A blurred background image showing people in a church setting, with a focus on a person in a blue shirt on the left and a person in a white shirt on the right. The overall scene is out of focus, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

— For *the* Glory of God —

Pierce Fellows gather for a spiritual formation session at the Hamilton campus.

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*Theological education at its best
is not just passing on information,
but is a formation of the mind,
heart and actions.*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary has long been known as a place of academic rigor. When Harold John Ockenga, Billy Graham and J. Howard Pew brought together two schools to form a new seminary in 1969, they emphasized the need for an institution that would love God with the mind. This meant in-depth knowledge of God's Word, utilizing the original languages, enabling students to think theologically with depth, and grappling honestly with pressing intellectual and cultural/social questions of the day. That academic rigor has remained over the years, and the questions and issues have not gotten any easier.

But in recent years we have come to see that along with academic excellence, we must also engender spiritual development in the lives of our students. Good education requires a depth of learning, but theological education for ministry also entails a formation of personal discipleship. Theological education at its best is not just passing on information, but is a formation of the mind, heart and actions. We have come to address this in various ways in recent years and are looking for ways to enhance this formation process in the future.

All students in a ministry degree are required to take a course or seminars on spiritual formation. In these courses students are not only exposed to the importance of spiritual vitality for ministry and models from history, but are also required to do self-examination of what is happening in their personal lives. This entails self-reflection about their character, calling and personal relationship with Christ. The whole concept of personal accountability in all areas of their life is emphasized and such processes begin while they are in seminary.

The Pierce Center for Disciple-Building invites students "to prioritize life-long intimacy with Jesus Christ while developing as incarnational disciple-builders." The center provides spiritual mentoring while equipping students to mentor others in transformational spiritual development. The Pierce Center operates on three of our four campuses.

Several years ago, we received a generous gift that enabled us to bring to Gordon-Conwell an experienced pastor, Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier (MATS '82), as Director of Formation and Leadership Development to further our formation reach with more students. This year Dr. Pfizenmaier assumed the role of Dean of the Hamilton Campus and is now guiding the faculty to further implement spiritual, character and leadership development across the curriculum. When formation can be one of the intended outcomes of courses in Bible, theology or practical theology, it has the potential to transform theological education.

At our Boston campus, required spiritual formation events have been integrated into opening convocation and orientation sessions at the beginning of each semester. And each noon, the Boston campus pauses for an intentional time of prayer. Chapel services are delivered in various formats on our campuses, depending on the structure and schedule appropriate for that campus. At Hamilton this year, prayer has been the overarching theme in an attempt to bring the community into closer intimacy with God.

At Gordon-Conwell we have the unique opportunity of bringing together academic rigor with spiritual formation. Schools tend to emphasize one or the other, but we believe it's possible to simultaneously pursue both. The end result is a transformed life in both character and actions. If the Church of Jesus Christ is to impact our world, the embodiment of the Gospel must accompany the proclamation of the Gospel. But this is possible only through a process of formation in which our students are brought into conformity with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To minister effectively in our complex, confused world today, our students must be grounded in God's unerring Word and know how to preach and teach it. They need to know how to think theologically in the face of pressing intellectual issues from our culture. They need to have wisdom for guiding people facing hard ethical issues in society and various professions. Students need to learn from church history to deepen their personal journey and gain understandings for the contemporary church. They need to develop ministry skills in counseling, leadership, preaching, worship and evangelism. But learning all of this must do more than merely touch their minds. Moreover, it must encompass more than the mere passing of knowledge.

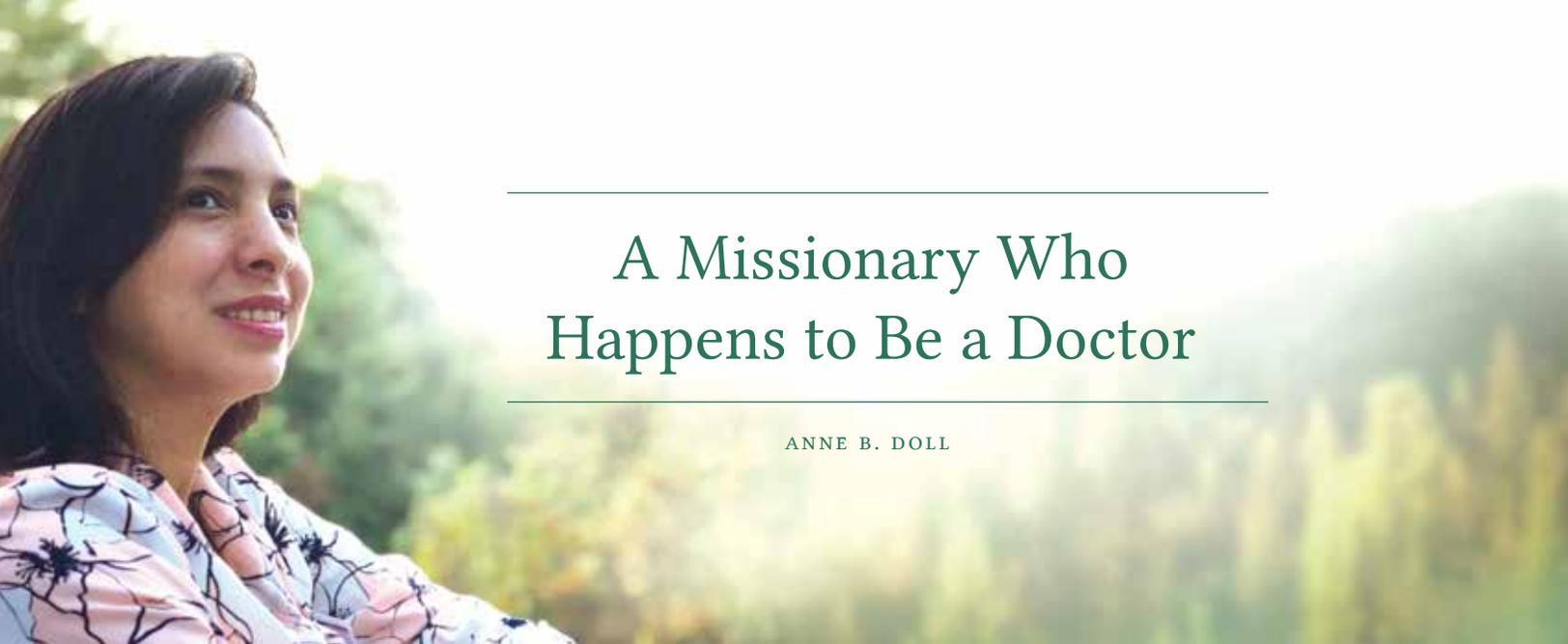
Theological education in the 21st century must seek a process of formation in students that brings them closer to Christ in spiritual intimacy and in Christ-like character. It must seek to form our students into wise and deeply spiritual leaders who can navigate the rugged terrain of today's world. At Gordon-Conwell we are seeking to make this a reality for God's glory and for the building of Christ's Church. 



