

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

| *Highlights from*
DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

A PRAYER, FOR LOOKING BACK ON 2020

GOD OF LIFE,
THERE ARE DAYS WHEN THE BURDENS WE CARRY
ARE HEAVY ON OUR SHOULDERS AND WEIGH US DOWN,
WHEN THE ROAD SEEMS DREARY AND ENDLESS,
THE SKIES GRAY AND THREATENING,
WHEN OUR LIVES HAVE NO MUSIC IN THEM,
AND OUR HEARTS ARE LONELY,
AND OUR SOULS HAVE LOST THEIR COURAGE.
FLOOD THE PATH WITH LIGHT,
TURN OUR EYES TO WHERE THE SKIES ARE FULL OF PROMISE;
TUNE OUR HEARTS TO BRAVE MUSIC;
GIVE US THE SENSE OF COMRADESHIP
WITH HEROES AND SAINTS OF EVERY AGE;
AND SO QUICKEN OUR SPIRITS
THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE
THE SOULS OF ALL WHO JOURNEY WITH US ON THE ROAD OF LIFE,
TO YOUR HONOR AND GLORY. AMEN.

—attributed to Augustine of Hippo (354–430)

From a collection of prayers compiled by
Meghan Feldmeyer Benson, Chaplain of Duke Divinity School

Cover photo by Eliza Stewart; Photo this page by Duke University Photography

A NOTE *from the Dean*



“Our faculty and staff pivoted quickly to the changing landscape by delivering classes remotely and developing hyflex strategies to meet the needs of our students now and into the future.”

2020 was a remarkably complicated year. COVID-19, racial injustice, job losses, economic fallout, mental health crises, political polarization, and the deepening fragmentation in American culture weighed heavy on all of us. In the midst of the tumult, Duke Divinity School responded faithfully, adapting our strategies to move forward in our mission: To engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.

Our faculty and staff pivoted quickly to the changing landscape by delivering classes remotely and developing hyflex strategies to meet the needs of our students now and into the future. Numerous webinars and published resources were launched to share theological, ministerial, and practical wisdom with leaders across multiple sectors. New creative collaborations were formed and continue to develop to

serve the church and diverse communities near and far.

We want to share with you some highlights of how God has sustained and nurtured Duke Divinity School in recent months, including the largest incoming student class in our history, exciting new faculty and staff joining our team, and the launch of significant programs to address the challenges of our time. Yes, there are numerous challenges, and yet we have claimed this as “our time” to bear faithful witness to God and to be people of Easter hope and Pentecost power. As I prepare to depart Duke to become president of Belmont University in Summer 2021, this trajectory gives me great confidence in the continuing mission and vitality of the school under the new leadership of my longtime colleague and friend, Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the ministry and mission of Duke Divinity School.

— L. Gregory Jones

Dean and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School

Chris Hildreth / Rooster Media

Supporting Creative Learning and Community



Anathea Portier-Young, an associate professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity, embraces the boundless possibilities in virtual learning. In March, when in-person classes transitioned to virtual classes around the country because of the coronavirus pandemic, she engaged her students by adding guest speakers, reducing class time, and designing new ways to promote student learning—including nontraditional activities and props.

Professor Anatheia Portier-Young teaches a divinity class from her home.
Photo by Les Todd / LKT Photography



Les Todd / LKT Photography

SPOTLIGHT on Staff Superstars

In addition to the wonderful work of faculty, the professional and support staff of Duke Divinity devoted enormous energy, boundless creativity, and hundreds of thousands of additional work hours to ensure that the mission and work of the school would continue in 2020. Here are just a few of those indispensable people.

KARIN BREIWITZ *Instructional Technology Analyst*

At the beginning of 2020, Breiwitz supported the hybrid degree programs—the D.Min. and the M.A. in Christian Practice—with their use of online tools and remote learning best practices. In March, her workload increased from supporting about a dozen faculty who taught in those two programs to supporting all of the Duke Divinity teaching faculty, and from supporting about 100 students in two degree programs to supporting all the students across six degree programs. She also provides support for Duke Divinity's growing collection of webinars, regularly working up to 80 hours each week in 2020.

DEBORAH HACKNEY *Senior Director of Academics and Registrar*

The uncertainty around virus restrictions meant that students were registered in May for the fall semester—and then had to be registered all over again using a different system in August. It was just one example of the additional workload required to support students, along with developing a Student Support Team whose members called students regularly throughout the spring and summer to offer a personal connection. The entire Academics team—Deb Hackney, Debra Woodell, Ashley Lunn, and Tracie Foust—took no vacation days until Christmas 2020.

COLIN YUCKMAN *Director of Digital Learning Formation and Consulting Faculty*

With experience administering and teaching in the M.A. in Christian Practice and D.Min. degree programs, Yuckman was pressed into service to help other faculty quickly develop best practices in pedagogy for remote learning environments. Over the summer he worked with Karin Breiwitz to offer faculty workshops in both hybrid instruction methods and online instructional tools, and he continues to curate resources, lead faculty feedback sessions, and participate in preceptor training workshops.

And So Many More!

The **OFFICE OF FIELD EDUCATION** translated an entire field education program online with just a few weeks' notice.

The **ADMISSIONS** team launched a new podcast and delivered virtual tours for prospective students.

The **IT DEPARTMENT** not only ensured that fall classes held on campus had sufficient technological support and staffing but also supported staff who were working remotely.

The **OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE** coordinated calls, texts, and emails to students to ensure they had the support and supplies they needed.

The Duke Divinity community is grateful for the immense work of all of these talented and dedicated people.

STAY NIMBLE

Portier-Young is no stranger to online teaching. She has taught for years in the Master of Arts in Christian Practice, a degree program that offers hybrid learning. She admits, though, that online learning requires more preparation on the front end.

For her, that has meant recording a lecture several times because the technology may have failed the first time. Sometimes it means trouble-shooting general computer problems. "Logistically, showing up in a classroom and delivering your message is not as exhausting, plus I get energy from my students."

She uses a combination of both synchronous (when she and the students meet together online at the same time) and asynchronous (when students access material in their own time) exercises. Usually she meets with the class together on Zoom for discussion, and she posts her lectures via a learning module for the class to listen to on their own timetable.

BRING IN THE FUN

How do you hold people's attention when they have to look at a screen? From the start, Portier-Young gave herself

permission to be goofy. "Sometimes I would use props to make me laugh," she says. "I wanted students to intentionally bring their whole selves to this learning space. I asked them to dance; I gave them permission to turn off their cameras if they wanted," she says. "In my preaching class, we have a little dance party—to remind them they are embodied in their learning environment, and what they do with their bodies matters."

In a lecture on the book of Psalms, Portier-Young used different categories of shoes—including clogs, flip-flops, rain boots, and her favorite pair of blue suede high-heeled ankle boots—to illustrate the different forms used in the psalms, from lament to worship to beautiful poetry and art.

Another time she invited an actor to her preaching class to show students how to use their faces. "In this Zoom world, we are looking at head and shoulders. How are we going to use what we have to maximum effect? There's a lot you can do with your face."

STUDENTS GIVE HER HIGH MARKS

One student wrote: "All my professors and TAs this spring did their best to handle the transition, but the results of

Dr. Portier-Young's efforts stood far above the rest. I hope you ask her about her methods and use them to help other faculty make the online transition."

Student Austin Byerly M.Div. '21 agrees. He took her class "Exegeting Ezekiel: Exile, Trauma, and Vision" in the spring semester. "When things switched, she realized how much Zoom fatigues the class. She reduced class time. It was originally 2.5 hours, and she dropped the final 30 minutes, which helped me focus."

