

## 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 leadership and academic rigor. The school is committed to preparing ordained leaders in the United Methodist Church. It is also 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 made significant progress in 2008 on a variety of interrelated projects and programs that support clergy, other Christian leaders and congregations.

The Divinity School officially launched Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, an effort to combine in one initiative the school's non-degree programs and scholarship on leadership development, pastoral excellence, clergy health, rural ministry, Hispanic ministry, youth formation, reconciliation and end-of-life care.

Leadership Education's work, supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., builds on the strengths of the Divinity School and engages multiple disciplines, from business to the arts. Its offerings include an online magazine, Faith & Leadership; open-application programs; and custom educational experiences. The magazine and more information about this effort can be found at [www.faihandleadership.com](http://www.faihandleadership.com).

A previously established leadership program, the Episcopal Leadership Forum, continued its successful work in supporting United Methodist bishops. All eight United Methodist bishops elected in the United States in 2008 are participants in the program.

The Divinity School implemented the first year of its Clergy Health Initiative in North Carolina, a project focused on developing a resilient, well-informed cadre of United Methodist pastors as skilled in the care of themselves and their families as they are in the care of their congregations.

In 2008, the Clergy Health Initiative completed a statewide survey of all United Methodist clergy in North Carolina to measure physical, mental, spiritual, and vocational health. The initiative will provide clergy with support such as customizable wellness plans and access to trained, certified health coaches.

The Divinity School also strengthened its Thriving Rural Communities program, which supports rural clergy and congregations, and began developing a Hispanic Studies Program through new educational and programmatic outreach. These programs, along with the Clergy Health Initiative, all of which are supported by The Duke Endowment, have been combined into one effort known as Thriving Communities in the Carolinas.

Also in 2008, the Divinity School established Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, an effort to promote a vibrant interplay of Christian theology and the arts at Duke Divinity School and beyond through teaching, research and artistic engagement.

### **Students:**

The Divinity School welcomed an impressive group of new students in the fall, and we experienced a 7 percent increase in applications over 2007, which was itself a strong year. Total enrollment in the fall was 550 students representing 35 states and 10 foreign countries. More than half of our Master of Divinity students are United Methodist, 13 percent are Baptist, and the others come from more than 35 different denominations in the Christian faith.

The median age of the entering Master of Divinity class continues to be low – in 2008 it was approximately 24. The overall entering class had an ethnic minority enrollment of approximately 25 percent, an increase from 21 percent in 2007. The median undergraduate G.P.A. of the entering class was 3.6.

The divinity school is now in the third year of its Doctor of Theology program, and applications increased substantially this year to almost 100. Twenty seven students are enrolled in the program overall, and the eight students in the inaugural Th.D. class have now finished their coursework and are preparing for their comprehensive preliminary exams.

Our field education program remains vibrant and critically important to the formation of our students for ministry. One hundred nineteen students served field education placements during the academic year, in addition to approximately 40 who serve as student pastors. Almost 200 of our students undertook summer field education placements, including many in rural United Methodist congregations (whose stipends were supported by The Duke Endowment), 12 in our program of Partner Congregations, six in the Center for Reconciliation's Teaching Communities program, including two in India and one in Canada, and 15 other international placements in South Africa (three), Uganda (three), Guatemala and El Salvador (five), Brazil (two), Peru (one), and Macedonia (one).

### **Events and Activities:**

The Divinity School's 2008 Convocation & Pastors' School, held in October, focused on the theme "For Such a Time as This: Christian Leadership in a Changing World." The three-day program featured presentations by Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., a panel of United Methodist bishops, and author Ronald Heifetz.

Also in the fall, the Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation hosted Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities, and Duke Divinity School theologian Stanley Hauerwas to co-teach the center's second annual Teaching Communities Week. Events included a joint keynote lecture, a day-long workshop for students and community members, and a sermon by Vanier at Duke Chapel. Teaching Communities Week also marked the launch of a new book by Hauerwas and Vanier, "Living Gently in a Violent World," the second volume in the Center for Reconciliation's Resources for Reconciliation series.

Five members of the Duke Divinity School faculty spoke at the United Methodist Southeast Jurisdictional Conference July 16-19 in Lake Junaluska, N.C. This was the first time faculty sessions were included as part of the conference. Professors Kenneth Carder, Edgardo Colon-Emeric, W. Stephen Gunter, Randy Maddox and Lacey Warner spoke on various aspects of living the United Methodist way.

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, newly elected archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, met with faculty, staff and students during a May visit to Duke Divinity School. A church leader of international standing, Archbishop Deng Bul has been instrumental in evangelizing and peacemaking within Sudan.

More than 600 participants gathered at Duke Divinity School in March for the third joint meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the Wesleyan Theological Society. The meeting brought together resources from both societies for theological reflection about creation and the world of sciences. The theme was "Sighs, Signs and Significance: Pentecostal and Wesleyan Explorations of Science and Creation."

At the end of March, the Divinity School hosted a conference on "Religion in the Public Square" that brought together Duke faculty, led by Professor David Steinmetz, with a cross section of journalists who cover religion across the nation. Faculty and journalists participated in four panels, and Professor of Christian History Grant Wacker presented a public lecture, "Billy Graham's America," from research for his forthcoming cultural biography on Graham.

### **Faculty:**

The Divinity School strengthened its faculty significantly with the addition of six new colleagues: Paul Griffiths, William K. Warren Foundation Professor of Catholic Theology; Ray Barfield, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Christian Philosophy in the Divinity School as well as Associate Professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology-Oncology in the Medical School; Sujin Pak, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity; Norman Wirzba, Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life; Jeremy Begbie, Thomas A. Langford Research Professor of Theology; and Charles "Chuck" Campbell, Professor of Homiletics.

Three key members of the faculty – J. Kameron Carter, Stephen Chapman, and Warren Smith – were granted tenure by Duke University.

### **Honors & Achievements:**

Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe professor of theological ethics, was honored for his work in ethics by the Healthcare, Ethics and Law Institute of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. Professor Hauerwas received the Pellegrino Medal, which is presented annually to nationally recognized individuals for "contributions to American healthcare ethics and law in the selfless spirit of Edmund D. Pellegrino."

Professor Mark Chaves released a major research report on U.S. congregations, revealing growing informality in worship practices, graying of congregations and clergy, more ethnic diversity, and more use of technology. Chaves, professor of sociology, religion and divinity at Duke University, was the lead researcher on the "National Congregations Study, Wave II" project, which encompasses information from 1,506 congregations across the religious spectrum.

The end of the summer, 2008, brought the completion and installation of the new Goodson Chapel Organ. Supported by a generous gift from Duke alumni Aubrey and Katie McClendon, the 30-foot-high pipe organ is a Gothic and neo-Gothic instrument which contains 1,837 pipes. The organ was dedicated at Opening Convocation in August.

The school also published "With God In Mind: Sermons on the Art and Architecture of Duke Divinity School." This 150-page book celebrates the sermons, art, and architecture inspired by Duke Divinity School's 2005 addition, which includes Goodson Chapel.

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](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

Respectfully submitted

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