

Q&A – Educational Background

"What is your educational Background?"

When I went for my undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota, I was planning on majoring in ancient, medieval and modern Hebrew. But after taking my fluency test I began falling in love with Greek and English writing. So I decided to focus on being an English writing major.

At that time, there was a dynamic church in Wisconsin pastored by an amazing author/pastor/leader. The church had also done some nationally known worship albums (which was something I was obsessed with at the time). So, when I was given the opportunity to come on staff, I was only a few credits shy of a bachelors degree.

At that time, there were no distance learning programs; so, it was either leave school or pass by the ultimate pastoring opportunity (& I chose pastoring). When I eventually took over the church as senior pastor a few years later, I never questioned my decision to leave school; yet, if you know me at all, I LOVE reading and going to school.

Fortunately, we started a two year Bible school and we were also a host location for a remote seminary that offered degrees up to a masters & doctorate of theology. So while flying in professors from around the U.S., I took two years of seminary classes while senior pastoring.

After moving to the Twin Cities to plant Substance, I began to finish my masters degree at Bethel seminary. Currently, I'm on and off at the seminary (as Substance keeps growing like crazy). But, I've somewhat embraced the fact that I'm always going to be one part pastoring and one part learning.