

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.

**Director: Ray F. Van Neste**

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.

**Director: M. Kenneth Holt**

The purpose of this Center is 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. 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.

**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.

**Director: Jerry Tidwell**

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.

**Director: Melinda Clarke**

The purpose of the Center for Educational Practice is to:

- (a) Encourage and edify contemporary practice in education
- (b) Foster scholarship in education among faculty at Union University;
- (c) Publish a CEP Research journal as a forum for students, faculty and the community;
- (d) Bring scholars and events in education to the Union University campus.

With national recognition and accreditation of the University's teacher education programs and burgeoning graduate programs for teachers, the Center exists to assist and coordinate efforts internally and externally to promote the excellence of new ideas in education.

**Director: Barbara McMillin**

**Associate Director: Nan Thomas**

The mission of the Center for Faculty Development is to encourage faculty in:

- (a) Effective and innovative teaching;
- (b) Pursuit of scholarship and professional growth;
- (c) Integration of faith in casual and classroom interactions;
- (d) Integration of faith and learning through spiritual formation.

The Center conducts the new faculty orientation program (Fresh Start), the new faculty mentoring program (Mentor Network) and continual training for all faculty (In the Academy). The Center also sponsors the Newell Innovative