



The Baptist Commons at Wake Forest University School of Divinity forms students, engages alumni, and cultivates relationships with supporters to deepen the distinct Baptist heritage of the Wake Divinity ecumenical learning community. The Baptist Commons was created to emphasize the School of Divinity's role as a vital institution in fostering excellence in leadership among diverse communities of Baptists committed to justice, reconciliation, and compassion.

Amidst the school's broad, ecumenical future, its Baptist heritage holds value for students, alumni, and the institution itself. The Baptist Commons will aid in the continuation and creative imagining of how we can best support the holistic educational formation of faith leaders who embrace Baptist identities and connections. Over half of alumni identify as Baptist and the more recent classes of students average a third who enter as Baptists, though they may represent as many as 23 different Baptist fellowships, associations, or national organizations.

The Baptist Commons is designed to provide reflective and educational spaces for students, alumni, and others who have stories to share about what it means to be Baptists committed to the common good while undergirding the vision and goals of the diverse School of Divinity.



The Baptist Commons at Wake Forest University School of Divinity will provide:

NETWORKING AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

- Help Baptists network the diverse Baptist community
- Assist Baptist students with network development and placement
- Maintain a healthy alumni network for Baptist graduates
- Assist the Office of Recruitment to build Baptist student recruitment

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Meet regularly with Baptist students, alumni, and supporters for fellowship
- Host conversations with invited guests on issues particular to Baptist life
- Build community with congregations by increasing trust and awareness of the School of Divinity
- Connect community members interested in supporting Wake Divinity Baptist students

VOCATIONAL FORMATION

- Provide opportunities for mentoring and relationships with Baptist congregations and nonprofit organizations
- Assist the Office of the Art of Ministry in internships and the Office of Career Services and Leadership Development in vocational programming for Baptist students
- Connect students with congregational and denominational resources for Baptist practices, worship elements and traditions, and ordination

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

- Develop seminars, institutes, conferences, and classes to sustain professional development
- Provide spiritual growth and formation opportunities and experiences
- Develop a Baptist Studies Certificate in coordination with the Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies
- Coordinate events and classes each year within the scope of Baptist Studies
- Identify opportunities to secure scholarship funding for Baptist students

PEER LEARNING AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT

- Cultivate communities of practice and leadership training among peers in ministry and nonprofit work and connect them with mentors and other practitioners in their field for practical and spiritual support
- Utilize Baptist clergy and laity as resources to address questions and concerns related to Baptist identity and practice

