



ATHENS  
COLLEGE *of* MINISTRY



## *As He is, so are we in this world. –1 John 4:17*

*We are in a world that needs God. We inhabit a world that suffers, hungers and withers on the vine. As followers of Christ it is our responsibility to pursue the well-being of others beyond our comfort, conventions and convenience. We must minister in love as Christ taught us, with the faith that God will inhabit and multiply our efforts.*

The Athens College of Ministry was founded in September 2009 by a small team of visionaries wanting to make a difference for God's Kingdom in Athens and beyond. The college exists to help equip willing believers make a greater impact on the world around them in Jesus' name. We are passionate about helping believers come to understand the fullness of their identity in Christ as well as the power and authority they have as believers to be Christ-like change agents in our community and our world.

Having successfully completed our launch phase, we join with believers across our area to celebrate God's blessings over the college with highly qualified faculty, eager students and even more opportunities ahead. Overwhelmingly our students tell us that their learning experiences at ACMin are "life-changing." Our students serve and apprentice throughout the community as an integral part of their equipping. Individuals have been transformed and redeemed through the Prayer Ministry Center, where participants consistently award ACMin the highest possible effectiveness rating.

We are blessed to pray, serve, teach and worship in unity through area-wide ACMin-hosted events like ServeAthens ICN and A.D.O.R.E. where dozens of churches gather across geographic, racial, and denominational lines to worship Jesus as Lord, and to love others because He first loved us. We owe our success to the Lord, to our faithful supporters and partner churches, and to our students, faculty, and passionate volunteers who have joined hearts to be difference-makers for Jesus through the college. We are deeply excited about the next phase of our journey – becoming a residential campus on a pastoral setting so that the Lord can bring us back to the simple basics of what it means to be in relationship with Him as our greatest heart's desire. It is a tremendous joy to share the powerful life transformation through Christ at ACMin with others. I hope that you will make this journey with us as a student, faculty member, supporter, or volunteer.

*Marcia Wilbur, Ph.D., ACMin President*



*As plants and soil nourish each other, we seek to grow others and ourselves through the revelation of, fellowship with and reliance on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe that this process is fully reciprocal. As our students seek to love, support and minister to others, they too are loved, supported and transformed by the power of God's love.*

### *This is the rock on which our college is set.*

It's not difficult to realize that humanity appears to be struggling against itself in the world around us. Greed and violence are determined to succeed. Much of the news media serves to build a culture of fear and hopelessness. Advertising insists that we put self on the throne and have all that we deserve. Divorce rates in the U.S. range from 41% for first marriages to 73% for third marriages. Over half of the children in the U.S. are affected by divorce; 1 in 4 children is sexually abused before the age of 18. Locally, 42% of children are born to unwed mothers. Drug and sex traffic are the two most lucrative black-market industries in the U.S. 26,000 children per day die across the globe due to poverty-related conditions.

Our church leaders are also in peril. 1,500 pastors per month in the U.S. leave ministry due to burnout and stress. Clergy divorce is rising rapidly and 65% of pastors admit they struggle with sexual sin. 85% of seminary graduates leave ministry within 5 years, disillusioned by the realities and demands of frontline ministry, 10 churches per day disband in the U.S.; protestant church attendance is in steady decline while 1.8 billion people worldwide do not know Christ.

More than ever it's time to change how we equip Christian leaders to successfully confront the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Students at the Athens College of Ministry—both degree-seeking students and our Lifelong Ministry Program participants—are getting equipped to minister to a broken and captive world and to share the hope of the Good News wherever they are called. Through our Word-rooted, Spirit-empowered, hands-on curriculum, ACMin students are transacting ministry while they learn. Both students and those they minister to are being transformed in Christ-centered ways!

### *Our Mission*

To equip men and women for Christian life and ministry with a Biblically-centered spiritual and personal foundation so that they might glorify God by passionately fulfilling the great commission of Jesus Christ through worldwide service.

### *Our Core Values*

- Biblical knowledge
- The power of prayer
- Worship in Spirit and the Truth
- Christ-like love and service
- Relevant, experiential learning
- Unity in the Body of Christ
- Ministry is the call of EVERY believer

### *Our Vision*

To be a trusted, area-wide ministry preparation college where, through relational, hands-on ministry training centers, we raise up the next generation of Word-rooted, Spirit-empowered Christian leaders who pray, serve, worship and teach God's truth, resulting in life transformation and greater unity in the body of Christ.