This fall, Byerly took Portier-Young's class "From Text to Sermon: Preaching from the Old Testament." "She was excellent about trying new things," he says. He appreciated that she supplied learning activities such as blog posts, Google docs (so class members could engage with each other), and videos on voice threads.

Byerly says all that was helpful as he figured out his new groove for studying. Like many people, he had to adjust to his new work space, one he shares with his wife. He also realized that online learning takes patience because of technical and internet problems.

"She's does creative things like letting each student choose their own wellness day. They get a free ticket to excuse themselves with no penalty," says Sujin Pak, executive vice dean. (She adds that this is not an excuse to miss major assignments!) "She thinks of the whole well-being of the student and has a high standard of learning. Thea understands that students are dealing with racial tension, economic struggles, and child care issues. Students are juggling and struggling! She builds appropriate cushions while supporting their robust learning."

"We're all learning how to do this better," Portier-Young says. "I have found it to be so important to ask for feedback along the way. You have to be willing to try new things, meaning some things are going to be duds and some great."

This article is adapted from a piece originally published on the Duke Divinity Stories site: stories.divinity.duke.edu.

STRENGTHENING *Duke Divinity with New Faculty*

EIGHT NEW FACULTY MEMBERS BRING
INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERTISE AND DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES



Peter Casarella

Professor of Theology

Peter Casarella joins Duke from the University of Notre Dame, and he has served as director of the Latin American North American Church Concerns (LANACC) project in the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. His research focuses on systematic theology, world religions, and the world church, and he has published widely on medieval Christian Neoplatonism, contemporary theological aesthetics, intercultural thought, and the Hispanic-Latino/a presence in the U.S. Catholic Church.



Alma Tinoco Ruiz

*Lecturer in Homiletics and Evangelism and
Director of the Hispanic House of Studies*

Alma Tinoco Ruiz focuses her research on the sermons of Saint Óscar Romero as a profound response to the traumatic injuries of the marginalized and oppressed people of El Salvador, and on how preachers today can effectively address trauma experienced by marginalized and oppressed communities, particularly the community of undocumented immigrants from Latin America in the United States. She was named a Denman Fellow of the Foundation for Evangelism, and was awarded a Lilly Endowment Inc. fellowship for Hispanic-Latino/a students, the Forum for Theological Exploration Doctoral Fellowship, and the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI)/Lilly fellowship. She is a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church.



Wylin Dassie Wilson

Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics

Wylin Wilson's research lies at the intersection of religion, gender, and bioethics, including rural bioethics and Black Church studies. Prior to joining Duke Divinity School, she was a teaching faculty member at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics and a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School. She has also served as visiting lecturer and research associate at the Harvard Divinity School Women's Studies in Religion Program, associate director of education at the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, and faculty member in the College of Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences at Tuskegee University. Among her publications is her book, *Economic Ethics and the Black Church*.

Quinton Dixie

*Associate Research Professor of
Church History and Black Church Studies*

Quinton Dixie specializes in American religious history and has written on a wide range of topics, from the African American Civil Rights Movement to the history of Black Baptists in the U.S. His interest in documentary editing led to work on two projects with James M. Washington: *I Have a Dream*, a collection of Martin Luther King Jr.'s writings and speeches for young adult readers; and *Conversations with God*, an edited volume of African American prayers ranging from early America to the close of the 20th century. He received a certificate from the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents and served 15 years on the editorial team of the Howard Thurman Papers Project.



Sarah Jean Barton

*Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy
and Theological Ethics*

Sarah Barton's scholarly work is focused in theological ethics, with special attention to theological anthropology, disability, liturgy, and pastoral care. She has a joint faculty appointment as assistant professor of occupational therapy at Duke University Medical Center in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and is a practicing occupational therapist with a current board certification in pediatrics. She has published work in the fields of Christian ethics and theology, disability studies, medicine, global health, and occupational therapy.



Janet Martin Soskice

William K. Warren Distinguished Research Professor of Catholic Theology

Janet Soskice's work lies at the intersection of Christian theology and philosophy, with particular interest in questions of method and the doctrine of God: religious language, metaphysics and epistemology, narrative and genre, doctrine of creation, women and religion, beauty and Western art, science and religion, and theological writing. For over 30 years, she worked in the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, where she is professor emerita of philosophical theology. Her books include *Metaphor and Religious Language* and *The Kindness of God*, and her current large research project is on "Naming God."



Norbert Wilson

Professor of Food, Economics, and Community

Norbert Wilson's scholarly research explores food issues such as access, choice, and food waste. Before joining Duke Divinity School, he was a professor of food policy at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. He also worked as an economist/policy analyst for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. He continues to work on food safety and quality issues in international trade and domestic food systems. He is an ordained vocational deacon in the Episcopal Church.

Zebulon M. Highben

Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music at Duke Divinity School and Director of Chapel Music at Duke University Chapel

Zebulon Highben's research interests include hymnody, liturgy, music and exegesis, the musical heritage of the Reformation, and the impact of the Second World War on German sacred music. His publications include articles and essays, choral anthologies, and more than 50 choral and liturgical compositions. He has received numerous conducting and/or composition awards, and has served as a church musician for Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist congregations. He is an ordained deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



FACULTY Transitions

RETIREMENT

Charles Campbell

James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Homiletics



"Books like *Preaching Jesus: The New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology*, *The Word Before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*, and my personal favorite, *Preaching Fools: The Gospel as a Rhetoric of Folly* have been translated into multiple languages. His forthcoming work on the gospel and the grotesque is suited for this historical moment when the world is off-kilter. These volumes are gifts to homiletical scholars and essential texts for preachers who want to knit communities together and reckon with the powers and principalities of this age. Chuck's work helps us re-conceive the authority of preaching and its role in the public square. The homiletics discipline is braver and more honest as a direct result of his scholarship.

Am I biased? A tad. But his role as president of the Academy of Homiletics and the honor of delivering the 2018 Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale, not to mention his many international lectureships, show that I am not alone in this estimation."

Read more of this tribute to Charles Campbell, by Donyelle McCray Th.D.'14, at stories.divinity.duke.edu.

Randy Maddox

William Kellon Quick Professor Emeritus of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies



"Consider a sampling of Randy Maddox's accomplishments: director of Duke's Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition; general editor of the Wesley Works project; editor or co-editor of many books on Wesleyan and Methodist studies; and author of *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology* (1994), perhaps the single most important volume on Wesley's theology; not to mention dozens of essays and articles.

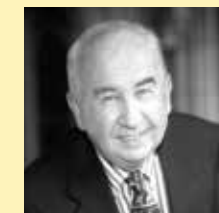
Maddox did not begin his career as a Wesley scholar. His dissertation was on theological method. He turned to Wesley studies when what started as a sabbatical project became *Responsible Grace*. As well as his keen abilities as a theologian and historian, it was the commitment of institutional support to Wesley studies from Duke Divinity that allowed Maddox to build on *Responsible Grace* and make lasting contributions to the field of Wesley and Methodist studies."

Read more of this tribute to Randy Maddox, by Mark Gorman Th.D.'15, at stories.divinity.duke.edu.

OBITUARIES

Geoffrey Wainwright

Professor of Systematic Theology
July 16, 1939 – March 17, 2020



Geoffrey Wainwright received a theological doctorate from the University of Geneva in 1972 and his Cambridge D.D. in 1987. He was ordained by the British Methodist Conference in 1967. He was a professor of systematic theology at Duke Divinity School from 1983 until his retirement in 2012. He worked to promote understanding and unity between churches through his membership in the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. He was a principal editor of the text "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" drawn up by the Commission at Lima, Peru, in 1982. Between 1986 and 2011, he served as chair on the Methodist side of the Joint Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church. Among his many books, the most influential remains his systematic theology, *Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine and Life*.

Tributes in his memory may be sent to Duke Divinity School, Box 90968, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708.

