



Hopeful Reconciliation: Encouraging One Another

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HOPEFUL RECONCILIATION: ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

Exploring ways to lean into hope on the road toward reconciliation

“SEE TO IT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THAT NONE OF YOU HAS A SINFUL, UNBELIEVING HEART THAT TURNS AWAY FROM THE LIVING GOD. BUT ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER DAILY, AS LONG AS IT IS CALLED 'TODAY', SO THAT NONE OF YOU MAY BE HARDENED BY SIN'S DECEITFULNESS.”

HEBREWS 3:12-13

HOPEFUL RECONCILIATION



Justice



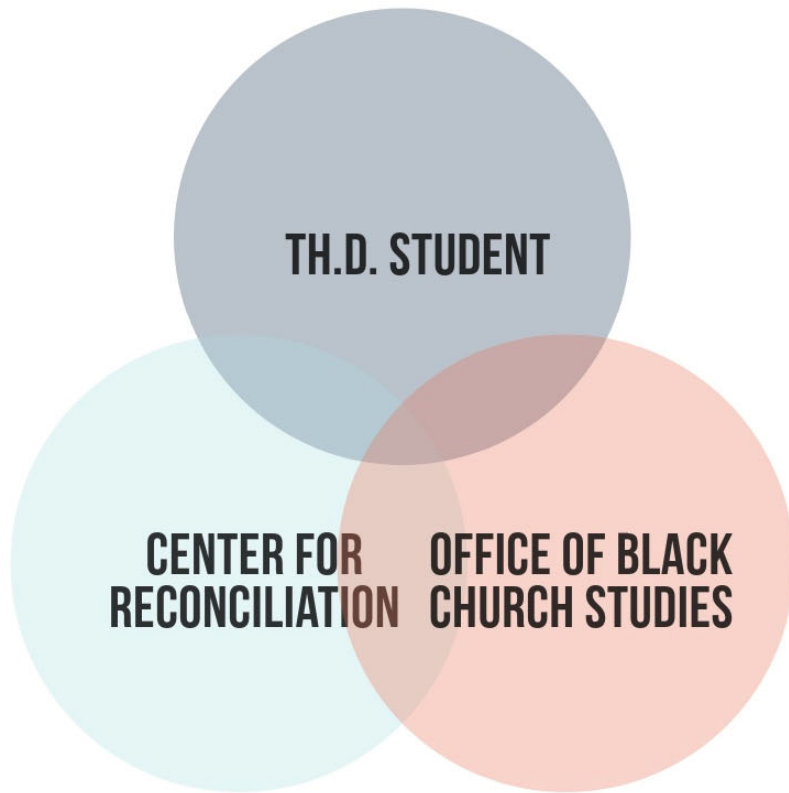
Telos



New Creation

Hope is essential on the road to reconciliation. It provides the driving force for individuals and communities to move forward, heal, and work toward a better future together.

HOPEFUL LAMENT: DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL



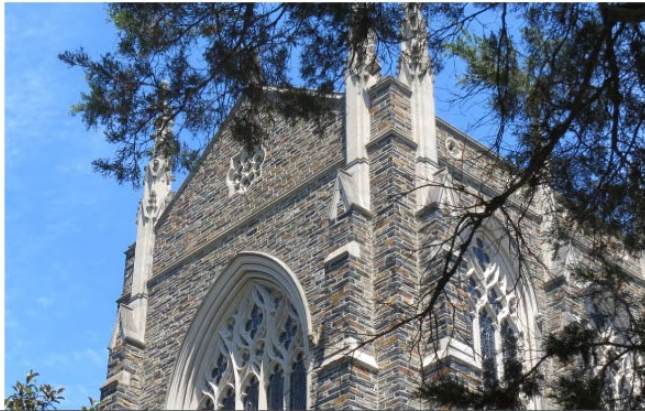
**DUKE
DIVINITY
SCHOOL**

**CENTER
FOR
RECONCILIATION**

Black Ministry Students At Duke Say They Face Unequal Treatment And Racism

MAY 24, 2017 · 11:23 AM ET

By Nick Chiles



Divinity School professor resigns after dispute with colleagues about diversity training, calling it a 'waste'



Duke Divinity dean steps down with no explanation. She had sparked some controversy.

