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.

**Ryan Center for Biblical Studies**
Director: Ray F. Van Neste
Assistant Director: J. Michael Garrett
The Center exists to promote thoughtful and disciplined reading, study, interpretation, and application of the Bible in the church throughout the world. The Center houses a model library for the study of the Scriptures, which is open to the public. Every other year the Center hosts a Bible study conference.

**Center for Business and Economic Development**
Director: Jason Garrett
The purpose of the Business and Economic Development Center is to engage the community and students in the McAfee School of Business in activities that promote the development of business leaders to fulfill their purpose in Christ and society. This engagement includes projects that engage students with West Tennessee organizations, such as Business Week and an annual speaker series, "Faith in the Marketplace."

**R. G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry**
Director:
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 Associate of Christian Studies degree. Details of the program can be found under School of Theology and Missions, R.G. Lee Center.
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.

**Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice**
Director:
The Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice aims to promote and recognize excellence in education from preschool through higher education. The manner in which the Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice defines its work can be found within the context and mission of Union University and the School of Education. The Center aims to bring attention to the work and interests of the School of Education, its faculty, staff, students, and alumni across Union's three campuses located in Jackson, Germantown, and Hendersonville, Tennessee.

The mission of the Center is to promote excellence in education in ways that reflect: Union University's four core values (i.e., Excellence-Driven, Christ-Centered, People-Focused, and Future Directed), the conceptual framework of Union's School of Education (i.e., A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith), and Transformational Teaching (e.g., Educators need to be effective scholars, practitioners, and relaters).

The Thomas R. Rosebrough Center for Educational Practice promotes and recognizes excellence in education by:
- Publishing news articles about the work of faculty, students and alumni at Union University's School of Education.
- Publishing white papers, book reviews, and practical academic thought pieces on educational topics.
- Distributing Focus on Education, a podcast that brings attention to quality in education.
- Communicating and hosting educational events.
- Awarding quality education at the preschool through higher education levels.

**Center for Population Health and Rural Medicine (PHaRM)**
Director: Sean King
The purpose of the Center for Population Health and Rural Medicine (PHaRM) is to advance Union University’s ability to care for the underserved population of West Tennessee while broadening the interprofessional educational experiences of our students and other healthcare providers. Our mission includes affording students opportunities to provide more collaborative and patient-centered care in a structured, real-world setting. The Center achieves its mission through interprofessional learning experiences, community service learning experiences, clinical experiences, research, continuing education programs and simulation education.
Center for Faculty Development
Associate Director: Nan Thomas

The Center for Faculty Development assists faculty in their pursuit of excellence under the Lordship of Christ as they live out their Christian calling in the academic world. Fall and Winter Workshops offer faculty-led concurrent sessions on teaching and learning, scholarship, and connections of the Christian faith and the concepts, applications or methods with academic disciplines. Teaching and Learning Grants and the Newell Innovative Teaching Award support faculty in creating learning that lasts. Union Beginnings: A New Faculty Learning Community meets regularly for two years and encourages faculty in teaching and learning through peer to peer classroom observations as well as two annual opportunities: The Collegium on Christ, Knowledge, and Wisdom and The Course Design/Redesign Institute.

Center for Just and Caring Communities
Director: Mary Anne Poe
Fellows: Dr. Theresa Blakley and Dr. Nita Mehr

The Center is based upon the premise that just and caring communities are created and sustained by transformational relationships. Reciprocal and interactive connections between individuals, families, groups, communities, and society at large exist to either strengthen or violate healthy relationships within these systems. The Center exists to conduct research and to promote strategies that uplift, restore, and transform these relationships with a special emphasis on vulnerable persons and communities.

Center for Politics and Religion

The Center for Politics and Religion is meant to provide a forum for teaching, research, and discussion about the intersection between politics and religion. The Center sponsors conferences, promotes research, and encourages students to "think Christianly" about how their faith should affect their politics by analyzing the role of religion in America and the world. The Center aims not only to prepare Union students to impact the political world winsomely and effectively for Christ, but also to represent Union in the larger conversation about faith and politics taking place among fellow believers and non-believers alike.

Edward P. Hammons Center for Scientific Studies
Director: William Thierfelder

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.

Center for Racial Reconciliation
Director: Frank Anderson

The purpose of the Center for Racial Reconciliation is to serve the University in its discovery, articulation, and implementation of strategies to promote racial and ethnic reconciliation, diversity, and unity to the glory of God.

Center for Worship
Director: Paul Randlett
Associate Director: John D. Kinchen, III

The Purpose of the Center for Worship is to work in close partnership with the Department of Music to:

• Provide guidance for the training of Worship Leaders;
• Engage in on-campus ministry collaboration;
• Make meaningful connections with the local church and the Christian music industry;
• Establish strategic impact in society for the Glory of Jesus Christ, and;
• Promote research, writing, and scholarship in the field of worship.

The Center for Worship hosts periodic conferences on matters of worship and works closely with the Department of Music to serve worship ministries throughout the United States through a strategic internship program.