Ann Marie Daniel Langford

March 25, 1931 – November 26, 2020



Ann Marie Daniel, who attended Greensboro College and Duke University, married Thomas A. Langford Jr. at Dilworth Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C., in 1951. Tommy, as she called him, was ordained into ministry in the United Methodist Church, and she liked being a preacher's wife. A Methodist from her baptism until her death, Methodist hymns formed her theological core. While she married a pastor, Tommy then became a professor at Duke. She was active with students, faculty, and contributors. Her memorial service will be at a future date. Her ashes will be buried with Tommy's in Duke Garden and The Rock House at Lake Junaluska.

Memorials may be made to the Tom and Ann Marie Langford Scholarship Fund at Duke University Divinity School or the Ann Marie Langford Endowment at Duke Gardens.

PUBLISHING RESOURCES

for the Church, Academy, and World

DIVINITY FACULTY CONTINUE TO PUBLISH SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THEOLOGICAL BOOKS AND WIDELY READ ARTICLES

Books

Christianity's Surprise: A Sure and Certain Hope

By C. Kevin Rowe, *George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament*, Abingdon Press, 2020
By asking the same fundamental questions as the early Christians, we can rediscover the surprising power of Christianity in our midst. Focusing on the surprise of the gospel message takes one into the heart of what Christianity is all about and what it is to remember and recover the life-giving power and witness that went with being Christian at the beginning.

The Overshadowed Preacher: Mary, the Spirit, and the Labor of Proclamation

By Jerusha Matsen Neal, *Assistant Professor of Homiletics*, Eerdmans, 2020
The presence of the living Christ in the sermon is one of the most important, unexamined affirmations of preaching, and Mary's example calls preachers to leave behind the false shadows haunting Christian pulpits and be "overshadowed" by the Spirit of God. A preacher's fully embodied witness is lived out through Spirit-filled acts of hospitality, dependence, and discernment.

Pauline Dogmatics: The Triumph of God's Love

By Douglas A. Campbell, *Professor of New Testament*, Eerdmans, 2020
Campbell traces what the life

and teaching of Christ signify for Paul's thinking through all the other key theological topics, from revelation and the resurrection through the nature of the church and mission. The conversation includes the work of theologians Karl Barth in relation to revelation and election, Stanley Hauerwas in relation to Christian formation, and Willie Jennings for post-colonial concerns.

The Whole Is Greater than Its Parts: Encountering the Interreligious and Ecumenical Other in the Age of Pope Francis

Edited by Peter J. Casarella, *Professor of Theology*, with Gabriel Said Reynolds, *Crossroad Publishing Co.*, 2020
Pope Francis gives the example of a unity that is greater than its parts in the figure of a polyhedron—the unity born of this solid figure with many planes preserves unity while reinforcing the value of difference. Christians can be encouraged not only to seek greater unity among themselves but also to bear witness to their faith and advance mutual understanding with adherents of non-Christian systems of belief.

Reading with the Grain of Scripture

By Richard B. Hays, *George Washington Ivey Professor Emeritus of New Testament*, Eerdmans Publishing, 2020
This collection of essays explores major themes of Hays's exegetical and theological work over more than

two decades, guiding readers to a "hermeneutic of trust" rather than the "hermeneutic of suspicion" that has loomed large in recent biblical studies.

Flow: The Ancient Way to Do Contemporary Worship

By Lester Ruth, *Research Professor of Christian Worship*, Abingdon Press, 2020
This practical book on contemporary worship that honors tradition will help churches plan and implement passionate and invigorating worship.

Essays on the History of Contemporary Praise and Worship

Edited by Lester Ruth, *Research Professor of Christian Worship*, Essays by Duke Divinity Students in the Th.D. program in Liturgical Studies, Wipf & Stock, 2020
These essays examine the liturgical phenomenon known as "contemporary worship" or as "praise and worship" and push the study of this form of worship by offering an introduction to the phenomenon, documenting critical aspects of its development, and suggesting methods for future historical study.

New Books from Will Willimon

Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry

Leading with the Sermon: Preaching as Leadership

Fortress Press, 2020
Two key pastoral tasks—preaching and leadership—complement, correct,

strengthen, and inform one another. Sermons can be an opportunity to articulate, motivate, and orchestrate God's people in doing God's work in the church and in the world.

Preachers Dare: Speaking for God

Abingdon Press, 2020
Adapted from Willimon's Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale University Divinity School (postponed until 2021), this book dares preachers to be bold and speak about the God who speaks to humans through Jesus Christ in a world in which sermons too often become hackneyed conventional wisdom or tame common sense.

Aging: Growing Old in the Church

Baker Academic, 2020
Willimon explores the challenging realities as well as the rewarding joys of growing old, and shows pastors how to help their congregants grow old gracefully and in good Christian hope.

Stories by Willimon

Abingdon Press, 2020
This book shares some of Willimon's most memorable stories that illuminate Christian faith in practice. Readers may see themselves or their friends at times in these stories, with fellow storytellers likely to retell them to friends, family, colleagues, and churches.

Publications: Lights in the Darkness Initiative

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across our nation and the world, the Duke Divinity community engaged in theological reflection and conversation about faithfully responding to this global challenge. Faculty, alumni, and students contributed articles, video, and devotional messages in a range of publications that offer ministerial perspectives and spiritual hope. For a full list of resources, see divinity.duke.edu/initiatives/covid-19.

Dying Gives Us a Chance to Confront Truth

"Covid-19 is not a blessing," writes Professor C. Kevin Rowe in *The Wall Street Journal*. "It is one more obvious, terrible instance of a broken world. But amid all the reasonable concern, we shouldn't lose sight of the deeper cause of our anxiety—our mortal fear—and the unprecedented

chance within this life to become fuller, richer and more joyful human beings." Read the full article on the *Wall Street Journal* website.

How to Live in the Face of Fear: Lessons From a Cancer Survivor

Professor Kate Bowler was interviewed in *The New York Times* on why forcing yourself to stay positive is not always best, examining the human longing to love and be loved, and why living in constant fear makes it important to have two different routines: one for day and one for night. The full interview is available on the *New York Times* website.

As the U.S. has grappled with racial injustice, the Duke Divinity community engaged in theological reflection and conversation about faithfully responding to this challenge. Faculty,

alumni, and students have contributed articles and other content in a range of publications that offer ministerial perspectives and spiritual hope.

How an Open Bible Should Dismantle White Supremacy

J. Ross Wagner, associate professor of New Testament, writes about how white followers of Jesus must live in keeping with the gospel story and oppose the persistent, systemic racism in American society. The article is available on the Duke Divinity School's Medium channel: medium.com/@DukeDivinity.

Preaching Grace for an Anti-racist Church

"Wesleyan grace is the power of God working in you to give you a more godly life than the one you were bred (by structures of white supremacy) to live," writes

Will Willimon, professor of the practice of Christian ministry, in a blog post at umcdiscipleship.org.

Enough Conversations; Let's Do Something about Racism

David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black Church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies, writes in *Good Faith Media* about the need to start working for liberation before we can work on reconciliation. The article is available at goodfaithmedia.org.

50+
ARTICLES PUBLISHED
IN NATIONAL
MEDIA OUTLETS

Growth in Webinars

While 2020 caused significant disruption, Duke Divinity quickly expanded its use of digital platforms in support of its mission to equip alumni and church leaders to address the present moment faithfully and effectively. Here is a glimpse of the ways we were able to learn together and reach new friends in 2020.

