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Peopletalk: Craig Hill

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The reason that I chose Wesleyan to study religion..first of all, the close ties that the campus has with the central Illinois and not northern Illinois conferences of the Methodist church.

I found it very advantageous to have the conference office right across the street.

Also there are many advantages to being at Wesleyan and being a religion major. First of all, there's quite a few opportunities to have independent studies and to work on your own.

I'm working as a youth group leader at a church here in town, and I'm also do an independent study with the religion department on youth work.

The religion department here at school is very, very close and I really appreciate that. I know each of my professors well and can go in and talk to them at any time even if I'm not taking the course from them.

Very frequently I'm involved in off-campus activities with them or religious activities such as the chapel program, lectureships or Episcopoi, a group meeting where we discuss many of the religious issues of the day.

Wesleyan offers quite a variety, as I already mentioned, of religious activities, not all of which are sponsored by the school itself.

The Religious Life Committee which is a committee of the Student Senate of Illinois Wesleyan sponsors a chapel, a lectureship series, and quite a number of small group activities.

In addition to these there are quite a number of small group activities that are instigated by students themselves. One such group is a bible study that meets at Dodds Hall on Friday evenings which I attend which is about 30 to 40 students. Nearly every dorm has such a group and there are quite a few national organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators that are also involved on campus.

Religion touches the life of all students at Illinois Wesleyan since part of the curriculum is a required religion course.

There are about 30 pre-theological students at Wesleyan; that is, students who plan to go onto seminary. There are quite a few others involved in other areas and other majors but who will be going into church related vocations such as music, drama and nursing.