

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

# DEAN'S REPORT 2023-24



*Seasons of Faithfulness*

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Words by Methodist minister the Rev. Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

# CONTENTS



**2**  
Dean's Message

**4**  
Seasons of Faithfulness

**12**  
Our Community:  
Witnesses to God's Faithfulness

**18**  
Our Celebrations:  
Milestones of God's Faithfulness

**22**  
Our Commitments:  
Work Aligned with God's Faithfulness

**28**  
Our Champions:  
Gifts of God's Faithfulness

**32**  
Our Centennials:  
Looking Forward in Hope



# For Everything There Is a Season

**“FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,”** says Scripture (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There are planting seasons marked by



lunar waxing and waning. There are meteorological seasons marked by solar solstices and equinoxes. There are liturgical seasons marked by church feasts, fasts, and ordinary times. Marking the seasons is more than a way of measuring time. It is a way of ordering our attention.

Each season—whether lunar, solar, or liturgical—has its characteristic flavors and colors. By tasting these seasonings, human beings develop an appetite for heaven and its “times of refreshing” (Acts 3:20). Thomas Aquinas believed that in God, and only in God, can one find at once spring’s loveliness, summer’s brightness, fall’s richness, and winter’s rest. All times and seasons with their diverse rhythms and hues point to God and God’s great faithfulness.

At Duke Divinity we practice attentiveness to the times and seasons so that we may infuse our work with the colorful palette of God’s steadfast love. This past year has been a season of preparation for the commemoration of significant centennials. In 2024, we are observing the first centennial of Duke University. In 2026, it will be the first centennial for the Divinity School. In between these two momentous observances, in 2025, we will commemorate the seventeenth centennial of the ecumenical council of Nicaea.

The road to these centennials has been paved by fiesta: the 50th anniversary of the Office of Black Church Studies, the 50th anniversary of the Women’s Center, and the quinceañera of the Hispanic House of Studies. In response to God’s faithfulness, we have remembered and we have dreamed.

We have introduced new programs and certificates, including a certificate in chaplaincy and a mental health track of our Certificate in Theology and Health Care, to offer more opportunities for vocational preparation. We have welcomed new staff and students, we have sent out graduates blessed with the joy of the Triune Lord, and we have recognized distinguished faculty and alumni.

This report provides updates and highlights of the remarkable life and work of the Divinity School community. However, the report should not be read in a triumphalist spirit. When recollecting former glories and failed dreams, the prophet Jeremiah was transfixed by hope as he realized that “the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22–23). The same Spirit inspired Thomas Chisholm, a worn-out Methodist minister and struggling insurance salesman, to pen the classic hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Only by being attentive to the joys and sorrows of this season can we discover in God “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.”

In sum, I pray that all of us can read this Dean’s Report in the Spirit who spoke through prophets and poets. If we do, then I believe the stories, notes, and images herein can become a Pentecost testimony to the God of and for all seasons. Summer and winter term, springtime and fall semester, morning by morning, convocation by convocation, centennial by centennial, new mercies we will see, and we will sing with new resolve: “Great is thy faithfulness.”

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*Edgardo Colón-Emeric is the Ruth and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry and the dean of Duke Divinity School.*



Top: Duke Divinity Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric (right) presents the Rev. Yvonne Beasley, M.Div.'76, with a distinguished honoree award. See more on page 18.

Bottom: Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric celebrates 50 years of the Women's Center at Duke Divinity School with directors Alma Tinoco Ruiz (left) and Jung Choi (right). See more on page 20.

Top: The dean preached in Goodson Chapel during the fiesta for the Hispanic House of Studies quinceañera. See more on page 19.

Bottom: The dean (far right) observes the hooding of a Th.D. graduate during the Baccalaureate service. See more on page 8.

# Grateful for Graduates

We rejoice in God's faithfulness to prepare Duke Divinity graduates to follow their vocational calling to a wide variety of places and ministries.

## SPRING 2024

### 180 DEGREES AWARDED:

- 96 Master of Divinity
- 26 Doctor of Ministry
- 26 Master of Theological Studies
- 15 Master of Arts in Christian Practice
- 12 Master of Theology
- 5 Doctor of Theology



*"I trust that in your experience at Duke Divinity you have been shaped to see and understand Jesus more clearly since you came here. I trust that Jesus' words have sunk into your ears just a bit deeper as a result of God's presence in your life in this place. In these days, I encourage you to take inventory of that process, as you take into account the fullness of your education. It is right and proper, as an act of thanksgiving and praise, to look at how far we have come."*

### DANIEL CASTELO

Associate Dean for Academic Formation and William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, from his sermon for Closing Convocation 2023







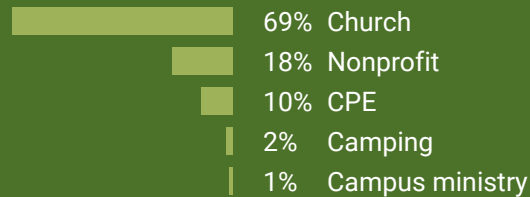


# Faithfulness *through* Field Education

With placements in churches, chaplaincy, camps, and more, students are able to learn from mentors and develop practical skills for ministry.

## 2023–24

### 391 TOTAL PLACEMENTS:



### 8 INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS:

US/Mexico border, Uganda, South Sudan, Peru, and South Africa



*“These field education opportunities provide a space where seminary students can engage in hands-on, practical experiences in ministry that can help provide growth as leaders, teachers, preachers, and even more simply, allow us to be better people of God. Not only does this help prepare future leaders for the church, but it can provide a space where students can experience a personal transformation within the life of the church.”*

### TAYLOR HINES, M.DIV. '24

Summer 2023 field education placement at Mount Bethel UMC in Bahama, N.C.

Summer flowers photo by Eliza Stewart / Duke Divinity School; Hines photo by Rebekah Ramlow / Duke Divinity School

# Joy in New Students

People who desire theological education and ministerial formation continue to choose Duke Divinity School to follow God's call.

## 2023–24

### 215 NEW STUDENTS MATRICULATED:

- 104 Master of Divinity
- 22 Doctor of Ministry
- 29 Master of Theological Studies
- 13 Master of Arts in Christian Practice
- 11 Master of Theology
- 5 Doctor of Theology
- 26 Certificate in Theology and Health Care
- 5 Special students

### 16 OTHER COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE NEW CLASS:

Canada, Chile, China, Finland, Germany, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Zimbabwe.



