



# Annual Stewardship Report

GORDON  CONWELL  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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Your financial support, prayers, and encouragement enabled Gordon-Conwell's mission in 2023-24. In this report, you will learn about advancements in each of the pillars of our strategic plan. You will also read some expressions of gratitude from our community. May you be encouraged by the impact you helped make possible this past year.

This academic year, we conferred 246 master's degrees and 27 doctorates. The men and women who graduated this year now join with thousands of Gordon-Conwell graduates serving God in the church, the workplace, and around the globe. We are grateful that the God whom we serve and Gordon-Conwell's mission remain constant, however we adapt—with new programs and new innovations—to better equip Christian leaders for their callings. From the classes to cohorts, faculty publications to pastoral symposia, we are deeply grateful and encouraged by the good work of so many—faculty, staff, and students—done well for the glory of God and the thriving of his Kingdom.

## MAGNIFY HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

From research and publishing to teaching and conferences that serve the wider Church, the seminary's faculty were hard at work.

- Faculty publications engaged and challenged the academy, church, and culture more broadly:
  - Dr. Mateus de Campos' contribution of 2 Peter and Jude for *The New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary*;
  - Dr. Eckhard Schnabel's historically contextualized study, *New Testament Theology*;
  - Dr. Wes Vander Lugt's theological reflection on *Beauty is Oxygen: Finding a Faith That Breathes*.
- Two new programs were approved to further the mission of the Church for the world:
  - **Doctor of Ministry** track in the **Arts, Ministry, and Mission** emphasizes the way the arts in all their forms are embedded within the story of God and integral to Christian ministry and mission.
  - **Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM)** with a **Concentration in Church Planting** prepares leaders to answer the call to plant churches.
- The Jacksonville hub held its first annual *Telos Bible and Theology Conference*, taking its theme from Revelation 7, "Many Nations, One Lamb, No Tears." With addresses from faculty like Dr. Alvin Padilla, Dr. Seong Park, and Dr. Justin Young, the conference provided pastors, leaders, and laity with robust scholarship in the areas of biblical studies and theology.



## *Expressions of Gratitude*

FROM THE GORDON-CONWELL COMMUNITY

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### **Sam DeVore (MDiv '24)**

Thanks to the classes that I took and the community that I experienced at Gordon-Conwell, I am far more integrated than I ever could have anticipated when I began my studies. Theology is no longer some abstract subject but something that now informs how I consider and interact with both the Church and culture at large. Gordon-Conwell helped foster in me a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Global Church and the work God is doing outside of my immediate sphere. This awareness provides me with a community of faithful followers of Jesus across time and space from whom I can learn and by whose witness my ministry in America is strengthened. Above all, Gordon-Conwell equipped me to better understand, teach, love, and embody the timeless truth of God's revealed Word. I now have a robust vision of the Kingdom that is here in part and a vision for how to engage our world as we wait for the fullness of that Kingdom to come. Lastly, I can honestly say that none of my formation and preparation for ministry would have been possible without the generous contribution of Gordon-Conwell's financial supporters. **Thank you for investing in the next generation of ministry leaders.** Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



## DiOnetta Jones Crayton (MACM '24)

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary has blessed my life tremendously. What makes Gordon-Conwell so very special is its amazingly compassionate, caring, gifted, and brilliant teaching and administrative staff. I have had the pleasure of taking classes at CUME (in Boston) and at Hamilton, and I can honestly say that every lecture, every paper, and every reading assignment has

enriched my soul. The teaching and instruction not only challenged my worldviews, but also helped me to truly think theologically about the issues of this world; to engage globally in the lives of the peoples of this world; and to live biblically as a wife, an administrator/dean, minister, preacher, teacher, and student (well, in all areas of my life). And most especially, it has helped me to be open and receptive to the calling of God in my life. After completing the MA in Christian Ministry, I will enroll in the DMin program in Pastoral Theology in Practice this September. I am looking forward to using my Gordon-Conwell degrees in both the urban ministry context as well as globally, through a faith-based non-profit or through a position at a seminary.

