There are currently about 25 active and long-standing religious organizations on campus that are based in Building W11, the Religious Activities Center (http://studentlife.mit.edu/rl). Chaplains representing major faith communities devote all or a large part of their time to on-campus activities, counseling individual students, and advising student religious organizations. In addition, there are para-church groups served by chaplains and interns working on campus during the school year. These groups are all supported by outside funding.

The first chaplain to the Institute was appointed in 2007. This decision reflects the recognition that religious convictions appear increasingly important as personal identity markers. MIT considers that one of its responsibilities is to maintain an atmosphere of religious freedom for all and to provide all members of the MIT community opportunity for the exercise of spiritual interests. The chaplain to the Institute monitors that responsibility and offers support and counsel in times of loss and trauma.