Alumni
GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Linda Leon (DMin ’14)

Current title: Director of Spiritual Formation at Malone University

Family: Two college-aged kids, Abbi and Noah

Favorite class: One in which we traveled to the Boston campus and discussed urban ministry and racial reconciliation

Favorite memory: 1) The lightbulb moment in class when I realized what my thesis project would be and how it could potentially change Malone University’s spiritual formation programming, and 2) the day I moved the class clock ahead a good bit of time to see if the professors would notice (they didn’t). Can I admit this now without penalty now that it’s eight years later?!?

How did you come to be part of the Doctor of Ministry program at Gordon-Conwell?

I was mom to two elementary school kids and a full-time campus minister. At the time I couldn’t even conceive of taking on doctoral work. Then a friend pointed out Gordon-Conwell’s program focused specifically on Ministry of Emerging Generations. I wanted to know more about the students I was serving and how to better minister to them. I couldn’t get the idea of this DMin program out of my brain. I suppose that was the Holy Spirit’s prompting? When I encountered only open doors—a workplace supportive of advanced studies, a church offering financial assistance, help and support available at home—I enrolled!

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

I’ve continued in my role as Director of Spiritual Formation. Shortly after I graduated from Gordon-Conwell, I shifted to leading our office. We changed Malone’s spiritual formation programming in light of the research and learning from my Gordon-Conwell cohort and subsequent thesis project.

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

I’m now parenting two of the “emerging adults” that we discussed in my Gordon-Conwell cohort, which is simultaneously exciting and frightening.

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

I learned to understand college students' needs through the lens of research and best practices and then make data-driven decisions in campus ministry strategy. This changed and bettered how I approach work and ministry.

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

"Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering" (Romans 12:1-2, MSG). He cares about the fullness of your life: you can trust him!