Dennis P. Hollinger, Ph.D.

President &

Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Christian Ethics



A Missionary Who Happens to Be a Doctor

ANNE B. DOLL

Dr. Claudia Nahmias Melo Carvalho da Silva remembers December 5, 2016 as the worst day of her life. That was the date—just four months after this Brazilian obstetrician and gynecologist had enrolled at Gordon-Conwell’s Charlotte campus—that her two-year-old daughter, Esther, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancerous disease of the blood and bone marrow.

Claudia had moved to Charlotte with her husband, Eduardo, an anesthesiologist, and their three children in a hoped-for next step toward medical missions. Suddenly, Claudia’s world as a student also encompassed caring for Esther through numerous hospitalizations.

Esther was initially treated with chemotherapy to kill the leukemia cells in her blood and bone marrow. Normally, bone marrow produces white blood cells, which are powerful infection fighters. But in leukemia, the bone marrow starts generating abnormal white blood cells.

Following the initial round of chemotherapy, Esther’s doctors performed a test to determine whether cancer cells were still present in her body. When results revealed that some remained, Esther was placed on a very high risk protocol (treatment regimen).

“We kept praying, kept believing, that God would heal her if it was his will,” Claudia recalls. “There are many things Esther has gone through, but she is doing very well now. My trust is in God.” Esther’s treatment is scheduled to end in March 2019, but she will still need to be evaluated long-term by her doctors. “I can tell you that I really know what it means to be in the fire, in the lion’s den. But I can also tell you that God has made large miracles in our lives.”



L. to r.: Claudia, Esther, David and Daniel da Silva.

Claudia’s trial by fire was not the first in her lifetime. Born in Brazil to a Baptist mother and Catholic father, she and her siblings were reared with Christian values, prayed for daily by their devout mother and went to church every Sunday. “But I didn’t have a personal relationship with Jesus,” she notes. “I was just going to the church.”

This all changed when Claudia was 22 years old. That year, her praying mother suffered a stroke and died at the age of 49. "During the time she was hospitalized, God made a lot of miracles in our life," Claudia remembers. "We surrendered our lives to Jesus, and Jesus was the anchor of my life and my siblings' lives. We were overwhelmed by the pain, but also the incredible consolation of the Holy Spirit."

"I really believe that God used my mother as a seed," she says. "Then a very good harvest came. All my family was surrendered to Jesus, and my oldest brother, who was resistant to the faith and to Jesus, is now a pastor. God worked in our lives, and after a while, many other people became believers, too."

Claudia was educated in Rio de Janeiro, and met Eduardo when she was in college. At the time, she says, "he did not

take wings, as she developed relationships with women from many countries. "It was amazing," she says. So amazing that when Eduardo said God had told him to move his family to North Carolina, her first response was, "How am I going to share about Jesus? There are many believers there. They don't need me."

The counsel of her pastor eventually disabused her of that concern. "Claudia," he said. "God is not going to send you unless you are prepared...It's not just about theological education. It's also about the heart. God cares more about the people than you care." "And since I came to Gordon-Conwell," Claudia admits, "God has done many surgeries on my heart."

At the seminary, she discovered to her delight that "theological education was very, very alive..." Moreover, she discovered a fellowship of believers. "I thought I was the missionary one, but

At the seminary, all the people were praying with us. And hugging us. It was overwhelming. I am not ashamed to tell you right now that I had faith, the strength like never before.

want to surrender his life to Jesus, but one year later he did." After completing their medical degrees, the couple married and established practices in Rio. During that time, they became active in their church, serving as youth pastors.

Claudia was pregnant with Esther when she experienced her own health crisis, developing pneumonia and sepsis so severe that she nearly died. She remembers the words of life that her dear father said to her at that time: "My daughter, God will breathe his life inside you and you will praise the Lord."

While in the hospital, she says, "I was praying and asking God, 'What do you want from me? I will just obey...' And then God put it in our hearts to come to U.S. so I could get my medical certification validated here. Then it would be easier to go to all the countries as medical missionaries."