**The generosity of donors can make the difference between being able to take a class or not, to complete a degree or not.** For what you have done for me personally, I cannot say thank you enough! God bless you because you are truly making a real difference in the world. What you do here has a ripple effect. Your gift literally sets off a series of events that touch countless lives...it sends *ripples that reach the farthest shores.*



## Beshoy Estafanous (MACO '24)

### *Partnership Program*

Saint Irenaeus said that “the glory of God is man fully alive” and that’s something I have seen and experienced in my relationships at Gordon-Conwell. In faculty, staff, and my fellow students, I’ve witnessed what it means to do all we do as an act of worship. I came to Gordon-Conwell to learn how to provide clinical counseling services from a biblically-rooted theological foundation. During my program, I studied with students who had been on the mission field and learned alongside people seeking to extend God’s Kingdom. Now, in addition to serving my counseling clients, I work with my Coptic church and serve on the board of a ministry that serves widows and their children in Egypt.



**Thanks to the generosity of the Partnership Program donors, I was able to focus on my studies and be less burdened by financial obligations.** I simply wouldn’t have made it without the support of believers who serve God by supporting students to study and be equipped to fulfill their calling.

## Heidi Olsen (MATS Student)

### *Partnership Program*

After serving as a missionary in Asia for 15 years, the Lord directed me to Gordon-Conwell to study his Scriptures and to be taught, challenged, led, and encouraged by the Body of Christ on the Hamilton campus. Moving from Asia to New England felt like a huge leap of faith, a leap off a cliff! But I knew the Lord was with me and I was excited to see how far he and I would fly. Though my courses have been demanding in this first year of my MATS program, they have also been deeply spiritual and life-giving as I meditate on Scripture through the study of Hebrew, learn to interpret the biblical texts, and immerse myself in the full counsel of the Word of God. Thanks to Gordon-Conwell’s vision to impact the nations for Christ, I have had opportunities to connect with and serve the global church that I have never had before. Already, within my first year at Gordon-Conwell, God has affirmed and expanded his calling on my life to serve and proclaim Christ among the nations.



**The Partnership Program has removed the financial barriers and made it possible for me, a missionary, to take this leap of faith and follow God’s call.** This program is God’s great provision and my testimony that when we follow Christ, He always makes a way. **I am incredibly grateful for the Body of Christ supporting the Partnership Program for the sake of building up the global church and proclaiming the gospel to the whole world.** Together, and with Christ’s leading, we will continue to fly for his glory!



## Chau Chyi Tai (MATS '24)

I never thought I needed a seminary education to enter the ministry. 30 years ago, after 10 years of training by the Navigators, my wife and I went to China and began a fruitful but exhausting ministry of discipling men and women for inter-generational multiplication work. It took three decades to completely deplete our ministry tank. In 2019, when we began contemplating a global ministry reaching beyond China, we knew that Gordon-Conwell was the gas station prepared by God to recharge our empty tank for launching the next 'long haul' of obedience. Gordon-Conwell has prepared me for global ministry. The depth of biblical exegetical-hermeneutical training that I have received grounds my theological thinking and provides clarity to my missiological theology for the work of re-translating the gospel message for the next generation with confidence and precision. **This time of being restored and fueled up for continuing ministry has been a blessing, and I am grateful for the community at Gordon-Conwell.** To the donors whose gifts provided scholarships that made this opportunity possible, thank you.



## Daniel Vogelzang (Trustee)

Life can be incredibly hard and often feel hopeless, even for those of us who have Jesus as our savior and have been blessed with so much abundance! This is the gap that God has called men and women to minister to—the hard and difficult spaces in the workplace, the counseling session, the pulpit, and the missions field. **As a Trustee, I am deeply thankful for the donors who enable Gordon-Conwell's students to answer God's call.** Your gifts open the doors for these men and women to be prepared with solid theological training, deep formation through spiritual disciplines, and compassionate and courageous biblical truths. Students are shaped with Christ's heart for mission, ready to go wherever they are called.



