

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The academic year 2011–2012 has been a year of strengthening the foundation of our mission and vision for Duke Divinity School. After completing his initial two-year appointment as dean, Richard Hays has accepted a full-term appointment by the President and Provost of Duke University to continue in the role as Dean of Duke Divinity School. Lacey Warner, who has served as associate dean for academic formation and programs and associate professor of the practice of evangelism, has accepted the position of Executive Vice-Dean. She will oversee the day-to-day operations of the school, including oversight of academic programs, centers, and initiatives. We are thankful to have in place two exceptionally qualified leaders.

The school's highly successful existing degree programs (M.Div., M.T.S., Th.M., and Th.D.) continue to attract some of the most talented and committed men and women who desire to be trained for ministry at Duke Divinity School. The M.Div. program remains at the heart of the school's mission, serving as the basic program for the formation of students called to ordained ministry.

We were very pleased to welcome a diverse, energetic, and academically strong group of new students in the fall of 2011, our largest. Of the 151 entering students seeking the three-year M.Div. degree (bringing our total M.Div. enrollment to 443), 52 percent are United Methodist, 15 percent are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, and 4 percent are Presbyterian. Forty-six other denominations round out the M.Div. class.

At the same time, the Divinity School has expanded in recent years to include new degree programs, centers and initiatives, houses of study, and a Leadership Education program. During the past year we have sought to articulate the ways that all of these efforts are integrally connected to the mission of the school. These various components of Duke Divinity School are not separate silos of ministry or learning. Instead, they all work together to embody our vision for the future of the church. The Center for Reconciliation, Leadership Education, Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, and Christianity and Healthcare all build bridges to meet needs in the church, academy, and the world.

Our three new degree programs, which formally launched in 2011, are off to a successful start:

- The Master of Arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S) welcomed 18 students to this one-year, residential program. This degree provides theological reflection for people called to non-ordained ministry or service to the church or for students seeking an introductory exploration of theological studies
- The Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) began this summer with a cohort of 13 students in the Youth Ministry track. Their first intensive week of classes in residence coincided with our Duke Youth Academy in June 2011. The program uses web-based distance learning in coordination with one-week intensive classes in residence so that people can remain in their place of ministry and still receive quality training in theology and Christian practice.
- The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) is a professional doctorate providing advanced study for ordained clergy seeking to deepen and enhance their practice of ministry. Twenty-four students began the program this year. The focus of this first cohort is Leadership in the Christian Tradition.

The quality of the faculty at Duke Divinity School continues to set the standard for theological education. Three professors were awarded prestigious recognition for their books. Willie Jennings, associate professor of theology and black church studies received an award from the American Academy of Religion (AAR) for his book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. Norman Wirzba, research professor of theology, ecology, and rural life, won "Book of the Year" honors from The Englewood Review of Books for his book *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*. And *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* by Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, religion, and divinity at Duke, was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

In addition to our core mission of academic and spiritual formation, Duke Divinity School experienced exciting developments in our centers and initiatives.

The Center for Reconciliation was given a \$300,000 challenge grant from the Stewardship Foundation to explore and expand global reconciliation efforts. Director Chris Rice has made exploratory trips to central Europe and East Asia to gather information about how to best deploy the influence of the Center and the Divinity School. The Center continued its existing programs: the Summer Institute at Duke Divinity School, which equips Christian leaders for the task of reconciliation; formation in reconciliation for students, including summer field education placements; and support for the Africa Great Lakes Institute, which brings together Christian leaders from east Africa to focus on reconciliation.

The Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, led by Professor Jeremy Begbie, continues to develop a robust series of theological and artistic engagements. The 2011 Convocation & Pastors' School was devoted to this theme: Jeremy Begbie delivered the Gray Lectures, Duke University music professor Anthony Kelley performed with the BLAK Ensemble, novelist Marilynne Robinson gave a reading and interview, and the Rev. Lillian Daniel preached the Convocation sermons.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity oversees programs for the United Methodist Church, including Clergy Health Initiative, a \$12 million, 7-year program to improve the health of United Methodist clergy; Thriving Rural Communities; and Study Leave for Ministry Professionals. The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation attracts dozens of high-school students each summer. Finally, *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine of Leadership Education, continues to extend the reach of Duke Divinity School to provide deeper reflection on Christian leadership

through video interviews with transformative leaders, theological reflections, and in-depth articles. See <http://faithandleadership.com/>

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by:

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