*“The journey of faith is not always a straight line, and knowing that there are sojourners and caring partners prepared to draw alongside on the way can be a great inspiration and comfort to students.”*

#### MEGHAN BENSON

Chaplain at Duke Divinity School

Photos by Les Todd / LKT Photography









Photos by Les Todd / LKT Photography

# Hope *through* Growth in the Annual Fund

The Divinity Annual Fund provides essential financial aid and program support that makes it possible for many students to pursue a divinity degree.

## 2023

**DIVINITY ANNUAL FUND TOTAL:**  
\$1,209,052 (a record-setting year!)

**TOTAL DONORS:**  
1,319

**TOTAL LEADERSHIP DONORS:**  
266



*“I love Duke University, especially the Divinity School. It was during my tenure here that my destiny and purpose in life was confirmed, my passion for preaching was ignited and my pastoral skills were sharpened. My professors affirmed me and my call and challenged me to think outside the box, to see the Scriptures, life, and ministry from a whole new perspective, to follow the leading of God’s Spirit, dream and be open to the possibilities. So, I did—and my life and ministry has been incredible.”*

**THE REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. HALE, M.DIV.’79**  
from her remarks upon accepting the  
Distinguished Alumni Award from Duke University

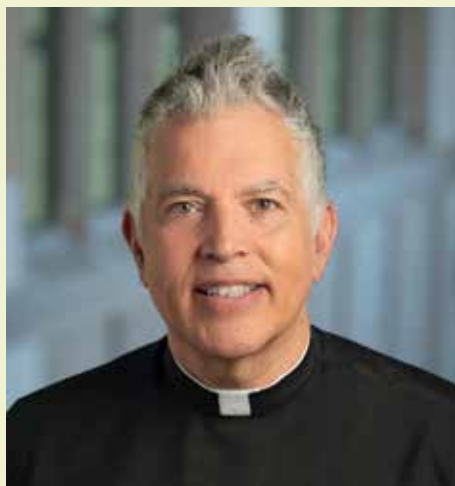
## New Divinity Faculty Lead Houses of Study

Two new directors for houses of study joined the Duke Divinity faculty this year: the **Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough**, Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies, will direct the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies (AEHS); and the **Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams**, assistant professor of theology and Black Church studies, will direct the Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS).

Kimbrough, who earned both his B.A. and M.Div. degrees from Duke, has also served as consulting faculty at Duke Divinity School for over two decades, teaching courses in Anglican studies for students preparing for ordination and ministry in the Episcopal Church and other Anglican traditions. He is an ordained priest and has served congregations in North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Tennessee, South Africa, and the Philippines. Most recently he was the dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, Tenn.

“The opportunity to serve as consulting faculty over the last 22 years has been a blessing. In some small way the work allowed me to give back to the university that had blessed me beyond measure. But joining the Divinity School faculty full-time this summer came with a two-fold recognition: 1) God was moving me to invest ever more deeply in the formation of students who will become the next generation of pastors and lay leaders across the church; and 2) that this place, this particular ecumenical project—the work of the Duke Divinity School—represented the best that 21st-century theological education had to offer in North America, at a time when every avenue for theological education is being challenged. AEHS is an intense and concentrated microcosm of the wider Duke Divinity School effort to pursue a proclamation of the Christian message that is at once universal and again comprehensive, yet without ignoring or forfeiting distinction within the Body of Christ.”

Williams earned his M.Div. degree from Duke Divinity before going on to earn a Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). He is an ordained minister in the Church of God in Christ and most recently served as the curator



The Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough



The Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams

of religion at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He was the co-editor of the seminal work *T&T Clark Handbook of African American Theology*, and he curated the exhibition *Spirit in the Dark: Religion in Black Music, Activism, and Popular Culture* (ongoing through January 2025).

“What interested me most about returning to Duke to join the faculty is that as a teacher, I want to help create similar kinds of transformative theological learning experiences for my students as they prepare to serve the church in our rapidly changing world. As director of OBCS, my desire is to curate and cultivate a culture of intellectual curiosity, and moral reflection, drawing on the power, beauty, and transformative capacity of the grand traditions of African and African American spiritualities. Through my courses, programming, research, publications, strategic partnerships, and pastoral presence, I desire to be a resource to my students that have embarked on this tremendous journey of *faith seeking understanding*.”

With their experience in pastoral ministry, scholarship, community leadership, preaching, history, music, and more, Kimbrough and Williams will strengthen the capacity of their respective houses and Duke Divinity School to provide vocational formation for students and to build bridges between the gifts and resources found in scholarship and service that will bless the church, academy, and world.

## Notable Guest Scholars, Preachers, and Artists

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts welcomed **Iain McGilchrist**, a literary scholar, philosopher, psychiatrist, and bestselling author, for a public conversation on “Theology, Art, and the Whole Brain.”

The Payne Lecture in Faith, Justice, and Health Care was given by **Dr. Kimberly S. Johnson**, professor of medicine in geriatrics at Duke University School of Medicine. Her lecture was titled “Addressing Inequities in Serious Illness Care for African Americans: A Matter of Justice and A Call to Action for Faith Communities and Healthcare Systems.”

The 2023 Jill Raitt Lecture, sponsored by the Duke Divinity Women’s Center, was “In the Body: Dignity, Terror, and the Stories We Inherit,” by **Cole Arthur Riley**. Riley is the author of *Black Liturgies*.

The Catena Lecture in Medicine, Faith, and Science was given by **Dr. Russ White**, medical missionary and chief of surgery at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. His lecture was “Shalom: A Ministry of Reconciliation in Medicine in Sub-Saharan Africa.”

**Dr. Wai Luen Kwok** of Hong Kong Baptist University gave a public presentation on “Cultivating Peace: A Public Theology in Post-2019 Hong Kong.” The event was sponsored by the Center for Reconciliation, the Historical Division at Duke Divinity, and Divinity Global and Intercultural Formation.

The 2024 Clark Lecture, “Christology and Ethics in Paul and Matthew: Constructing a Dialogue,” was given by **Dr. Matthias Konfradt**, professor of New Testament theology at the University of Heidelberg.

The Asian House of Studies and the Methodist House of Studies hosted the **Rev. Dr. Jong Chun Park** for his lecture “Theology of the Heart of God: The Coming of Age of Theologies of the South.” Park, president of the World Methodist Council since 2016, is a Christian theologian for Methodist churches in Asia and ecumenical churches in Korea and has served for over three decades as professor and president of the Methodist Theological University in Seoul, Korea.

The Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series sponsored by the Office of Black Church Studies welcomed the **Rev. Dr. Maurice Wallace**, professor of English and associate chair of the English department at Rutgers University.

The Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition and the Methodist House of Studies co-sponsored a public lecture, “Wesleyan Radicalism: The Insurgent Ethos of African Methodism,” delivered by **Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson** of Vanderbilt University.