CURATED THE NEWS & OBSERVER | AUGUST 6, 2018

Read the full story: [The News & Observer](#)



Elaine Heath, dean of Duke Divinity School, left that job Thursday, according to a story published on the university's website.

Greg Jones discusses resuming the Divinity School's deanship, addressing controversy



Christena Cleveland Resigns From Duke Divinity School in Scathing Open Letter

BY RELEVANT
JUNE 26, 2020



Colón-Emeric Appointed to 5-Year Term as Dean of Duke Divinity School

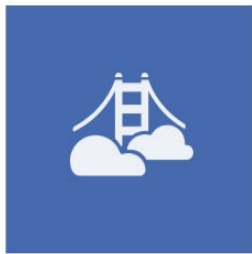
A global leader in ecumenical dialogue and scholar of reconciliation theology, Colón-Emeric has been at the Divinity School since 2007



“LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER. DON'T BE TOO PROUD... AND DON'T THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL! NEVER PAY BACK EVIL WITH MORE EVIL. DO THINGS IN SUCH A WAY THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE YOU ARE HONORABLE. DO ALL THAT YOU CAN TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH EVERYONE.”

ROMANS 12:16-18 (NLT)

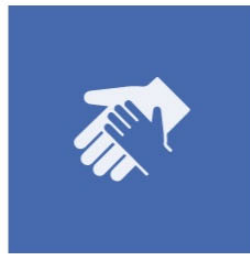
HOPEFUL RECONCILIATION: EMBRACING THE OTHER



Exclusion

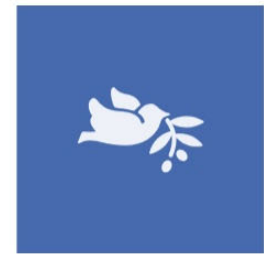
We create boundaries to keep others out, whether through physical violence, societal rejection, or mental barriers.

Exclusion stems from fear or a desire to preserve one's identity.



Embrace

Embrace involves openness, hospitality, and a willingness to include the other, even enemies. Embrace requires a willingness to acknowledge the other person's humanity while creating space for them, regardless of past wrongs.



Reconciliation

Reconciliation happens when both parties engage in this act of embrace.

Reconciliation does not ignore sin.

Rather, it seeks forgiveness while ensuring justice and truth are upheld.

Volf's 'Exclusion and Embrace' offers a hopeful perspective on the possibility of reconciliation, challenging us to embrace the other and transform our relationships and communities.

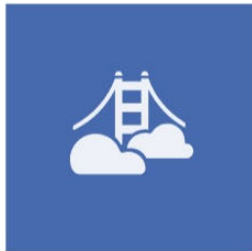
**BUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN WE 'GIVE UP' ON
OTHERS?**

**WHEN WE GIVE UP ON OTHERS, 'HOPE'
ITSELF IS CALLED INTO QUESTION.**

“BEFORE CERTAIN MEN CAME FROM JAMES, [CEPHAS] WAS EATING WITH THE GENTILES; BUT WHEN THEY CAME HE DREW BACK AND SEPARATED HIMSELF, FEARING THE CIRCUMCISION PARTY. AND THE REST OF THE JEWS ACTED HYPOCRITICALLY ALONG WITH HIM. BUT WHEN I SAW THAT THEIR CONDUCT WAS NOT IN STEP WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, I SAID TO CEPHAS BEFORE THEM ALL, 'IF YOU, THOUGH A JEW, LIVE LIKE A GENTILE AND NOT LIKE A JEW, HOW CAN YOU FORCE THE GENTILES TO LIVE LIKE JEWS?'"

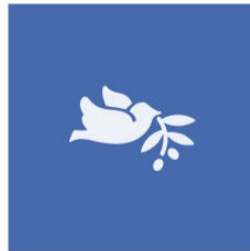
GALATIANS 2:12-14

EMBRACING THE OTHER: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



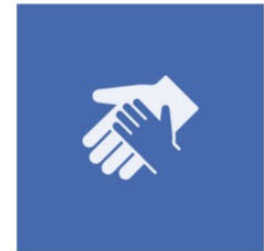
Holy Listening

Opening oneself to the other, in embrace, involves engaging in genuine dialogue and listening to the stories and pain of those who have been excluded.



Justice & Restoration

Reconciliation without justice is hollow. There must be the desire and an active attempt to right past wrongs, restoration for those who have been harmed.



