

**READ THIS FIRST: Christian College of Georgia, Inc.**  
**Db/ "The Disciples College"**  
**Robert L. Harris, Ph. D., President**  
**[www.thedisciplescollege.org](http://www.thedisciplescollege.org)**

**The Vision:** "Teaching Disciples of Christ to Advance Congregational Vitality"

**The Mission:** "To Nurture, Educate and Prepare Disciples of Jesus Christ for Ministry and Service"

### The Disciples College!

Founded after discussions at the Regional Assembly at Mt. Vernon Christian Church (Monroe, GA), Christian College of Georgia was Chartered by the State of Georgia in 1947 to offer degrees and certificates in religion, theology and ministry. A partnership with the University of Georgia was negotiated, and students who completed up to four courses at Christian College were permitted to receive credit toward their degrees at the University.

Many considered this a first step toward the development of an accredited institution; but that status was not to become a reality, as the University, responding to pressure from other campus religious centers discontinued the partnership in favor of the creation of a University Chaplaincy, and ultimately an academic Department of Religion. Ironically, the man who was called to spearhead this project, Dr. Robert Ayers, held a Ph. D. from Vanderbilt, which is where the President who was called to lead Christian College, Dr. Roger Carstensen, had also earned his Ph. D. which culminated in his landmark publication of a book based on his thesis: "Job: In Defense of Honor."

The remnants of Christian College of Georgia have been reassembled to offer a remarkable ministry in North America today, serving with partners on SIX Continents. And TODAY, we stand on the threshold of a fresh opportunity, an opportunity for your College to serve you and your congregation as the educational resource which requires of us what God has called us to be and do. Join with more than 1,200 who have enrolled as students in the past two years

The term "remnants" may require a bit of explanation. Yes, there was a time when the College flourished on a seven-acre campus adjacent to the University of Georgia. There was a time when the College led academia in the implementation of service-learning for those preparing for ministry. There was a time when students at the College served as ministers in congregations from Valley, Alabama to Diamond Hill, Georgia (some forty congregations). There was a time when the College was a center for new initiatives in the State of Georgia in areas such as Adult Religious Education, Biblical Literacy, and Prevention of Clergy Misconduct. And there was a time when the College offered a two-year Master's degree in Christian Religious Education, graduating more than a dozen students.

The institution began to unravel the tapestry at about "age 47." In 1995, the local government acquired the property by exercising legal action of taking the property through eminent domain. When something like this happens, it shocks the system. Insult to injury, the college was compensated at a rate of approximately 25% of the agreed-upon amount. True, this sum along with the reduction in the expense of maintaining a campus did afford the College the privilege of helping the Region and other ministries in the Region with financial needs. But the assets, while being tapped for helping our partners in ministry, were eroded by the financial exigencies of 2008. Some of the programming had to be sidelined for a season; but the College was also leveraged into entering the digital age, and began to develop powerful and compelling educational programs for online access. Indeed, even though the campus-based system for ministry at the University was taken from us, we were emboldened to utilize UGA space and the space of other campus ministries for the Disciples on Campus program.

Christian College is putting its garment back together, re-weaving the fabric of our identity as a servant-leadership institution which offers significant learning experiences for students across the continent and personalized ministry to students within our geographical and online spheres.

- A young adult seeking to discern God's design for your life
- A couple wanting to know more how to serve together
- A person lacking employment who needs new direction
- A woman or man sensing God's call to serve in ministry
- A person approaching retirement desiring to know how to be the best possible steward of time and energy and creativity
- A disciple asking the question "Lord, what would you have me do. How, then, should I live my life as a disciple?"

Visit [www.careerdirect-ge.org](http://www.careerdirect-ge.org) for a brief orientation, then call 770-815-9078 for information.

Since 1947, people arriving at Christian College have discovered a community of Disciples of Jesus Christ who teach and learn in order to seek and serve. The reverse has also been true: Disciples who "seek and serve and, through life-transforming experience find that they are learning, discovering God's will and purpose in their own lives, and then moving from the College doorsteps into the world to teach and share with others."

Thanks to the continuing investment of the Steinmetz family (Larry and Bunny) we have now expanded the Campus Ministry program to include both Athens and Statesboro Centers. Dr. Diane Bales and The Reverend Lainie Jenkins serve as Lead Campus Ministers in these settings, respectively. We would gladly partner with congregations or individuals who may find joy in funding additional "Disciples on Campus" programs in other location.

