



PRES HOUSE COUNCIL

Updated February 2025

Pres House Mission

Pres House seeks to be a spiritual home at the heart of the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. In keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian tradition of hospitality, Pres House is dedicated to providing a religious center and purposeful housing to support the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth of residents and members of the UW-Madison campus community. Pres House is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and welcomes individuals of every perspective and background.

The Pres House Council is a group of students who make a year-long commitment to servant leadership within the Pres House church community. Through this commitment, Council members have the opportunity to:

- Plan and execute programming (including budgeting allocated funds) for the church community
- Have ROOJAH* access to the building in order to maintain Pres House's tradition of hospitality
- Receive support and mentoring from Pres House staff
- Grow through intentional leadership development and spiritual exploration

Important 2025 Dates ~ Mark your calendars!

Saturday, March 1, midnight – Council applications due

Sunday, April 13, 1:30-3:00 pm – Transitional Council Meeting

Friday, May 9 - Sunday, May 11 – Council Retreat at Lake Waubesa (Friday evening – Sunday noon)

** ROOJAHs were Pres House students in the 1930s - 1950s who lived in and hosted the church building through shoveling coal into the furnace, prepping coffee, and more. They called themselves the "Royal Order Of Janitors And Hosts."*

“Community cannot feed for long on itself; it can only flourish where always the boundaries are giving way to the coming of others from beyond them – unknown and undiscovered siblings.” ~ Howard Thurman ~

Council member opportunities:

1. Plan and Execute Programming for Church Community

Each year, Council members shape what happens in the community. At the Council retreat, students identify their skills, gifts, and passions and discern the community needs and wants. Based on these discoveries, they plan weekly gatherings and events for the upcoming year. Council members handle a \$2000 budget and make collective decisions on how these and other resources will be used throughout the year.

2. ROOJAH Access

As Council members, students receive the privilege of having a key to the Pres House building in order to maintain the tradition of Pres House hospitality: “where house means home.” With this privilege comes responsibility and an opportunity to help make Pres House a place of gracious welcome by hosting our home throughout the school year.

3. Leadership Team and Board of Directors

The Leadership Team is made up of three Council members who create the agenda for and lead the business portion of monthly Council meetings. There are six positions reserved for students on the Pres House Board of Directors, which governs and has fiscal responsibility for the whole organization.

These opportunities are significant leadership roles and we hold elections for them during the April transitional meeting.

Council member commitments:

1. Community

Meaningful and deep community is the heart of Pres House. We believe that this happens best with regular, intentional practice – just like playing an instrument or sport! Council members build intentional relationships through their presence at Sunday Worship and another weekly gathering of their choosing. They also play a significant role during Fall Welcome and in year-long outreach to new students.

2. Service

Being a Council member means serving in big and little ways, up front and behind the scenes. There are a variety of ways students can serve: formal roles (Leadership Team, Board of Directors, small group leader), leading social events, coordinating a service project, and more.

3. Spiritual and Leadership Development

People come to Council at various stages in their spiritual and leadership development; wherever you are in your journey, we expect you to learn and grow. You will set your own goals for spiritual and leadership development. Pres House staff will support you in making progress towards these goals through development activities during Council meetings and regular one-on-ones during the semester. Staff will also help hold you accountable for your other Council commitments.

Application Process

1. Fill out the [2025-2026 Pres House Council Application](#). All applicants, including returning Council members, must fill out the application in full. **Applications are due by midnight on March 1.**
2. After completing your application, [schedule your Council Interview](#). Slots are available on March 2, 9, & 16. Council interviews are conducted by Pres House staff and board members. **All interviews must be completed by Sunday, March 16.** If none of those slots work for your schedule, please contact Pastor Nii Addo (nii@preshouse.org).
3. We will respond to all applicants by Friday, March 21. **If selected, you must accept your position on Council by Sunday, March 30, be present for the Transitional Council Meeting at 1:30 pm on Sunday, April 13, and attend Council Retreat on May 9-11.**