

ACCFS Overview



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AND FAMILY SERVICES

877-370-9988

www.accounseling.org



ACCFS Service Groups



Counseling Services	Church Outreach Services
All counseling	All services delivered to churches
Comes to ACCFS or done remotely via phone or videoconference	ACCFS goes to the church or church people come to ACCFS
Specific situation focus	Local Church focus
Generally reactive, Problem solving	Generally Proactive, Preventative
Provide specialized support as needed to Elders and Ministers	Provide training, consultation and support to Mentors, Lay Counselors, members

Counseling Services

Clinical / Discipleship Assessment and Counseling Service

Assessment

Testing
Treatment recommendations
Referral

In-Office
Counseling

Counseling
Case Management

Remote
Counseling

Counseling
Case Management

Support Group
Management

Papers

White papers

Supervision

Supervise Counseling staff

Consultation Service

With Elder, Minister,
Mental Health Forum,
or others

Advise Elders, Ministers
Provide quick, simple
advice

Situation Specific
Training & Support

Help groups that
surround specific
situations

Counselor Screening Service

Counselor
Screening

Interview non-AC
counselors in local
church areas
Maintain Referral Database

Mental Health/Relationship Projects

Elder Requested
Projects

Internal
Projects

ACCFS Mission Statement



- We will nurture, through counseling and teaching, the spiritual well-being of individuals through God's Word as it relates to their emotional, relational, and mental health needs (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2).
- Our goal is to alleviate suffering and to promote Christian maturity so that people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God and enter into a more effective life of service to others.
- The Bible is our authority (1 Thessalonians 2:13) as we apply the gifts that God gives to man (Romans 12:5-8; Isaiah 50:4).
- The services provided will support and strengthen the local elder's shepherding, the brotherhood of the Apostolic Christian Church, and those not affiliated with the church, as resources allow.

ACCFS Counseling Philosophy



- Our goal is to alleviate suffering and to promote Christian maturity so that people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God, and enter into a more effective life of service to others.
- We believe in the authority of God's word and recognize the importance of emphasizing grace while not minimizing sin.
- Our services will support local church leadership and local church membership.
- We believe in the diversity of gifts within the Body of Christ and will use spiritual and clinical counsel to offer healing and hope to hurting individuals.
- In order to promote godly, healthy living and to minimize needless suffering, our services will emphasize prevention, early intervention, education, and enrichment.
- We recognize that people are complex spiritual, biological, psychological, and social beings and will seek to promote their well being in these areas using the gifts of counseling and teaching.

Church Outreach Services

Local Church Role Development

Mentor Training

Advanced
Mentor Training

Lay Counselor
Training

Mental
Health Education
for Ministers

Mentored Programs

Way of Purity

Way of
Temperance

Local Church Programs

Biblical Financial
Stewardship
Bible Study

Marriage
Bible Study

Women's
Bible Study

Church Education

Marriage
Seminar

Women's
Seminar

Men's
Seminar

Stress &
Anxiety
Seminar

Striving
For Purity
Seminar

Others ...

Website (www.accounseling.org)

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

(877) 370-9988

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[Counseling](#) [Information by Topic](#) [Presentations](#) [Church Outreach Services](#)



The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
- Psalms 34:7

[Elders and Ministers: Log In Here for Expanded Site Content!](#)

VIEW
CART

Welcome!

Welcome to the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services website. We are glad you found us and hope that your visit to our website will be beneficial to you. We would like to encourage you to spend time browsing and looking around. We have a lot of helpful information available and encourage you to take advantage of whatever you can find here.

What is ACCFS?

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFS) is a ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Our staff is comprised of professional counselors who provide information, support, consultation, and/or professional counseling to address issues such as depression, anxiety, adjustment difficulties, marital problems, and child behavior problems.

- Our goal is to alleviate suffering and promote Christian maturity so that people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God, and enter into a more effective life of service to others.
- We believe in the authority of God's Word and recognize the importance of emphasizing grace while not minimizing sin.
- Our services will support local church leadership and local church membership.
- We believe in the diversity of gifts within the Body of Christ and will use spiritual and clinical counsel to offer healing and hope to hurting individuals.
- In order to promote Godly, healthy living and to minimize needless suffering, our services will emphasize prevention, early intervention, education, and enrichment.
- We recognize that people are complex spiritual, biological, psychological, and social beings and will seek to promote their well being in these areas using the gifts of counseling and teaching.

How can our website help?

1. If you want to learn more about ACCFS and the services we provide, visit the [About Us](#) area.
2. If you are looking to research a specific topic or disorder, need help finding a counselor, are looking for educational presentations or are simply educating yourself, we suggest that you browse around in our [Helpful Information](#) section. This area contains information about a broad range of mental health and relationship issues such as depression, anxiety, parenting, and marital conflict. Books and pamphlets may be ordered from this section. Information will be added to this section on an ongoing basis.
3. In our [Special Services](#) area you will find information and links to the [Mental Health Forum](#) (for people interested in going into or who are working in a mental health-related field), the Apostolic Christian [Way of Purity](#) program, and occasionally there will be a survey to participate in.
4. If you are an elder or minister of the Apostolic Christian Church, please [log in](#) to gain access to expanded site content, which includes many additional documents, materials and resources focused on helping you in your position of minister or elder.

