

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Duke Divinity School prepares students to become effective, faithful leaders in the church, the academy and the world through its attention to spiritual formation and transforming ministry as well as to academic rigor. The school is an integral part of Duke University, and divinity students enjoy and contribute to the university's intellectual, spiritual and social resources.

Programs:

Duke Divinity School welcomed its first class of Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) students in the fall of 2006. The Th.D. program is designed to match the rigor of the Ph.D. program and focuses explicitly on the ministries and practices of Christian communities. Following university approval in late 2005, the Association of Theological Schools gave preliminary approval to the Th.D. in January, 2006. This program will enhance the education and formation of men and women for Christian ministry and leadership both in church-related positions and theological schools.

The divinity school continues its major work on grants from Lilly Endowment, Inc., including coordinating the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program and our Advancing Pastoral Excellence initiative. In May of 2005, we hosted a major "Forum on Excellence in Ministry" in Indianapolis, which brought together 250 leaders from a variety of churches and church-related settings.

In early 2006 we launched a six-year program, "Thriving Rural Communities," in collaboration with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church and The Duke Endowment. This multi-pronged initiative is designed to help strengthen rural communities, especially by working with the churches and the leadership in those communities. The program will identify eight thriving United Methodist churches and provide grants to support initiatives in those churches; create full-tuition scholarships for Duke Divinity students who plan to go into rural ministry and support leadership development for rural clergy.

Events and Activities:

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in Mississippi and Louisiana, Duke Divinity School faculty, staff and students sought to support our brothers and sisters there in meaningful ways. The school focused a period in the fall as "Autumn's Lent," a time when we had prayer, worship and fund-raising to support the recovery. In addition, we sent a group of faculty and staff, led by Bishop Kenneth Carder, to conduct a Sabbath-renewal continuing education event for Mississippi Annual Conference pastors in February, 2006. We also invited and financially supported pastors from both United Methodist conferences to come to Duke for one- to two-week study leaves for rest and renewal.

During 2005-06 the divinity school developed a strategic plan for the next five years. Entitled "Transformative Leadership," it seeks to sustain and strengthen the momentum we have built over the past five years. At the heart of our planning is the conviction that Duke Divinity School aims to be an agent of transformation for the church, the academy and the world. Our aspirations can be defined by four complementary measures: (1) academic research and teaching; (2) preparation of men and women for leadership in the church and other institutions, both through our degree programs and through lifelong learning; (3) engagement with major issues in church and society; and (4) our role in strengthening the broader academy, especially in theological education.

The divinity school continued its fundraising efforts related to Duke University's "Financial Aid Initiative," launched during the past year. Duke Divinity is pursuing a goal of \$10 million in endowment gifts for this three-year initiative (2006-08).

Students:

In the fall of 2006, Duke Divinity enrolled a diverse body of 575 students from 40 states and seven foreign countries. Approximately 55 percent of the student body is United Methodist, 20 percent is Baptist, and the other students come from more than 30 different denominations in the Christian faith. The overall entering class had an ethnic minority enrollment of 21.8 percent, a slight increase over the previous year. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.55.

Our field education program continues to grow. More than 200 of our students experienced summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 16 in our Teaching Congregations program, five in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, and international placements in South Africa (7), Guatemala and El Salvador (4), Uganda (2), Sri Lanka (2) and Peru (1).

Faculty:

We strengthened the faculty with the addition of two colleagues: Kavin Rowe joined us as assistant professor of New Testament, and Esther Acolatse became assistant professor of pastoral theology.

Professor Rowe's academic research focuses primarily on the historical particularity of the New Testament and its relation to the later Christian theological tradition. Professor Acolatse explores the intersection of psychology and Christian thought, with interests in gender and the experience of Christianity, methodological issues in the practice of

theology of the Christian life, and the relevance of these themes in the global expression of Christianity.

Notable books published by our faculty in 2005-06 include the following: *God's Potters*, by emeritus professor Jackson Carroll; *Wondrous Depth*, by Ellen Davis; *Left Behind?* by James Efid; *The Conversion of the Imagination*, by Richard Hays; *Resurrecting Excellence*, by L. Gregory Jones and Kevin Armstrong; *A Future for Africa*, by Emmanuel Katongole; *The End of Words*, by Richard Lischer; *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*, co-edited by Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen Westerfield Tucker; *Isaiah*, by Jo Bailey Wells; and *God's Companions*, by Sam Wells.

Honors & Achievements:

David Steinmetz, Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of the history of Christianity, was elected to join the 2006 class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an international organization of the world's leading scholars, scientists, artists, business people and political leaders.

Timothy Tyson, visiting professor of American Christianity and Southern culture, won the prestigious Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his 2004 book "Blood Done Sign My Name."

The award is presented annually by the University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The divinity school's 53,000-square-foot addition and renovation project, dedicated in late 2005, garnered two awards for Hartman-Cox Architects: an award of merit in architecture from the American Institute of Architects and an International Religious Art and Architecture award from Faith and Form/ Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture.

We are thankful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School, and we look forward to another year of working to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

L. Gregory Jones, Dean