**Dr. Bruce Hindmarsh**, the James M. Houston Professor of Spiritual Theology and Professor of the History of Christianity at Regent College (Vancouver) delivered the Steinmetz Lecture, “A Surprising Work of God: Accounting for the Rise of Evangelical Religion in the Eighteenth-Century North Atlantic.”

The Pauli Murray & Nannie Helen Burroughs Lecture, sponsored by the Office of Black Church Studies, was delivered by **Yolanda Pierce**, professor and dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts partnered with Duke Chapel to welcome **DaoZi**, contemporary poet, painter, critic, and professor at the Academy of Art & Design at Tsinghua University, for a guest lecture and U.S. premiere of his exhibition *Transcendence + Immanence: The Sacred Ink Wash Art of DaoZi*. After his lecture, DaoZi presented the school with a gift of two pieces of his sacred ink wash art.

In partnership with Duke Chapel, Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts hosted **Vivian R. Jacobson**, author of *Sharing Chagall: A Memoir*, for a lecture on artist Marc Chagall’s biblical imagination.

Fons Vitae welcomed **Richard DeClue**, professor of theology at the Word on Fire Institute, for the lecture “Faith, Reason, and Communion: The Unity of the Thought of Joseph Ratzinger/ Pope Benedict XVI.”

The Office of Black Church Studies sponsored the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture by **Josef Sorett**, the dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor and vice president for undergraduate education at Columbia University.

# Duke Divinity Faculty Recognized for Scholarship and Leadership

## FOUR DIVINITY FACULTY NAMED FULL PROFESSORS AT DUKE

Promotion or appointment to full professor requires an extensive review by faculty peers both inside and outside Duke and approval from academic leadership in the department or division, the school, and Duke University. Reviewers look for distinction, leadership, and impact in research, teaching, and engagement.

- **Edgardo Colón-Emeric**, dean of Duke Divinity School, was named the Irene and William McCutchen Professor of Reconciliation and Theology. On July 1, 2024, he was named the Ruth and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry.
- **Timothy Kimbrough**, director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies, has been named the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies.
- **Luke A. Powery**, dean of Duke University Chapel, has been named professor of homiletics.
- **Lacey Warner**, associate dean for Wesleyan engagement, has been named the Royce and Jane Reynolds Professor of the Practice of Evangelism and Methodist Studies.

## PATRICK SMITH NAMED HASTINGS CENTER FELLOW

Patrick Smith, associate research professor of theological ethics and bioethics and senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics and Duke University, joined a group of more than 200 Hasting Center fellows whose work has informed scholarship and public understanding of complex ethical issues in health, health care, and technology.

## NORMAN WIRZBA NAMED DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Norman Wirzba, Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology and senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics, has been named the director of research for the Office of Climate and Sustainability at Duke University. His research and scholarship on the intersection of theological and ethical values and the environment will help inform and expand the work of the \$36 million initiative that Duke University has named as a signature priority.

## LUKE POWERY NAMED A CHRON15 LEADER

Luke Powery, dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of homiletics, was named a Chron15 Leader by the *Duke Chronicle*. With his preaching and teaching described as “educational and captivating,” Powery was recognized as a leader “for his guidance on matters of race and ethics and his constant spiritual support for the entire university.”

## ABDULLAH ANTEPLI JOINS AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Abdullah Antepli, associate professor of the practice of interfaith relations at Duke Divinity and associate professor of the practice at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, was appointed to the prestigious 243-year-old institution. The academy's current members represent innovative thinkers in every field and profession, including more than 250 Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners.



### **RANDY MADDOX RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Randy Maddox, the William Kellon Quick Professor Emeritus of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, was selected as the 2023 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. One of the foremost authorities on the theology of John Wesley and theological developments within Methodism, Maddox was recognized for his significant academic contributions to the ministry of memory of the United Methodist Church.

### **POLLY HA AND BRENT STRAWN NAMED MCDONALD DISTINGUISHED SENIOR FELLOWS**

Polly Ha, associate professor of the history of Christianity, and Brent Strawn, the Moody Smith Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, have been named McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellows at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. The prestigious fellows program will promote leading research in the area of law and religion.

### **NORBERT WILSON NAMED ACC ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP NETWORK FELLOW**

Norbert Wilson, professor of food, economics, and community and director of the World Food Policy Center at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, was named a fellow in the 2024 Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Leaders Network. Fellows are selected by provosts of the ACC member institutions to develop their leadership potential and discuss issues and trends in higher education.

### **ABDULLAH ANTEPLI APPOINTED TO LEAD COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH AND TEACHING**

Abdullah Antepli, associate professor of the practice of interfaith relations at Duke Divinity and associate professor of the practice at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy, has been named Duke University's first associate vice president/associate vice provost for community-engaged research and teaching. His responsibilities will include advancing community-engaged scholarship, civic engagement, and the integration of academic activities with the university's wide-ranging community engagement initiatives.

### **STEPHEN CHAPMAN APPOINTED JOURNAL EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Stephen Chapman, associate professor of Old Testament, has been appointed the editor in chief of the *Journal of Theological Interpretation*, a leading journal from Eisenbrauns covering critical biblical scholarship on texts, interpretation, hermeneutics, historical reception, and topics of theological interest.

### **WYLIN WILSON RECEIVES INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT**

Wylín Wilson, assistant professor of theological ethics, received an Intellectual Community Planning Grant from the Office of the Provost at Duke University for her project "Addressing the Black Maternal Health Crisis in North Carolina through Engaging Bioethics, Health Care, and Black Churches." Her research collaboration group includes **Martha Carlough**, consulting professor in theology and medicine at Duke Divinity School and professor of family medicine and director of the Office of Global Health Education at UNC-Chapel Hill.

# Duke Divinity Alumni Recognized for Outstanding Contributions

## CYNTHIA L. HALE (M.DIV.'79) RECEIVES DUKE'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The **Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, M.Div.'79**, was presented with Duke University's Distinguished Alumni Award during the Founder's Weekend celebrations. Established in 1983 by the Duke Alumni Board of Directors, the Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded to alumni who have distinguished themselves by the contributions they have made in their own particular fields or professions, in service to Duke University, and to the betterment of humanity. Hale is the first recipient from Duke Divinity School.

Hale is the founding and senior pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga., and has been in ministry for 43 years. Her commitment to pastoral ministry led her to create ELAH Pastoral Ministries, a mentoring program that assists in the development of pastors and parachurch leaders, and the Women in Ministry Conference that coaches and mentors Christian women for effective ministry in the face of contemporary challenges and opportunities. Her service to Duke Divinity School has included serving on the Board of Visitors and participating in numerous speaking opportunities and events.



## BENJAMIN CHAVIS NAMED INAUGURAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY FELLOW

The **Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., M.Div.'80**, an esteemed civil rights leader, global business leader, faith leader, and public intellectual, joined the Duke University community as the 2024 Environmental Justice and Racial Equity Fellow. This fellowship aims to connect the fellow's contributions in teaching, research, and service with Duke's larger strategic goals, including climate change and racial equity. As the first environmental and racial equity fellow, Chavis will enrich the university with his extensive lived experience, expert instruction, and scholarly research.

Throughout his illustrious career, Chavis organized extensively for social, environmental, and political justice causes, coined the term "environmental racism," led numerous organizations, including the NAACP, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, and National Council of Churches, and engaged in a life of public discourse.



## TWO FROM DIVINITY NAMED TO DUKE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Bishop Gregory Palmer, M.Div.'79**, was appointed the Duke University Board of Trustees for a six-year term. Palmer has served as the episcopal leader of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2012. He also served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and as president of the Council of Bishops. He served on the Board of Visitors of Duke Divinity School from 2011 to 2017.

**Warren Lattimore** was appointed as a Graduate/Professional Young Trustee and will serve a two-year term. He is a Th.D. student at Duke Divinity School and is also pursuing a certificate in African & African American Studies in the Graduate School. He also serves as a course director in the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program of the Duke University School of Medicine. Lattimore has served as president of the Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church, and he has served on Duke's Racial Equity Advisory Council.



## DIVINITY FACULTY AND ALUMNUS HONORED WITH SAMUEL DUBOIS COOK AWARDS

The Cook Society at Duke University was founded in 1997 to honor the legacy of the pioneering Duke faculty member and trustee Samuel DuBois Cook, Duke's first Black faculty member. The Cook Society Award recipients follow Cook's example by dedicating themselves to social justice, equality, and strengthening the campus community. During a special centennial celebration highlighting Cook's contributions to Duke's history, two members of the Duke Divinity community were recognized for their commitment to transformative service.

The **Rev. Dr. Luke Powery** received the Raymond Gavins Distinguished Faculty Award, named after the late Duke history professor known for his mentorship and support of colleagues and young scholars.

**Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, M.Div.'06**, received the Distinguished Service Award. He founded the School for Conversion, a community education center in Durham, and is assistant director for partnerships and fellowships at Yale University's Center for Public Theology and Public Policy.



Wilson-Hartgrove (second from left) and Powery (center) celebrate with other Cook Awards honorees.

## WATSON RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE

The **Rev. Cathy Watson, M.Div.'04**, retired after a decade of service as the director of student life at Duke Divinity School. Her office was characterized by hospitality,



welcome, and prayer as she provided students with snacks, information sessions, fellowship meals, and resources around the school. "I want students to know they are loved and cared for," she said. "All are welcome, no matter what the situation. We will pray together and find

the best solutions for them, together. They are not alone." Congratulations to Cathy on her retirement and years of excellent service at Duke Divinity.



## STUDENT LIFE OFFICE WELCOMES BELLES

The **Rev. Sarah Belles, M.Div.'14**, was appointed the new director of student life. Before joining Duke Divinity School, she served as pastor at Inclusion Community, a UMC congregation in Cornelius, N.C.; pastor of college and young adult ministry at Davidson UMC, and campus minister at Davidson Wesley at Davidson College. She is completing her D.Min. at Wesley Theological Seminary in Spiritual Care in Higher Education (Chaplaincy). Belles brings a commitment to ministry and support for the students at Duke Divinity School.

# The Office of Black Church Studies Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Duke Divinity School celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Office of Black Church Studies in 2023, with a year of events culminating in an evening celebration on April 17 featuring Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Yolanda Adams and the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series on April 18 with the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale.

The Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS) was founded in 1972, the first such office at Duke University and one of the earliest Black Church offices among all U.S. theological schools. The OBCS hosts world-renowned preachers and lecturers, provides formation and pastoral care for students, and leads a variety of initiatives to develop, preserve, and share resources from the Black Church for the whole church.

The celebration on April 17 included the premiere of a documentary about the OBCS; a concert by Adams, who also performed two songs with Duke Divinity's Gospel Choir; and a

special award recognizing key figures in the history of the OBCS.

On April 18, Hale, M.Div.'79, the founding and senior pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga., preached in Goodson Chapel and delivered a lecture.

The OBCS 50th anniversary events included a celebration of honorees whose contributions have been integral to the success of the Office of Black Church Studies, including the first two Black men and women to graduate from the school: respectively, Chaplain Matthew A. Zimmerman Jr., M.Div.'65, and the Rev. Dr. James Donald Ballard, M.Div.'66; and the Rev. Yvonne Beasley, M.Div.'76, and the Rev. Dr. Sadie Joyner Milton, M.Div.'76. William C. Turner Jr., B.S.E.'70, M.Div.'74, Ph.D.'84 (all Duke University), James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of the Practice of Preaching; and Bishop Joseph B. Bethea, the founding director of the OBCS, were also honored.



Duke Divinity alumni gathered for a reception on the Bovender Terrace.



The Rev. Michael Walrond, M.Div.'96, introduced the documentary on OBCS history.

# Hispanic House of Studies Celebrates Quinceañera

Duke Divinity School celebrated the 15th anniversary, the *quinceañera*, of the founding of the Hispanic House of Studies with a series of events.

The quinceañera celebration reflected on the house's history and the continued importance of Latinx-focused ministry and academic work. During the morning worship service, Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric preached about the celebration of La Casa, saying that the purpose of the Hispanic House can be summed up in one word: fiesta. He compared the great, final fiesta to a choral concert sung in harmony, as opposed to a chorus in which each section practices their part separately, without listening to the whole.

At a lunchtime panel discussion, Hispanic House students and alumni spoke about the importance of La Casa to their lives and theological formation, calling it a contemplative space, a space to find and strengthen their own voice and to share encouragement and support, and a space of deep vulnerability.

In the evening, a documentary, *Un Mundo Sin Muros*, and

exhibit, *Humanidad Migrante*, featured the work of Enrique Chiu, creator of *El Mural de la Hermandad*, a collaborative project involving thousands of volunteers who worked with him to paint a mile-long mural on the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. During a lecture with Chiu and a panel discussion with North Carolina-based artists Tirzah Villegas and Renzo Ortega, the speakers addressed migration and liberation theology from the perspective of the arts and movements for social justice.

