

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Theology and Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation, began his two-year term as the dean of Duke Divinity School (DDS) on July 1. Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Duke and has been a member of the faculty since 2008. An ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference, 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. He is the first Latino dean of the school.

A new partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College will enable qualified undergraduates to take courses at DDS beginning in 2022. The Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program offers select undergraduates the option to begin coursework toward the Hybrid M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.) degrees while completing their baccalaureate degree. Funded by the support of the Kern Family Foundation, the accelerated program will help lower educational debt and accelerate timeline to engage in ministry. DDS launched the Asian House of Studies, to 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 under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, a consulting professor and senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

Three new certificates were approved this year, and all can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Hybrid M.Div., M.T.S., and M.A. degree programs. The Certificate in Methodist/Wesleyan Studies is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage in robust training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for leadership positions in organizations and churches such as The United Methodist Church, AME Church, AME Zion Church, and Korean Methodist Church. In the Certificate in Latinx Studies, students will hone skills for ministry while becoming part of a learning community that is committed to and seeks to learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and cultures. The Certificate in Worship is designed to prepare DDS students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the worship of God in Christian congregations.

In January, the school announced 12 full-tuition fellowships to support incoming residential M.Div. degree program students who pursue a certificate in Black Church Studies or Latinx Studies. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships, the fellowships provide vocational formation and mentoring and up to \$24,000 in stipend and internship opportunities through the Office of Field Education. The fellowships begin in the fall of 2022.

The Office of Wesleyan Engagement announced the “Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism,” an initiative of DDS with the support of the Kern Family Foundation. It seeks to nurture innovative leadership within the Wesleyan tradition as a constructive and hope-filled response to a turbulent ecclesial landscape. Supported by the Duke Endowment, the school launched To Heal the Wounded Soul, a project to strengthen Wesleyan pastors in the Carolinas who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, including from the AME, AME Zion, CME, and UMC churches.

This academic year DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in the school’s history, with 259 new students. Enrollment in the M.Div. degree program increased to 133 students. The growth was heavily driven by the first cohort of 52 Hybrid M.Div. students. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) welcomed 36 students, the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) gained 33, and the M.A. 17. The Master of Theology (Th.M.) enrolled 12 students, and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) enrolled seven. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students and 14 students in the hybrid program.

Three new faculty members joined the faculty in 2021. Polly Ha is an associate professor of the History of Christianity. Ronald K. Rittgers is the chair in Lutheran Studies and professor of the History of Christianity. Daniel Castelo is the William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies.