

ADAM WOOD
PASTOR | CREATIVE EDUCATOR | DISCIPLESHIP SCHOLAR
 Hoopeston, Illinois | (217) 260-7635 | alwood3@liberty.edu

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Ordained pastor and researcher specializing in discipleship, Christian education, and inclusive spiritual formation. Cultivates relational environments integrating developmental psychology and theology to mentor students, families, and neurodivergent populations. Equips future ministry leaders through biblical teaching, curriculum development, and holistic mentoring.

Core Expertise: Spiritual Formation • Relational Mentorship • Curriculum Development • Authorship & Publishing • Neurodivergence Ministry • Pastoral Counseling

EDUCATION & ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

- **Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) in Discipleship** | Liberty University | Anticipated Dec 2029
- **M.A. in Educational Ministries** | Liberty University | In Progress; Expected Dec 2027
- **B.S. in Psychology, Minor in Autism** | Liberty University | Summa Cum Laude, 4.0 GPA, May 2026
- **A.A. in Psychology: Christian Counseling** | Liberty University | Honors, 2024
- **Graduate Certificate in Media Communications** | Full Sail University | 2021
- **Ordained Elder** | Church of the Nazarene | 2024

PASTORAL MINISTRY & DISCIPLESHIP EXPERIENCE

Lead Pastor | Paxton Church of the Nazarene (PaxNaz) | Paxton, IL | 2019–Present

- **Theological Preaching:** Deliver weekly expository biblical instruction to multigenerational audiences, translating complex doctrine into frameworks for daily discipleship.
- **Discipleship Pathway Architecture:** Formulate adult small-group curricula and spiritual formation pathways that cultivate congregational leadership and spiritual accountability.
- **Relational Mentorship:** Provide direct pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, and intentional mentorship to individuals, couples, and student leaders navigating emotional and faith challenges.
- **Leadership Multiplication:** Recruit, shepherd, and spiritually invest in a team of 15+ staff and volunteer leaders, building a collaborative culture of ministry ownership.

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Co-Founder & Executive Director | Brightstar Ministries, Inc. | Hoopeston, IL | 2025–Present

- **Inclusive Discipleship Design:** Author innovative music, curriculum, and training resources focused on adapting spiritual formation models for families and individuals navigating autism, ADHD, and neurodivergence.
- **Educational Leadership:** Facilitate targeted training seminars and guided discussions for regional church leaders to optimize engagement, pedagogy, and knowledge retention.
- **Strategic Accessibility Consultation:** Advise ministry boards on optimizing educational environments, transforming communication styles, and removing cognitive barriers to ensure true community belonging.
- **Creative:** Lead Brightstar (the band) in the creation of music that reaches individuals in the darker areas of real-life. Brightstar has seen #1 and Top 3 chart success on national Christian Rock radio for multiple releases.

Psychology Internship (PSYC 499) | Liberty University | 2026

- Completed 125 hours of supervised field experience, merging psychological development concepts with pastoral care.
- Formulated personalized behavioral support strategies for neurodivergent youth and adults to enrich peer-to-peer relationships.

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARLY WORK

Founder & President | Faith Based Music LLC | Hoopeston, IL | 2024–Present

- Manage independent music production and publishing operations, focusing on mentoring and spiritually investing in Christian artists.
- Produce promotional copy, digital media layouts, and written resources optimized for educational marketing.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY & RESEARCH INTERESTS

- ***Autism & Faith (Training Book):*** Equips churches to address neurodiversity, accessibility, and inclusive spiritual formation through a small-group training format.
- ***Health & Discipleship (Devotional Book):*** Explores holistic connections between mental, physical, spiritual, and financial well-being.
- ***Things I've Learned From Floating Through Life (Book):*** A narrative exploration of lifelong observations through the lens of ADHD and executive dysfunction.
- **Academic Specializations:** Inclusive pedagogy, disability theology, church participation barriers, and discipleship models.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST