

Dear Elders and Ministers,

As you are probably aware, the churches of Christ today are hurting from a shortage of ministers. Ministry training programs at our universities are struggling to keep up enrollment and many of our young people find it cost prohibitive to study for ministry.

In an effort to raise up more ministers for churches like yours and ours, Hunter Hills Church in Prattville, AL is establishing an internship and scholarship program to begin in the Fall of 2025. Students can earn an accredited degree in ministry from nearby Faulkner University or an online program from another school while receiving on-the-ground ministry training at Hunter Hills.

The Lead Minister at Hunter Hills, Will Collins, will be overseeing the internship program, ensuring a well-rounded ministry experience and facilitating weekly discussions about what students are learning in the classroom. Will has served as Lead Minister of Hunter Hills since 2022. He has 20 years of experience in ministry, including roles in youth ministry, worship ministry, foreign missions, and as an associate minister. Will holds an MDiv and ThM from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) and is a PhD candidate scheduled to graduate in December 2026.

Hunter Hills is a 25-minute drive from Faulkner. We are a loving church family that will embrace and encourage students to grow in their gifts and in their love for God. Students will have the opportunity to serve in Children's, Youth, and College-Aged Ministry as well as Special Needs Ministry and Worship Ministry if they desire. They will have the opportunity to serve in the Sunday morning gathering in a variety of ways as well as teach some adult classes. They will attend staff meetings and the occasional elders' meeting to gain experience in church administration. They will help serve in funerals and weddings as those opportunities become available.

It is our prayer that God will use Hunter Hills to contribute in this small way to preparing well-trained, loving, wise, humble, holy leaders for our churches. We would be honored if you would consider sending your young people to train with us. It is a stewardship we take very seriously. God Bless.

- Elders of Hunter Hills Church – Mac Adkins, Keith Cantrell, Carl Carpenter, Don Greer, Brandon Maddox, Vernon Taylor

www.hunterhills.org email: church@hunterhills.org phone: 334.285.2700



Hunter Hills Internship Details

- At this time, Hunter Hills is committing \$12,000 a year per intern. For the academic year 2025-2026, we are only able to offer one internship position, but we hope to expand the program in the coming years. This money can be used in a variety of ways based on the financial needs of the candidate (tuition, room and board, stipend, etc). We ask that the candidate's home congregation add additional financial support if needed.*
- Interns will be enrolled in a degree plan that will prepare them for ministry. This could be Biblical Studies, Youth Ministry, Missions, etc. Priority will be given to applicants enrolling at Faulkner, but consideration will be given to those enrolling online at another accredited college. In the latter scenario, Faulkner housing would not be available, and that would need to be worked out.
- Interns will attend Hunter Hills weekly for Sunday Bible class (9:30–10:20), Sunday worship gathering (10:30–11:45), and Wednesday night gatherings (6:30–7:30).
- Interns will meet weekly with the Lead Minister and Associate Minister for discussion.
 Topics will cover, among other things, what the intern is studying in classes, ministry philosophy, practical ministry concerns, and any pressing questions or struggles the intern is having. We will also leave a significant amount of time to pray for one another.
- Interns will be given certain responsibilities that will vary according to their goals and giftedness. Emphasis will be placed on teaching, small group facilitation, and one-on-one discipleship. For male interns, emphasis will also be placed on preaching in the Sunday worship gathering.
- The internship is a commitment that lasts from the beginning of the academic year 2025 to the end in 2026. If the intern is a good fit with Hunter Hills, we will renew the scholarship and intern position until graduation.
- The internship does not include the summer. If the intern is interested in serving at Hunter Hills as a summer intern, Hunter Hills will negotiate that separately from this internship.
- Interns must be enrolled as a full-time student and maintain a 2.5 GPA. (12 hours per semester is considered full-time for undergraduates)
- Interns must maintain a lifestyle that aligns with Christian virtues and so honors Christ.
- Interns must abide by all the safety policies of Hunter Hills Church of Christ and undergo a background check.

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^{*} If you would like to support this program financially, contact Will Collins at will@hunterhills.org.



Applying for the Hunter Hills Internship

- Application form can be found at <u>www.hunterhills.org/internship</u>
- We request three recommendations: one from your parent/guardian, one from a church elder, and one from your Lead Minister. If there is a reason you cannot obtain one or more of these recommendations, you will have an opportunity to explain this in the application form. Recommendation forms can also be found at www.hunterhills.org/internship.
- If you plan to enroll in Faulkner's College of Biblical Studies and have not already done so, contact Mike Horn, Director of Biblical Studies Recruitment, and tell him you are applying for the Hunter Hills Internship.
 - o Mike Horn <u>mhorn@faulkner.edu</u>
- Candidate will be selected by May 1, 2025. If you are receiving this after May 1, 2025, go ahead and apply anyway in the event that a qualified candidate has not yet been selected.

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