

BIOGRAPHY

D. Martin Butler was born and raised in Ohio, but has spent nearly all of his adult life in other places. His father is a retired autoworker and his mother spent her career as a homemaker. He is the third child in a family of six. He was first introduced to the Church of the Nazarene when a neighbor invited him and his sisters to Vacation Bible School when he was ten years old.

As a high school sophomore, he felt a call from God into the ministry. After graduation from high school in 1968, he attended Mount Vernon Nazarene College in Mount Vernon, Ohio. It was while a student there that he met his future wife, Ruth. They were married in 1970 and transferred to Bethany Nazarene College in Bethany, Oklahoma where he received both a BA and MA in religion. He was on staff in a church in Oklahoma City as a Minister of Youth.

Academic endeavors then took him to Kansas City where he enrolled in and graduated from Nazarene Theological Seminary. Following Seminary, he pastored churches in Youngstown, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky. While pastoring in Louisville, his son, Ryan, was born. In 1978 he accepted the invitation of the Nazarene Seminary to join their staff and to pursue a Doctor of Ministry degree which he completed in 1980. He served the Seminary for twelve years, two of which were as Assistant Director of Field Education and ten as Business Manager. Since all of his educational preparation had been in the area of religious studies, he returned to college to become credentialed in business matters. In 1987 he received the Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri and in 1994 was awarded the Ph.D. in Not for Profit Management and Educational Administration from the same institution.

Following the twelve years at NTS, he became the Director of Planned Giving for the denominational headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene, a post he held for four years. In 1994 he moved to Eastern Nazarene College where he served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. From there he moved to Nazarene Bible College in the fall of 1996 where he served as Vice President for Finance until August, 2005. In the fall of 2005 he returned to NTS and now serves as Dean for Administration and Student Services and teaches courses in Church Administration and Leadership, Church Finance, and Managing Change and Conflict. He has written and published materials in the same fields. He has served as treasurer of several Nazarene churches and helped develop the first church accounting software package distributed by NPH.

His wife, Ruth, is a registered nurse who holds both BSN and MSN degrees. She is Director of Education for a Kansas City area hospital where she is responsible for the continuing education program for all patient care employees. His son, Ryan, graduated from MidAmerica Nazarene University in 1999, married his college sweetheart in September 2000, ran his own business in the Kansas City area designing and installing home theatres, and has recently closed his business to return to college in the hopes of eventually entering medical school. Dr. Butler's first grandchild, Erin, was born in August of 2004. His second granddaughter, Carlie, was born in December of 2007. Dr. and Mrs. Butler reside in Lenexa, Kansas. For recreation they enjoy hiking and jogging.