

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY HAMILTON
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Boston University School of Theology and Gordon-Conwell Partnering in Joint Doctoral Program in Missiology

The Boston University School of Theology and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts, are partnering to offer a joint Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) program in Missiology, with the first students to be admitted for the fall 2007 semester.

The new program combines the Boston University School of Theology's broad academic resources as a mainline theological institution with a respected, university-based doctoral degree; and Gordon-Conwell's recognized faculty, research facilities and worldwide contacts as one of the largest evangelical seminaries in North America. Not only is Boston University the largest private research university in New England, it also has one of the largest international student populations in the United States.

According to Barry H. Corey, Ph.D., Vice President for Education and Academic Dean of Gordon-Conwell's South Hamilton campus, "While several evangelical schools have initiated such programs, none offers a university-based research degree. The joint academic program expands opportunities for students from around the world to pursue excellent doctoral level study in a partnership between an evangelical seminary and a research institution. It is the best of both worlds."

"Missiology provides an academic locus for the interdisciplinary study of the mission of God and the Church," says Timothy C. Tennent, Ph.D., Professor of World Missions and Director of Missions Programs at Gordon-Conwell. "Employing the methodologies of theology, anthropology, history, intercultural relations and communications, missiologists address issues raised at places where the Gospel encounters unbelief. The new program promises to stimulate fresh thinking on the mission of the Church."

The program's core faculty, representing the disciplines of mission history, missiology, evangelism, world religions and the social sciences, draws from both schools. Students enrolled in the program may take courses at the appropriate academic level from all faculty at the two institutions, and have access to the libraries, specialized centers and research facilities of both schools.

At Boston University, these resources include faculty in the disciplines of missiology, evangelism, the philosophy and history of religions, comparative global ethics, congregational studies and the social sciences, including renowned scholars such as Dana Robert, M.L. Daneel and Bryan Stone. The School of Theology has major holdings in mission history, Bible translations, hymnody, and the ecumenical movement; the university library has one of the best African Studies collections in the world. University resources include departments of anthropology, sociology, religious studies (which covers world religions including Judaic Studies, Islamic Studies and South and East Asian Religions), the Danielsen Institute and the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs. The Center for Global Christianity and Mission at Boston University School of Theology sponsors a speaker series, library resources in missiology, and research by faculty in non-western mission and history of Christianity. Missiology students can receive training in media through the university's College of Communications, ranked one of the best in the country.

Gordon-Conwell resources for doctoral students include faculty in missiology, apologetics, theology and church history. The extensive library holdings of its three campuses in South Hamilton and Boston, Massachusetts, and Charlotte, North Carolina, include the urbanology collection of its multicultural, multiethnic campus in inner city Boston, the Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME). The Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell, with the research strengths of internationally recognized statisticians Drs. David Barrett and Todd Johnson, editors of the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (Oxford University Press) serves as a resource for the study and understanding of Christianity internationally. The J. Christy Wilson, Jr. Center for World Missions offers lectures, events and overseas missions opportunities for students, and resources for missions scholars-in-residence.

Also available to doctoral students are the scholarly resources of all the theological institutions in the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), including those in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions. Strong relationships the two partnering institutions have with the World Council of Churches and the Lausanne Movement further extend resources for doctoral candidates.

Supervising the joint Th.D. program is an Executive Committee comprised of three members from each institution. John H. Berthrong, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the Boston University School of Theology, chairs the committee. Dr. Corey serves as Vice Chair. Boston University is the degree-granting institution.

“The new program is a unique and innovative model of mission education that brings together the flexibility and entrepreneurial vision of a leading freestanding multi-denominational seminary with the institutional and academic depth of a university-based theological school,” says Boston University School of Theology Dean Ray Hart. “The two organizations have broad and complementary strengths of significant value to missiology students in their preparation for leadership worldwide.”

About the Boston University School of Theology

From its origin as the first school of Boston University, the School of Theology has been related to Methodism as a graduate professional school for the training of the leadership of the Church. Today it maintains that tie with the United Methodist Church while also supporting strong ecumenical commitments in both faculty and student body. In undertaking its primary academic and professional purposes, the School of Theology strives toward learning, virtue and piety, the three words displayed on the historic shield of Boston University. The School of Theology fosters creative and critical inquiry in the theological disciplines; responsible Christian engagement with people, cultures, and issues of a diverse and changing world; and the formation and development of maturing communities of faith. The School of Theology is part of the Church, the world, and the University. Its campus sits in the middle of a great urban area. Its educational mission to all three is to prepare people for traditional and innovative ministries informed by the historical roots and contemporary experience of the Christian church in different cultures. Like Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary the School of Theology is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada.

About Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is a multi-denominational, evangelical Protestant graduate school serving more than 2,200 students on campuses in South Hamilton and Boston, Massachusetts, and Charlotte, North Carolina, and an extension site in Jacksonville, Florida. Students represent 107 denominations and 44 foreign countries. The seminary is 5th largest among the more than 250 Protestant and Catholic seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada. Gordon-Conwell offers numerous degrees at the masters and doctoral levels and has gained an international reputation for leading faculty in the areas of Biblical Studies, Ministry and Theology.