- **"Reading Barth Together"**: Duke Divinity School Professors Stanley Hauerwas and Will Willimon held a webinar series on the theology of world-renowned theologian Karl Barth. *The full series is available on the [Duke Divinity School YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).*
- **"Confronting Racism through Preaching"**: Duke Divinity School Professors David Emmanuel Goatley and Will Willimon hosted a series of online conversations with Duke Divinity School alumni around this critical calling for the church today and in the future. The conversations looked at how pastors, particularly in predominantly white congregations, can speak honestly and faithfully, hopefully and redemptively, about the sin of white supremacy, as well as identify some of the pitfalls and possibilities, challenges and opportunities, of allowing the gospel to speak to America's racial past and present. *The series is available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).*
- **"Christian Leadership in Turbulent Times: 2020 Convocation & Pastors' School Virtual Miniseries"**: This series of webinars featuring Duke Divinity faculty and staff is designed for Christian leaders from all traditions. *The series is available at warppwire.duke.edu.*
- **"Meeting Our Moment"**: Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts has a webinar series of conversations between DITA director Jeremy Begbie and noted artists and scholars. *The full series is available at sites.duke.edu/dita.*

For a complete list of available webinars, contact externalrelations@div.duke.edu.

Building Community for New Students

Like almost everything else in 2020, Duke Divinity orientation was anything but typical. Instead of one week at the beginning of the fall semester, orientation programming started in June and was conducted entirely online. Staff from across the school, including admissions, ministerial formation, academic affairs, and IT, performed heroic feats to prepare a digital hub with a virtual tour of campus, videos, discussion groups, and information to plan for the upcoming semester.

Angie Hoen, M.Div.'21 walks with first-year M.Div. students Ruth Ostler and Mackenzie Fair. As the leader of their Sojourner group, Hoen has helped new students navigate the beginning of divinity school.
Photo by Les Todd / LKT Photography

Mackenzie Fair takes notes during a church history class held in Goodson Chapel.



Sojourner groups included two leaders and about eight incoming students. Instead of sessions held during one week, groups met for two months, from mid-June until fall semester classes began in August. The Sojourners hosted game nights, information sessions, and prayer gatherings—offering time and energy to help weave the new students into the Duke Divinity community.

“This was my second year as a Sojourner, and I wanted to participate because I believe the support and connection to a fellow seminarian is important to incoming divinity students,” said Angie Hoen, a third-year M.Div. student. “It is a privilege to help incoming students connect to others within their own incoming class and to other ‘seasoned’ students, who not too long ago had the same response to God’s call. The ministry preparation in academics, formation, and resource support is exceptional at Duke Divinity, and I wanted to do my small part in helping other students feel welcomed as they walk through a new door on their journey.”

NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY

New students always have dozens of questions before the start of semester, and in 2020 the pandemic exacerbated the uncertainty. Many had never visited the campus before. How do you decide which classes to take? Should they move to Durham? Should they even begin their divinity education right now?

Mackenzie Fair, a first-year student from Fort Wayne, Ind., was in Hoen’s Sojourner group. She wrestled with these questions: “I spent a lot of time this summer thinking about whether or not I should wait and see how the pandemic shakes out before starting school. My biggest fear was that I would move to Durham and not be able to get connected to anyone because of the pandemic. But I had a feeling that God had some really beautiful mysteries for me in North Carolina.”

Even new students from Durham wondered whether they should accept the offer to begin their divinity studies this year. Megan Clinton, another first-year M.Div. student in Hoen’s Sojourner group, who is on the path toward ordained ministry, considered deferring admission or waiting for another year to enroll: “When I received the call to ministry, Duke was the only university I applied to. But at the onset of the pandemic I considered not attending. Like many, I was discombobulated and anxious. Ultimately, I decided to attend this year because I had trust in my calling and trust in Duke University.”

A COMMUNITY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Students—both Sojourners and first-years—cited the community at Duke Divinity School as the blessing that has encouraged them throughout the semester. “There is so much that God is revealing to me about why Duke is the right school for me,” said Clinton. “The most meaningful aspect of my experience has been the people. There is a warmth and kindness here that consistently reminds me I am in the right place, and it’s exemplified in my interactions with Angie Hoen. She offered encouragement, information, and joy to our Sojourner group. Throughout our meetings Angie would remind us ‘you are meant to be here.’ That reminder has been with me this entire semester.”

Ruth Ostler, a first-year M.Div. student planning to pursue chaplaincy, was another member of Hoen’s Sojourner group. She moved to Durham from Washington, D.C., and knew that the pandemic would make connections with people difficult. But she found that her Sojourner group helped her to get oriented, ask questions, and meet people. “Online meeting is not ideal, but our leaders made it work. I give them major kudos for that! I think that we did the best we could and were successful at forming relationships and supporting each other as we began divinity school. Angie said that we should always remember that there is a reason that we are at Duke in the M.Div. program, that we all have unique gifts and contributions to make to our peers and to the program.”

“I believe that the Sojourners process, even if it’s online, helps to be the bridge to Duke Divinity in a very special way,” Hoen added.

This article is adapted from a piece originally published on our Stories website. To read more, visit stories.divinity.duke.edu.

“With the challenges of COVID-19, what better year to sojourn with others than this year? This is a year when we can be incarnational grace extended to others.”

— Angie Hoen, third-year M.Div. student



Les Todd / LKT Photography

Les Todd / LKT Photography

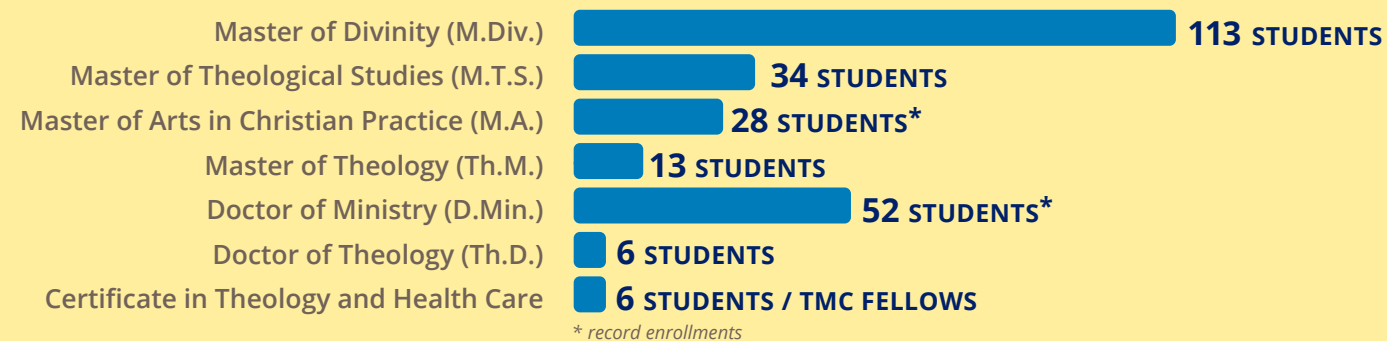
FOLLOWING God's Call

Welcoming the Largest Student Class in Divinity History

In the fall semester of 2020, Duke Divinity School welcomed the largest incoming class in the school's history, with 257 students from seven countries and 35 different states. Students hailed from China, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Korea, in addition to the U.S.

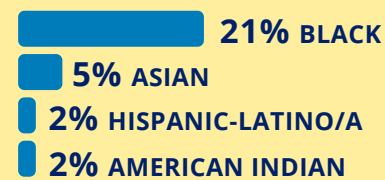
"What will forever mark the incoming 2020 class is that they entered Duke Divinity School during a global pandemic," said Todd Maberry, senior director of admissions, recruitment,

and student finance. "When the pandemic first hit, I was concerned that a large number would not be able to join our community. While we did understandably lose a few potential enrollees for reasons related to COVID-19, the overwhelming majority chose to enroll, including a significant group who applied after the pandemic hit and in response to it. The 2020 class recognizes the significant challenges we face today and are boldly responding to the call of the gospel to be the salt of the earth and a light to the world."

