

Asian Academy for Campus Ministry (AACM 2026)

“Mental Health, Spiritual Development, and Ministry as a Calling”

Organized by: United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia

Host Institution: Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Dates: May 3-10, 2026

Rationale

Universities face growing challenges in supporting student mental health. The Asian Academy for Campus Ministry (AACM), under the theme “Building a Culture of Care,” equips campus ministers with theological and practical tools. Its 2026 program, “Mental Health, Spiritual Development, and Ministry as Calling,” hosted by Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, emphasizes experiential learning, collaboration, and innovative practices.

Objectives

- Enhance Understanding of Spirituality and Mental Health
- Empower Ministry as Calling
- Foster Collaboration and Networking
- Promote Personal and Community Growth
- Drive Institutional Change



Outcomes

- Enhanced Capacity for Mental Health Support
- Strengthened Spiritual Development
- Strengthened Peer Networks
- Inclusive and Multifaith Competence
- Peer Networks and Collaboration
- Action-Oriented Institutional Plans



AACM 2026–Thailand empowers campus ministers to drive transformation, meeting student and institutional needs. Through learning, reflection, and action, it aims to spark ripple effects across Asia, fostering a borderless culture of care.

Expected Participants

Chaplains, spiritual directors, and university faculty or staff involved in campus ministry, spiritual formation, or counseling. Institutions may nominate multiple representatives, but final selection will ensure balanced representation.
Target group size: 30 participants



Application

The online application is open now. [Click here](#) to apply. Submit your application by January 31, 2026. The selection result will be announced in February 2026.

For the selected participants, the United Board will cover local costs related to the training program and venue, including meals and snacks for the duration of the training, as well as the cost of accommodation for seven nights (May 3–10, 2026)

Participants or the sending institutions are expected to shoulder the round-trip flight ticket to Thailand, and all related travel costs, such as insurance and visa fees.

For any inquiries regarding the application, please contact Praveena Elizabeth, Program Assistant, at pelizabeth@unitedboard.org.

About Payap University

Payap University, the first private university in Thailand, was established by the Foundation of the Church of Christ in Thailand to realize a long-standing vision for Christian higher education. Guided by its motto, "Truth and Service," the university strives for academic and moral excellence, fostering understanding through truth and a spirit of service. Its educational philosophy emphasizes self-development, creative thinking, social responsibility, and collaborative learning, preparing students to grow in wisdom and contribute meaningfully to society.

<https://wp.payap.ac.th/>

About the United Board

The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia is a dynamic organization dedicated to strengthening higher education across Asia through collaboration, innovation, and leadership development. Its mission is to work alongside colleges and universities to enhance leadership, nurture creativity, and support learning that forms the whole person—mind, body, heart, and spirit.

The United Board envisions a thriving network of Christian higher education institutions in Asia, united by collaboration and innovation, and inspired by the principles of Whole Person Education.

United Board values:

- **Faith:** Belief in the transformative power of education grounded in spiritual traditions.
- **Purpose:** Commitment to shaping lives of meaning, justice, and integrity.
- **Collaboration:** Building trusted relationships for lasting change.
- **Adaptability & Innovation:** Embracing creativity and renewal in response to global challenges.
- **Stewardship:** Caring responsibly for resources, relationships, and the environment.
- **Serving Those in Need:** Prioritizing support for marginalized and under-resourced communities.

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