

# PAUL D. WILLIS

CURRICULUM VITAE

## ASSISTANT | ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

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### Professional Summary

My professional **background** includes 15+ years of leadership experience in the church. I excel in teaching, preaching, and empowering Christians. My **approach** is to foster authenticity in the relationships, see and uncover God-given potential in every person, and further the mission of “making disciple makers”. My **goal** is to raise up the next generation of mission-driven Christians who effectively engage today’s culture for Christ. I **believe** transitioning to a leading Christian university with a strong Biblical worldview is an effective way for me to accomplish this goal.

### Professional Skills

- Teaching & Mentorship
- Biblical Exegesis & Hermeneutics
- Pastoral Counseling & Care
- Missional Ecclesiology
- Team Innovation & Collaboration
- Preaching & Homiletics
- Leadership & Administration
- Curriculum Development
- Practical Theology
- Research, Writing & Publishing

### Education & Awards

<b>Master of Divinity</b>   <i>Spiritual Formation</i>	May 2013
Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID	
Outstanding Student Award, School of Theology and Christian Ministries, GPA 4.0	May 2012
<b>Bachelor of Arts</b>   <i>History</i>	June 1996
Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, MA	

### Review & Publication

New Beacon Bible Commentary: Galatians. Reviewed this commentary by Dr. George Lyons (Northwest Nazarene University). Kansas City: Beacon Hill (April 2012).

Willis, Paul D. “Moments and Process: A Wesleyan Way to Promote Spiritual Formation.” Pastoral Practices: A Wesleyan Paradigm. Eds. Diane Leclerc and Mark Maddix. Kansas City: Beacon Hill (July 2013).

*In his chapter entitled, "Responsive to God: Wesleyan Worship as a Means of Spiritually Forming Grace," Rev. Paul D. Willis integrates the primacy of worship into a scheme of spiritual formation—aspects of ministry too easily kept distinct. Pastoral Practices, Dr. Mark Maddix and Dr. Diane Leclerc.*

## Selected Academic Papers & Presentations

- Planting The Wine & Bread: The Sacrament of Eucharist as Essential Christian Liturgy for Church Planting
- An Ecclesiology: Preparing the Martyr-Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist
- A Search For Living Faith: A Study of the Moravian Influence on John Wesley's Theology
- Effective Pastoral Leadership in the Church of the Nazarene: A Theological Analysis and Missiology
- Philosophical Foundations in Ministry: Postmodern Cultural Formation & Liturgy
- Sources of Western Spirituality: The Historical Roots of Pietism

## Ordination & Licensure

Ordained Clergy, Church of the Nazarene

April 2015

District Licensed Pastor, Church of the Nazarene

May 2006

## Professional Experience

Senior Pastor

**Cornerstone Community Church, Monroe, NC**

*November 2020–Present*

- **Preaching**: Wrote and delivered weekly sermons to bring the living Word of God to our congregation.
- **Teaching**: Taught Bible studies and small groups designed to foster deeper understanding of scripture.
- **Evangelism**: Oversaw planning of outreach activities for surrounding neighborhoods and the community. Led by example in personal evangelism and apologetics.
- **Discipleship**: Championed "disciples making disciples" through personal mentorship and group instruction.
- **Visitation**: Visited people in homes, hospitals, or nursing homes to provide spiritual comfort and support.
- **Leadership**: Demonstrated expertise in leading and developing teams and leadership boards using engaging and effective communication, coaching, and mentoring.
- **Officiating**: Conducted weddings, funerals, baptisms, dedications. Lead the sacramental life of the church.
- **Goal Setting**: Worked to establish goals and brainstorm ways to encourage participation in compassionate outreach and team development.
- **Mentorship**: Counseled individuals and groups concerning spiritual, emotional, or personal needs through a Biblical/Christian worldview.
- **Partnering**: Partnered with the district and global Nazarene church to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

Senior Pastor

**Amazing Grace Church, Walla Walla, WA**

*October 2013–October 2020*

- All the same duties as Cornerstone Church above: preaching, administration, discipleship, evangelism, and mentorship of future leadership in the church.
- This larger congregation went through a revisioning process, which established a 5-year plan for growth, building renovation, redesign of ministries, and staff/ministry team leadership training and development.

- Led the church board and a “Vision Team” through this process toward healthy ministries, finances, campus, and members.
- Oversaw ministry work in Malawi, Africa; built a new church and fresh water well in the area.

Pastor/Church Planter

**Compassion Church, Lynchburg, VA**

*August 2009-September 2013*

- Served on staff at Compassion Church, Lynchburg, VA as a Church Planter.
- Visioned, led, and founded a new church in Farmville, VA.
- Preached, taught, and fed this new congregation the Word of God.
- Relocated the church into a new worship facility and positioned the congregation for growth and maturity.
- Responsible for all administration, outreach, facility setup/teardown, and community engagement.
- Coordinated and communicated with Compassion Church. Attended staff and board meetings.
- Taught Bible studies, group classes, and led discipleship training.

Career Counselor

**Career Pro Inc., Raleigh, NC**

*July 1997-August 2009*

- Researched career paths and created customized action plans for clients, outlining steps needed to reach identified goals.
- Assisted clients in identifying career goals and objectives through comprehensive assessments of skills, interests, values, and personality traits.
- Drafted resumes, cover letters, and other necessary documents.

## Personal & Extracurricular

**Married:** Heather Joy Livingston (1994)

**Children:** Holly Renee Willis (2008)

**Hobbies:** I am a Certified Instructor of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, Hiking, Historical Sites, Biblical Archaeology, Painting.

**Goals:** I would love to complete my doctoral degree. I was unable to complete my D.Min. degree at George Fox University because of financial constraints.

## Interest Areas for Further Academic Study

- Oral Hermeneutics as a Means of Disciplemaking
- Jesus’ Parables: The Power of Story in Spiritual Formation
- Story in Contemporary Culture as Evangelistic Method
- Biblical Narrative & Homiletics
- Practical Theology
- Narrative Forms in the Gospel of Mark

## Professional References

**Rev. Dr. Philip Fuller**

District Superintendent  
Virginia District Nazarene Church  
(804) 739-4884

**Rev. Dr. Jay Akkerman**

Preaching & Pastoral Theology  
Northwest Nazarene University  
(208) 467-8437

**Rev. Dr. Diane Leclerc**

Historical Theology  
Northwest Nazarene University  
(208) 467-8532

**Rev. Dr. Randall Craker**

District Superintendent, Retired  
N.W. District Nazarene Church  
(509) 868-7624

**Rev. Dr. Brian Powell**

District Superintendent  
Kentucky District Nazarene Church  
(502) 957-2974

**Rev. Dr. Joe Gorman**

Pastoral Theology  
Northwest Nazarene University  
(208) 467-8016