Claudia's passion for the lost had actually been brewing for decades. "Even when I was a kid," she remembers, "even though I didn't have a strong relationship with Jesus, I heard about missions, about other nations that had never heard about Jesus. That always was touching my heart. And since I became a believer, I can tell you for sure that I had a fire in my heart to tell other people about Jesus. I thought, 'How can I stay here when there's an eternity waiting for people? How can I not tell them the good news of what God did for us, for everyone?'"

"Then I heard about people in the Muslim world who had never heard about Jesus, and I was crying and thinking, 'How can I do it? I'm just one.' And God told me that if I chose some people from other counties to share about Jesus...they could go back to their countries and tell about Jesus."

When Claudia and her family first arrived in the U.S., they lived in New Jersey. It was here that her missionary dream began to

I'm the one who needs the body of Christ. I need Jesus. I need believers who believe.

"I was so embraced by the community of believers here in Charlotte. Many I never knew called me. They encouraged me, they believed with me, they cried with me. At the seminary, all the people were praying with us. And hugging us. It was overwhelming. I am not ashamed to tell you right now that I had faith, the strength like never before.

"So I always think that in God's goodness, he prepared us. Because if I had not been at the seminary, eating a lot of the Word of God, I can tell you for sure I could not have handled Esther's illness."

In a beautiful postscript, Eduardo, too, was truly awakened to missions. At the start of Esther's treatment, he investigated a call with Samaritan's Purse to serve as an anesthesiologist in Mosul, Iraq, but abandoned the prospect because of his little daughter's condition. But when Samaritan's Purse called again, he knew he could not turn it down.

Claudia says that in Mosul, "Eduardo saw many Christian believers all working together just for one purpose, to give God glory. And he surrendered his life to Christ. Then I knew that God gave him all the skill he has to bless the Kingdom of God. And now we are together in one purpose."

Claudia comments, in conclusion: "The Bible says if you lose your own plans, you are going to have real life. I want that. I don't want to live a fake life...I really enjoyed being a doctor; I enjoyed everything about it." But she also believes God allowed all that has happened to her family as a tool. "I've been killed so that I can have doors open," she says. "Then I can do what I most love to do, to share about Jesus. "I always like to say that I feel like a missionary who happens to be a doctor." 



HAMILTON CAMPUS

A Year of Transitions

According to Dr. Richard Lints, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the past academic year was a time of consolidation after several years of significant personnel changes among the faculty and academic leadership.

“We have appointed new Deans at every campus, as well as Deans for the Hispanic Ministry Program, the Ockenga Institute and Doctor of Ministry program, the Dean of Students for Hamilton and Charlotte, and Dean of Chapel at the Hamilton campus. We have also added 11 new faculty members, all of whom have replaced faculty members who have either retired or departed.

“Last fall also brought to fruition a transition in my office that divided responsibilities of the Dean of Hamilton campus from my ongoing role as Vice President for Academic Affairs for all campuses. Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier (MATS ’82) has very ably assumed the role of the Dean of the Hamilton Campus.

“In the wake of these transitions, we are experiencing an abundance of new energy in the system felt across all of our campuses, and new voices which have created the expectation that important new ventures will be engaged and important new issues will need to be faced.”

Dr. Lints notes that much thought is being given to the need “to shift our efforts from informational to formational, from being a professional school to a school of discipleship.

“This is not a new mandate,” he says, “but one that has constantly pressed in on the life of seminaries. The unique moment we live in has made these evolutionary changes more pronounced in our relationship to the culture and the present needs of the Church. Our mandate is to prepare healthy pastors and leaders who can speak and live faithfully, no longer taking for granted that the mediating structures of our culture naturally reinforce a vital Christian faith.”

In fall 2017, funded by a major foundation grant, Dr. Lints held a consultation with 24 senior pastors of Large Capacity

Churches on the topic “Training Healthy Pastors.” The consultation was conducted in collaboration with the senior administrative leadership of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and in partnership with the Made to Flourish Network leadership.

“Dr. Jim Singleton and Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier were wonderful voices from Gordon-Conwell urging significant change in the way pastors are trained today,” Dr. Lints notes. “Recognizing that many pastors have been trained either as academicians (classroom content heavy) or as practitioners with a narrow skill set, the central concern of the consultation was to think through how healthy churches (and healthy pastors) relate to the full breadth of vocations in the life of the Church and in their own life.

“Large Capacity Churches (membership from 2,000-10,000) have unique people and financial resources to partner with seminaries to help embed training of future pastors in the real life circumstances of the contemporary world. As seminaries slowly realize the need to move from information to formation, from professions to discipleship, and from the print age to the digital age, it is imperative to reimagine the relationship between churches and seminaries in the training of pastors. It is no longer possible to think of seminaries as “doing it all.” Ministry preparation today requires a much more robust commitment of healthy churches to collaborate with seminaries in this project.

“During the consultation, we brainstormed several experiments in forms of collaboration already taking place, and which might be accelerated in the years ahead with the right leadership.

“In other developments, we are petitioning The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) for two new low-residency M.A. degrees (M.A. in Christian Studies and M.A. in Global Leadership). Significant changes have been approved for the M.Div. in the area of practical theology at both the Hamilton and Charlotte campuses. We have also reached a greater consensus about the need to significantly expand our online course offerings, which will require us to leverage the Hamilton faculty much more across the variety of our teaching platforms going forward.”

A Year of New Initiatives

On October 7, 2016, the Gordon-Conwell Boston campus observed a major milestone, celebrating 40 years of educating urban pastors and ministry leaders.

