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 DREAMY 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

A NOTE from the Dean

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.

“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.”

—L. Gregory Jones
Dean and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School
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.
How do you hold people's attention when they have to STAY NIMBLE module for the class to listen to on their own timetable. Zoom for discussion, and she posts her lectures via a learning time) exercises. Usually she meets with the class together on asynchronous (when students access material in their own time) and the students meet together online at the same time) and synchronous (when she and other) and videos on voice threads. That she supplied learning activities such as blog posts, 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 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. That understand 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 Oscar 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.

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.

Wylin Dassie Wilson
Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics
Wylin Wilson’s research lies at the intersection of religion, gender, and bioethics, including religious 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. Among her publications is her book, Economic Ethics and the Black Church.
Janet Martin Soskice
William E. 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/polity 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.

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FACULTY Transitions

RETIREEMENT
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 Donnelle McCrory Th.D.'74, at stories.divinity.duke.edu.

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

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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, Deuxlogy: 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 Tam and Ann Marie Langford Scholarship Fund at Duke University Divinity School or the Ann Marie Langford Endowment at Duke Gardens.
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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 Ross, George Washington Ivey Professor
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, one 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 Joshua Montgomery Neal, Assistant Professor of Homiletics
Eerdmans Publishing, 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 premises of making Christian pulpits and be “over-shadowed” transform the life of God. A preacher’s fully embodied witness is lived through Spirit-filled acts of hospitality, dependency, and discernment.

Pauline Dogmatics: The Triumph of God’s Love
By R. Edward Hayes, George Washington Ivey Professor
Emeritus of New Testament
Eerdmans Publishing, 2020

This collection of essays explores major themes of Hayes’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.

Triumph of God’s Love
By Pauline Dogmatics: The Triumph of God’s Love
Eerdmans, 2020

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, anddevotional messages in a range of publications that offer ministerial perspectives and spiritual hope. For a complete list ofavailable publications, see divinity.duke.edu/initiatives/covid-19.

Publications: Lights in the Darkness Initiative

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, 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 and other content in a range of publications that offer ministerial perspectives and spiritual hope.

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 lose 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 United States 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.

Preaching Grace for an Anti-Racist Church
Wesleyan grace is the power of God working in you to give you a more joyful 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 goodfaithmedia.org.

50+ ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL MEDIA OUTLETS

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

• “Confronting Racism through Preaching”
  • “Reading Barth Together”
  • “Preachers Dare: Speaking for God”
  • “Dying Gives Us a Chance to Confront Truth”

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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, DFF Photography
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, 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. “At the outset 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.”

“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.

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. “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.”

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. “At the outset 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.”

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“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

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

“In 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.”

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, “When 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.

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 from the church and the world by our faculty and doctoral students, at the Divinity School Medium channel: medium.com/divinity.duke.edu
• 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 devotions 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
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. “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.

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 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.

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.

Divinity staff prepare to distribute senior crosses following safety protocols.

Crosses were wrapped in bubble wrap awaiting distribution to students.

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

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 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.

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.

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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.

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

<table>
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<th>TESTS</th>
<th>COMBINED TOTAL OF FACULTY/STAFF AND STUDENTS</th>
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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.

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 either 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
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.

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.

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.

TOTAL COMMITMENTS IN FY20
$31.8 MILLION

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

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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.

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.

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.
HIGHLIGHTS of Support from Donors

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

MAURICE AND DOTTI 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.

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.

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.”

Divinity Annual Fund HIGHLIGHTS

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

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.
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.
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.

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. Sangwoon 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.
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.

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 peacemaking among Latin American and Latina/o 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.

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.

“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.

“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
A PRAYER, FOR LOOKING AHEAD IN 2021

WIND OF GOD, BLOW FAR FROM US
ALL DARK DESPAIR,
ALL DEEP DISTRESS,
ALL GROUNDLESS FEARS,
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