## *Behold, I am making all things new. –Revelation 21:5*

*Our dream is simple but powerful. In 2014, our college did some soul searching. We brought together supporters and key leaders to pray about what the college could and would become as it grows. It was at that point that seemingly unrelated situations began to coalesce.*

As part of our accreditation, our students must take courses in science. A renowned plant sciences expert has agreed to teach our students about growing food and faith. A local Christian counselor inspired the dream of using agriculture as a means to help restore and rehabilitate broken people. The college's leadership consulted on how best to differentiate the Athens College of Ministry from similar organizations. The result of our praying and seeking was an emphasis on community gardening and small scale farming throughout our programs as useful to local and international missions, to counseling and heart-healing ministry, and ultimately as a means to bring believers back to the basics of the Creator and His creation.

The idea is simple. We will use the world of growing things as metaphors, as we serve others and build the skills to teach, learn and practice our ministry. We will prepare souls for the Word and soil for the seeds. We will seek nourishment from the Son as our plants do from the sun. We will share the bounty at the table and teach others to do the same. Our students will graduate from ACMin with not only sound biblical and ministerial training but also a set of teaching and growing skills yielded from the soil.

Further, a pastoral setting will provide the optimal way to expand upon the success of the ACMin Prayer Ministry Center. Our plans include building a "House of Hope"

with a prayer garden where pastors, missionaries, couples and individuals in need of spiritual refreshing, rest, and inner peace can spend weekends or multiple days being restored to wholeness in Christ under the care of trained Prayer Ministers and Christian counselors.

We want to build a farm as a home for our ministry. A farm setting will allow us space for classrooms and a library, a retreat center with a prayer garden in a natural setting, student dormitories, and a large gathering barn for worship and Christian events. It will be the place where our words and deeds come alive in the growing landscape of God's blessings that make it possible.



## Our Programs

<i>Today's Impact</i>	<i>Tomorrow's Dream</i>
<p><b>Our Campus</b></p> <p>A commuter-campus housed in leased rooms of a church facility</p>	<p><b>Our Farm</b></p> <p>A space for classrooms &amp; library, retreat center &amp; prayer garden in a natural setting, student dormitories, large gathering barn for worship and Christian events—all situated on a farm</p>
<p><b>Our Students</b></p> <p>Ages 19 to 99, our students drive daily to ACMin.</p>	<p><b>Our Students</b></p> <p>Students will come from all walks of our community and beyond. Many will live on the ACMin farm.</p>
<p><b>Certificate &amp; Degree Programs</b></p> <p>As an interdenominational college, ACMin offers Certificates as well as undergraduate and graduate degrees in Christian Ministry, Generational Ministry, Field Ministry, Care Ministry, and Worship Arts. 67 students have enrolled in our Certificate and Degree Program courses taught by 23 fully credentialed faculty members. The key distinctive of our program is the transformation that occurs because our students engage in real-life ministry as they learn.</p> <p><b>Lifelong Ministry Program</b></p> <p>LMP workshops are open to the public on topics such as: prayer, prayer ministry, evangelism, discipleship, biblical studies and personal spiritual formation. Over 1,000 people from 12 different states have benefitted from the leadership growth and faith impact of ACMin's Lifelong Ministry workshops and seminars since ACMin opened in 2012.</p> <p><b>Building Unity Through Community Outreach</b></p> <p>ACMin's community outreach events have united Christians from dozens of different churches for prayer, service, worship, and teaching:</p> <p><i>A.D.O.R.E.</i> – An area-wide outdoor worship day</p> <p><i>ServeAthens ICN</i> – A day to serve others with our hearts, hands, and feet by working through area service organizations and a 5k run/walk</p> <p><i>New Year – New Heart</i> – A prayer conference designed to bring heart transformation and empower our personal identity in Christ through prayer</p> <p><i>Transformed!</i> – A multi-day Christian conference for equipping, worship, and prayer</p>	<p><b>Programs</b></p> <p>Existing programs will continue. Across programs students will learn to use God's creation to develop hands-on biblical lessons, to incorporate nature into God's plan for inner peace, and to grow food as well as disciples. Agriculture as missions in the U.S. and abroad will be a cornerstone of the Field Ministry Program.</p> <p><b>New Outreach Opportunities</b></p> <p>In addition to ACMin's 4 signature outreach events, locating our campus in a pastoral setting will allow us to host summer camps for kids run by ACMin student apprentices. Day camps will have special themes such as "Make a Joyful Noise" for youth wanting to use their budding musical skills for the Lord. "Growing for God" camps will teach kids about how to grow food and care for small animals with impactful, real-life illustrations of God's Kingdom on Earth.</p>



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Athens College of Ministry • P.O. Box 7953 Athens, Georgia 30604 • 706-769-1472 • [www.acmin.org](http://www.acmin.org)