

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School has been blessed to be part of the fresh work of the Holy Spirit this year and to participate in “little Pentecosts”—signs and foretastes of the hope we profess and the calling we follow. In his Opening Convocations sermon, Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric said: “If Duke Divinity School is to keep on its Pentecost journey, it needs to devote itself to being guided by the marker of mercy. Our motto of *Eruditio et Religio* only makes sense when we add mercy. ... How we care for the needy is the measure for the apostolicity of our studies, the holiness of our communion, and the power of our prayers.”

The school has continued in its commitment to form ministers of the gospel who will seek God’s justice and mercy. Our faculty have been leaders in the Duke Climate Initiative participating with colleagues from the Nicholas School for the Environment in the event “Pastoral Care for Climate Change: Weaving Together Science and Theology for Justice,” at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, N.C. Divinity faculty have also co-taught a university course titled “Let’s Talk about Climate Change,” and welcomed 30 young faith leaders from various religious traditions and places worldwide to understand better how to engage their faith communities in the fight for our climate.

The Office of Black Church Studies, which has been commemorating its 50th anniversary year, hosted “Justice Ministry Reimagined: Reentry Simulation” for pastors, students, and lay leaders to learn more about how to support people reentering the community after incarceration. We launched the Prison Engagement Initiative with the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Divinity faculty taught a “Trauma Engaged Duke” seminar and led the project team Developing Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Teaching and Learning. These programs and events complement the ongoing work of field education and ministerial formation that puts Duke Divinity students in contexts ranging from rural churches to hospital chaplaincy to farm ministry, and many more.

This fall, we welcomed 226 entering students from 35 different states and eight other countries, including Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, and South Korea. The Master of Divinity program gained 130 new students, with 88 residential students and 42 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 28; Master of Theology, six; Master of Theological Studies, 22; the Doctor of Theology welcomed six new students to campus, and one special student has enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed four residential students to campus and 16 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 30 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx students, six percent; Asian students, five percent; and American Indian students, one percent. Fifty-seven percent of students in the incoming class are female.

There were 33 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 30 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Baptists made up 17 percent of the incoming students; Anglican-Episcopal students, 12 percent; and nondenominational students, 12 percent. Dean Colón-Emeric said: “It is with the guidance of the acts of the apostles, their communal praxis, that the Divinity School continues to build that most delicate and often discredited of structures: an ecumenical community, a community that boldly professes the Apostles’ creed, a community where Christians from estranged churches study together, a community of generous, joyful Pentecost orthodoxy.”

The school continued to build on its rich tradition of ecumenical engagement, with Dean Colón-Emeric participating in the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission Dialogue meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Student Eliza Love, M.Div.’23, was awarded the \$10,000 Bossey

1 Institute scholarship from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to attend the World
2 Council of Church Ecumenical Institute. The Houses of Study at Duke Divinity School—Methodist
3 House, Anglican Episcopal House, Presbyterian/Reformed House, Baptist House, Office of Black
4 Church Studies, Asian House, and Hispanic House—all enrich the Duke Divinity community
5 through theological formation, student support, dynamic lectures, and robust programming.
6

7 The school has also welcomed new leaders who bring their gifts to the work of advancing the
8 mission to serve Christ and the church. Three new associate deans have accepted appointments:
9 Daniel Castelo, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, as associate
10 dean for Academic Formation; Jung Choi, a consulting professor and director of the Asian House
11 of Studies, as associate dean for Global and Intercultural Formation; and Sangwoo Kim, a
12 consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies and the Wesleyan
13 Formation Initiatives, as associate dean for Vocational Formation. Linda Coley, who earned an
14 M.Div. from Duke Divinity along with M.S., M.B.A., and Ph.D. degrees, has also joined as the
15 executive director for the Ormond Center.
16

17 Several new programs demonstrate Duke's sustained commitment to connecting with churches
18 and ministers. The Ormond Center launched the Community Craft Collaborative to create
19 resources for equipping lay and congregational leaders. The Certificate in Conflict Transformation
20 and Reconciliation (CCTR), facilitated by leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of conflict
21 transformation and reconciliation from Duke University and other institutions, provides a timely
22 learning opportunity for pastors and other church leaders seeking theological and practical skills to
23 foster reconciliation in their congregations and surrounding communities. The Clergy Health
24 Initiative supports healthy practices for vibrant ministry. The research and programming from other
25 Duke Divinity initiatives, including Theology, Medicine, and Culture; Duke Initiatives in Theology
26 and the Arts; Leadership Education at Duke Divinity; and Thriving Rural Communities, continue to
27 provide numerous opportunities to bear witness to God's creativity, compassion, and care for
28 communities and congregations.
29

30 Our Convocation & Pastors' School (CPS) returned to an in-person format for the first time since the
31 start of the pandemic with the theme, *Creativity & Courage: From Trauma to Tough Hope*. The
32 presenters—professional dancers, visual artists, musicians, and scholars—guided participants in
33 facing brokenness and sin honestly, as they offered glimpses of "the beauty of holiness." NY Times
34 Best Selling Author & Associate Professor of Christian History, Kate Bowler led a live taping of her
35 *Everything Happens* podcast to kick off CPS with over 1000 registered participants.
36

37 Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist
38 Church and partnership with this annual conference. We celebrate the expansion of our
39 connection to UMC colleges through a partnership with Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., to
40 enable qualified undergraduates to take master's level course through the Duke Accelerated
41 Pastoral Formation Program. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading
42 of God's Spirit in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about
43 Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.
44

45 Edgardo Colón-Emeric
46 Dean of Duke Divinity School