
Research and Outreach

The Yale Divinity School is part of a research university committed to transmitting and producing knowledge in ways that serve both students and alumni. At the Divinity School, with its emphasis on having an impact on the larger world, these functions continue to expand and deepen.

YALE CENTER FOR FAITH AND CULTURE

The mission of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture is to promote the practice of faith in all spheres of life through theological research and leadership development. The center was founded in 2003 by its present director, Miroslav Volf, Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School, to help engage the major cultural issues of our time from the perspective of faith. Often faith either is disconnected from daily life or, even worse, functions in ways detrimental to human well-being. Working through the center's own staff and in partnership with other Yale faculty and their projects, the center seeks to remedy these two malfunctions of faith and to explore ways in which faith can contribute to the flourishing of individuals and communities. To this end, it combines groundbreaking research with leadership development, programs, and outreach.

The center currently has three main areas of focus. David Miller, who also serves as the center's executive director, leads the Ethics and Spirituality in the Workplace Program, which addresses the broad role of faith in the economic sphere and people's Monday-through-Friday work life. The program's goal is to explore what it means to integrate the claims of faith and the demands of the workplace. The goal of the Faith as a Way of Life Project, directed by Christian Scharen, is to help pastors make faith a salutary way of life in the church as well as outside its walls. Finally, the Reconciliation Program, directed by Joseph Cumming, is concerned with overcoming the contemporary crisis in relations between the West and the Muslim world. In particular, it seeks to foster reconciliation between Islam and Christianity by drawing on the resources of both faiths and, above all, the teachings and person of Jesus. The center's Web site may be found at www.yale.edu/faith.

THE JONATHAN EDWARDS CENTER AND ONLINE ARCHIVE

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758), Yale graduate, pastor, revivalist, philosopher, missionary, and college president, is the subject of intense interest because of his significance as an historical figure and the profound legacy he left on America's religious and intellectual landscapes. The mission of the Jonathan Edwards Online Archive is to produce a comprehensive database of Edwards's writings (www.edwards.yale.edu) that will serve the needs of researchers and readers of Edwards. The Online Archive also serves to support inquiry into his life, writings, and legacy by providing resources and assistance, and to encourage critical appraisal of the religious importance and contemporary relevance of

America's premier religious thinker. Simply put, no comparable digitized archive for an American historical figure has yet been envisioned.

The Edwards Online Archive is housed within the larger site of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale Divinity School, the most prestigious center for scholarship on Jonathan Edwards and related topics. Staff members assist numerous scholars of Edwards and American religion every year, offering them a half-century of expertise in working with the Edwards manuscripts, as well as guidance through the vast secondary literature. The center's staff provides adaptable, authoritative resources and reference works to the many scholars, secondary school and college-level teachers, seminarians, pastors, churches, and interested members of the general public who approach Edwards from any number of different perspectives. Complementing the archive of primary texts are reference works, secondary works, chronologies, teaching tools, and audio, video, and visual sources. The center also encourages research and dialogue through publications, fellowships, lectures, workshops, and conferences.

The staff of the Jonathan Edwards Center consists of Harry S. Stout, Kenneth P. Minkema, and Caleb Maskell, assisted by a team of student editorial assistants. The office can be contacted by telephone (203.432.5340) or e-mail (worksje@yale.edu). The center also maintains a weekly blog: www.jonathanedwardscenter.blogspot.com.