

Alumni Spotlight: Conley Hughes (DMin '02)



Current title: Senior Pastor, Concord Baptist Church Milton, MA; COO of Bethany Foundation Ministry, Inc.

Family: Wife: Rev. Dr. Moreen P. Hughes, Children: David, Nicole, and Michael, and their families

Favorite professors: Dr. Raymond Pendleton and Dr. Scott Gibson

Favorite classes: Family Systems and Spiritual Renewal Movements

Favorite memory: The nature of fellowship and worship woven into classes, with probes and reflection into the spirituality, theology, and biblical foundations of the Christian faith. The classes and interaction with professors and students became a daily sanctuary for the presence of God.

What have you been doing since your time at Gordon-Conwell, and what are you doing now?

For the twenty-two years since the completion of my DMin program, I have found myself experiencing deeper clarity in my ministry as pastor—both in the physical context of the church and in the “agora,” where life meets diverse people. The spiritual renewal emphasis has both challenged and brought “fresh oil” to my ministry. The family systems approach has helped me to understand issues in a context far different from the context I’ve known before.

What do you love about your work in pastoral ministry?

I love most the opportunity to learn, share, and experience the gospel message as a redemptive experience and to see how we are reconciled to Christ and to each other. Pastoral ministry provides an opportunity to experience the depths of human encounter, as we see the presence of God through all of life’s rituals.

What are the particular challenges of serving in your specific context?

The challenges of pastoral ministry include the following: a rapidly changing demographic, facing a more secular civilization where people are increasingly polarized, cultivating an intergenerational church where the principles and values of our faith have been abandoned, and how to be effective in an increasingly non-Christian culture.

How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?

My experience at Gordon-Conwell has strengthened the foundation of faith I received many years ago. The commitment to Christ, the Scripture, and the gospel imperative

coupled with a genuine love for the transformation of lives continues to permeate all areas of my ministry and life.



What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest influence on the work you do now or the way you do your work?

My Gordon-Conwell education has provided me a biblical and theological praxis context to engage in ministry as a pastor and in other settings. For example, for four years I served on an Advisory Commission for Governor Charles Baker, where I've never had to compromise my beliefs or principles. The Christian principles and the academic approach to understanding God's call helped me greatly.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are serving in pastoral ministry?

Lean on the Lord and what you have learned in your seminary experience. Pray intentionally and seek God's presence in your work.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

Several are forthcoming.