Social Agents

“Instead of reflecting on the kind of society we ought to create in order to accommodate... heterogeneity, [ask] what kind of selves we need to be in order to live in harmony with others.”

For true reconciliation, we must go beyond mere tolerance or coexistence to the radical act of embrace, which is at the heart of Christian reconciliation.

**“AS LOVE OF GOD BEGINS WITH LISTENING TO HIS WORD,
SO THE BEGINNING OF LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN IS
LEARNING TO LISTEN TO THEM. IT IS GOD’S LOVE FOR US
THAT HE NOT ONLY GIVES US HIS WORD BUT ALSO
LEND US HIS EAR. MANY PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR AN
EAR THAT WILL LISTEN. THEY DO NOT FIND IT AMONG
CHRISTIANS, BECAUSE THESE CHRISTIANS ARE TALKING
WHERE THEY SHOULD BE LISTENING....”**

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *LIFE TOGETHER*

“THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE DEATH OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE, AND IN THE END, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT SPIRITUAL CHATTER AND CLERICAL CONDESCENSION ARRAYED IN PIOUS WORDS. ONE WHO CANNOT LISTEN LONG AND PATIENTLY WILL PRESENTLY BE TALKING BESIDE THE POINT.... ANYONE WHO THINKS THAT HIS TIME IS TOO VALUABLE TO SPEND KEEPING QUIET WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE NO TIME FOR GOD AND HIS BROTHER, BUT ONLY FOR HIMSELF AND FOR HIS OWN FOLLIES.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *LIFE TOGETHER*

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION: THE WORD MADE FLESH CONTEXTUAL METHODOLOGY



Where are we going?
Goal. New Creation



What does hope look like?
Signs of transformation.



What is happening here?
Truth. Lament



Why me? Why am I part of this?
Vocation. Formation.

Reconciliation is also a journey – not a theory, achievement, technique, or event.
Reconciliation takes time. Strangers and enemies becoming companions takes time.

MAIMONIDES ON REPENTANCE AND REPAIR

Naming and Owning Harm

The first step involves acknowledging and taking responsibility for the harm one has caused. This includes identifying the specific actions or behaviors that were harmful and recognizing the impact on others.

Starting to Change

The second step involves the hard work of transformation. "What is complete repentance? The [case of] one who had it in their power to repeat a transgression, but separated themselves from it and did not do it because they had repented."

Restitution and Accepting Consequences

The third step involves making amends and accepting the consequences. "Repair work isn't really repair if the only thing that's changed is the perpetrator."

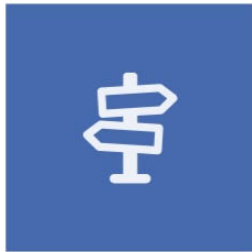
Apology

The focus is the well-being of the victim, not boxes to check in order to be off the hook. Perhaps that's why amends happens first —what are you apologizing for, exactly, if the other person still hasn't been cared for? Action first. Words later.

Making Different Choices

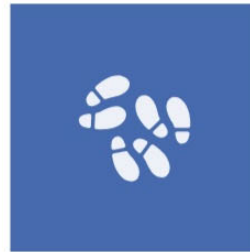
The last stage of this process is that when faced with a similar situation, make a better choice. This happens only if we've done the work of understanding why and how the harm happened, avoided similar situations, and reoriented our life in a totally different way.

HOPEFUL RECONCILIATION: RECAP



Hope is a foundational component of reconciliation

Reconciliation requires a sense of direction and belief that transformation is possible.



Without hope, reconciliation efforts falter

When we lose a sense of hope, we become disillusioned and unwilling to engage in the difficult work of reconciliation.



Hope requires both encouragement and action

Maintaining hope necessitates both words of encouragement and tangible steps towards reparation, restoration, and reconciliation.

"Genuine hope is not blind optimism. It is hope with open eyes, which sees the suffering and yet believes in the future." - Jürgen Moltmann

“FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN FORMER DAYS WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, THAT THROUGH ENDURANCE AND THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE. MAY THE GOD OF ENDURANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT GRANT YOU TO LIVE IN SUCH HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER, IN ACCORD WITH CHRIST JESUS, THAT TOGETHER YOU MAY WITH ONE VOICE GLORIFY THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

ROMANS 15:4-6

THOUGHTS? QUESTIONS?

Open the floor to feedback and discussion.

