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# Richard G. Varnell

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## Education

### D.Min Church Growth

2013 Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Springfield, MO  
Project Title: "Stimulating Church Growth through Scripturally  
Based Business Strategies: Targeting Churches Plateaued or Declining  
In Attendance"

1983-Present Continuing education for Enrolled Agent status

### B. A. Equivalent Business

1983-1985 California State University San Bernardino, CA

### M. A. Biblical Studies

1977 Assemblies of God Seminary Springfield, MO

### B. A. Religion

1966 Vanguard University of Southern California Costa Mesa, CA

## Author

*Let Your Church Grow--Success Guaranteed*—2018—This book shows pastors of plateaued or declining churches how to develop a first-time guest retention program that results in measureable growth in attendance. This is accomplished through an understanding of biblical principles and sound business strategies.

## Ministerial Experience

Executive Pastor 29 Palms Assembly of God Church 29 Palms, CA  
2016-Present Director of finance and buildings

**Advancement Dir.** Assist APTS (Asia Pacific Theological Seminary) Baguio,  
Philippines  
2014 in fund raising in USA. Served three months on campus (June-September, 2014) to develop programs for fund raising.

**Interim Pastor** Applied church growth principles to assist 60 year 29 Palms, CA  
2013-2014 old church to grow from 20 to 75 in attendance in 17 months. Attracted 17 Marine families and supervised a \$200,000 remodeling program.

**Presbyter** Desert Section—Southern California Assemblies  
2012-2014 of God  
Supervise fourteen churches of Desert Section.

Examine people seeking ministerial credentials.  
Represent the Desert Section churches at the  
Southern California District office of the Assemblies  
of God.

<b>Committee Member</b> 2008-2012	Sectional Administrative Committee Desert Section—Southern California	Palm Desert, CA
<b>Interim Pastor</b> 2008-Six months	Supervise churches and plan activities for the fourteen churches in the Desert Section  Desert MultiChurch Assembly of God	Thousand Palms, CA
<b>Executive Pastor</b> 2005-2007	Supervised building an 1,800 square foot children's building almost debt free.  Desert MultiChurch Assembly of God	Thousand Palms, CA
<b>Founding President</b> 1998-2006	Directed the finances (secured gifts of \$100,000), ushers and children's ministries.  Assemblies of God Founders Fund Southern California	Palm Desert, CA
<b>Founding and Senior Pastor</b> 1985-1998	Worked with all churches in Southern California District and Latin American churches in Southern California in the areas of Planned Giving (giving more than 100 seminars), Loans (\$80 million dollars) and Capital Campaigns. Employed by the District Office and in cooperation with the General Council. Brought in \$45 million dollars in assets under management in eight years.  Pioneered church with my family—Built new building and park debt free—established after school program for neighborhood children and youth—established bus ministry and other church programs.	Thousand Palms, CA
<b>Executive Presbyter</b> 1993-2000	Region V, Southern California District Assemblies of God	
<b>Presbyter</b> 1993	Desert Section, Southern California District Assemblies of God	
<b>Senior Pastor</b> 1975-1985	First Assembly of God	Bloomington, CA

Built educational building debt free—Started and directed Agape Christian Preschool and Kindergarten  
—Established Royal Rangers, Missionettes, and Youth Program.

## Other Experience

**Senior Pastor**  
1968-1973

First Assembly of God

Blythe, CA

Attendance doubled—finances tripled—remodeled building—President of Ministerial Association  
—Established Royal Rangers, Missionettes and Children's Church—Created local radio broadcast  
—Implemented weekly home prayer meetings.

**Board Member**

Vanguard University Alumni Board  
Vanguard University Executive Board for Capital Campaigns  
Ethne International Board

**President**  
2007-Present

Ministers National Tax

Palm Desert, CA

A new business designed to assist pastors and churches with their tax preparation and bookkeeping needs.

**President**  
1987-Present

Palm Desert Tax

Palm Desert, CA

Our firm prepares over 1,100 tax returns annually, including 100 ministers' tax returns.

**Owner**  
1980-1985

Income Tax Men

San Bernardino, CA

**Tax Consultant**  
1985-1987

Peterson, Slater and Butevidas

Indio, CA

**Founder**  
1976  
1977

Founded Colton Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

Assemblies of God

## Ministerial Recognition

**Ordained**  
1969

Southern California District Assemblies of God

**Licensed**

1967

Southern California District Assemblies of God

**Certified Minister**

1962

Southern California District Assemblies of God

**Family**

Wife	Joy Varnell taught in Christian Schools 1976-1978 and Public Schools from 1982 to 2006. Joy holds an Ed. D. in Education. She has taught at California State University, College of the Desert, Chapman University—Ontario campus and Bethany University, adjunct professor at Global University and professor at APTS.
Daughter	Christine Durkee, Vanguard Graduate, married to Bruce Durkee, Christy taught in public schools four years, has two daughters, and is family life pastor at Shadow Rock Church in La Quinta, CA.
Son	Matthew Varnell, Vanguard Graduate, married to Heather Varnell. Matt has been an Assemblies of God pastor. They have one son and two daughters.