

January 19, 2007

TO: ALL Congregational Clergy and Religious Leaders
FROM: Clergy Steering Committee with Partners
for A Prosperous Athens
RE: Meeting of "Athens Ministerial Alliance"
WHEN: Monday, February 26, 2007
7:00pm-8:30pm (coffee and drinks served)
WHERE: Holiday Inn, Georgia West Ballroom

Rufus Addison
Deliverance Temple

Chet Boyd III
Downtown Community Fellowship Church

Glenn Doak
First Presbyterian Church

Andy Cooke
First Presbyterian Church

Brenda Burton
Grace Covenant

Benjamin Rivers
Hill First Baptist Church

Edward Bolen
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church

Abraham Mosley
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

James Washington
New Grove Baptist Church

Lisa Caine
Oconee Street United Methodist Church

Terre Balof
Unitarian Universalist

Kurt Genteman
Vine Life Ministries

We would like to invite you to the next meeting of the pastors and clergy in the Athens-Clarke County community. Several times last year, we joined together as an interfaith group to work with "Partners for a Prosperous Athens" to break the cycle of poverty in Athens.

The consensus of the clergy who gathered for our October 9 meeting was that they wanted to create an inter-faith, community-wide ministerial alliance! While several smaller groups exist across Athens, there is not a community-wide ministerial alliance. As one pastor eloquently noted: "*people are looking to us and modeling our behavior!*"

We propose:

- That our organization be called "***The Athens Ministerial Alliance***"
- That it be ecumenical in nature, open to all faiths, so that we can build a broad coalition of clergy and religious leaders
- That we meet the **fourth Monday of each month, from 7:00-8:30pm at the Holiday Inn of Athens**
- That our primary goal is to build a *beloved* community as we:
 - Share information on services and resources
 - Work together in areas of shared interest
 - Educate our congregations about poverty and advocate for the poor

It is going to take time, patience, and resolve to cobble together a community-wide ministerial alliance. It is our prayer that we can not only work together to end persistent poverty, but also provide a model of diverse groups working together toward a common purpose.

If we can come together across denominational, racial, economic, and social boundaries, then we believe that the pastors and clergy can be a powerful change-agent for our community. It is our prayer that you will join us at the Holiday Inn to add your voice and faith to "work together to end persistent poverty."

If you have more questions, please call James Washington at 706-548-4958 or Edward Bolen at 706-354-0090.

Sincerely,
Athens Ministerial Alliance Steering Committee