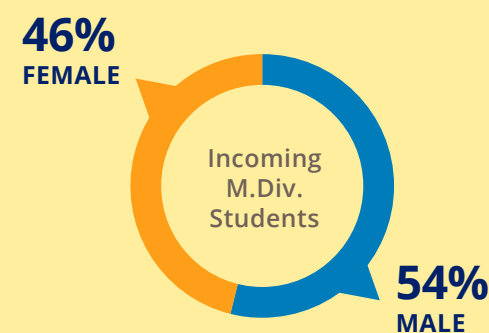
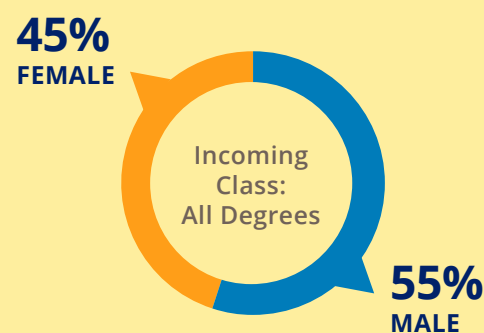


31%

of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white across all degree programs

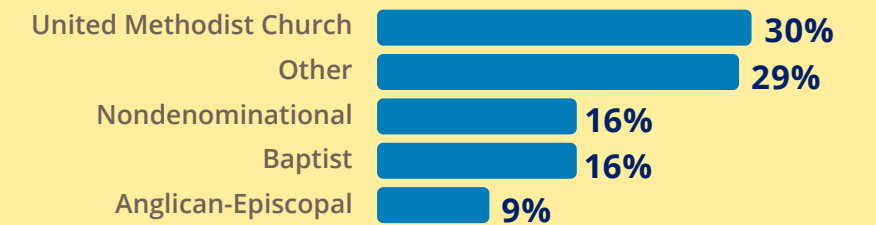


Students from minority groups comprise more than 25 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, with Black students making up 19 percent.



Students in the M.Div. represent **30** denominations

The school also welcomed the first cohort of students from Martin Methodist College to take classes at Duke Divinity through the Kern Initiative in the Office of Wesleyan Engagement.



Theology, Medicine, and Culture Fellows Recognized for Leadership and Theological Reflection

No one could have predicted that 2020 would be the year when a global pandemic, economic distress, and protests for racial justice would affect millions of lives and upend nearly every sector of the country, from education to health care to law enforcement to religious practices. The [Theology, Medicine, and Culture](#) (TMC) initiative at Duke Divinity School doesn't specialize in that sort of prediction—but the [TMC Fellows](#) program does equip health professionals to be prepared to respond. Their recent contributions have been recognized for their theological acumen, thoughtful leadership, and interdisciplinary perspective.



TMC Fellow Emmy Yang published an article in *Christianity Today*, "[What Martin Luther Teaches Us About Coronavirus](#)." Now translated into at least seven languages, the article offered a nuanced perspective from historical theology on how Christian health care workers and ministers could view the pandemic.

TMC Fellows have also published articles and reflections in the Hastings Bioethics Forum, Sojo.net, *The Tennessean*, *Christianity Today*, and Medium. To see links to all articles by TMC Fellows, visit [divinity.duke.edu/initiatives/covid-19](#).



In addition to historical theological perspectives on health care and the pandemic, TMC Fellows have been recognized for leadership and thoughtful responses to systemic racial injustice, which affects health care in multiple ways. Kirsten Simmons, a TMC Fellow and current co-president of Duke's Student National Medical Association, was named a Graduate Student of the Year in the 2020 [Julian Abele Awards](#) at Duke University. Recipients are honored for their outstanding work in their graduate/professional school at Duke and their commitment to Black communities and Black scholarship.

Other TMC Fellows recognized for their leadership and scholarship include Jennifer Tu M.T.S.'21, a fourth-year medical student at Duke University School of Medicine who received the Heitzenrater Award for History from Duke Divinity School in 2020; and Brendan Johnson M.T.S.'21, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Minnesota who received the Kenan [Moral Purpose Award](#) from the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University. Read more about these TMC Fellows at [stories.divinity.duke.edu](#).

NEVER MISS A STORY FROM DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL!

In 2020, Duke Divinity School reduced the number of printed pieces to mail to our alumni and friends. But now there are even more ways to get all the stories, news, and resources from Duke Divinity School—so don't miss out! Be sure we have your email address today, and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, News from Duke Divinity: [divinity.duke.edu/newsletter](#). You'll be connected with all the following:

- **Multimedia stories** about the witness, outreach, creativity, and impact of the Divinity School, from [stories.divinity.duke.edu](#)
- **Resources and reflections** for the church and the world by our faculty and doctoral students, at the Divinity School Medium channel: [medium.com/@DukeDivinity](#)
- **News and events** highlights from the Duke Divinity community, including upcoming webinars, podcasts, and video events
- The latest on Divinity **faculty books, news, and webinars**
- **Seasonal meditations and devotionals** for Advent and Holy Week
- **And more!**

Follow us on social media, send us your email address to externalrelations@div.duke.edu, and subscribe to News from Duke Divinity!

Adapting to New Ways of Working



On March 16, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, Duke University President Vincent Price instructed staff and faculty to transition to working off campus. Events were either moved online or cancelled, and in-person meetings were restricted. Divinity faculty and staff had a few days to transition the rest of the spring semester into an online format. In the following weeks, the Divinity community navigated the challenges of communicating with and caring for students, planning a virtual celebration instead of Commencement, and trying to plan for what the fall semester might look like. As the weeks turned into months, Divinity staff have continued to manage their professional responsibilities from their personal home spaces.

Warren Smith, professor of historical theology, teaches a socially distanced class in Goodson Chapel, with students both in person and joining online. Photo by Les Todd / LKT Photography



A Socially Distanced Senior Cross Service

Thanks to the creativity and commitment of Chaplain Meghan Feldmeyer Benson and other Divinity staff, the Senior Cross Service was held to accommodate the remote learning and social distancing measures put in place in response to COVID-19. Nohemi Ramirez, staff specialist in the Office of the Chaplain and Anglican Episcopal House of Studies, went to Goodson Chapel to set up the display of crosses. The graduating seniors chose Sujin Pak, associate professor of the history of Christianity and vice dean of academic affairs, [to give the sermon](#). She and Chaplain Benson were present in Goodson Chapel, and the service was live-streamed [and recorded](#).

Usually the distribution of crosses occurs at the end of the service as the graduating seniors come to the front



Divinity staff prepare to distribute senior crosses following safety protocol.



Crosses were wrapped in bubble wrap awaiting distribution to students.

of Goodson Chapel to receive a cross and a blessing from a Duke Divinity staff or faculty member. With no way to gather on campus, how could students receive their crosses? This is a key part of the service that can't be translated virtually.

Chaplain Benson came up with the creative solution to divide the graduating class into small groups, assign each group a window of time, and have them pick up their crosses from her home driveway. For over four hours, she and other Divinity staff stood outside to ensure that seniors could collect their cross while someone in the driveway offered them a blessing. Social distancing procedures and protection measures including masks and gloves were used. Although a residential driveway is a far cry from the serene beauty of Goodson Chapel, both students and staff transformed it into a joyful space.

Photos courtesy of Divinity staff Eliza Stewart, Callie Anderson, Minoka Gunesekera, Carl King, and Danielle Stulac



Divinity Staff Employ Creativity and Resilience in Working from Home

Staff with children at home have needed to find new ways to combine working, Zoom meetings, home educating, and child care, all in the same space—sometimes all in the same room. Carl King, associate director of development, and his wife are both trying to work from home full-time while also caring for their two daughters, ages 7 and 5. “The only work space away from the kids is a small desk in our bedroom,” said King. “But we can’t work two full-time jobs from that one small desk. So, I turned to a desk I was storing in my unfinished basement.” And while King describes it as a blessing to have more time at home with his daughters, he also describes it as “the greatest challenge of working from home. I have more time to play with my young girls. Conversely, they rarely understand when I am unavailable to them because of work. They want to believe that because I am home, I am accessible any hour of the day.”

