



# PRES HOUSE COUNCIL

Updated January 2026

## 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. [Read more >>](#)*

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

- plan & execute programming (including budgeting allocated funds) for the church community
- grow through intentional leadership development & spiritual exploration
- help maintain Pres House's tradition of ROOJAH\* hospitality
- receive support & mentoring from Pres House staff

For more details on each of these aspects of Pres House Council, please see "Council Member Opportunities" on pgs. 2-3.

## Important 2026 Dates

**Sunday, March 1, midnight** – Council applications due

**Sunday, April 12, 1:30-3:00 pm** – New Council members attend Transitional Council Meeting

**Friday, May 8 - Sunday, May 10** – 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: shoveling coal into the furnace, prepping coffee, and more. They called themselves the "Royal Order Of Janitors And Hosts."*

## Application Process

1. Fill out the [2026-2027 Pres House Council Application](#). All students who want to join the 2026-27 Council, including returning Council members, must complete the application. **Applications are due by midnight on Sunday, March 1.**
2. After completing your application, [schedule your Council Interview](#) (20-minute time slots are available on March 8 and 15; slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis). Council interviews are conducted by Pres House staff and board members. If none of the available times work for your schedule, please contact Pastor Nii Addo ([nii@preshouse.org](mailto:nii@preshouse.org)).
3. We will respond to all applicants by Wednesday, March 25.

### **If selected, you must:**

- *(by Sunday, March 29)* confirm whether you will join the 2026-27 Pres House Council
- be present for the Transitional Council Meeting, 1:30-3:00 pm on Sunday, April 12
- attend Council Retreat on May 8-10

## Council Member Opportunities

### **Plan and execute programming to support the mission of Pres House**

Starting at Council Retreat and continuing throughout the year, students work with Pres House staff to plan weekly gatherings, events, and other programs for the upcoming year. Council members also handle a \$2000 budget and make collective decisions on how these and other resources will be used throughout the year to support programs and opportunities at Pres House.

### **Grow through intentional leadership development and spiritual exploration**

Council members go through a discernment process to set their own goals for growing as leaders and deepening their spirituality. They are then placed in small groups with other Council members who can offer support and accountability for these goals. These groups meet regularly throughout the year.

Council members also have the opportunity to serve in two specialized leadership roles: Council Leadership Team and the Pres House Board of Directors. These roles are filled via elections during the April transitional meeting.

- The *Council Leadership Team* is made up of three Council members who create the agenda for and lead the business portion of monthly Council meetings. They also offer care, support, and accountability to their fellow Council members. [Learn more >>](#)
- There are six positions reserved for students on the *Pres House Board of Directors*, which governs

and has fiscal responsibility for the whole organization. Students who serve on the BOD have full voting rights on the board and engage in all aspects of board leadership. [Learn more >>](#)

### **Help maintain Pres House’s tradition of ROOJAH hospitality**

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.

### **Receive support and mentoring from Pres House staff**

People come to Council at various stages in their spiritual and leadership development; wherever you are in your journey, Council is an opportunity to learn and grow. Pres House staff meet one-on-one with Council members regularly throughout the year to check in and offer support and mentoring.

## **Council Member Commitments**

All Council members must read and sign the [Council Covenant Matrix \(CCM\)](#). The CCM is not a code for behavior. It describes how Council members will engage with the programs and opportunities at Pres House and how they will use their unique gifts, talents, and knowledge to serve the Pres House community. All applicants should read the CCM closely to understand the responsibilities and expectations for Council members in detail.

### **Council member commitments:**

1. Be an active member of the Council
2. Actively engage in spiritual and leadership development
3. Engage in Sunday worship
4. Build intentional relationships with others at Pres House
5. Contribute to campus outreach efforts
6. Offer ROOJAH hospitality
7. Serve the wider community