May 2021

Dear Deans and Faculty Colleagues,

As we begin the summer months, please know that all of us in the Emory University Office of Spiritual and Religious Life (OSRL) are keeping you and the whole Emory community in our thoughts and prayers. If there are ways that we can be supportive of you and your students in the days ahead, please let us know.

We continue to witness increased engagement in our worship services, meditation sessions, educational programs, and interfaith opportunities. We are always seeking to help the community find ways to center and connect, especially in challenging times. You can always learn more about our programs and services by signing up for our weekly e-newsletter on our website here: http://www.religiouslife.emory.edu.

We also wanted to bring to your attention some major religious observances that will take place during the coming academic year. Emory policies encourage students to work with their faculty members as early as possible to arrange reasonable accommodations for their participation in religious observances. Academic deans, OSRL, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) are also available to consult.

However, it can be helpful for instructors to consider major religious observances when planning and scheduling coursework and exams in order to minimize conflicts that could impact large numbers of students. A list of holidays that may impact large numbers in the Emory community over the next academic year is attached here on our website. Please be aware that observant students may not be able to be present in the classroom or to do academic work on these dates. Individuals may observe holidays that are not on this list, but again, these are some holidays that may impact larger numbers of students.

We hope that this information is helpful to you, and as always, thank you for your consideration. We wish health and wellness to you and your loved ones in the summer and over the coming year.

With best wishes,

[Signature]

The Reverend Dr. Gregory W. McGonigle
Dean of Religious Life and University Chaplain