The 40th anniversary celebration banquet brought together 300 church and ministry leaders, public officials, Gordon-Conwell trustees, advisors, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Dr. Seong Hyun Park, then Interim Dean of the campus, gave a keynote speech marking the legacy of its founding faculty members Dr. Eldin Villafañe, Prof. Dean Borgman and Dr. William Spencer, and redefined CUME as Gordon-Conwell's campus *for* and *of* Boston, rather than simply *in* Boston.

One of the first fruits of the 40th anniversary celebration was the creation of the Dean Borgman Lectureship in Practical Theology in honor of Professor Dean Borgman, Senior Professor of Youth Ministry. On March 20, 2017, Professor Borgman delivered the inaugural public lecture, "Reconciliation in Troubled Times: Shalom from Churches to the City."

New Leadership Appointments

In May 2017, Dr. Seong Hyun Park, an archaeology and Old Testament scholar, and former missionary in Palestine, was appointed Dean of Gordon-Conwell's Boston campus after serving previously as Assistant Dean from 2011 to 2016, and then Interim

Dean. Dr. Virginia Ward (MAYM '10, D.Min. '16) was also appointed Assistant Dean of the Boston Campus and Assistant Professor of Youth and Leadership Development. She had formerly served as the Director of Leadership and Mentored Ministry Initiatives.

The Boston Campus also celebrated the faculty appointments of Dr. Jacqueline Dyer (MAUML '16) as Assistant Professor of Counseling, and Dr. Jason Hood as Assistant Professor of New Testament. Dr. Dyer will continue to oversee the MACO program at the Boston campus, and Dr. Hood will continue in his capacity as the Director of Advanced Urban Ministerial Education.

Other New Initiatives

In Fall 2017, the Boston campus introduced a new Graduate Certificate Program in Bible and a Graduate Certificate in Christian Foundations, each consisting of six courses which can be applied toward a later degree.

The "Noon Hymn" was also instituted to support the spiritual formation of the faculty, staff and students. This meaningful practice continues to draw the body of Boston campus together at noon for a divine appointment: to pause, sing a hymn, and pray a psalm wherever people are gathered as the Boston campus.

This formational initiative was subsequently augmented by the practice of Rule of Life for all students at the Boston campus. 



Prayer during the fall orientation, convocation and installation service at the Boston campus.

New Faculty, New Technology Applications

In Spring 2017, faculty at the Charlotte campus began pilot testing a new course delivery system called “Digital Live.”

According to Dr. Donald Fairbairn, Charlotte’s Academic Dean and Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity, “It has long been possible for a remote student to connect to a Charlotte classroom electronically, and some students do so. But this new delivery system is specifically designed so that students on campus and students connecting remotely can share the same classroom experience.”

Dr. Gerry Wheaton (MAOT ’03, MANT ’03), Assistant Professor of New Testament, is spearheading the testing of the new format, which was funded by a \$50,000 competitive grant from The Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

New Collaborations

During the past year, the Charlotte campus also developed two new promising collaborative agreements, including:

- An expanded partnership with InterVarsity (IV), coupled with a revamp of the campus’s Graduate Certificate in Ministry among Emerging Generations.

Through this new effort, students can take seven of the 10 required courses online or in web-enhanced format, and three courses as week-long intensives on campus. As a result, this certificate is now achievable for IV staff nationwide, and will be required for those in the Carolinas.

- A major agreement with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), through which eight ministry-related courses developed by Gordon-Conwell professors will be taught by EPC mentors.

All EPC students nationwide, regardless of where they are going to seminary, can take these eight courses through the Charlotte campus. In addition, EPC officials hope to tap the resources of the seminary’s D.Min. program to train the mentors who will lead the courses. “This is an exciting program that can serve as a model for a new way to partner with the Church in the preparation of ministers,” Dr. Fairbairn says.

Faculty Changes: Arrivals and Departures

In July 2017, Dr. Pam Davis joined the Gordon-Conwell faculty as Associate Professor of Counseling and Director of the Counseling Department at the Charlotte campus. She previously served at Wheaton [Illinois] College Graduate School and as a missionary in Thailand for 22 years. (Learn more at www.gordonconwell.edu/academics/Faculty.cfm)

Dr. Nicole Martin (D.Min. ’14) also joined the faculty in 2017 as Assistant Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development. She was previously a minister at The Park Church in Charlotte. She is a regular columnist to the Faith and Values section of the *Charlotte Observer* and a contributor for *Christianity Today*. (Learn more at <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/academics/Faculty.cfm>)

During the past academic year, Dr. Steven Klipowicz retired from the seminary after 20 years of service as Charlotte’s Director of Mentored Ministry. In addition, two professors resigned from the seminary: Dr. Kelly Breen Boyce (MACO ’03), former Assistant Professor of Counseling, and Dr. Alan Myatt, former Ranked Adjunct Professor of Theology and Apologetics.

Dr. Rodney Cooper stepped down from his role in the counseling program, but continues as the Kenneth and Jean Hansen Professor of Discipleship and Leadership Development.

Increasing Responsibility for Two Staff Leaders in 2017

Rev. Deana Nail (M.Div. ’12), former Coordinator for Ministry Formation, was named Dean of Students and Director of the Master of Divinity program. An ordained pastor, Deana has ministered in two Charlotte churches, serving as Associate Pastor at Briar Creek Road Baptist Church, a multi-racial, multi-cultural church, and as Director of Equipping at the 4,000-member Forest Hill Church.

