Alumni

GORDON CONWELL

Alumni Spotlight: Doreen Campbell (MAR ‘19)

Current title: Manager of Networked Education Community Development

Family: Husband: Stuart; Children: 3 sons (and 3 daughters-in-law); 3 grandsons, and 1 granddaughter due in March.

Favorite professor: Dr. Rodney Cooper

Favorite class: Dynamics of Spiritual Life with Dr. Adams

Favorite memory: The first time I participated in a Soul Care group was at New Student Orientation. I remember being overwhelmed with the sense of having found something that my soul was longing for, although at that time, I could not have given words to express it. I am forever thankful for Ben Begley, the student who led that Soul Care group and introduced me to a practice that would deeply impact my relationship with God and shape the ministry that I now do.

Please tell us more about your role at Gordon-Conwell and how long you’ve been employed by the seminary.

I have worked at Gordon-Conwell since 2015, starting as a student worker until I graduated in 2019, then on staff with the Admissions team. In 2022, I moved into Student Life where I work alongside our Networked Ed. Dean of Students, Deana Nail, to develop community-based formational spaces where students can foster relationships with other students and deepen their relationship with God.

What are some things you love about your work?

One of my favorite things about my job is listening to students tell their stories about God’s work in their lives and helping them develop rhythms that maintain attentiveness to God throughout their seminary journey and beyond. I often get the opportunity to sit with students one-on-one and talk about the deeper questions of the heart, specifically the mystery of God’s transforming work as He calls us to follow Him. I find this humbling and an honor to walk alongside my brothers and sisters as we seek God together for this season of their life. What an amazing privilege to be invited into this work!

What’s unique about working at Gordon-Conwell?

I so appreciate that at the heart of Gordon-Conwell is a deep love for Jesus and a desire to prepare students for His mission to love well and serve others. Regardless of a person’s role on staff, this is our mission, and I am so grateful to be part of something much bigger than I alone bring. I am part of an amazing team of staff who work tirelessly to care for and encourage our students. Together we are paying attention to what God is doing and joining Him in His work.

How has working in a multidenominational setting shaped your own faith, ministry, or view of the Church as a whole?

Being able to study and work in a multidenominational environment is one of the most important gifts that Gordon-Conwell offers. As a student, I had the opportunity to hear from others about the different ways we love God and work out our salvation as followers of Christ. This fostered a broader appreciation of how God is at work among his people and enabled me to better listen to the voices of people who hold different perspectives. I know it is cliché, but God is so much bigger that I am sometimes comfortable with! In an age of division and polarization within the church, it is essential that we have places like Gordon-Conwell where we can study together and learn to dialogue again with a posture of curiosity, seeking for what unites us—Jesus Christ.

How has your own Gordon-Conwell education influenced your work or impacted the way you engage in your role?

There are many ways that my Gordon-Conwell education has influenced not only how I engage in my work role but how I live my life. Every class provided an opportunity to think more deeply about how I was living out my theology, but I would say that Soul Care was the most transformative experience for me as a student. Here I was introduced to new ways of relating to God through silence and stillness that caused me to slow down, make space, and listen attentively to God. This spoke to a deep longing in my own heart that caused me to want to share this experience with others. Following my graduation from Gordon-Conwell, I went on to complete a certification in Spiritual Direction through the Selah program, and now I offer spiritual direction to our students as well as overseeing our student-led Soul Care groups. The purpose of these spaces is to encourage students to be still and know God and develop rhythms of relationship that sustain them through seminary and on into their different ministries.