

Virginia Ward

Boston Campus

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Profile:

Virginia Ward empowers leaders and organizations by guiding them through the thought processes that enables correct decision making and wise courses of action for their ministries. She integrates leadership and motivational skills with knowledge of multi-generational urban youth ministry to educate individuals and organizations to equip the next generation of leaders.

Education:

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

- DMin, 2016, *A Case For Holistic Ministry To Urban Youth and Families*”
Mentors: Dean Borgman, Walt Mueller, Duffy Robbins, Adonis Vidu
- MA Youth Ministry, 2010
- Diploma, Urban Ministries, 2008

Harvard University Extension, 1984 - 1986

Northeastern University, 1980 - 1983

Teaching Experience:

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

- Leadership, Strategies, and Management in Ministry
- Compassionate and Holistic Youth and Family Ministries
- Theological Issues and Models of Urban Youth Ministry
- Effective Relationships: Healing and Growth in Youth Ministry
- Field-Based Mentored Ministry
- TA for various urban youth ministry classes with Dean Borgman
- Biblical DiSC Profile, guest lecturer for Mentored Ministry Classes

Gordon College, Gordon in Boston, Lead Instructor, 2010, 2011

- Introduction to Urban Studies
- Church in the City

Bethany Bible College, Sussex, New Brunswick, 2005, 2007

Urban Youth Ministry Professor

- Urban youth Ministry 101
- Intro to Urban Studies

Academic Achievements and Awards:

Cambridge YWCA Ruth Barron Award for Outstanding Community Service, 2015

Association of Youth Ministry Educators, Certificate of Excellence in Youth Ministry, 2010

Cambridge NAACP, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Youth and Leadership, 2007

Cambridge Black Pastors Community Service Award, 2006

Licenses:

Reach Out Youth Solutions, Jesus Focused Youth Ministry, Eagle Leader, 2008
Ordained Minister, Abundant Life Church and United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., 2003
Licensed Minister, Abundant Life Church, 2001
Certificate of Competency, The Trauma Center Basic School and Community Based Critical Incident Stress Management, 2000
Certificate of Completion, DeVos Urban Leadership Institute, 1999
Entrepreneur Instructor, National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, 1996
Mentor Trainer, Mass Mentoring Partnership (formerly Greater Boston One to One), 1994

Professional Memberships:

Association of Youth Ministry Educators, 2016 - present
The Branches (Black Urban Youth Workers Association), 2009 - 2015
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary CUME Alumni Association, 2008 - present
National Network of Youth Ministries, New England Region, 1998 - present

Administrative and Professional Experience:

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston Campus

- Dean, 2020 - present
- Assistant Dean, 2017 - 2020
- Director of Leadership and Mentored Ministry Initiatives, 2015 - 2017
- Spiritual Formation oversight, Boston Campus, 2015 - 2017

Rethink Group Orange Conference and Tour, 2014 - present

- Keynote speaker and session leader

Boston Youth Leaders Training (BYLT), Project Director, 2011 - 2014

Intervarsity New England, Black Campus Ministries Director, Consultant, 2007 - 2017

- Member of the National Leading Servants Team

Black Ministerial Alliance, Trainer/Consultant, 2005 - 2011

Abundant Life Church, Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor, 1988 - present

DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative, Trainer, Boston City Coordinator, Coach, 1997 - present

- Coached youth leaders in Pittsburgh, San Diego, Detroit and New York

Conference Presentations: (Partial Listing)

“Understanding Monday in a City Context,” Orange Tour breakout session speaker, Los Angeles, Lancaster, Indianapolis, Boston, Kansas City, West Virginia, Austin, Dallas, 2016

“Three Teaching Shifts That Make Faith Matter on Monday,” Research findings from Fuller Youth Institute Growing Young Project, Orange Tour breakout session speaker. Boston, West Virginia, 2016.

Orange Conference, Main Stage presenter, 2014 to present

InterVarsity Cultivate training, April 2016.

“Personal Assessments and Ministry Assessments” and “Community Youth Development,” DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative, local workshop presenter. Presented annually in various cities, 1999 to present.

“Still I Rise: The Hope of Christ in the Midst of Darkness”, keynote speaker and conference consultant. Interservice Black Campus Ministries New England Student Conference, Boston, MA, February 5-6, 2016.

“Leading Up: Empowering Leaders in the Urban Context”, Orange Tour breakout session speaker. Los Angeles, Washington DC, Kansas City, Indianapolis, 2015.

“The Dance of Change,” Orange Conference presenter, April 2014

“Systems Thinking: Six Hats in an Urban Ministry Environment,” DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative, National Conference teaching team member, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002.

Research Experience:

Fuller Youth Institute, Expert Advisory Council for Growing Young Research
Pasadena, CA, October 2013 – September 2016

Boston Urban Youth Leaders Initiative, various Youth Ministry Collaborations, 2005 - 2017

Publications:

“*It’s Personal: Five Questions You Should Answer to Give Every Kid Hope,*” Coauthors Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy, (Rethink Group/Orange Publications, 2019)

“English Language Learners as Pacesetters” in *Empowering English Language Learners: Successful Strategies of Christian Educators*, Jeanne DeFazio and William David Spencer (Wipf & Stock, 2018)

“Day 31.” *Water Stations: Words of Refreshing for the Urban Leader’s Journey*, Edited by Gerald Bell (DeVos Urban Leadership, 2011)

“Mapping Community Assets.” *Network Magazine: National Network of Youth Ministries*. (National Network of Youth Ministries, Summer 2007)

“Add to Your Faith” Take 5, (National Network of Youth Ministries, May 2007, Volume 5)

Podcast/Media:

For New England: Church Leadership Podcast - Berea
Serving God Near the Harvard Yard - March 2020

Fear, Facts and Faith: A Biblical Response to Covid-19
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Livestream - March 2020

A New Wineskins for a New Normal: Biblical and Pastoral Perspectives
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Livestream - April 2020

House Calls with Dr. Chris Hill - May 2020

Five Questions You Should Answer to Give Every Kid Hope - with Kristen Ivy
Vanderbloemen Leadership Podcast, August 2019

Fuller Youth Institute Podcast
Growing With Parenting - Steven Argue host, April 2019

Moody Radio
Pastor Chris Brooks Podcast, May and June 2019
Topics: Urban Ministry and It's Personal book

Other:

Wards of Wisdom - Consulting business for churches and non-profits