Her leadership experience includes shepherding more than 1,000 volunteers through Operation Christmas Child and serving as a co-leader for a mission partnership with churches in Cape Town, South Africa. Deana is founder of Mission 12:11, a Bible teaching and spiritual formation consulting ministry. During her M.Div. studies she was a recipient of Gordon-Conwell’s Phi Alpha Chi award for excellence in Mentored Ministry. She is currently completing a D.Min. degree in Pastoral Theology in Practice at the seminary.

Douglas Price (M. Div. ’13) has been promoted to Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministries program. In addition to his new appointment, administratively, Doug also serves as the Associate Director of Hybrid Programs and Instructional Designer. In his academic leadership role, Douglas serves as the Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministries and Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies programs, and is an Adjunct Writing Instructor.

Prior to joining Gordon-Conwell—Charlotte, Doug was the Director of Operations for a national political training institute, and Deputy Director of a youth civics education program. He was a recipient of Gordon-Conwell’s Phi Alpha Chi award for excellence in Mentored Ministry during his M.Div. studies. In Fall 2018, he will begin doctoral studies at a local university. He is a native of New London, CT. 🇺🇸

A Year of Growth



1

The Jacksonville campus reached another milestone during the past year, recording the largest student enrollment in its 10-year history and exceeding its goal of 100 enrolled students.

“Our local board of advisors has been instrumental to our growth, meeting frequently with the Jacksonville staff and introducing them to friends who have an affinity with Gordon-Conwell,” comments Dr. Ryan Reeves, Associate Professor of Historical Theology and the campus’s former Assistant Dean.



2

Dr. Reeves continued, “We have also made headway in meeting new constituents and donors through our Open Sessions courses, the campus’s aggressive church outreach program, and our fall gala. More than 50 percent of gala participants were completely new to the seminary, which is the primary goal for that event.”

Jacksonville’s Open Sessions program makes the introductory class meeting of certain courses available to the public for free on a trial basis. Faculty teaching last year’s sessions included Dr. Reeves; Dr. Carol Kaminski (MAOT ’96, MAR ’96), Professor of Old Testament; and Dr. Jim Singleton, Jr., Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism. The Open Sessions courses “allowed us to put some of our best ‘products’ on display and gave us fantastic exposure to both prospective students and new donors,” said Dr. Reeves.



3

“Likewise,” Dr. Reeves said, “innovative marketing endeavors through the use of social media, content marketing and digital advertising have given us great business intelligence and insight, which have continued to produce leads from sources to which we previously would not have had access.”

In other milestones reached last year, Jacksonville’s first Anglican Studies certificate students completed their program at the end of Fall 2017, and a new Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree and a Certificate in Christian Studies were added to the curriculum. 🏰



4

1. Foreground, l. to r.: Professors Dr. Gerry Wheaton and Dr. Chris Cook. Background, l. to r.: Staff members Cecil Dietz, and Watson Gunderson.

2. Charlotte MAME student Samantha Marsh leading worship during chapel service.

3. L. to r.: Jacksonville professor Dr. Ryan Reeves with graduate Isidro Mangual Salas, M.Div.

4. Clockwise: Jacksonville M.Div. students Willie Addison and Erin George, and Academic Coordinator Kate Hendrickson.



DOCTOR OF MINISTRY AND OCKENGA INSTITUTE

A Year of New Developments

During the past academic year, Dr. David A. Currie (M.Div. '84), Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and former Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, assumed additional responsibilities for the Ockenga Institute. Dr. Currie was named Dean of the Doctor of Ministry Program & the Ockenga Institute, now consisting of the Shoemaker Center and the Hispanic Ministries Program. This new entity in abbreviated form is referred to as D.Min.-OI.

These programs, he says, “share a common purpose in seeking to *bring the resources of the seminary to those out in ministry.*”

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM (D.MIN.)

Gordon-Conwell’s D.Min. program offers many advanced degree tracks, all with a common aim: “...to nurture passionate, reflective practitioners by forming mentored learning communities, thereby transforming ministers and ministries for a lifetime.” During the 2016-2017 academic year, several tracks were expanded and new mentors recruited.

To expand offerings to the Korean-speaking church, the faculty approved designating two distinguished Korean-American pastor-scholars to lead a Korean language version of existing tracks. Dr. David Ryo, pastor of Korean Central Presbyterian Church near Washington, D.C. and former faculty member of Chongshin Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, will serve as lead mentor for a Pastoral Theology in Practice track.

Dr. Stephen Um (M.Div. '94, Th.M. '96), pastor of City Life Church in Boston and long-time Gordon-Conwell adjunct professor, will lead the Gospel and Culture track, building on his experience teaching this track in English and Chinese, as well as his ongoing work as City to City coordinator for Asia in connection with Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York.

The addition of new counseling faculty, Drs. Chris Cook (MACC '10, M.Div. '10), Pam Davis, Jacqueline Dyer (MAUML '16) and Kateryna Kuzubova, has also provided impetus to reformulate the Marriage and Family Counseling track to take advantage of their expanded expertise.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES PROGRAM (HMP)

The aim of the Hispanic Ministries Program (HMP) *is to provide the highest quality theological education to some of the least served populations as close to their communities as possible.* Associate Dean, Dr. Pablo Jiménez, has launched several initiatives that reflect that commitment.