The Hispanic House of Studies was founded with the generous support of The Duke Endowment and works in partnership with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church. Additional funding for programs has been provided by the Lilly Endowment Inc. The Sumérgete retreats are funded by the Parish Ministry Fund and the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences. The Foundation for Evangelism provides funding for the assistant professor of the practice of homiletics and evangelism and director of the Hispanic House of Studies.



A worship service in Goodson Chapel included music led by La Casa and a sermon by Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric.



The Rev. Dr. Alma Tinoco Ruiz, director of the Hispanic House of Studies.

# Duke Divinity School Women’s Center Observes 50th Anniversary Milestone

To celebrate its 50th anniversary year, the Women’s Center at Duke Divinity School held a special worship service and panel discussion in honor of Jill Raitt, the first woman tenured at Duke Divinity School in 1977.

As the number of female students increased throughout the 1970s, women began asking for a supportive space to gather. Raitt, the only female faculty member at the time, gave up her office to create a place for the Women’s Center to be created.

Since it opened, the Women’s Center has served as a center of information and education, vocational support, and institutional change. Student coordinators and faculty advisors have worked together to provide female students access to lectures from leading feminist scholars and female theologians, support in field education placements and discerning vocational calling, and opportunities to network with female Divinity School faculty.

Mindy Makant, associate professor of religious studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University, offered the sermon for the service on

Mark 14:1–9, where an unnamed woman anoints Jesus’ head with oil.

The panel following the service was moderated by Valerie Cooper, associate professor of religion and society and Black Church studies, who was the first African American woman to receive tenure at Duke Divinity School in 2014. The panelists included four Duke Divinity alumnae:

- **Rev. Dr. Mindy Makant**, associate professor of religious studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University
- **Dr. SueJeanne Koh**, graduate futures program director of the humanities center at UC Irvine
- **Dr. Anthea Portier-Young**, associate professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity School
- **Victoria Perez**: adjunct Bible professor at Latin American Bible Institute College; Ph.D. candidate at USC.



(from left to right) Dr. Valerie Cooper, Victoria Perez, the Rev. Dr. Alma Tinoco Ruiz, Dr. Jung Choi, Dr. Anthea Portier-Young, and the Rev. Dr. Mindy Makant.



The Rev. Dr. Mindy Makant preached during the service in Goodson Chapel.

# Fifteen Years of Prison Studies at Duke Divinity School

In 2024, Duke Divinity School marks 15 years of transformative experiences that promote and facilitate intertwined engagement between prisons and the academy. Bishop Kenneth Carder, Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Professor Emeritus of the Practice of Christian Ministry, developed and taught the first prison course in the Duke Divinity School curriculum, “Restorative Justice, Prison Ministry, and the Church,” in 2009.

Engagement in prison studies includes courses taught to both Divinity students and incarcerated students, a Certificate in Prison Studies offered to Divinity students, a certificate offered to incarcerated students, the Prison Justice Action Committee student group, and events hosted throughout the year. The program co-directors are Sarah Jobe, chaplain at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women and consulting

faculty at Duke Divinity, and Douglas Campbell, professor of New Testament.

Jobe and Campbell also formed the Prison Engagement Initiative in the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University with the intent of bringing together faculty, staff, students, and community members seeking to engage prisons and the people affected by prisons in their work.

In a service to celebrate 15 years of prison studies, Jobe preached on Paul’s letter to the Philippians, written from prison, and on Epaphroditus—the person on the outside who came to visit Paul in prison. A contemporary icon of Epaphroditus by Gracie Moore Bitzer was on display for the service. Jobe noted that the example of Epaphroditus in Paul’s letter is a reminder that “you can put on the mind of the executed Christ by choosing to draw near to prison.”



Douglas Campbell and Sarah Jobe pray with attendees at the chapel service to commemorate 15 years of prison studies.



The icon of Epaphroditus by Gracie Moore Bitzer during the service in Goodson Chapel.

# New Certificates Expand Opportunities for Ministry Preparation

## CERTIFICATE IN CHAPLAINCY

Designed to prepare students to provide spiritual care in a variety of settings, including hospitals, hospice, prison, higher education, and the military, this certificate can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Th.M., and M.T.S. degree programs.

Students pursuing the certificate have the opportunity to participate in the school's robust programs, including clinical pastoral education and other vocational formation offerings, take courses in pastoral care and ministry for chaplaincy, receive advice on pursuing ecclesiastical endorsements, and take part in informational interviews with practitioners and alumni. The certificate can also be earned alongside either the Certificate in Prison Studies or the Certificate in Theology, Medicine, and Culture for students in the residential M.Div. and M.T.S. programs.

## CERTIFICATE IN CATHOLIC STUDIES

Designed to engage students in the study of global Catholic experience, practices, and teachings over the centuries and in the present, this certificate can be earned alongside the residential M.Div. and M.T.S. degrees beginning in fall 2024. The programming of the certificate combines academics with experiential and formational growth. Requirements include courses in Catholic studies, participation in Catholic fellowship, and, for M.Div. students, a field education placement in a Catholic setting or other project of engagement in Catholic ministry, leadership, or education.

Students need not be Roman Catholic to earn the certificate; *Catholic* is defined as being in communion with the bishop of Rome even though it is recognized that many other tributaries besides the Latin and Roman one contribute to the Catholic tradition.

## MENTAL HEALTH TRACK OF THE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY AND HEALTH CARE (CTHC)

Launched by the Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative, this track provides an opportunity for Christian mental health practitioners to be formed intellectually, relationally, and spiritually for excellent and faithful healing work.

Enabled by a gift from the Pittuloch Foundation, the CTHC Mental Health Track grew out of the recognition that even when mental health professionals work in broader health care institutions, they face specific questions and situations that require a specialized formation process. Through graduate coursework, formation seminars, and mentorship, the CTHC Mental Health Track will engage mental health clinicians in any discipline who desire to deepen and strengthen their practice by connecting their healing work to the resources of Christian faith. Specifically, the program will appeal to clinical psychologists (Ph.D., Psy.D.), clinical social workers (L.C.S.W. or equivalent), marriage and family therapists (L.M.F.T. or equivalent), licensed professional counselors (L.P.C. or equivalent), psychiatric nurse practitioners or physician assistants, psychiatrists (M.D. or D.O.), and licensed substance use counselors.



Students in the Theology, Medicine, and Culture certificate program gather on the Bovender Terrace.



# Creative Programs Expand Access to Theological Education

## GLOBAL WOMEN Th.M. EMPOWERS SCHOLARS FOR LEADERSHIP

The Global Women Th.M. Program, a collaboration between Duke Divinity School and Scholar Leaders, is designed to address some of the educational inequalities experienced by women in the global church. It aims to equip and empower women scholars from Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East to develop and exercise their gifts for theological leadership.

