

# inter::mission

**PROGRAM GUIDE**

**2008-2009**

## About *inter::mission*

*inter::mission* is a project of Northwest Collegiate Ministries in the University District of Seattle. It is an experiential learning process in which college students live together over the course of the school year, and intentionally apply themselves to the ways and teachings of Jesus. It is a self-discovery process intended to help students understand and fully embrace their identities as citizens of the Kingdom of God, and live out the implications in practical ways. The world is changing at such a rapid pace that who Jesus is and calls people to be often get lost in the mix. *inter::mission* offers a progressive approach that doesn't simply attempt to keep up with culture, but actually to anticipate changes ahead of time and help shape it from the inside. This means taking what we learn from Jesus and following him where we are – in school, at work, at home, and in the local/global community. In short, *inter::mission* exists to experientially liberate and empower young adults toward missional vocation. What that means will be explored throughout the process. The four basic elements are described below.

### Element One – Intentional Christian Community



*inter::mission* takes place at a building called The Purple Door, in the heart of the University of Washington's Greek Row. It was built in the 1920s as a fraternity house, and has meeting and office space, a large kitchen, and resident rooms on the second and third floors. The element of intentional Christian community means that *inter::mission* is a live-in program. However, it's more than just a place to stay while attending college. Sharing space with others in the house will actually be a part of a spiritual formation process. Living together in a communal environment will help students understand the depth and value of relationship in the Kingdom of God. As students study, play, pray, clean house, cook, and learn life lessons, it is a rich, whole life experience. One of the high points of the community life is a weekly "family" dinner on Thursday nights, in which **we all** sit down together, enjoy good food, and share deep conversations about life and God's activity in our lives and world.

### Element Two – Education

*inter::mission* is a learning journey for students. In addition to the coursework at college, students participate in regular times for education in mission. There are bi-weekly "teach-ins," and one seminar per quarter led by guest speakers and staff. The theology of mission explored from a number of angles, including spiritual formation, leadership development, evangelism, globalization, worship, social justice, church renewal, and culture reading. Our speakers are expert



practitioners, and are able to guide conversations that are compelling and challenging. We realize that students' classes and homework are a big priority, so we're sensitive about not overloading you. While attending the teach-ins might mean giving up a couple of hours of television or time on Facebook, it is well worth it.

### Element Three – Incarnational Involvement

The theological term for Jesus' birth and life as a man is "incarnation." We believe that Jesus continues to live and work in the world, and that he lives within us and works through us. In other words, *the incarnation continues in us*, and the work we do in our lives is incarnational in nature. We have staff members available to meet with students to help figure out what that looks like on a personal as well as collective level.

It's important to us that *inter::mission* not be a hideout from the world. The things learned are intended to be integrated into life in the classroom, on the basketball courts, in the coffee shops, on the job, etc. In order to help reinforce ongoing engagement, *inter::mission* students are encouraged to spend a minimum of 5-10 hours per month meaningfully involved in community efforts – for example, joining and attending meetings and events with the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, or serving regularly at a food bank. Additionally, we regularly engage the University of Washington campus with what we call "social experiments" – these are small projects aimed at getting students thinking outside of themselves, and about things like generosity and compassion. Our social experiments are usually light-hearted and simple in nature, but we believe in doing small things to get people thinking.

### Element Four – Culture Project



At the end of the school year, the *inter::mission* process culminates in a culture project overseas. It is a major learning and service project for about three weeks. While there, students partner with local missionaries, activists and churches in service. Additionally, the educational process continues as we make observations about the culture, and how the story of Jesus relates. Importantly, upon returning from this experience, students spend time together thoroughly debriefing. This is an important part of the process, because after having spent time outside of their "home" culture, they are able to notice things about life and the Kingdom of God that weren't quite so obvious before.

While it is ideal to think that all students who are involved in *inter::mission* will participate in the culture project, we realize that the realities of summer school, summer jobs, and family involvement may prevent some from joining us. We will do everything we can to help as many participate as possible – we believe strongly in the value of this part of the *inter::mission* experience, and don't want anyone to miss out.

The costs of the culture project are *not included* in the regular house and program fees. While the costs of each year's culture project vary according to destination and the nature of the project, a general estimate is approximately \$3,000 for airfare and accommodations. Once again, we will do everything we can to make sure as many people are able to participate, including assisting with fundraising. More information will be available as details are planned.

One important thing to keep in mind is that if you do not have a valid, current passport, you will need to begin the process of obtaining one. Be aware that at this time, the passport process can take up to three months, so plan ahead.

