

Alvin Padilla

Objective

Innovative Christian leader with over thirty years' experience as a pastor, educator, and academic administrator seeks leadership position in a community of faith and learning poised to embrace the opportunities and challenges before us in the 21st century.

Academic and Church Experience

Western Theological Seminary

June 2016-to present

- Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Director of Advanced Degrees, Professor of NT (July 2019-present)
 - Develop strategic partnerships with organizations that align in mission with WTS furthering the mission of all partners while maintaining financial vitality.
 - Expand and guide Seminary initiatives relative to Hispanic theological education, church and community partnerships.
 - Expand the Seminary's reach and influence by seeking and establishing new partners who will utilize and benefit from our current academic degree program offerings.
 - In collaboration with the VPAA, explore innovative degree programs that respond to the ministry needs of the 21st century.
 - Participate in the strategic planning process of the Seminary.
 - Oversee a portfolio of strategic initiatives as assigned by the President.
 - Promote and grow the vision and mission of the Seminary.
 - Develop, launch and oversee the seminary's Hispanic Ministries Program (HMP)
 - Oversee and support the Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry programs, including support and mentoring of faculty and staff.
 - The HMP, DMin and ThM programs account for over 50% of the seminary's total enrollment.
 - Member of the President's Leadership Team.

- Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs (June 2016-July 2019)
 - overall responsibility for the supervision and support of faculty, and for the design, implementation, and evaluation of all academic programs and related policies, for the supervision of the formation for ministry program and staff, and for the oversight of the work of the library. As member of the President's Leadership Team significantly engaged in all senior leadership planning, discussion and decision making in pursue of the seminary's vision and mission.



Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

January 2010-June 2016

- Dean, Hispanic Ministries Program and Professor of New Testament. Develop new academic programs across all four GCTS campuses and established extension sites in targeted North American cities and strategic international locations.
- Launched in 2010, the Hispanic program remains a vital component of the GCTS' mission, serving approximately 400 part time students, with a full time equivalent of 90. Courses are taught in English and Spanish.
- As the founding dean, I was privileged to conceptualize, shape, and launch the program. This involved overseeing the entire student enrollment process—recruiting, matriculating, mentoring, and graduating.
- Recruited and appointed a distinguished adjunct faculty representative of the multicultural ethos that is a hallmark of the program.
- Developed and managed the budget.
- Development responsibilities involve grant writing, donor solicitation and public relations.
- Member of the President's Cabinet, the executive body of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, since 1997. Significantly engaged in all senior level decision making processes, responsible for strategic forecasting and planning as well as overseeing the Seminary's budget.

Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME) July 1997-December 2009

- Executive Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Boston campus.
- Responsible for all administrative and academic functions of CUME. This included
 - Institutional assessment
 - Strategic planning
 - Executive leadership in the areas of enrollment management, student accounts, academic degrees and services, spiritual formation, and development.
 - During this tenure, it was my distinctive honor to witness
 - An increase in student enrollment from 115 to 400 (headcount).
 - An increase in student FTE from 75 to 180.
 - The reactivation of the CUME Board of Advisors (local leaders representative of urban diversity who serve the executive dean in an advisory capacity) which had been neglected into dormancy prior to my appointment as dean.
 - An increase in annual operating budget from \$440K to \$1.2m.
 - The relocation of the administrative and academic offices into a much larger, totally renovated and more strategic location in the historic Boston neighborhood of Roxbury, the heartbeat of the African American community and adjacent to the growing Hispanic presence in Dorchester.
 - Successful Fundraising campaign (\$6.1 million) to purchase and renovate the property in Roxbury, MA.
 - Guided the campus through two successful comprehensive accreditation processes with the Association of Theological Education and New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
 - Created and launched new academic and professional programs in counseling (Masters of Arts in Counseling), theology (Th.M) and Doctor of Ministry.
 - Conceptualized and Launched the Hispanic Ministries Program.