In this inaugural year, the program welcomed four students, who have now successfully finished their first semester of the two-semester program. Two women hail from India, one from Egypt, and one from Zimbabwe.

Upon completion of the Th.M., students will participate in a focused one-semester internship and will be prepared to apply for Ph.D. and Th.D. programs that enable them to serve as faculty members, as school executives, and in other leadership roles upon their return home. The program is also designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge across diverse cultural and theological contexts.



(from left to right): Gifita Veronica, Sandy Samy Abd El Massih, Jung Choi, Chishamiso Evermary Nyabonda, and Enoni (Pfokreni) Enoni.

## DIVINITY+ LAUNCHES NEW COURSES

Divinity+ offers nondegree digital courses and certifications for ministerial leaders and Christian professionals seeking to expand and refresh their knowledge and skills and nurture their vocational renewal. New courses include the following:

### Christian Virtues for Spiritual Growth, with Stanley Hauerwas

Renowned theologian Stanley Hauerwas explores the meaning and significance of four key virtues—kindness, hope, humility, and generosity—and their importance in cultivating a virtuous life. Videos, readings, quizzes, and formation exercises will help to develop a way of thinking about ethics that is creative and relevant for cultivating virtue. The course is designed so that it can be taken individually or as a small group, which could include members of a church, family, friends, or colleagues.

### Church Administration Certification

New courses are being added in this certification series that will provide preparation for church administration responsibilities. “Strategic Management for Churches” is open for enrollment, and “Human Resource Management for Churches” and “Financial Management for Churches” will soon be available. These courses are free for all Duke alumni.

Duke  Divinity+

### For more information:

Contact us at [divinityonline@div.duke.edu](mailto:divinityonline@div.duke.edu), or visit the Continuing Education section of [divinity.duke.edu](http://divinity.duke.edu).

# Programs and Events Focus on Pursuing the Work of Reconciliation

## DUKE DIVINITY JOINS COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS OF NAILS

In a worship service on May 15, 2024, Duke Divinity School formally joined the Community of the Cross of Nails, a worldwide community of organizations dedicated to the ministry of reconciliation. The guiding principles of the community are healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity, and building a culture of justice and peace. Partners are invited to pray the Litany of Reconciliation together across the world each month.

The community emerged through reconciliation work that took place after World War II. During the war, the Coventry Cathedral in England was bombed into ruins by German forces in November 1940. A vicar of a nearby church found three medieval nails in the wreckage and bound them together to form the first cross of nails. After the war, English and German people worked together to build a new cathedral in Coventry next to the ruins of the original as a testimony of the atrocity of war and the hope of reconciliation, and the global Community of the Cross of Nails was born.

The service opened the school's Summer Institute for Reconciliation and was co-led by the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies (AEHS), with the Very Rev. John Witcombe, dean of Coventry Cathedral, preaching. Nina Balmaceda, associate director for the Center for Reconciliation, and the Very Rev.

Timothy Kimbrough, director of AEHS and the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies received a cross of nails made in Germany. It was presented to the school by Witcombe and the Rev. Ian McPherson, a minister at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, which is also a member of the Community of the Cross of Nails.



(from left to right): The Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough, Dr. Nina Balmaceda, the Very Rev. John Witcombe, and Rev. Ian McPherson.

## CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION HOLDS INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

The Center for Reconciliation (CFR) at Duke Divinity School, in collaboration with the Americas Initiative for Transformation and Reconciliation, held the third Institute of the Americas for Transformation and Reconciliation. The online program is in Spanish, with English and Portuguese translation.

The Institute of the Americas offers an opportunity for interdisciplinary theological and contextual formation around

reconciliation and transformation in the Western hemisphere. Through the CFR's methodology of the Word Made Flesh and by incorporating a gender perspective, participants engage in an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual pilgrimage that brings the theology of reconciliation into dialogue with various approaches to knowledge and practice in the fields of social transformation and the cultivation of a just peace in local contexts.

# Interfaith Events Focus on the World's Pressing Problems



## FAITH FOR OUR PLANET CONFERENCE

Young community leaders from many different faiths gathered on Duke's campus for a week-long conference and retreat to work on mobilizing their faith traditions to address the challenges of Earth's changing climate.

Through a series of individual and group activities, more than two dozen fellows from around the world shared their thoughts and their sacred texts, prayed together, and learned from others who have brought faith into environmental activism. They shared artistic narratives and performances in the York Room of the Divinity School and met with Duke faculty from the Nicholas School of the Environment and in the fields of divinity, public policy, nursing and medicine, and business.

This is the second round of the fellowship, which was developed as a partnership between Duke Divinity School

and Faith for our Planet, a nongovernmental organization devoted to uniting faith communities around fighting

the effects of climate change. The fellowship is co-hosted by Divinity professors Norman Wirzba, the Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology and senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and Abdullah Antepli, associate professor of the practice of interfaith relations at Duke Divinity and associate professor of the practice at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy.

Wirzba has since been named director of research for the Duke Climate Commitment, and Antepli is the leader of of a new university Center for Community Engagement.

Students from different countries and faith traditions gathered to learn more about faith-based actions to address climate change.

## "JUDAISM IS ABOUT LOVE" CONVERSATION

Duke Divinity School, in collaboration with the Duke Center for Jewish Studies, hosted "Judaism Is About Love: A Conversation with Rabbi Shai Held." Rabbi Held is president and dean of the Hadar Institute in New York City and one of the foremost Jewish thinkers and educators today. Rabbi Held gave a summary of his new book, *Judaism Is About Love* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024), followed by a response and discussion with Duke Divinity faculty Ellen Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology; and C. Kavin Rowe, vice dean for faculty and George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament.



Rabbi Shai Held

# Visual Arts and Music Performances Explore Intersection of Theology and the Arts



## BEYOND MEASURE: AN EVENING OF MUSIC

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts hosted “Beyond Measure: An Evening of Music” to celebrate the publication of *Abundantly More*, by Jeremy Begbie, the Thomas A. Langford Distinguished Research Professor of Theology and the McDonald Agape Director of Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts.

Featuring players from the New Caritas Orchestra directed by Begbie, the program explored the power of music—along with words and images—to expand theological imagination. With a wide and diverse repertoire from classical to contemporary, poetry to paintings, and violas to timpani, the evening was an invitation to experience God’s extravagance in fresh and compelling ways.

