

## Alumni Spotlight: Andy League (MDiv '06)



**Current Title:** Pastor, Lowry Community Covenant Church, Lowry, MN

**Family:** Wife: Shannon; Children: Josiah, Esther, Micah, Anna, & Baby #5 (Due Feb. 2022)

**Favorite Professors:** Dr. Sean McDonough and Dr. Paul Lim

**Favorite Class:** Theodicy and the Problem of Evil with Dr. Lim

**Favorite Memory:** Most of my favorite memories of Gordon-Conwell are the friendships made and deepened over the years of living together, taking classes, studying in the library, taking breaks from studying for foosball in the Great Room, discussing faith, life and theology over extended meals in the dining hall. These are the

friends from Gordon-Conwell who are now scattered all over the US and the world, yet we are serving the Lord together. Also, playing soccer in the field by Retreat House.

### What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and where are you serving now?

After Gordon-Conwell, I moved to Chicago with a few friends from seminary and worked for seven years as a legal assistant at a small law firm while serving in lay ministry at my church. While in Chicago, I met my wife and got married in 2011. In 2013, we transitioned to ministry in Minnesota. I served as the Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families at Salem Covenant Church in Pennock, MN for four and a half years. In the summer of 2018, I was called to be the Pastor of a small rural church in Lowry, Minnesota. Along the way, we have had four children, with the fifth due in February.



### What do you love about your work? What are the particular joys and challenges of serving a rural church?

Many days it is hard to believe that I get to make my living as a Pastor. I spend my days delving into the Scriptures and reading commentaries and theology in my study at the church. I lift up the members of the church and community to the Lord in prayer. And

each week, I make pastoral visits to spend time getting to know and pray for the flock God has given me to shepherd. It is a joy and a blessing to hear their stories, to share burdens and sorrows, and to pray for God's continued work while visiting at the kitchen table, in a local restaurant, or in the cab of a truck or tractor. It is slow work, but God works in slow ways. And it is such a wonder to see the Holy Spirit growing His Church through the ministry of Scripture, prayer, and presence. The Lord has blessed me in bringing me to a church that values my gifts and talents and gives me space to minister out of my calling.

### **How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?**

In some ways, my connection to Gordon-Conwell has directed a lot of my life. I moved to Chicago after seminary with Gordon-Conwell friends. Another friend from seminary sent me the job posting for my first pastoral position. Two couples of Gordon-Conwell friends are ministering in close proximity (rurally speaking) in Minnesota, and we get together for fellowship as our schedules allow. Our group of seminary friends have gathered for weddings and reunions. The relationships from Gordon-Conwell have been deep and life-long. And these friendships have further highlighted the importance of relationships in Christian faith and discipleship. That emphasis has served me well as a pastor, especially in coming to a rural context.

### **How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your past and current work?**

Gordon-Conwell helped to give me a deep love for the study and understanding of Scripture. I acquired the tools and skills to dig deeply into a text, to ask the hard questions, and to wrestle with the implications. I experienced what it means to discuss theology in a context where not everyone agreed on everything. And I learned, both formally and informally, that ministry is ultimately about people. As a pastor, I must love God's Word. And, in the same way, I must also love His people.

### **What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are just entering pastoral ministry?**

Spend intentional time in pastoral visits with God's people in their homes and places of work as a way to hear their stories and also to share Scripture and prayer. This act communicates so much about your care and interest in what God is doing in their lives. At the same time, it quietly teaches them what pastoring is: not the running of a church business, but the spiritual shepherding of souls through prayer, Scripture, and spiritual direction (to use Eugene Peterson's terms).

Also, take the opportunity to speak (or sing) a Benediction over God's people every chance you get.