Others appreciate their full-time furry companions who brighten the work day. “My stay-at-home co-worker Beau brings me lots of joy,” said Minoka Gunesekera, admissions recruiter, of her golden doodle. Certainly no one would have predicted that work life would look the way it has in 2020. But Divinity School staff and faculty continue to respond with creativity, professionalism, and flexibility.



Beau Gunesekera



Carl King's two daughters “help” him work from home.

Danielle Stulac, program director for the Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative, says she is grateful to have more time to play with her 16-month-old daughter in the mornings before work. But “a cute baby to play with just downstairs can make it harder to stay focused!” Her daughter is pictured here helping her father, Daniel Stulac G'17, in the family garden plot.

Divinity Admissions Office Named “Dedicated Devils”

No longer able to travel to meet prospective students or bring them to campus to meet faculty or be wowed by Duke University Chapel, the job of Duke Divinity School’s admissions team got harder when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Undeterred, the team explored new methods to connect prospective students with the work of the school and launched [Divcast](#), a podcast offering an inside look into [Duke Divinity School](#).

Episodes have focused on new faculty, prominent alumni, and insider tips for navigating the admissions process. With no podcast experience, the team had to learn new skills, including production, hosting, sound editing, and more. The podcast, and the team itself, has earned praise from prospective students, alumni, and colleagues around Duke, earning them a university designation of “Dedicated Devils” in 2020.



Todd Maberry interviews Divinity faculty for “Divcast,” the new Admissions podcast.



Even Mr. Duke wears a mask on East Campus.

Duke United

Duke University has won national praise for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to keep students, faculty, and staff healthy and safe. Measures have included pool testing for undergraduate students and a symptom tracker app for anyone coming to campus. Perhaps most importantly, an enormous collective of staff volunteers serve as contact tracers, student support contacts, and information reporters. A number of Duke Divinity staff have participated in these efforts, including Chaplain Meghan Benson, Senior Director of Ministerial Formation Rhonda Parker, and Associate Director for Student Life Cathy Watson.

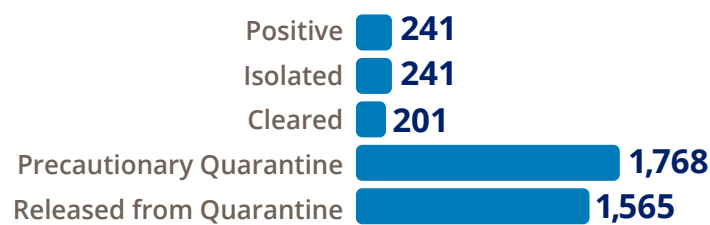
You can follow the [Duke Covid Testing Tracker](#) results each week at coronavirus.duke.edu/covid-testing.

COVID-19 TESTING AT DUKE

FALL SEMESTER OF 2020

178,084 TESTS

COMBINED TOTAL OF FACULTY/STAFF AND STUDENTS



Top photo: Eliza Stewart; Bottom photo: Duke University Photography

Photo by Eliza Stewart

Reckoning with SYSTEMIC RACISM AND INJUSTICE

Throughout 2020, Duke Divinity School sought to reckon in deeper and broader ways with systemic racism and injustice, particularly in the light of a global pandemic, political and economic crisis, and associated mental health challenges. The school also sought opportunities to strengthen its partnership and racial justice work across Duke University and in our Durham community.

STORY LISTENING AND GATHERING PROJECT

The Story Listening and Gathering group is one of four working groups commissioned by Dean Greg Jones in September 2020 as part of Duke Divinity School’s anti-racism action plan. This project solicited past and present students, faculty, and staff to share stories of how race and racial discrimination affects daily life and Duke Divinity School, with a goal of understanding the experiences of those in our community and informing the school’s broader anti-racism efforts. The work of the Story Listening and Gathering Project will continue to inform the development of new and ongoing programs in the school.

In charting its work, the project adapted definitions of racism along three categories: interpersonal racism, institutional racism, and structural racism. By attending to stories of both positive and negative experiences of race, the Story Listening and Gathering Project seeks to honor the *imago Dei* in each member of the Duke Divinity community and to reckon with the implications of the individual and structural sins of racism.

RACE AND PROFESSIONS FELLOWSHIP

A new Race and Professions Fellowship, in partnership with the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, accepted the first cohort of students from across Duke University. Two Duke Divinity students, Darwin Perry and Georgina Keene, have been selected as fellows. The year-long program will explore the challenges of racial inequities and the work of anti-racism in the professions, the broader community, and the world. The initiative is funded by a grant from The Duke Endowment.

BUILDING ON RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING

Many in the Duke Divinity community completed a Foundations in Racial Equity Training in February 2021. The school has also recently revamped onboarding and training for doctoral students and visiting scholars in both the Divinity School and the Graduate Program in Religion. In February 2021, Duke Divinity School announced a detailed racial justice and cultural competency action plan, which is available at divinity.duke.edu.

We recognize and confess that anti-Black racism, in particular, has contributed to economic and institutional growth for predominantly white institutions. Duke Divinity School is no exception. Our history over the last 90-plus years is complex, with signs of faithful witness alongside painful injustice. We need to move boldly toward a more faithful future through repentance and reform.



Securing Our Foundation as a Keystone Institution



Wearing a mask, Michelle Wong, a 2020 graduate who decided to stay at Duke in the fall to work in a research lab, walks through the Abele Quad on West Campus. Face masks or face coverings must be worn when in the presence of others and in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, as part of Duke University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Photo by Jared Lazarus / Duke University

Duke Divinity School entered this new year and decade as a keystone institution of theological education poised to address the challenges facing our weary churches and polarized culture. A \$12 million grant from The Duke Endowment, confirmed just before the start of the year, has allowed us to secure our foundation and continue to build a vision of transformation and restoration that is possible in our communities through the work of gifted pastors and healthy congregations.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *Foundation Grants and Support*

STRENGTHENING OUR CAPACITY AS A
KEYSTONE INSTITUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

“I am delighted to report that, thanks to strong support in gifts and grants, we closed Fiscal Year 2020 with a balanced budget, which is substantially better than our projections had indicated over the past several years.”

— Dean L. Gregory Jones

Keystone Institution Grant

Five-year capacity building grant
\$12 MILLION FROM THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

Duke Divinity School was able to begin 2020 with a grant that will enable us to weather storms and build new strength for the future.

- 52 new full-tuition scholarships for M.Div. students
- Fellowship support to strengthen the Th.D. program
- Support lifelong learning for pastors
- New research into pastoral leadership
- Foster collaborative partnerships across the university to create cross-sector learning

Support for UMC students and faculty

**\$1.8 MILLION FROM THE
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

As at every institution, the multiple crises of 2020 have created challenges at Duke University and Duke Divinity School, and we continue to monitor expenses carefully while also investing in building strength for the future and moving to a more sustainable business model for the long-term. We are grateful for the exceptional way in which our staff have been prudent in managing expenses, and we are thankful for the generosity of our friends and supporters who have ensured that our mission has continued in this year.

Th.D. Scholar from China

\$275,000 FROM THE MCDONALD AGAPE FOUNDATION

Building on previous support for faculty scholarship and the innovative work of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative and the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, this grant will support a doctoral student from China to study at Duke Divinity School.

Collaboration with Under-served Communities

*Five-year grant to strengthen
capacity and partnerships*

\$1 MILLION FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.

