

Terminus Collective

Who are we?

Our vision

In partnership with local churches inside and outside of I-285, Terminus Collective desires to see men and women who work in different channels of cultural influence (e.g., business, education, the arts, government, etc.) equipped with a Christ-centered world and life view for the glory of God, the good of their neighbors, and the common good of Atlanta.

Our mission

Our mission is to organize and equip leaders for the flourishing of Atlanta through the integration of faith, industry, and community.

Areas of focus: work (vocations in and around Atlanta) and cities (Atlanta-area communities, inside and outside of I-285).

What is the problem we are trying to solve, and what is a solution?

“In nothing has the Church so lost her hold on reality as in her failure to understand and respect the secular vocation. She has allowed work and religion to become separate departments, and is astonished to find that, as a result, the secular work of the world is turned to purely selfish and destructive ends, and that the greater part of the world’s intelligent workers have become irreligious, or at least, uninterested in religion.” – Dorothy Sayers, mid 1900s

It is often a challenging endeavor to flesh out the implications of the gospel in and through one’s vocation. It is even more challenging to connect one’s faith with one’s vocation, in hopes of impacting one’s neighborhood and city.

Currently, there is limited training for people trying to figure out how the biblical plot-line of creation-fall-redemption-restoration connects to their work, especially “mundane” work. This is beginning to change, not just in Atlanta, but in a number of other cities through creative endeavors such as the Center for Faith and Work (Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC), Surge School (Phoenix, AZ), and the Denver Institute for Faith and Work (Denver, CO).

In Atlanta, we want to partner with local churches in order to address this great need through a collaborative initiative called Terminus Collective.

How will we get there?

A network of churches, leaders, and volunteers that provide an on-ramp for tackling this need through:

- A monthly forum
- A leadership “school”
- Community Research

What does this look like?

- **Monthly forums.** These consist of a) a catered meal for attendees, b) a brief 18 – 20 minute keynote presentation on a specific channel of cultural influence —such as business, government, or education — given by a subject matter expert, identified through Terminus and our network of churches, and c) a panel of Atlanta-area practitioners who serve in the industry/discipline, facilitated by a Terminus Collective representative. The forums (called City Syllabus) are open to the public but primarily target people within the networks of our local church partnerships.

- **Non-formal education (the school).** The “school” will have semester-long tracks that provide the participant with a Christ-centered world and life view. The curriculum will be designed to equip people who serve in private, public, and social sectors. The “school” will expose the participant to theologies of vocation and place, combined with components necessary for a community to flourish (e.g., healthy economy, healthy public sector, the public square). “Classes” will take place monthly (sometimes 2x/week+) and will be interactive, consist of a curriculum, and leverage a repository of Atlanta-area leaders identified through our partnerships.
- **Community research and consultation.** Not only do we hope to provide excellent data on Atlanta-area communities, but we also want to eventually be a go-to service for helping to convene community stakeholders — again, through local churches — to help bless their communities.

What does success look like, 5 years from now?

A robust, growing **network of Christians** from different churches, scattered throughout Atlanta and surrounding communities, serving in different sectors (public, private, and social), glorifying God in and through their work, and blessing their communities in a variety of ways.

Private/public industries around Atlanta will have encountered workers who have been equipped with a Christ-centered world- and life-view through the work of Terminus Collective. Networks of people will have been equipped to integrate their faith and their work with their role as citizens in their respective communities: *to love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly before God*. At least three different communities will have been impacted by such networks, inside and outside I-285.

Churches will have the research tools they need to better understand the impact of cultural and economic diversity. They will also have a trusted, neutral convening agent in Terminus Collective to help solve community issues.

What are our present goals for the new ministry year?

- **Monthly forums.** Beginning in the new ministry year (fall 2016 - summer 2017), we hope to see 600+/- Atlanta-area stakeholders exposed to a Christian world and life view for select channels of cultural influence (business, the arts, government, education, etc.) and also exposed to various Atlanta-specific strengths and challenges within each of those channels.
- **Leadership school.** By spring of 2017, we want to see 75 leaders trained and equipped to live out their faith in and through their vocations, in their industries, and in their communities.
- **Community Research and Consulting.** We want to be a go-to service for churches to use when a backbone organization is needed to help creatively solve community problems. We plan to come alongside Unite! churches and other church-related networks as a trusted catalyst for collective impact.

What are some initial results from our beginnings (fall 2015 – summer 2016)

- Through Terminus Collective’s monthly forum (City Syllabus), an estimated 200+ attendees were exposed to a redemptive grid through which to view their work and city.
- By partnering with Campus Outreach and providing training for CO’s summer leadership project in June and July, Terminus exposed more than 60 Campus Outreach college students to a conversation centered on the gospel, work, and the intersection of faith and work in different industries, in and around Atlanta.
- Terminus Collective worked with a strategic planning team made up of people from at least 10 different churches, inside and outside I-285.