## DEEPEN SPIRITUAL & CHARACTER FORMATION

The seminary continued its commitment to nurturing the life of the Spirit for both in-person and online communities.

- From Morning Prayer to Evensong, *Life Together Wednesdays* brought together the **Hamilton** campus for a regular time of practicing rhythms of prayer, worship, and fellowship as a community.
- **Campus for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME)** students benefited from the spiritual formation sessions held on a variety of topics to nurture their spiritual lives, enhance their personal development, and challenge them to grow in their faith. CUME staff and faculty gathered for daily prayer during the work week (Noon Hymn) to foster a supportive and spiritually enriching environment.
- Students in and around the **Jacksonville** hub gathered on Friday afternoons for prayer to close the week before busy ministry weekends.
- Networked students joined from across the world for the **Charlotte**-based Wednesday Prayer community, and student-led Digital Soul Care groups offered the opportunity for the networked community to reflect upon Scripture together and share how God is at work in their lives.

## EXTEND GLOBAL MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The seminary extended the challenge of its mission to prepare Christian leaders in various ministry and global settings.

- **The Leighton Ford Initiative** brought together artists, scholars, pastors, worship leaders, and musicians for a variety of events. Highlights included the symposium *Humanity Redeemed: The Theological vision of George Rouault*, and the opening of the Manessier exhibit followed by a robust exploration of “Why Should Christians Care About Abstract Art?”
- **The Latino & Global Ministries** program continued to grow both domestically and internationally, serving and partnering with those who are engaged in Portuguese-speaking and Spanish-speaking ministries across the US, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Brazil.
- The equipping of cohorts around the globe—in **Korea** and **Ghana**—sustained individuals in ministry and helped prepare scholars who will go on to multiply rigorous, theological education in their national contexts. Almost 60% of **Gordon-Conwell Institute—Korea’s** Ministry Competency Program certificate students are entering the Gordon-Conwell DMin program. Of the 44 men and women who graduated from the Gordon-Conwell DMin program in **Ghana**, many are preparing to further their studies at the master’s level, and several are preparing to pursue doctoral degrees.
- **CUME** hosted an Urban Youth Ministry Summit, gathering youth leaders and pastors to address the unique challenges and opportunities in urban youth ministry. CUME’s “Growing Young” Workshops for pastors in urban communities focused on innovative approaches to engage and retain young people in the church.

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Read more online at [www.gcts.edu/annual-report](http://www.gcts.edu/annual-report). We could not have accomplished all that we did this year without your faithful prayers and generous gifts. We give thanks to God for your life and partnership.

## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

By the grace of God and the prayer of many saints, Gordon-Conwell entered into an agreement for the sale of its underutilized apartments, preparing the seminary for a new era of renewal and sustainable, fiscal responsibility.

Additionally, the first ever alumni campaign—Pave the Way: Alumni Equipping Students for Future Impact—was a huge success. Nearly 600 alumni from across four continents gave, and their generosity raised over \$250,000 for student scholarships.

All in all, the seminary had its **best year ever in annual unrestricted giving to the scholarship fund**: \$4.2 million, thanks to faithful donors like you. Just as encouraging as the dollar amount is the fact that the number of total donors rose by over 38% from 2023. We are both encouraged and deeply grateful. Thank you!

### FISCAL YEAR AT A GLANCE



**\$7,269,483**

Distributed in  
Scholarships



**2,488**

Faithful  
Donors



**28%**

Increase in  
Enrollment



**NEARLY 44%**

Increase in  
Alumni/æ Donors



**177**

Full-Tuition Partnership  
Program Students



**31%**

Increase in Partnership  
Program Donors

Donors of restricted funds who would like an accounting of their restricted gifts to the seminary may contact Dr. Liesl Smith, assistant director of seminary grants at [lsmith4@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:lsmith4@gordonconwell.edu) or 978-646-4167 to request a report. We will be happy to provide that to you. We are deeply grateful for your partnership with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary as we equip men and women to serve, lead, and build up the Kingdom of God. You are a blessing to us. Thank you!