### Northwest Collegiate Ministries (NCM)

Northwest Collegiate Ministries has been doing collegiate ministry (under multiple names) at the University of Washington and other Puget Sound college campuses continuously since 1952. It is an interdenominational student ministry sponsored by the Northwest Baptist Convention. Weekly Bible studies and worship gatherings, parties, service projects, and retreats are part of the calendar, and while not required, *inter::mission* students are strongly encouraged to be involved. The purpose of NCM is "Knowing God, Following Jesus, Loving the Campus."



### About The Purple Door



As mentioned above, The Purple Door was originally built as a fraternity house about 80 years ago. It's a big building with lots of character and charm. The building has been home to our collegiate ministry efforts since 1965. Over the years, many hundreds of students have called this place home, at least for a while. It's located on the corner of 45<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, directly across the street from the UW campus. We're just a few blocks away from University Way (a.k.a. "The Ave") to the west, and the University Village mall to the east.

In addition to being the home of *inter::mission* and NCM, The Purple Door hosts church and other campus ministry gatherings.

## Program Costs

The Purple Door has single and double occupancy rooms. We assume that our rooms will be single occupancy, unless a specific request is made for double occupancy. If you are interested in sharing a room, please indicate that on the Application, and we will do our best to accommodate you. As needed, beds, dressers, and desks are available for in-room use.

Double occupancy:     \$1,150 per quarter

Single occupancy:     \$1,400 per quarter

Fees include the room and the common family meal each week, wireless internet access, *inter::mission* books, guest speakers, and program expenses. The *inter::mission* culture project fees are not included. Coin operated laundry machines are available on the second and third floors. Fees are due on the following dates:

Autumn Quarter:     Sept. 15, 2007

Winter Quarter:     Jan. 4, 2008

Spring Quarter:     Mar. 24, 2008

## Sample Schedule\*\*\*

Sunday:            No regular schedule

Monday:           No regular schedule

Tuesday:          “That Thing We Do” @ 7pm\*\*

Wednesday:       No regular schedule

Thursday:         Family dinner @ 7pm\*

                      Bi-weekly teach-in @ 8pm\*

Friday:            No regular schedule

Saturday:         Once per quarter ½ day seminar\*

\*These are mandatory for *inter::mission* participants. Absence from these times should be discussed with staff.

\*\* These are not mandatory, but encouraged. NCM will have a regular calendar of Bible Studies, small groups, and events.

\*\*\* Additional events and activities may be scheduled, but this is the basic structure.

## House Covenant

Please read the following carefully. For the safety, comfort, spiritual and emotional well-being of *inter::mission* students, staff, and guests, these represent important agreements. We believe in being a relationship-based group, rather than a rule-keeping group, and will act redemptively in times of questions and conflict. Some of these things are of a legal nature, some are of a common sense nature, but they are also ways of expressing respect, care, and love for other people. (This covenant is a work in progress. The final form will be distributed at the beginning of the school year at an orientation process).

First, some of our House Values. We will behave together according to common values. They include (but aren't limited to) the following:

- Love – we follow God and enjoy the Kingdom life out of a desire, not out of obligation. We serve others out of this motivation.
- Sustainability
  - Personal and corporate rhythms of prayer, spiritual growth, understanding of God and God's activity in the world.
  - Sabbath – the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment is God's gift to us. In a culture of busy-ness and stress, we pursue a counter-cultural practice of rest and renewal.
  - Environmental care – we are stewards of our planet, and pay attention to ways of living that are healthy and helpful. This means recycling, energy reduction, etc.
- Integration – learning how to live into the things we learn from Jesus is highly important.
- Kindness – as we explore difficult and challenging issues together, we are certain to disagree at times. That's a **good thing** – we have opportunities to sharpen one another through this . . . but only when we take the time to listen care-fully with respect. There may times when correction is needed, but we will seek to do it in loving, understanding, and redemptive ways.
- Exploration – we live in a fluid world, so to behave with a static faith and mindset just won't do. Sometimes exploring things brings us into moments of ambiguity. Cool. We still pursue truth and certainty, but we do so in a way that welcomes new angles from which to look at it.
- Fun – laughter and re-creation are essential. Is it possible that one of the things that got Jesus in trouble is that he was having too much fun with people??
- Community – we highly value the body of Christ, and believe that developing relationships with other followers of Jesus will grow our souls. To this end, our weekly "family" dinners are hugely important . . . almost to the point of being sacramental.
- Liberation – as followers of Jesus and citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are empowered to go do stuff! *inter::mission* participants are encouraged to actively look for opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus everywhere. If you see a need and want to respond, go for it! If you would like to invite other *inter::mission* participants and staff to join you in an effort, invite away. Be creative, entrepreneurial, energetic, and catalytic. If you're unsure of what to do, talk it over with someone, but don't let these moments pass you by.