## DIVINITY SCHOOL HOSTS EXHIBITION “UNSPOKEN REQUESTS”

Duke Divinity School hosted the art exhibition *Unspoken Requests* by Andrew Hendrixson, an artist, writer, and Th.D. student at Duke Divinity School. The title was inspired by the tent revivals of the artist’s childhood, and the exhibit includes a variety of pieces taken from across his body of work from 2010 to 2024.

Hendrixson holds an M.F.A. in painting and drawing from the University of Florida and an M.A. in Religion and the Arts from Yale University. He has been an artist-in-residence at the University of Dayton, the Springfield Museum of Art, the Byrdcliffe Colony, and the Chautauqua Institution.



*“Given this survey of works, the exhibit is not unduly concerned with achieving a thematic cohesion beyond works that bear more evidence of a mind thinking than of a mouth asserting. It seems to me that different kinds of inquiries necessarily require different modes of working. Sometimes this means employing oil paint on canvas; other times it means making Goodwill suits stand or stitching a thousand stitches into remnant fabric.”*

**ANDREW HENDRIXSON**

# Significant Services and Events that Shape Our Community

## SAINT ÓSCAR ROMERO RELIC DEDICATED IN GOODSON CHAPEL

A service in Goodson Chapel was held at the culmination of the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18–25) to dedicate a relic of Saint Óscar Romero. Duke Divinity School welcomed the Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Raleigh, N.C., as the guest preacher.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Óscar Romero was assassinated as he celebrated mass in El Salvador. He is now considered one of the first Latin American church fathers, and the Roman Catholic Church canonized him as a saint on Oct. 14, 2018. Duke Divinity Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric has published an award-winning book about Romero, *Óscar Romero's Theological Vision: Liberation and Transfiguration of the Poor* (University of Notre Dame Press). On a visit to San Salvador in March 2020, Colón-Emeric was presented with two first-order relics of Romero by the archbishop of San Salvador, José Luis Escobar Alas.

The Rite of Dedication was jointly performed by Bishop Zarama, Dean Colón-Emeric, the Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough (director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies and the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies), and the Rev. Meghan Benson (Duke Divinity chaplain). The relic will be kept just underneath the table surface of the Goodson Chapel altar, a traditional placement for relics informed by the scriptural text:

“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne” (Revelation 6:9).

At the direction of the dean and chaplain, the relic may used in recognition of ministries and prayers associated with the gospel work of reconciliation, advocacy for the oppressed, and the reform of unjust societal structures.



The Divinity School welcomed Bishop Zarama to Goodson Chapel (top photo), and Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric participated in the Rite of Dedication.

# Planned Giving Makes a Difference Today and in the Future

## PAYING IT FORWARD BY CLEARING A PATH

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, M.Div.'79, believes a God-orchestrated series of unlikely events overcame her hesitation to becoming a pastor. Today, she hopes that by including a planned gift to Duke Divinity School in her will, she can help to smooth the path for future clergy.

"I want to give a lasting gift to Duke Divinity School so that it can continue to do the work of training and preparing ministers to serve the church in this present age," Hale said.

Encouragement from her undergraduate roommate and her home church pastor—plus answered prayer for admission and a scholarship—led Hale to enroll at Duke Divinity School. The positive feeling she experienced during an internship as a youth pastor finally made Hale sure of her calling. After graduation, God used a federal prison warden, who hired her as a chaplain, to further her journey.

Hale founded Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga., which she said started with "four people doing Bible study in my apartment." She now serves as senior pastor. Forty years later, Hale said she's continuing to serve God by helping straighten the path for future generations through a gift in her will.

"My professors believed in me, and they gave me the tools to fulfill my destiny. That's what I see my gift doing for others. We are helping men and women to fulfill their destiny. To do what God created them to do."



(left to right): Dr. Dan Struble, associate dean for external relations; Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric; Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale; Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, dean of Duke Chapel; Dr. Cathleen Colón-Emeric

## DUKE 100 CHALLENGE

The Duke 100 Challenge was launched as part of the celebration of the Duke University centennial. The challenge designated 10% of a new planned gift established in an estate or retirement plan to be matched with current-use funds for a chosen area of support. Duke University committed \$1 million to serve as a pool of matching funds.

Duke Divinity School received a total of 16 planned gift commitments, totaling \$2.5 million.

Thanks to these generous donors and the Duke 100 Challenge match, **the Divinity School received an additional \$145,000 for immediate funding needs.**

*While the Duke 100 Challenge has concluded, you can still ensure that your planned giving includes Duke Divinity School. Contact the Office of Gift Planning at (919) 681-0464 or [giftplanning@duke.edu](mailto:giftplanning@duke.edu) to discuss your options.*

**\$145,000**

from planned gifts  
for immediate  
funding needs!

# Generous Donors Provide Support for Divinity Students and Programs

## LIPE FELLOWSHIP ENSURES STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR MINISTRY

The Lipe Leadership Fellows program supports promising and gifted residential M.Div. students who have the interest and potential to serve as pastors in large, dynamic congregations. The fellowship includes full tuition and fees, a stipend each year for living expenses, and funding for two field education experiences in a successful, innovative, and dynamic congregation with strong mentors and supervisors.

*Two graduates describe the transformative experience of receiving Lipe Leadership Fellows support:*

### Laura Auberry, M.Div.'24



While at Duke Divinity, I served at Southeast Raleigh Table, which taught me what the church is and can be. I also loved working with the Rev. Lisa Yebuah. She taught me to be confident in the gifts God has given me, and to continually reimagine how the church can be present in community.

During my time as a Lipe Fellow, I was blessed to

have great mentors in ministry who taught me so much about what it means to be in the local church. They taught me to be innovative, to listen to the community, to reimagine what missions can look like, and how to make the church a place in which all feel welcome. I hope to take these learnings with me as I enter fulltime ministry in the local church.

### Haley Jobe, M.Div.'24



The Lipe Fellowship has shaped my time at Duke Divinity School and helped me think through my future career goals in the UMC. The fellowship allowed me to meet and learn from great leaders in the North Carolina Conference. I served both Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh, N.C., and Bethany UMC in Summerville, S.C., as my

Lipe-funded field education placements. I had the opportunity to preach, lead Sunday school classes, plan worship services, and help with youth ministry at both placements, and I am grateful for the relationships I made with both laity and clergy. I am passionate about education and spiritual formation in the church.

## SECOND CENTURY CHALLENGE

Two anonymous donors have given **\$500,000 in matching funds to create 10 new scholarship endowments.**

A \$50,000 gift over five years will be matched in order to create a named scholarship endowment. Scholarships provide vital financial aid that attracts and sustains students who seek to follow God's call to prepare for their future ministry at Duke Divinity School. The impact of scholarships

extends from supporting students to strengthening churches and communities across the nation and around the world.