Updated 1-9-08

Announcements

[See Full Announcements](#)

Departing Staff

Sis. Larisa Wettstein (Gridley) has moved to part-time employment. She [..more..](#)

New Staff

Sis. Lin Herman (Washington) joined the ACCFS office staff as the full-time [..more..](#)

Recent ACCFS Presentations

Florida Churches - October 10, 2009 Keys to Effective Family Relationships [..more..](#)

Website: www.accounseling.org



- Find information about mental health issues and relationship problems.
- Information on the Crown Financial Ministries materials.
- Access the information whenever you need it.
- Learn how to find help for yourself or others.
- Learn about ACCFS and the services we provide.
- Download and/or order materials.
- New information is being added regularly.

Counseling Services at ACCFS



- Clinical counseling is offered to address issues such as depression, anxiety, adjustment difficulties, marital problems, and childhood behavior problems.
- Counseling also provides biblical instruction, direction, and encouragement.
- Clients are primarily members and people who attend the Apostolic Christian Church.
- Counseling can be in-office or remote (telephone, video-conference).

Consultations with a Counselor



- ACCFS provides consultations with a counselor to people who are seeking information or help with mental health issues, spiritual issues, relationship problems, etc.
- Consultations are done via telephone and/or email.
- Callers include elders, ministers, family members, and friends of struggling individuals.

Counseling Referral Information



- ACCFS provides referrals for those seeking counseling in their local area.
- ACCFS maintains a database of clinical counselors located around each of our churches nationally.
- The ACCFS referral database includes counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, specialty clinics, and support groups.
- Our goal in providing this service is to help individuals find mental health professionals located near their home area who have strong clinical skills and good credentials, and will be respectful of their religious beliefs and faith backgrounds.

Church Education



- **Seminars:** ACCFS counselors can provide presentations to churches or smaller groups (ministers, young groups, etc.).
- Seminars provide a Christian perspective on mental health issues, relationship problems, and/or personal growth areas.
- **Print Materials:** ACCFS has print materials available covering a wide variety of health issues and relationship problems; these have been screened by staff and/or counseling elders.

Mental Health Forum



- The Mental Health Forum is an online resource that is used to connect members and friends of the church who are going to school or working in mental health-related fields.
- The clinical counselors at ACCFS provide mentoring to individuals interested in going into the mental health field as a career, and fellowship to those who are already working in a mental health-related field.
- Our goal is to offer guidance and encouragement to members and friends of the church, while promoting spiritual safety and accountability.
- The frequency of contacts we have with individuals ranges from one-time phone calls (or visits to the ACCFS office) to long-term mentoring relationships that continue for a number of years.

Mentor Training Program



- The ACCFS Mentor Training Program teaches participants the skills that make for effective mentoring.
 - Understand the purpose and role of mentoring, both as a biblical concept and as a resource tool for use within churches.
 - Learn what a mentor does and gain confidence in undertaking the role of mentoring.
- Mentors can be assigned by an elder to mentor an individual or a couple with a specific need. Examples:
 - Spiritual growth
 - Personal growth and enhancing relationships
 - Marriage, family, or parenting issues.
 - Dealing with singleness, loneliness, anger, etc.

Apostolic Christian Way of Purity



- ACWP is a 60-lesson biblically-based accountability program for individuals struggling with sexual temptation, pornography, etc.
- Each participant is assigned to a mentor who provides support, feedback, and guidance.
- The participant completes daily Bible study lessons which he e-mails or faxes to his mentor.
- Anyone wanting to enroll in the ACWP program needs to get the approval of their home elder.
- If you have questions about the program, call ACCFS or send an e-mail to acwp@accounseling.org.

Apostolic Christian Way of Temperance



- ACWT is a 59-lesson biblically-based accountability program for individuals struggling with substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, tobacco)
- Each participant is assigned to a mentor who provides support, feedback, and guidance.
- The participant completes daily Bible study lessons which he e-mails or faxes to his mentor.
- Anyone wanting to enroll in the ACWT program needs to get the approval of their home elder.
- If you have questions about the program, call ACCFS or send an e-mail to acwt@accounseling.org.

Financial Stewardship



- ACCFS provides biblically-based instruction on God's way of handling money and possessions.
- One option is a 10-week Bible study course using Crown Financial Ministries materials specifically modified for our church.
 - These Bible study materials are available through AC Publications (www.acpublications.org)
- Another option is financial counseling for individuals and families, to help them make wise choices in areas such as saving, spending, budgets, debt, and credit.

Funding



- ACCFS is a ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church of America.
- A sliding fee scale based on annual income is used.
- No one is refused services based on inability to pay.
- The remainder of funding is from individuals and churches who support the work of ACCFS.
- Our annual budget is approximately \$886,000. Donations from individuals and churches cover **75%** of this amount.

Staff Directory



- **Administrator:**
 - **Dennis Virkler:** dennis.virkler@accounseling.org
- **Administrator Mentor/Spiritual Director/Counselor:**
 - **Ron Messner:** ron@accounseling.org
- **Clinical Director/Counselor:**
 - **Ted Witzig, Jr.:** ted@accounseling.org
- **Counselors:**
 - **Curt Meiss:** curt.meiss@accounseling.org
 - **Brian Sutter:** brian.sutter@accounseling.org
 - **Lauretta Schafer:** lauretta.schafer@accounseling.org
 - **Craig Stickling:** craig@accounseling.org
 - **Sandy Leman:** sandy.leman@accounseling.org
- **Church Outreach Services Director:**
 - **Bill Schmidgall:** bill.schmidgall@accounseling.org
- **Office Manager:**
 - **Mickey Schumm:** mickey.schumm@accounseling.org
- **Administrative Assistants:**
 - **Larisa Wettstein:** larisa.wettstein@accounseling.org
 - **Lin Herman:** lin.herman@accounseling.org
- **Bookkeeper:**
 - **Cheryl Ricketts:** cheryl.ricketts@accounseling.org