This grant inaugurates the Community Craft Collaborative, designed to facilitate mutual learning and capacity building, uniting the practical insights and lived theology of congregational leaders in the Carolinas and Virginia, especially those historically at the margins, with the logistical capabilities and theological assets at Duke University.

Purpose Grant

Re-envision the Student Experience
\$11 MILLION FROM THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

The Purpose Project is a collaboration led by Duke Divinity School, the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and the Office of Undergraduate Education. All Duke undergraduate, graduate, and professional students will explore purpose as a defining feature of their Duke educational experience and participate in a broad multidimensional series of robust and complementary courses and programs.

Pathways to Pastoral Leadership

*Grant for accelerated and transformative
access to Wesleyan formation*

\$2 MILLION+ FROM THE KERN FAMILY FOUNDATION

This grant enables Duke Divinity to develop and strengthen partnerships with United Methodist conferences and undergraduate colleges to offer greater opportunities for Wesleyan pastoral formation.

\$31.8 MILLION

TOTAL COMMITMENTS IN

FY20 *(a record for
the Divinity School)*



M.Div. student Bria Rochelle delivered the Orientation sermon in August 2020. The service was live-streamed.

Photo by Eliza Stewart

HIGHLIGHTS

of Support from Donors

ENDOWING THE WORK OF HOUSES OF STUDY,
FACULTY POSITIONS, AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

MAURICE AND DOTTY RITCHIE

have faithfully supported Duke Divinity School with annual gifts for decades. Maurice says, "Through curriculum, field education, and personal relationships, Duke Divinity nudged me toward claiming my call to ordained ministry and supported me as I resolved that struggle and found my place in the ministry of higher education."

Now they have made a planned gift that will continue to support Duke Divinity for decades to come. "When the time came to think and plan for our future, Dotty and I wanted to do what we could to assure that our beloved Divinity School will be able to do for others what it has done for us. ... We have decided the best way to do that is through a bequest that will keep on giving. While Dotty and I are still providing for our own retirement, we have decided to leave a percentage of our estate to Divinity."

To learn more about the ways that you can make a difference with a planned gift, contact the Office of External Relations at 919-660-3456.



Gift to establish a professorship in Lutheran Studies

ANONYMOUS DONOR

This gift allows Duke Divinity to strengthen its teaching and research in Lutheran Studies toward a longer term commitment to establish a Lutheran House of Study.

Gift to support the Baptist House of Studies

DR. RUTH DUNCAN

Dr. Ruth Duncan has contributed over \$1 million for Baptist scholarships and toward a Baptist House professorship, and she is grateful to the Lord who has enabled her to have the funds to support at this level and to do all she can to invest in future generations of Baptist leadership.

Photo courtesy of the Ritchie family

Divinity Annual Fund

HIGHLIGHTS

A RECORD-SETTING YEAR!
ANNUAL FUND SURPASSES THE \$1 MILLION MARK: \$1,046,661



ZARI WILSON M.DIV.'21 came to Duke Divinity School in response to God's call to pursue full-time ministry, and her experience in the classroom and field education has confirmed and equipped her to use her gifts "to communicate the importance of raising a unified generation of faith-filled believers, ... sharing the gospel all over the world, and planning events that allow people to encounter Jesus."

"A major factor for me being able to attend Duke was finances. My scholarship has significantly reduced the amount of money I'll be working to pay back for years to come. For everyone who has made this possible, thank you. Your contributions make it possible for me to break the cycle of student loan debt. Your contributions make it possible for me to focus on learning rather than focus on how to make ends meet. Your generosity reminds me that there are people rooting for me in this journey."

PATSY AND WILL WILLIMON

In 2020, the Willimons issued a Challenge Match for the Divinity Annual Fund that resulted in 190 new donors, 208 increased donors, and 32 new leadership donors for the annual fund.

EMILIE MURPHY T'79

A Board of Visitors member since 2018, she has provided generous support to the annual fund, Theology Medicine and Culture, and the Office of Black Church Studies.

CHARLES MICHAEL SMITH T'62, D'65

He served on both the Divinity Board of Visitors and the University Board of Trustees. He has supported the school annually since his graduation and recently established an endowed scholarship for the Divinity School.

Divinity Annual Fund gifts support student financial aid at Duke Divinity School. Every dollar counts! Questions? Contact Carl King at cking@div.duke.edu or 919-660-3456. You may give online at gifts.duke.edu/divinity.

Photo by Carl King

Shaping Our Vision to Respond Faithfully

Duke Divinity School continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing church and world, especially in light of the multiple crises of COVID-19, economic distress, racial injustice, and mental health challenges that have been so apparent throughout 2020. We are grateful that we have been able to expand our collaborations within the school, university, Durham, and beyond to help address the pastoral challenges of this moment.

An evening aerial shot of stepping stones in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens.
Photo by Bill Snead / Duke University

EXCITING *New Opportunities*

Edgardo Colón-Emeric Announced as Incoming Dean

With Dean L. Gregory Jones, Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of Christian Theology and Ministry, having accepted an appointment to become president of Belmont University beginning June 1, 2021, Duke University Provost Sally Kornbluth has announced that Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Theology and Reconciliation, director of the Center for Reconciliation, and associate dean for academic affairs, will be appointed to serve as the dean of Duke Divinity School.

Edgardo Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Duke, and has served on the faculty since 2008. His scholarship covers a broad range of theological areas, including systematics, Wesleyan theology, ecumenism, and Latin American theology. Both his academic research and his ministry experience explore the intersection of

Methodist and Catholic theologies, and Wesleyan and Latin American experiences. His most recent book is *Óscar Romero's Theological Vision: Liberation and the Transfiguration of the Poor* (Notre Dame University Press).

Colón-Emeric is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He directs the Central American Methodist Course of Study and the Peru Theological Initiative, and serves on the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order and on both national and international Methodist-Catholic dialogues. On the 50th anniversary of Methodist-Catholic Dialogue, Colón-Emeric had the chance to meet with Pope Francis and to present him with a book chronicling the discussions held over the years—a book Colón-Emeric translated into Spanish himself.

In addition to his ecclesial, academic, and scholarly work, Colón-Emeric has served as the director for the Hispanic House of Studies, which he continues to serve as senior strategist, and as the director for the Center for Reconciliation (CFR) at Duke Divinity School. Under his leadership, CFR has expanded its capacities, partnerships, and areas of engagement, including convening the Americas Initiative. He has also sought to strengthen connections between Duke Divinity and local Hispanic-Latino/a ministers and churches, often in partnership with The Duke Endowment's support for rural congregations and pastors in the North Carolina.

As he prepares to be installed as dean this summer, Colón-Emeric has stated his commitment to keep the Divinity School heading in a life-giving direction: "The world needs the church, and the church needs the theologically grounded, intellectually vibrant, and socially innovative pastors and leaders that we train."



New Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

In January, Duke Divinity announced a new hybrid version of the flagship Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program. The Hybrid M.Div. offers remote coursework in a flexible format so that students can balance professional and personal responsibilities while engaging in deep theological study that will transform their faith and prepare them for service in the church, academy, and world.

Program courses are taught by the renowned Duke Divinity faculty, and coursework is designed to ensure that hybrid students are prepared for their vocation with a world-class education. The hybrid learning curriculum combines remote coursework with weeklong residential intensives. Spiritual formation and field education are also integral to the program.

All admitted Hybrid M.Div. students will receive scholarship support ranging from 25% up to 100% of tuition costs. Applicants are automatically considered for scholarships, and the application to the program is also the application to receive consideration for the merit-based Dean's Ministry scholarship opportunities. Applications are now open for the first cohort of students to enter the program in fall 2021.

Learn more about the Hybrid M.Div. at divinity.duke.edu, or contact the Office of Admissions.