- The HMP expects approval of its new Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL), which is currently under consideration by The Association of Theological Schools (ATS).
- Four online courses in Spanish are in the process of being developed, and some will be available by August 2018.
- HMP is affirming its partnership with the Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP).
- Through a new partnership with the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus, the oldest Hispanic Pentecostal denomination in the U.S., the first Apostolic cohort met in Mexico in January 2018.
- A two-week 2018 summer session, to be held at the Charlotte campus, will offer intensive courses in both English and Spanish.

SHOEMAKER CENTER

The purpose of the Shoemaker Center is to engage ministry leaders in lifelong personal and corporate renewal. Two seminar style offerings over the summer explored new approaches to supplement Shoemaker's more traditional conferences.

The Symposium on Spiritual Health was a week-long, one-time offering that included a retreat day and opportunities for

participants to develop their own personal and congregational spiritual growth plans. Pierce Center and Leadership Transformations staff members Dr. Susan Currie (MATS '84, D.Min. '11), Associate for Spiritual Formation; Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Macchia (M.Div. '83, D.Min. '01), Director of the Pierce Center; and Rev. Dr. Jeremy Stefano, Spiritual Formation Associate, joined forces with Dr. Currie to create and lead this event.

Dr. Jim Singleton, Jr., Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism, teamed up with TAG Consulting to offer a three-day church revitalization seminar that will continue to meet once a year over the next three years. The seminar provides a year of advanced standing for some D.Min. tracks. The events also attracted D.Min. graduates, providing some initial "post-doc" experiences to encourage lifelong learning.

In conjunction with his Church Revitalization Project funded by a grant from the Day Foundation, Dr. Singleton also partnered with the Barna Group to study the needs of New England congregations. The results of this study will be the basis of the spring Pastors' Forum.

CENTER FOR PREACHING

Because of the centrality of preaching to church renewal, the Center for Preaching's non-curricular offerings are now being coordinated through the Shoemaker Center. Initial fruit of this collaboration includes securing a new podcast platform to allow for much wider distribution of *Preaching Points*, as well as for the development of other podcasts among D.Min.-OI entities.

In other news, the Ockenga Fellows Program and the Center for Preaching each received a large grant from the Lilly Endowment. 🏛️

Spiritual formation group co-led by Dr. Steve Macchia.



Why Do We Do What We Do?



I think a lot about seminary education as we look at the changing landscapes of seminaries across the country. When we hear of institutions like ours struggling with enrollment challenges, it sometimes feels a bit like a test in patience and perseverance: Can we stand the test of time?

However, when I feel like that, our great God seems always to provide an encouraging, heartwarming and even profound reminder of why we do what we do. And why our Advancement team does what we do, at and for the seminary.

Sometimes these reminders come from folks who are not as familiar with the seminary as we are. By example, we have been working with two relatively new friends of the seminary, a retired couple with extra time on their hands who have been auditing classes. Their engagement and experience in the classroom have prompted conversations with us about how they might be able to invest in students like their classmates.

Point well taken. We can occasionally take these remarkable stories of our students for granted until someone reminds us, like my friends have done recently. My conversation with them has prompted me to think even more deeply about our students, their commitments and their stories. Let me share just a few that are encouraging and heartwarming. Perhaps your heart will be warmed as well.

At Gordon-Conwell we are grateful to have over 200 students who are part of the Partnership Program offered on all of our campuses. Recently, I was blessed to take a few moments to slow down and sit down with one of our new Partnership Scholarship recipients and hear a little bit of his story. Chris has been serving in campus ministry for a few decades. He shared that the courses he has been taking recently are truly foundational for folks serving on the front line in campus ministry. His enthusiasm for Gordon-Conwell, the Partnership

Program and the professors with whom he is engaging was effusive.

I was encouraged to hear just how well he feels that he is being prepared for the next chapter of ministry. He loves Gordon-Conwell. But at the same time he also challenged me as an administrator to tell the Partnership Program story more broadly, and with a whole new vision for how this program can truly make the difference in whether someone can actually enroll at the seminary. So, to be true to the commitment I made to my new friend, here is a bit about the program.

The Partnership Program at Gordon-Conwell is designed to equip students for Kingdom work while minimizing accrual of additional educational debt. The program provides a number of co-curricular activities and resources in biblical stewardship, as well as a full-tuition scholarship that is renewable every year. As a part of the curriculum, our students gain practical ministry skills, receive an education and experience in applying biblical stewardship principles and participate in one-on-one and small group discipleship training. The program helps our students build these important skills and gain experience useful in church service, parachurch and evangelistic ministries, on the mission field and in Christian leadership. Through the Partnership Program, students bring a team of prayer and financial support with them to seminary.

Our hope is that our students emerge from the program prepared for a lifetime of fruitful ministry, surrounded by a network of support, equipped with fundraising and stewardship skills and

free from unnecessary educational debt. If you know individuals who are thinking about attending Gordon-Conwell but don't know how they could ever afford it – please have them reach out to Erica Giovannello, the Director of the Partnership Program. She loves to share the Partnership Program story.

When we take the time to listen really well to people, to hear their stories, sometimes we realize we personally might have something to contribute, and in so doing, we become a part of their stories. That happened recently with one of our gifted students at the seminary.

Mike and his wife have a genuine heart for underserved people and feel called to the mission field. He was sharing with me some of the fundraising challenges that he and his wife are having. I said to him, “You know, I do a lot of fundraising around here at the seminary. I might be able to help you break through the wall that is keeping you from reaching your goal, and preventing you from going to the mission field.” I am not sure either of us thought about how we might be able to minister to each other. But in the end, I was able to encourage him, give him some donor strategies and walk through at least a part of his completion plan for fundraising.

