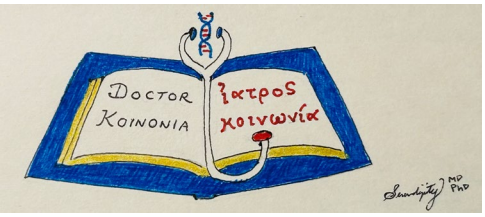

Doctor Koinonia *Est. 2025*

Rev. Mark D. Hults, Senior Pastor

Ministry proposed by: Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos, M.D., Ph.D.
Approved on July 15, 2025 by: Rev. Mark D. Hults, Senior Pastor
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Definitions:
κοινωνία (Greek) "koinonia" = (koy-nohn-ee'-ah) from root "κοινωνός (Strong's G2844)," **"fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation"**
(Source: https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g2842/kjv/tr/0-1/)

Mission Statement:
Our purpose is two-fold:

1) To grow and fulfill our role as physicians by practically following the Biblical model for medicine as ministry, through conversations with guest senior physician and pastoral role models.
2) To create a safe, confidential haven in which physicians can process the calling and humanity of their profession; to be able to strengthen each other, gaining an eternal, Biblically-based perspective of our professional experiences; to be a place of healing for physicians.

Rationale: First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville possesses an enduring, stable tradition of Scriptural faith, reverent worship, with a membership notably comprised of academic professionals, including numerous faculty physicians. Therefore, our church is uniquely positioned to become a place of healing and wholeness for young physician faculty. Such young professionals often emerge from training, abruptly thrust into leadership positions without having fully healed from the rigors of their doctoral training experiences, receiving minimal guidance emotionally and spiritually on how to navigate the challenges inherent to their newfound positions of authority. This church is a haven where young professionals can experience God's inner healing, moral support, and a sense of belonging, thereby empowering them to model their careers according to God's original intentions. The church is a venue for them to freely explore the depths of God's calling in a safe, "off the record" environment, where they can fully express their concerns and share with others, allowing healing and growth into the fullness of God's plan for their lives. *Koinonia* (meaningful Christian fellowship with other doctors, receiving wise counsel from senior physician and pastoral role models, and shared peer experiences) is the mechanism by which the healing and growth will occur, creating a far-reaching eternal impact in the new generation of academic physician leaders.

Mutual agreement of camaraderie and confidentiality: To preserve the psychological freedom and maximize the healing process of all participants, both protégé physicians and senior role models, in matters pertaining to personal anecdotes, **"What we share at Doctor Koinonia stays at Doctor Koinonia."** Participants are welcome to take notes on any key pearls of wisdom, but it is understood and appreciated that any names or details of experiences will not be shared outside our group setting. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and contributions.