*If you would like to be part of creating scholarships that transform lives, please contact the Duke Divinity Office of External Relations to discuss your options. You can call (919) 660-3456 or email [external@div.duke.edu](mailto:external@div.duke.edu).*

**\$500,000**

in matching funds given for scholarship endowments!

# Duke Divinity Announces Bethea Fund

Duke Divinity School has announced the establishment of the Joseph Bethea Endowment Fund, which will support the work of the Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS), now celebrating its 50th year.

The fund will support OBCS students, programs, lectures, hospitality, conferences, and travel and was established to honor Bishop Joseph B. Bethea, who served as founding director of the OBCS from 1972 to 1977. In addition to recruiting and supporting countless students, Bethea was instrumental in Duke Divinity School becoming the first mainline seminary in the South to require a course in Black Church Studies for graduation. Bethea went on to become the first African American person elected to the episcopacy by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

“The Office of Black Church studies has contributed innumerable blessings to the life of Duke Divinity School,” said Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric. “From our curriculum to our chapel services, from scholarship to ministerial formation, and from invigorating lecture series to powerful preaching, OBCS has continued to celebrate and share the resources from the Black Church that enrich the whole church. I am grateful for the opportunity to give thanks for God’s work through OBCS and to contribute to its ongoing work.”

*To donate to the fund, give online (select Joseph Bethea Fund in the drop-down menu), or send a check to:  
Bethea Endowment Fund  
Box 90966  
Durham, NC 27708*

## ABOUT JOSEPH BETHEA



**Bishop Joseph Benjamin Bethea** was born in Dillon, S.C., on Sept. 9, 1932. He graduated from Claflin College in 1953 and earned an M.Div. at Gammon Theological Seminary in 1956, completing additional studies at

Union Seminary in Richmond, Va.

Bethea served the United Methodist Church in the South Carolina Conference, the North Carolina Conference, the Western North Carolina Conference, and the North Carolina-Virginia Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. He was named the director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School in 1972. In 1988, he became a bishop in the South Carolina Conference.

He served on the General Board of Church and Society, was a member of the World Methodist Council, and was a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference and to the General Conference in both 1984 and 1988. Bethea died on March 12, 1995, in Columbia, S.C.

## DIVINITY ANNUAL FUND

Gifts to Divinity Annual Fund are gifts that make a difference! These gifts support the future of the church through providing need-based financial aid grants, funding field education opportunities, and supporting innovative programs that form students for transformative ministries.

**\$1,209,052**  
annual fund  
total

**1,319**  
total  
donors

**266**  
total  
leadership donors



**Questions?** Contact the External Relations office at [external@div.duke.edu](mailto:external@div.duke.edu) or (919) 660-3456. You can also give online at [gifts.duke.edu/divinity](https://gifts.duke.edu/divinity).





**A COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO SERVE AND SUPPORT**

Duke Divinity School strives to cultivate a vibrant community through theological education, engagement with Scripture and the living Christian tradition, and attention to and reflection on contemporary contexts in order to form leaders for faithful Christian ministries. We rejoice in God’s faithfulness throughout this year of milestones and celebrations and look forward in hope to the continued work of the Spirit in and through this community of students and alumni, faculty and staff, donors and friends.



# Inaugurating Our Centennial Season



(left to right): Rev. Dr. Robb Webb, director of the Rural Church Division of The Duke Endowment; Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric; Bishop Ken Carter, Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC; Rev. Dr. Dennis Campbell, Vice Chair of The Duke Endowment; Bishop Connie Shelton, North Carolina Conference of the UMC

Duke University hosted a Service of Thanksgiving to honor Mr. James B. Duke and to celebrate the enduring connection he created between The Duke Endowment, Duke University, and United Methodism in North Carolina. Duke University was established in 1924 when James B. Duke, through the Indenture of Trust, designated a gift that transformed Trinity College into a comprehensive research university. The Duke Endowment was established the same year.

During the service held in Duke Chapel, Duke Divinity Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric offered a prayer of commemoration and thanksgiving, lifting up the pioneering men and women who believed in education enough to invest in the founding of Duke University.

“Gracious God, source of light for all, wisdom to the world: We praise your name for the inspiration, the blessings, and the continued sustenance you have shown to Duke University. Give us the grace in our day to be good stewards of the inheritance we have received, faithful to our founders, and faithful to your gracious claim on our lives. Amen.”

## LOOKING FORWARD

### 2024–25

Duke University is celebrating its centennial with a range of special events, history spotlights, and recognition of trailblazers. Join the celebration at [www.100.duke.edu!](http://www.100.duke.edu)

### 2025

The seventeenth centennial of the Council of Nicaea is in 2025. Duke Divinity School is making plans now to join the global church in celebrating our historic ecumenical and Trinitarian faith.

### 2026

The Duke Divinity School centennial will be in 2026! We look forward in hope to this milestone to reflect on God’s enduring faithfulness through the seasons.



## Tenemos Esperanza

*Porque El entró en el mundo y en la historia;  
porque El que bró el silencio y la agonía;  
porque llenó la tierra de su gloria;  
porque fue luz en nuestra noche fría.*

*Porque El nació en un pesebre oscuro;  
porque El vivió sembrando amor y vida;  
porque partió los corazones duros  
y levantó las almas abatidas.*

**(Coro)**

*Por eso es que hoy tenemos esperanza;  
por eso es que hoy luchamos con porfía;  
por eso es que hoy miramos con confianza,  
el porvenir en esta tierra mía.*

*Por eso es que hoy tenemos esperanza;  
por eso es que hoy luchamos con porfía;  
por eso es que hoy miramos con confianza,  
el porvenir.*

## We Have Hope

*Because Christ came to enter in our journey,  
Because he broke the silence of our sorrow,  
Because he filled the whole world with his glory,  
And came to light the darkness of our morrow.*

*Because he came a stranger, poor and lowly,  
Because he lived proclaiming love and healing,  
Because he opened hearts of hungry people,  
And brought new life to all who would receive it.*

**(Chorus)**

*In hope we are forever celebrating  
with courage in our struggle we are waiting,  
In trust and reassurance we are claiming,  
This is our song of freedom for all people.*

*In hope we are forever celebrating  
With courage in our struggle we are waiting,  
In trust and reassurance we are claiming:  
This is our song.*

**Words by Methodist bishop the REV. FEDERICO J. PAGURA (Argentina), 1979**

**Music by HOMERO PERERA (Uruguay), 1979**

**English translation by JORGE LOCKWARD, 2002**



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