During my time with him, I asked if he believed God was calling his wife and him to this ministry, and he replied, “Absolutely. We have no doubt that this is what God has called us to do.” I followed that question with a second question: “If you are absolutely called to this ministry, do you really think that money should be the thing to hold you back?”

As I listened to Mike, I was so personally compelled by his life story, his passion, his commitment to move their young family thousands of miles away, and their deep desire to bring the Gospel to these underserved people groups that my wife and I committed to be one of their monthly partners. We are now truly a part of their story.

Why do we have conversations like this? So we can hear the remarkable ways in which our God is working through folks right in our own sphere of influence. Who is right in front of you and who is in your sphere of influence?

My third recent reminder of the fruitfulness of the seminary's ministry is a story that I have told, at least in part, before. My friend, who will remain nameless (for his own safety), is returning to his country after he and his wife graduate in May. I have met with my friend many times since he came to Gordon-Conwell as one of the Pastors for Africa Scholarship recipients three years ago.

This is a good, godly and passionately committed couple. I am both in awe of their deeply held convictions to share the Gospel in a place that is not exactly receptive to that, and concerned for them at the same time. Our conversations in my office put the sometimes petty and consumerist conversations we can have in our local churches into a whole new perspective. My friends are “all in” – literally putting their lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel. Recently he told me that he would have to buy a good and reliable

car so that in their new ministry he could move about quickly—that the car was actually needed for their own safety. I was humbled and a little saddened that my reasons for selecting car features had everything to do with me and almost nothing to do with sharing the Gospel. May our Lord bless these friends, keep them safe, and may He do an incredible work in and through them as they minister meaningfully to folks who have never heard what it means to have a saving faith in Jesus Christ!

If we are to do our jobs well in the area of Advancement, we absolutely need to have these conversations and ask ourselves these questions regularly. Interestingly enough, the first question, “Why do we do what we do?” leads naturally in our Advancement work to another question: “Why would anyone support a theological seminary?” A possible answer could be that donors share our vision to advance Christ's Kingdom in every sphere of life by equipping Church leaders to think theologically, engage globally and live biblically. This vision statement captures who we are at our very core and who we always want to be, and it's a good reason to support a theological seminary.

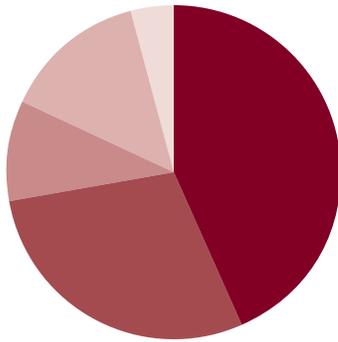
It could also be that folks support Gordon-Conwell because of our many years of faithful stewardship both to the Gospel and to the resources that have been entrusted to us as an institution. We completely understand that and are committed to live up to that high standard set by the leaders who have come before us.

If these are two of the more obvious institutional answers, I hope that the stories I have shared go a step further, putting faces on *who* we are endeavoring to live out that vision *for*—by rigorously teaching and preparing good and godly people committed to go even to the ends of the earth to do the Kingdom work to which they have been called.

At Gordon-Conwell, we are deeply grateful for the hundreds of faithful and generous partners who give their time, talent and treasure to this educational ministry. Perhaps the most basic answer to “Why would anyone support a theological seminary?” might be, frankly, because someone asked them to. If you are not already one of our faithful partners, would you prayerfully consider supporting Gordon-Conwell and playing a part in someone's Kingdom advancement story? Consider yourself asked.

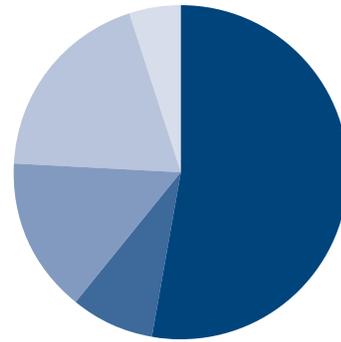
One final word. Ultimately, we do our Advancement work so that we as a seminary can do this vital, absolutely critical and serious work of educating the present and future leaders of the Church—all to the Glory of God! 🇺🇸

Kurt W. Drescher
Vice President of Advancement
kdrescher@gcts.edu
www.gordonconwell.edu/giving



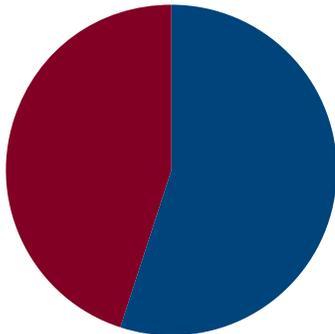
**FY17 UNRESTRICTED REVENUES
BY MAJOR SOURCE**

Net Tuition	\$ 10,178,441	44%
Donor Support	6,787,488	29%
Endowment Distributions	2,392,260	10%
Auxiliary Enterprises	2,951,323	13%
Other Income	782,472	4%
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 23,091,984	100%



