

Alumni Spotlight: Kika Ghobrial (MDiv '21)



Current Program: DMin

Current Title: English Church Pastor at Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church

Family: Wife, Rachel

Favorite Professors: Jim Singleton & Adonis Vidu

Favorite Class: Evangelism & Discipleship

Favorite Memory: Having to hold back tears to finally graduate after five and half years of school!

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

I serve as the pastor of Lighthouse Church, the English language church birthed out of the Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church in Boston, and as president of the board of UniteBoston.

What do you love about your work?

Beginning in 2016, I served as the youth pastor at the Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church, which is the church I grew up in after moving from Egypt to Boston in 2002. Since my childhood days, I started noticing the pattern of young adults almost always “graduating” from church when they graduated from high school. This weighed even more heavily on my heart as I watched some of my own youth leaders who helped me take huge leaps in my faith ultimately drift not only from church, but also from God. For over twenty years, the Arabic Church has been praying that God would build an English-speaking church that is “a church within a church.” As many of my students got closer to graduating from high school, we realized it was time to build this English Church, which we called Lighthouse Church. Not only is this English Church bridging the gap for the second generation Arab American Christians who grew up with English language student ministry and wouldn’t understand much of the Arabic service, it’s also a way for the Arabic Church to make an impact on non-Arabic speakers in our local community. I’ve loved having the opportunity to help build this English church. I pray that God would continue teaching me how to develop and lead it well so we can share the model to help other immigrant churches.

What are the particular joys and biggest challenges of planting a church in your context?

It has been a joy and source of peace to be immediately part of the Arabic Church family and be able to rely on them for wisdom, prayers, and resources as we build the English church. While we have a few church attenders who are from the local

community, we've admittedly found it a bit harder to reach the local community than it has been to retain the second generation Arab-Americans.

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

One of the best things I decided to do was to continue my education at Gordon-Conwell after I finished my MDiv. Joining the DMin program has opened my eyes to incredibly relevant issues in my ministry context, serving predominantly among young adults. In my personal experience, the MDiv prepared me to share the Word of God confidently and accurately, while the DMin is preparing me to do so with a deeper understanding of the post-modern age we live in and how to best serve in the current culture. In my DMin cohort, there are at least two other students who are also in the same immigrant church context, so we are able to bounce ideas off one another and learn together how to best serve our churches.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are just entering pastoral ministry or are considering church planting?

Continue to learn! Study the Word, but study the culture too! Also, I learned this from my wife – make sure to take a day off. I worked non-stop my first few years of ministry, and it negatively affected every other area of my life. Since starting to take Saturdays off, I can't stop talking about how much taking a Sabbath was one of God's best ideas.

Do you have any publications, links, or resources to share?

Learn more about [Lighthouse Church](#).

Check out Kika's [podcast](#) and [YouTube channel](#), Social Media Revivalists, where he explores how Christians are making real change and world revival through the internet.