



FOR HUMANITY



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Greetings from Wake Forest!

Our promise at Wake Forest has long been to provide a high-quality education for the benefit of humanity. At the School of Divinity, we refer to this promise as fostering agents of justice, compassion, and reconciliation. This mission aligns seamlessly with the very fabric of this institution, as Divinity students bring with them a passion for service. As graduates, Divinity graduates enter the world as spiritual architects of hope, equity, and healing.

However, many Divinity School graduates have begun their careers with student debt that far exceeds average annual incomes. In response, last year, we recommitted the School of Divinity to address this pervasive student debt crisis in theological education. Half of our student body is composed of historically underrepresented groups at Wake Forest. Yet excessive debt loads undercut Wake Divinity's commitment to racial and gender equity. Not to mention that the fear of debt deters some of the most promising prospective students from pursuing theological education.

As we confront the social, economic, and spiritual challenges unleashed by this global pandemic, our nation and world need theologically trained and intellectually expansive religious leaders. These leaders need access to the type of high-quality education that Wake Forest can provide. Thus, Wake Divinity has a moral obligation to make it possible for a new generation to answer God's call to live their lives for humanity.

In the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*, we have created the Dean's Initiative to ensure that every student entering the School of Divinity will receive a 100% tuition scholarship. This will forever change the lives of our graduates. This initiative allows us to recruit the most promising students. It also enables graduates to consider ministry options without debilitating financial pressure. This is my top priority at the School of Divinity.

Thank you for being part of the Wake Forest community. You help us to uphold and honor our mission. I pray that you might consider how you can help provide scholarships for future faith leaders. I pray that you will help us tangibly express "for humanity."

Sincerely,

Corey D. B. Walker,
Interim Dean, School of Divinity



**FOR
CHANGING
LIVES**

The cycle of *Pro Humanitate* remains one of Wake Forest's greatest traditions. When we create opportunity and access to a truly transformational education, we deliver leaders to our world who are driven to achieve an impact that extends far beyond themselves.

Right now, Wake Forest University and the School of Divinity are focusing their fundraising efforts upon the mission of transforming lives through the power of an education Unrivaled by Any. Through the establishment of new scholarships, a commitment to growing existing scholarship funds and securing valuable current-use funds, our goal is to unite our efforts under a single banner: changing lives through the creation of opportunity.

FOR FREEDOM

The Wake Forest School of Divinity's goal is to help every MDiv student become free to answer the call.

The Dean's Scholars Initiative is a three-year effort to procure enough funding to provide at minimum a full-tuition scholarship for every admitted student. This year, 100% of first-year students received full-tuition scholarships.

To continue to build upon this success, we are employing a two-pronged approach:

Secure current-use funding for the Dean's Scholars. Classes of '24, '25 and '26
This current-use funding initiative will provide scholarships, internships and a mentor-based financial wellbeing program for cohorts of students in the classes of 2024, 2025 and 2026. We have raised over \$1,000,000 — enough to fund cohorts in the Classes of 2024 and 2025. To provide the same level of freedom for the Class of 2026, we are seeking \$500,000 in current-use scholarship funding in commitments of at least \$30,000, which may be paid over three years.

Increase endowment for scholarships

A donor's commitment of at least \$100,000 for a new endowed student-aid fund at the School of Divinity will be matched thanks to a \$1 million bequest from Margaret Hines Griffiths. The donor can name the resulting permanently endowed fund and will have the opportunity to meet the recipients who benefit from the fund over the years. Gifts of at least \$50,000 to existing scholarship funds are also eligible to be matched.

We hope you will consider once again supporting the Wake Forest School of Divinity as we strive to provide faith leaders with the opportunity and the financial freedom to answer their call.





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