Nyack College

1992-1997

- Associate Professor of Christian Studies



- Full time faculty actively engaged in the academic life of the college, including serving on standing committees, search committees, student advising and mentoring.
- Taught a full range of courses in the Biblical studies field, ministry preparation, and ethno-cultural hermeneutics.

Spanish Eastern School of Theology, Swan Lake NY 1985-1992

- Academic Dean and Professor of Biblical Studies
- Founder of the school, with full responsibility for the development of the academic program, student development and overseeing the renovation of the physical plant.
- Major accomplishments include
 - Enroll the school as a member of the New York State Board of Regents
 - Development of a contextualized curriculum aimed to serve Hispanic American students and their communities in the northeast and throughout the Spanish-speaking world
 - Development of partnerships with other higher education institutions in NY and PA to which students could transfer their credits and complete their baccalaureate degrees
 - Develop and oversee the annual operating budget
 - Develop and manage fund raising efforts.

New York Theological Seminary, 5 West 29th Street, NY, NY 1989-1992

- Adjunct professor of Biblical studies.

Fort Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, 21 Wadsworth Ave, NY, NY 1992-1997

- Solo Pastor of urban, Spanish speaking PC (USA) congregation. Part time position, but with full pastoral responsibilities.

Education

Drew University Graduate School 1989-1996

Ph.D., M. Phil in New Testament and Early Christian Literature (Second Century). Graduated in October 1996. Dissertation: *Clemens Romanus, the Princepatus, and Episcopacy: Reassessing a First Century Date for the Letter of the Church of Rome to the Church of Corinth*, supervised by Dr. Darrell Doughty and Dr. Justo L. Gonzalez.

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary 1981-1984

- Master of Divinity



Villanova University

1974-1978

- BS. Secondary Education, Social Studies

Harvard Institutes for Higher Education

2003

- Institute for Management and Leadership in Education. The principal objective of the program is to prepare leaders and educational institutions to meet current and future challenges in higher education and to prepare the students to lead organizational change.

Publications

El Evangelio de Juan. Conozca su Biblia. Fortress Press, 2011.

El Evangelio de Lucas. Conozca su Biblia. Fortress Press, 2007.

Numerous articles in *The Westminster Dictionary of Theologians.* Edited by Justo L. Gonzalez. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2006.

Hispanic Christian Thought at the Dawn of the 21st Century. Apuntes in Honor of Justo L. Gonzalez. Edited by Eldin Villafañe, Roberto Goizueta and Alvin Padilla. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. (Responsible for soliciting and editing articles, writing the introduction.)

Various articles in *Diccionario Ilustrado de Interpretes de la Fe. Veinte Siglos de Pensamiento Cristiano.* Edited by Justo L. Gonzalez. Barcelona, Spain: CLIE, 2004.

“Living in the Hyphen: Theological Literacy from an Hispanic-American Context,” in *Theological Literacy for the 21st Century.* Edited by Rodney L. Petersen with Nancy M. Rourke. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

Clemens Romanus, the Princepatus, and Episcopacy: Reassessing a First Century Date for the Letter of the Church of Rome to the Church of Corinth. 1997.

Professional Memberships and Other Relevant Experience

Founding President, Latinos Unidos Inc. Haverhill MA. Between June 1978 and September 1981 I volunteered as a community organizer and

- Organized and founded a not for profit community civic association seeking the betterment of the local Hispanic Community and serving the broader community.
- Established a community Day Care center to serve working Hispanic women and men and a job placement service and advocacy support for all neighborhood residents.
- Lead efforts to improve higher graduation rates at local high schools.
- Voter registration drives.
- Lead grant writer and fund raiser



American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature full member since 1991.

Asociación para al Educación Teológica Hispana (AETHH) Charter member, 1991. Presently serving on AETHH's certification committee whose aim is to create a process by which Hispanic-serving Bible institutes can improve the quality of education and better prepare women and men for graduate theological education. I was honored to serve on the committee that conceptualized and crystallized the certification process and presently serve on a committee of six who are charged with piloting the certification process.