**FY17 EXPENSES
HOW FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED**

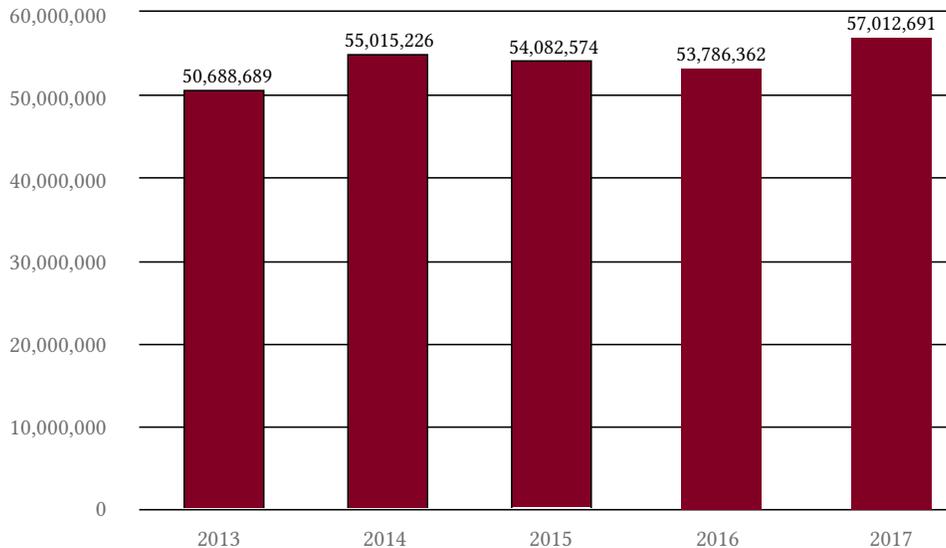
Instructional and Academic Support	\$ 12,786,938	53%
Student Services	1,945,866	8%
Auxiliary Enterprises	3,681,987	15%
Management and General	4,480,045	19%
Fundraising	1,295,964	5%
Total Expenses	\$ 24,190,800	100%



**FY17 FINANCIAL AID AND TUITION
MAKING A GORDON-CONWELL EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE**

Tuition Paid by Students	\$ 10,178,441	55%
Restricted Scholarships and Discounts	\$ 8,237,841	45%
Total Tuition	\$ 18,416,282	100%

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

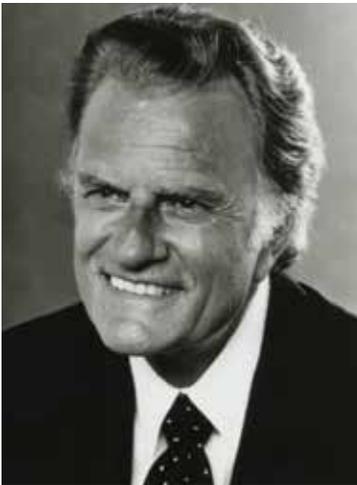




L. to r.: Rev. Billy Graham preaching at Gordon-Conwell's commencement ceremony; Rev. Billy Graham joined with former Gordon-Conwell trustees, Dr. and Mrs. Bob Lamont (left), and Mr. Bill Pendleton and family (right) after chapel service.

IN MEMORIAM

Billy Graham: Evangelist, Founder and Friend



Rev. William (Billy) Franklin Graham, Jr., world-renowned evangelist, co-founder and Trustee Emeritus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, died on February 22, 2018, at the age of 99.

Billy Graham was born in Charlotte, NC, in 1918, and came to faith in Christ in 1934 during a revival led by evangelist Mordecai Fowler Ham. Over the next several

years, the Wheaton College graduate held a pastorate, launched a radio program and started a traveling ministry that expanded rapidly. By 1949, he had gained worldwide fame for his evangelistic rallies. Out of his ministry came the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a popular radio and television program, "Hour of Decision." Both, along with dozens of books authored by Rev. Graham, have also been instrumental in reaching millions of people for Jesus Christ.

In 1969, Rev. Graham, philanthropist J. Howard Pew, and renowned pastor of Boston's Park Street Church, Dr. Harold John Ockenga, guided the merger of Philadelphia's Conwell School of Theology and the Gordon Divinity School in Wenham, MA, that would create today's Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He was also instrumental in securing the initial funding and acquisition of the beautiful 118 acre South Hamilton, MA campus, previously a Catholic Carmelite seminary. Despite his leading role in the seminary's founding, Rev. Graham was careful to give

glory to God, saying at the time, "Only God could have brought this together."

Though busy with numerous evangelistic campaigns in the U.S. and in more than 50 countries, Rev. Graham made time for Gordon-Conwell, speaking at some of the seminary's seminal events. He also served on the Board of Trustees until October 2011, as Chairman from 1989–1993, and subsequently as Chairman Emeritus. In addition, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association provided financial support for the seminary for many years. In recognition of his outstanding service and personal witness to Jesus Christ, Gordon-Conwell conferred on Rev. Graham an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology degree in 1974.

"Dr. Graham's character and wisdom mirrored the Gospel he loved to preach," says Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger, President & Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Christian Ethics. "That is why he has been such a treasured part of the Gordon-Conwell family."

Billy Graham established the standard for what Gordon-Conwell would become: "a great evangelical seminary" dedicated to the essentials of the faith—belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ; the inerrancy of Scripture; the atoning death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus; the mandate of Jesus to make disciples of all nations; and Jesus' personal, visible return to earth at the end of time.

He leaves behind a legacy of distinguished Christian service, faithfulness to Scripture and strong personal witness, and will continue to serve as an inspiration to many for years to come. Moreover, his enduring legacy will continue through the more than 10,000 Gordon-Conwell graduates who follow in his footsteps, serving as ministers of the Gospel throughout the world. 🇺🇸

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FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

THROUGH THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



Prepare for a lifetime of fruitful ministry, surrounded by a network of support, equipped with stewardship skills and free from unnecessary debt. Through the Partnership Program at Gordon-Conwell, you'll bring a team of prayer and financial partners, and you'll receive a full-tuition scholarship and biblical stewardship training.

www.gordonconwell.edu/partnership