A Message from the Dean

Yale Divinity School is one of those truly special places in American society—a place where the complex terrain between faith and intellect is enthusiastically embraced and explored. We are a community that not only ventures into the spaces between polar extremes; we thrive on them.

From scholars and researchers to politicians and religious luminaries, we have produced some of the world’s most influential leaders since the school’s inception in 1822. To date, we have put forward more presidents and deans of colleges, universities, and seminaries, as well as heads of denominations, than any other divinity school or seminary in the United States. Yale Divinity School faculty have been—and continue to be—among the most prominent religion scholars of their time. Our ministers in the pulpit have nurtured and expanded the religious imaginations of the faithful in virtually every corner of the globe.

With just a few steps onto campus, you’ll get a good sense of what we’re about. We are Christian in ethos and tradition, but open to others. We welcome the opportunity to have dialogue with, and to learn from, other faith traditions. And we have accepted the challenge of appropriately and adequately applying biblical principles and knowledge to critical issues of the day. Our students and faculty regularly engage in conversations and activism around issues such as immigration, women’s and LGBTQ rights, health care, and racial justice.

To prospective students: The professors you will learn from and be mentored by will push the bounds of your current convictions, calling you into a deeper relationship not only with the Word, but also the world. If you are looking for a place where faith and intellectual inquiry go hand in hand, where community is cherished and cultivated, and where the knowledge of God and service to humanity are seen as two sides of a single coin, then this is your community.

Welcome to Yale Divinity School.

Gregory E. Sterling
The Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean, Yale Divinity School
Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament