

Centers of the University

Special Programs

The Centers of the University were established to promote the ideals of different academic departments to deal Christianly with issues. Each Center is headed by a Director, who also serves the University as a faculty member or in other capacities.

Below is a list of the Centers along with their purpose statements and directors.

Center for Biblical Studies

Director: George Guthrie

The Center exists to promote the skills of effective Bible study and the art of biblical interpretation among students at Union University as well as members of the broader Body of Christ. The Center houses a model library for inductive study of the Scriptures, hosts an annual conference on interpretation and provides resources for local churches in pursuit of ongoing training in Bible study.

Center for Business & Economic Development

Director: M. Kenneth Holt

The purpose of the Center is twofold: to be the premier provider of economic and business information to Jackson and West Tennessee and to promote avenues that enhance the study and practice of Christian business principles.

In fulfilling the first, the Center collects and disseminates economic and business data and information enabling area businesses and organizations to improve their competitive edge. The Center publishes "Economic Updates" for area Chambers of Commerce, sponsors conferences and provides other services to area businesses such as seminars and employee training.

Toward fulfilling the second part of the vision, the Center works in cooperation with the Center for Christian Leadership with its Fall conference and serves as a publishing outlet for the Christian Business Faculty Association.

Center for Christian Leadership

Director: Gregory A. Thornbury

The Center for Christian Leadership is designed to equip Christians serving in various vocations with the worldview and skills necessary to be high impact servant leaders and change agents in the 21st century.

R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry

Director: Paul S. Veazey

The purpose of the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry is to equip bi-vocational pastors, staff, and laity for Christian service by offering the Diploma in Christian Ministry and the Associate of Divinity. Details of these programs can be found under Special Programs, Adult and Evening Studies.

An integral part of the Center is the R.G. Lee Society of Fellows Program whose purpose is to enhance and encourage the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Upon invitation, a pastor builds a sermon from the resources of the R. G. Lee Library. The sermon is published in an anthology by the Center and distributed to Southern Baptist pastors.

Edward P. Hammons Center for Scientific Studies

Director: Wayne Wofford

The Edward P. Hammons Center for Scientific Studies was formed to show, by example, how science and Christianity are not only compatible, but also synergistic. Science at Union University is seen from a Christian vantage point. The Center operates with the presupposition that science as observed truth need not conflict with revealed truth and that science is impossible apart from the recognition that God has created an orderly universe. Accordingly, the Center strives to provide a fertile environment for the exploration of the nature of the universe, in order to afford a greater appreciation of the complexity and glory of God's creation. The Center seeks to accomplish this by the encouragement of excellence in research and publication by our faculty and by sponsorship of conferences, lectures by outstanding scholars, and community outreach programs.