- Hospitality – we welcome visitors, and occasionally, outside groups to share our space and our activities. Sometimes, this means having overnight house guests.

## **General Items**

Participants in *inter::mission* are assumed to be full time students. If this is not the case, special approval is required.

Participants in *inter::mission* commit themselves to one another to live together for one full school year.

It is assumed that participants in *inter::mission* will attend all teach-ins and seminars. When scheduling conflicts arise, it is important to communicate with staff and fellow participants. Patterns of non-participation will need to be addressed.

*inter::mission* participants commit to living at peace with those around them and pursuing the best interests of others. Inevitably, disagreements will arise – all participants commit to working through these in a loving, helpful manner.

*inter::mission* participants commit to be meaningfully involved in incarnational community efforts (see Program Guide discussion of “Incarnational Involvement” for more information).

Flammable substances such as gasoline, kerosene or butane, any explosives, fireworks or articles deemed hazardous by King County or the insurance carrier shall not be stored or permitted to be brought into the premises at any time.

*inter::mission* participants shall not permit anything to be done or kept in any room or other area, which would be in violation of any law or result in insurance cancellation or higher rates.

Fire regulations require that no obstruction of any kind, including bikes or furniture, may be placed in any entry, hallway, stairway, or driveway.

Parking on the west side of the building is reserved for staff only. If you need to park short term for loading and unloading purposes only, you must ask a staff person for consent. Unauthorized vehicles may be towed at owner’s expense. This is one of the difficult realities in the city.

Fire doors must be kept closed at all times (they are not to be propped open in the warm months for ventilation purposes).

Bicycles are not permitted inside the building premises. There is a covered bicycle rack at the back of the building by the basketball court, where residents may park their bicycles at their own risk. We cannot be responsible for any damages or loss of bicycles while parked at the covered bicycle rack.

Nothing shall be altered or constructed in or removed from individual rooms except with prior consent.

Signs or displays in window area may not be displayed without prior written permission. Installation of exterior radio or television antennae is not permitted.

Residents are responsible for the contents of their own individual rooms and storage areas.

Each resident shall maintain his/her own unit so they do not endanger or effect in any way the safety of any other resident.

Use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, illegal possession of narcotics, hallucinogens or any other chemical within the premises of the property by any resident, or any resident's guests are strictly prohibited. Violation of these standards constitutes grounds for termination from *inter::mission* and eviction.

Residents should exercise care at all times and places to avoid making noise which would be disruptive to others, especially in the use of musical instruments, radios, televisions, stereos.

Quiet Hours will be posted in the building. During this period, extra effort should be made to not disturb others.

Recycling and garbage should be placed in appropriate containers in the building, or outside in the dumpster/recycling bins. Recycling is an important behavior for us, as we seek and support sustainable ways of living in our world.

Residents utilizing laundry machines should remove clothing at the end of the machine cycle. Residents wishing to use machines may remove clothes left in a machine after the cycle is completed. After using the machines, users are expected to leave the machines in clean and neat condition.

Residents are responsible to ensure that the entrances are securely locked after they leave and enter the building.

Residents are advised to make a copy of their room keys, in case of lockouts and loss. Exterior door keys may only be ordered through staff members. If an exterior door key needs to be replaced, there will be a charge of \$15 (they are special security keys, and thus, are more expensive than standard keys).

Residents are not permitted to keep pets of any kind at the building.

Residents will be assigned cabinet space in the kitchen in which to keep personal food supplies. Please respect other peoples' property and do not take what is not yours.

Part of living in community means that everyone has a role to play in caring for others. Specifically, this will include regular assignments of house chores including (but not necessarily limited to): cleaning the kitchen, vacuuming, cleaning bathrooms, occasional yard work, participation in the preparation and clean-up of the weekly common meals. Everyone will have jobs to do – if you have been assigned a task and are unable to complete it yourself, it is your responsibility to ask for help.

The Purple Door is equipped with business-grade internet service, and wireless internet routers (one is secure/password protected, one is open). Most of the building is covered by the signal, but some rooms have a fairly weak signal. We are able to hard wire some of those areas for internet access. For many reasons, we oppose pornography, and ask that all residents refrain from viewing pornographic material on the internet. This is more of a personal health issue than anything, but internet pornography sites have also been known to present network security risks. Additionally, we recommend that any business or private transactions be done via the secure router. All residents will have access to passwords.