Ordained Minister, Reformed Church in America. Service to the wider Church include, but not limited to

- May 2015 to June 2016, Interim Senior Pastor (Head of Staff) at the Newton Presbyterian Church, PC(USA).
- January 2014–April 2015, Interim pastor at the Windham Presbyterian Church, Windham, NH.
- September 1997–June 2016, Committee on Theological Education (COTE), served continuously for 19 years as institutional (GCTS) representative to the PC(USA) Committee on theological education, and serve the Church by forming men and women for ministry in the Reformed Tradition.
- August 2009-January 2011, Interim Pastor, *El Tabernáculo de Adoración y Música* PC(USA) Lawrence, MA.
- The Association of Theological Schools of North America. I have participated in numerous teams for peer reviews/accreditation of seminaries in North America, Puerto Rico and international sites. On more than half of these, about 8, I served as the visiting committee chair responsible for drafting the committee's report and recommendations for the Board of Commissioners.
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, member of the Board of Trustees since 2017
- Commissioner on the ATS' Board of Commissioners, responsible for all accrediting decisions, since 2018.

Selective Speaking Engagements and Presentations

- May 2015–June 2016, preaching weekly at the Newton Presbyterian Church.
- January 2014-April 2015, preaching weekly at the Windham Presbyterian Church.
- June 2014, Keynote speaker and preacher at the First Baptist Church Flushing NY. Presentations in English and Spanish entitled "The basis and essence of Christian existence in urban societies, the message of First Peter for today."
- May 2014, Keynote speaker, "La Iglesia Hispana y la Posmodernidad. Retos y oportunidades para la Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana," (The Hispanic Church and Postmodernity, challenges and opportunities for the Spanish Presbyterian Church) delivered the at annual retreat of the Hispanic Presbyterian Council, Synod of South Atlantic.
- June 2012, Presenter, "Leading in Diversity: Personal Experiences and Institutional Choices in guiding diversity initiatives in theological seminaries." Association of Theological Schools biannual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- March 2011, Presenter, "A Grace & Race Symposium: The Church and the Experience of Multi-Ethnic America," delivered at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NY, NY.



- June 2010, Keynote speaker, Conference of Chief Academic Officers of the ATS. Montreal Canada. Presentation entitled “Theological Paradigms for the 21st Century.”
- April 2010. Keynote Speaker, Ethnic America Network Conference held in Boston, MA. Presentation entitled “A new kind of learning: Contextualized theological education models.”
- November 2009, Keynote speaker Missions Conference, Belmont Street Baptist Church, Worcester, MA. Presentation entitled “Urban Missions and the Mainline Church in the 21st Century.”
- October 2009, Keynote speaker, The Orlando Costas Lectureship at Palmer Theological Seminary. Presentation entitled “Present Day Pentecostalism: the Church and Multiculturalism.”
- June 2009, Keynote speaker, ATS Racial Ethnic Consultation. “Multicultural Theological Education.”

Work History

June 2016-Present	Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Western Theological Seminary and Professor of New Testament
July 1997–June 2016	Professor of New Testament and Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, MA. 01982,
June 2015-2017	Interim Pastor, Newton Presbyterian Church, Newton, MA
January 2014–April 2015	Interim Pastor, Windham Presbyterian Church, Windham, NH
August 2009–January 2011	Interim Pastor, El Tebernáculo de Adoración y Música, Lawrence, MA.
1992–1997	Associate Professor of Christian Studies, Nyack College, Nyack New York 10969
1992-1997	Pastor, Fort Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, 21 Wadsworth Ave. NY, NY 10033
1985-1992	Academic Dean and Professor of Biblical Studies, The Spanish Eastern School of Theology, Swan Lake, NY.
1984-1985	The Haverhill Gazette. Distribution Supervisor
1979-1981	Honeywell Information Systems, Inc Production manager/supervisor. Responsible for all aspects of production of computer power cables to be used in Honeywell computer products. Responsibilities included personnel management, analyzing and forecasting production goals, and generating productivity reports for upper management.
1978-1979	Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, City of Haverhill, Haverhill, MA 01830.