religious organizations like

Lutherans, Episcopalians and Friends (LEAF) and InterVarsity both fund-raise and receive monetary support from the university. But Harter says the money given to these organizations does not benefit staff members and instead helps pay for events the organizations have.

"The money would be for programming. They'd be for events students want to do, and that's always money that student leaders ask for.

They decided how it is used, there are rules about how it is used and none of that money ever pays for staff," Harter said.

While the organizations that make this switch will lose some funding, Harter says for some it might only be around 2 to 3 percent of their budget.

But Harter stresses that allowing students the space to practice their faith is invaluable.

“LOVE IS ACTIVE AND ALIVE IN THE UNIVERSE, AND I UNDERSTAND GOD AS LOVE, AND IN MY OWN FAITH PRACTICE, WHAT I AM CALLED TO DO IS TO LOVE GOD AND TO LOVE OTHERS.

**JOEL HARTER**  
ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN FOR PROTESTANT LIFE

"I personally believe that students all want to live lives of meaning; they want to make a difference in the world," Harter said. "They don't all talk about it in the same way. For some, that connects to religion, for some, it doesn't. For some, it's spirituality and for some it's not."

This switch is set to fully go into effect next year, but for Harter, it all comes back to faith.

"There is meaning, and there is purpose, and for me, my core grounding principle is love," Harter said. "That love is active and alive in the universe, and I understand God as love, and in my own faith practice, what I am called to do is to love God and to love others."

# A surprising change to the Global Neighborhood

Three Global Neighborhood buildings are renamed after Elon professors

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The Global Neighborhood's three largest buildings will no longer go by their original letters.

The board of trustees decided to rename Global Buildings B, C and D to commemorate former Elon University professors Russell B. Gill, G. Smith Jackson and Nan P. Perkins, respectively.

## NEIGHBORHOOD OPENING

The Global Neighborhood was opened during the 2014-2015 academic school year and now houses 600 students.

Though classrooms have been dedicated to faculty members in the past, Book's decision to dedicate entire buildings to distinguished professors is a break from tradition for the university.

Book announced the renaming in her address to faculty and staff on Aug. 20, but the recent change has taken some of the neighborhood's residents by surprise.

Sophomore Laura Welch, a current Perkins building resident assistant, said buildings B, C and D may have been selected because they have four floors, whereas A and E only have three.

"I knew this was happening

in a few weeks and [Global residents] were aware of it too, but a lot of them came up to me saying it changed and I didn't even notice until they pointed it out," Welch said.

According to MarQuita Barker, director of Residence Life, there are no plans to rename buildings A and E at this time.

Gill Building resident sophomore Alex Mock-Rossi didn't know his building's name was about to change. He was surprised to learn that Russell B. Gill was a former Elon professor.

"If I donated \$10 million, I'd want my name on something big, so they kind of have to do that, but I mean naming it after professors has more meaning and character than just letters," Mock-Rossi said.

Welch was aware the buildings would be renamed, but said the change in names may confuse the younger residents. But she believes the dedications are "an addition, not a subtraction."

Mock-Rossi agrees that his building's new name is a positive change.

"And it's shorter, I never thought about that, I kinda like it. Gill. I live in Gill. Versus I live in Global B," Mock-Rossi said. "That sounds way better."

The official naming ceremony happened on Oct. 9 in the Global quad.

Barker believes it was important to honor significant members of Elon's past.

"I think it's important because these are people who have been very important to Elon's history," Barker said. "I think it's important for students to come and see, acknowledge, and celebrate them."



(From left to right) Nan P. Perkins, President Connie Book, Assistant to the President G. Smith Jackson and Russell B. Gill cut the ceremonial cake at the renaming of Global Neighborhood buildings held on Oct. 9 in Global Commons.

JESSICA RAPOBILOTTI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## RUSSELL B. GILL

**1983-1988:** Chair of the department of literature, languages and communications

**1994:** Coordinator of humanities and Director of general studies

**1996 - 2000:** Dean of arts and sciences

## G. SMITH JACKSON

**1994:** Dean of students

**1998:** Vice President

**Now:** Assistant to the President, associate professor

## NAN P. PERKINS

**1985:** Director of Publications and Public Information

**1990:** Dean of Admissions and Financial Planning

**2000:** Vice President of Institutional Advancement