Rowe Named as Vice Dean

C. Kavin Rowe, George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament and associate dean of the faculty, has been appointed to the role of vice dean for faculty by Duke University Provost Sally Kornbluth. In this role, he will work with incoming dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric to manage faculty affairs and academic appointments in order to continue excellence in research, teaching and service; diversification of the faculty and fostering an inclusive environment; stewarding external church relationships; and financial sustainability.



New Asian House of Studies Launched

Duke Divinity School has launched the Asian House of Studies, a formational community that will support Asian and Asian-American students; build a network of Asian and Asian-American students, alumni, and church leaders; and provide resources for Asian theological studies. This new House of Studies will complement other houses of study at Duke, including denominational houses as well as other houses focused on supporting and forming Christian leaders from other ethnic communities.

Two new dynamic consulting faculty members will co-direct the new house. **Sangwoo Kim**, senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and **Jung Choi**, senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives, have invaluable experience serving both in the classroom and in the church.



Photos by (top to bottom): Eliza Stewart, Les Todd / LKT Photography, Eliza Stewart

Les Todd / LKT Photography

LAUNCHING Programs to Meet Needs

The Ormond Center Reimagines Thriving

The newly relaunched Ormond Center for Thriving Congregations and Communities is the home of new initiatives that catalyze innovative leadership to revitalize the church and help our neighbors to thrive.

CHURCHES PROMOTING RECOVERY

This project seeks to better understand what clergy and church leaders need as churches respond to opioid and other substance use. In an effort to foster collaboration between health care and faith communities, it brings together the Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative, the Clergy Health Initiative, and Duke Population Health Sciences. This work is possible thanks to funding from The Duke Endowment.

PATHWAYS OF REPAIR

This partnership between Ormond, the Office of Black Church Studies, and the Hispanic House of Studies provides a range of technical assistance, including research and analysis, to inform local learning and decision-making to help overcome historical racial disparities faced by congregations of color across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

COMMUNITY CRAFT COLLABORATIVE

This project brings together clusters of congregations of distinct racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and denominational makeup. It will facilitate a two-way transfer of knowledge and capacity by leveraging the extensive theological assets, logistical capabilities, and organizational stability of a high-capacity institution while privileging the lived theology and practical insight of congregational leaders, especially those historically at the margins. This work is funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment grant to Duke University.

Rev. Gerald Lamont Thomas preaches in Goodson Chapel as part of the Gardner C. Taylor Lectures at Duke Divinity School.

Projects from Duke Divinity Centers and Initiatives

In addition to offering a number of insightful and thought-provoking webinars (available on [YouTube](#)), the centers and initiatives launched several projects to expand the scope and reach of our mission.

THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE

A fellowship of organizations, scholars, and practitioners convened by the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity who are focused on peacebuilding among Latin American and Latinx communities, particularly those of Indigenous and African descent.

BLACK PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION

Begun in 2019 with joint funding from the Divinity School and Duke University Office of the Provost, the collaboration is working with the Office of Black Church Studies to harness the research and experiential wisdom of Black pastoral leaders nationally through a leadership school and practical theology archiving project.

SINGING OUR SONGS IN A STRANGE LAND

This partnership between Hispanic House of Studies, Office of Black Church studies, and the Center for Reconciliation gathered pastors and students of color for monthly conversations around biblical passages of exodus, exile, and other themes to listen to and learn from each other.



Photo by Eliza Stewart
Photo courtesy of Kate Bowler

“One critical area of formation in today’s world is rekindling the imagination and skills for how congregations can seek the welfare of their communities, even as the ways we congregate as communities of faith continue to change. We want Duke Divinity School to help equip both congregations and pastors for those roles.”

— Josh Yates, Ph.D., executive director of The Ormond Center

Expanded Opportunities for Support and Connection

WIND IN OUR SAILS

The Duke Divinity Office of External Relations sponsored a professional development effort for clergy. The inaugural webinar, “Soul Tending in a Virtual Age,” addressed how Christian leaders can face the challenge of leading in this virtual age and how leaders can meet the need for wisdom to effectively preach, provide pastoral care, and disciple those within their congregations while confronting the challenges of virtual ministry. The featured speaker was the Reverend Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields (London), former dean of Duke University Chapel and research professor of Christian ethics at the Divinity School. The webinar is available on the Duke Divinity YouTube site.

“LIFE TOGETHER APART”

Kate Bowler, associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America, and host of the podcast “Everything Happens,” launched “Life Together Apart,” an online community that provides educational resources and curated conversations around faith, connection, and meaning amid uncertainty.

ACCELERATED M.DIV. PATHWAYS

The Kern Family Foundation partnered with the Office of Wesleyan Engagement to provide accelerated pathways for undergraduate students to pursue an M.Div. degree at Duke Divinity School. In addition, the Divinity School will work with United Methodist Annual Conferences to explore even more ways to expand access to theological education and ministerial training. These opportunities will strengthen the resources available for Wesleyan pastoral formation.



Professor Kate Bowler hosts the popular podcast “Everything Happens.”

A NOTE *from the Incoming Dean*



“The end is the new creation, the peaceable kingdom, the day of the great fiesta. Everything that we do at Duke Divinity School aims at forming and accompanying pastors and Christian leaders who lean and lead toward that end.”

As I look forward in this new academic year, I consider it important to take the long view and begin with the end. The end is the new creation, the peaceable kingdom, the day of the great fiesta. Everything that we do at Duke Divinity School aims at forming and accompanying pastors and Christian leaders who lean and lead toward that end.

I hope that our journey during the 2020–2021 year will be a preview, pledge, and parable of God’s coming kingdom. As we transition (however haltingly) from COVID-19 protocols, inaugurate a new hybrid M.Div. program, start new certificates, found a new Asian House of Studies, and welcome incoming and returning students, staff and faculty to our community, we anticipate our end. Of particular importance in this

connection is our ongoing work in nurturing a school culture that is anti-racist, diversity-affirming, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled.

In accepting the invitation to lead the Divinity School, I have a charge to keep. The challenges and opportunities for Duke Divinity in our journey are significant, but I take heart in the fact that I am not alone. In Latinx theology, we speak of the importance of working *en conjunto* (together). No one has a monopoly on good ideas, technical expertise, or spiritual gifts. Every member of our community has unique contributions to our common task. May we move forward *en conjunto*, with proper confidence, *paciencia ardiente* (burning patience), and in joyful expectation of days of fiesta.

— **Edgardo Colón-Emeric**

Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Reconciliation and Theology; Associate Dean for Academic Formation; Director of the Center for Reconciliation; Senior Strategist, Hispanic House of Studies

His appointment as Dean of Duke Divinity School will begin July 1, 2021.

A PRAYER, FOR LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021

WIND OF GOD, BLOW FAR FROM US
ALL DARK DESPAIR,
ALL DEEP DISTRESS,
ALL GROUNDLESS FEARS,
ALL SINFUL DESIRES,
ALL SATAN’S SNARES,
ALL FALSE VALUES,
ALL SELFISH WISHES,
ALL WASTEFUL WORRIES.
BLOW INTO US
YOUR HOLY PRESENCE,
YOUR LIVING LOVE,
YOUR HEALING TOUCH,
YOUR SPLENDID COURAGE,
YOUR MIGHTY STRENGTH,
YOUR PERFECT PEACE,
YOUR CARING CONCERN,
YOUR DIVINE GRACE,
YOUR BOUNDLESS JOY.
WIND OF GOD,
BLOW STRONG,
BLOW FRESH,
BLOW NOW. AMEN.

– Pamela Wilding, Kenya
(from *Prayers Encircling the World*)

*From a collection of prayers compiled by
Meghan Feldmeyer Benson,
Chaplain of Duke Divinity School*



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