

Alumni Spotlight: David Wright (MAUML '16, ThM '18)



Current title: Reverend & Executive Director, Black Ministerial Alliance TenPoint, Inc.

Family: Wife: Shelbey, Children: Nathan, Micah, & Elizabeth.

Favorite professors: Dr. Mark Harden & Dr. Virginia Ward

Favorite class: Living Systems Ministry & Field Based Mentored Ministry

Favorite memory: Working with Abram Kielsmeier-Jones on our Field Based Ministry project!

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell?

I have been doing church-based ministry as the Assistant to the Pastor at Peoples Baptist Church in Boston. I do community-focused ministry through Black Ministerial Alliance TenPoint, Inc., a collaboration of urban Black churches in Greater Boston. As the Executive Director, I have developed supports and programs to help churches engage their local communities to show them the love of Christ and help them know Jesus. I've also had the privilege of serving on the Gordon College Board of Trustees.

What are you doing now?

In addition to what's mentioned above, I am an adjunct professor at the Boston campus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and teach Field Based Mentored Ministry. I also serve on the regional board of directors for our denomination, The American Baptist Churches, USA, and as president of the Conference of Baptist Ministers in Massachusetts. I am currently pursuing my Doctor of Ministry at Gordon-Conwell as well.

What do you love about your work?

I have the privilege of working with churches, pastors, and ministerial alliances to extend the love of Christ to the world that Jesus died to save. Collectively, we are a witness—in word and deed—that Jesus is real and that He is relevant to every aspect of peoples' lives.

What are the particular challenges of non-profit work in general and/or the work in your specific context?

The needs of the communities we serve are far greater than the resources we have to meet those needs. This highlights how important it is for churches and church groups to collaborate to address these issues. When we collaborate, we are a witness of the power and reality of God (John 17:20-21).

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

I went from the MA in Urban Ministry Leadership (MAUML) to the ThM in Practical Theology. This gave me a new perspective on ministry and how it could be done in a way that is less transactional and more transformational for the cause of Christ. As a result, I can support churches in a more engaging and meaningful way, and I can provide students with perspectives on ministry that will help them innovate and create approaches to ministry that are relevant, significant, and effective.

What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest impact/influence?

In addition to learning practical ministry strategies while studying practical theology, I think the biggest impact has been the relationships—with professors, fellow students, and my own students—that I have been blessed to make. I have maintained a number of those relationships and am blessed to be in touch with many of the students I have taught.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are just entering the working world?

Sometimes, both in seminary and in the “church” world, we get locked into expectations of how things “should” go and what the future “should” be. God is doing new and wonderful things all the time. He is inviting us to join Him in His redemptive work in creation. The process and activity, as well as the location and time, will be different for each of us. Be comfortable trusting God to lead you into a future ministry that is very different from what you see around you.