Now that the campus is also virtually ANYWHERE through the "Worldwide Web" Christian College has been reconstructed in order to serve Disciples of Jesus Christ more effectively in the twenty-first century. We are devoted to teaching and learning together in order that we may be more effective in seeking God and serving others. The educational

opportunities here reflect a Disciples of Christ ethos. We offer a course of instruction entitled "The History and Polity of the Christian Church" which elaborates on the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize the Disciples of Christ in the US and Canada. The instructor in this Seminary-level course is Dr. Jerry Gladson; to date, Dr. Gladson has taught more than 110 students in at least a dozen Regions through the online platform. The same content is available to anyone without the course participation. See [www.transformingthechurch.org](http://www.transformingthechurch.org)

Professional Development for Ordained and Commissioned Ministers is a primary dimension of the virtual campus as well, with courses taught by nationally recognized leaders. Those who enroll in the courses, seminars, and events of the Christian College are connected with each other in a common ministry, and their experience of community with each other is enhanced by a common focus. We offer a curriculum of ten courses at present, and these can be enjoyed as personal enrichment, can lead to a certificate with CEU's, or can be completed as a part of one's portfolio for Standing, not only within Disciples of Christ but in other denominations as well.

Leader Development, centered in our "Personality ID" program, provides an opportunity for community development, communication enhancement, organizational refinement, and role clarification for Church Boards, Elders, Deacons, and Committee. We offer this on a modest fee-based service in order to cover the expense of psychometric evaluations for all participants.

Preparation for Ministry for those who are called to serve through the Ordained or Commissioned Ministry is accomplished through the development of specified skills and competencies for Ministry in the Christian Church. Christian College offers personalized guidance in the creation of the "Ministerial Preparation Portfolio" while contributing to the development of competencies through a curriculum which is intentionally aligned with the many resources available throughout the country, including those courses available through other Institutions or Judicatories of the Church.

AND FINALLY, with GREAT CELEBRATION, we have been able to reignite the Atlanta United Divinity Center, under the direction of one of Georgia's most scholarly and experienced academic minister: Dr. Darryl Trimiew. Darryl is hard at work connecting with our Disciples Seminarians in the Greater Atlanta area institutions. Any and all support for this ministry can make the difference in the preparation for ministry for our future Church Leaders.

***We are fully committed to obedience to the Great Commission to "Make Disciples of all nations..." and we hope that we can serve students, leaders, pastors, missionaries, and laypeople of all occupations -- those who are daily involved in the creative work which models that of our Creator -- in the ministry of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.*** The most important competency any of us can have is the one which Jesus expects us to employ as we are obedient to His Commission: to make disciples of all nations (people groups). Do you know how? Would you like to learn?

Contact Dr. Bob Harris, President, for more information. He will suggest some ways to learn more and to make contact with helpful people right where you live AND online. You can reach Bob at 770-815-9078 or email at [Harris0623@aol.com](mailto:Harris0623@aol.com) (personal phone number and email address...please use them!!). Visit us at [www.TheDisciplesCollege.org](http://www.TheDisciplesCollege.org)

## **WHO HELPS TO ENABLE THE DISCIPLES COLLEGE TO FULFILL OUR CALLING?**

*Anyone who prays for the College is affording us the encouragement and empowerment we need to be faithful stewards of God's calling, God's favor, and God's mission. Following are the names of those who have added to their prayers a financial commitment, a gift or pledge to help us put our hands to the plow and keep looking forward. Those marked with the # (hashtag) are Continuity Partners. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are in the Abundance Giving Fellowship.*

John and Margot Novikoff \*#  
Larry and Bunny Steinmetz \*#  
Mary Lillie Chamberlin #  
Gene Acuff #  
Frances E. Shumake #  
Kris and Karen Jensen #  
Jimmy Christopher #  
Jim and Kathie Howell  
Julie Mizell Alexander  
Milton Summerall  
Archie and Lainie Jenkins #  
Jim and Marilyn Torbert  
Tony and Donna DiBello  
The late Bill Gerrard #  
Ray and Gloria Dotson #  
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Herbert and Ferris Leslie  
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Jim and Kathie Howell  
Sam and Mary Elliot  
Helen Chilton #  
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Allen Hodges #  
Franklin Shumake #  
Loganville Christian Church #  
Guyton Christian Church  
First CC, Lawrenceville #  
New Hope Christian Church \*#  
Bogart Christian Church  
Peachtree Corners Christian Church  
First CC, Eastman #  
First CC, Warner Robins #  
First CC, Marietta  
Central CC, Columbus  
First CC, Watkinsville #  
First CC, Decatur #  
Hodges Family Foundation #

*We are profoundly grateful to the following church and individuals who have committed to a monthly or annual pledge to the College:*

- Larry and Bunny Steinmetz
- John and Margot Novikoff
- New Hope Christian Church
- Carlene Harris
- Woody Kent

