

**Duke Divinity School**  
**Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean**

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.

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. 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 to understand better how to engage their faith communities in the fight for our climate.

The Office of Black Church Studies, commemorating its fiftieth 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 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 our students in contexts ranging from rural churches to hospital chaplaincy to farm ministry, and more.

We welcomed 226 entering students from 35 different states and eight other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 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 residential, and one special student has enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed four residential students and 16 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs, 30 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students comprised 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.

DDS 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 Institute scholarship from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to attend the World Council of Church Ecumenical Institute.

Three new associate deans have accepted appointments: Daniel Castelo, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, as associate dean for Academic Formation; Jung Choi, a consulting professor and director of the Asian House of Studies, as associate dean for Global and Intercultural Formation; and Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies and the Wesleyan Formation Initiatives, as associate dean for Vocational Formation. Linda Coley has also joined as the executive director for the Ormond Center.

Several new programs demonstrate Duke’s sustained commitment to connecting with churches and ministers. The Ormond Center launched the Community Craft Collaborative to create resources for equipping lay and congregational leaders. The Certificate in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation, facilitated by leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of conflict transformation and reconciliation, provides a learning opportunity for pastors and other church leaders seeking theological and practical skills to foster reconciliation in their congregations and surrounding communities. We celebrate the expansion of our connection to UMC colleges through a partnership with Wesleyan College in Macon, GA, to enable qualified undergraduates to take courses through the Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program.

Convocation & Pastors' School returned to an in-person format for the first time since 2019 with the theme, *Creativity & Courage: From Trauma to Tough Hope*. Professional dancers, visual artists, musicians, and scholars guided participants in facing brokenness and sin honestly, as they offered glimpses of "the beauty of holiness." NY Times Best Selling Author & Associate Professor of Christian History, Kate Bowler kicked off the event with a live taping of her *Everything Happens* podcast with over 1,000 registered participants.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).