

What is the Yale Center for Faith & Culture?

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to a way of life. It presents a vision of flourishing, of abundant life, and commissions us in service of that vision. This vision of flourishing is expansive. It claims our lives in every aspect. The gospel cannot be placed neatly in a container beside other values and interests. Discipleship is not one activity alongside others. No, the yeast of the kingdom of God leavens the whole of our lives.

In response to this comprehensive call, the Yale Center for Faith & Culture (YCFC) articulates and promotes practices of faith that advance authentic human flourishing. It does so in service of our churches, our cultures, our world, and our God.

How do we do this?

We work to revitalize seminary and undergraduate education. At its best, education is not the impartation of sterile information, but a process of vital formation. We teach divinity school students to let their faith shape their visions of flourishing, and we teach undergraduates how to wrestle with the most meaningful question of their lives—what makes a life worth living?

We produce world-class scholarship and build networks of likeminded scholars. Ideas matter. They capture our imaginations, and humans are imagining creatures. But ideas do not float above the world like wisps of smoke. They inform the concrete stuff of our lives. And since we are social beings, they do their work by circulating between us. YCFC produces deep Christian reflection on God, Christ, and flourishing, and develops connections with scholars elsewhere doing similar work in order to maximize our combined positive impact in the academy.

We listen to, engage with, and resource publics beyond the academy. YCFC is never content to let its intellectual work remain inaccessible to people in the pulpit, the pews, the office, or the home. We communicate the deep wisdom of the Christian tradition in ways that connect today and matter for daily life.

Ours is a faith that will not leave the world behind, will not rest content with merely private piety. In a world yearning for the flourishing life for which God made it, faith and the theology that seeks to understand it must be engaged with life in its full scope. That is the work of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture.

YCFC Leadership

Miroslav Volf, *Founder & Director*
Miroslav Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School. He has written or edited more than 20 books, including Exclusion and Embrace, winner of the Grawemeyer Award in Religion, and named one of the 100 most important religious books of the 20th Century by Christianity Today.



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Yale Center for Faith & Culture
at Yale Divinity School



Our mission is to critically examine and promote practices of faith which advance authentic human flourishing and the global common good.



faith.yale.edu

At the Yale Center for Faith & Culture . . .

We are a *catalyst*, revitalizing education as a process of vital formation:

126 Yale College students have taken our Life Worth Living course since 2014. The class has received 465 applications.



Life Worth Living students at class retreat.

Life Worth Living courses have been adapted and taught at other universities in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom, as well as at our first U.S. high school.



Miroslav Volf & Matt Croasmun teaching Christ & Flourishing.

Since 2015, roughly 10 percent of Yale Divinity School students have taken our Christ & Flourishing course.

"This is the best and most life-relevant class I have ever taken in my life." --Christ & Flourishing student



Participants in YCFC consultation on Prayer and Devotion.

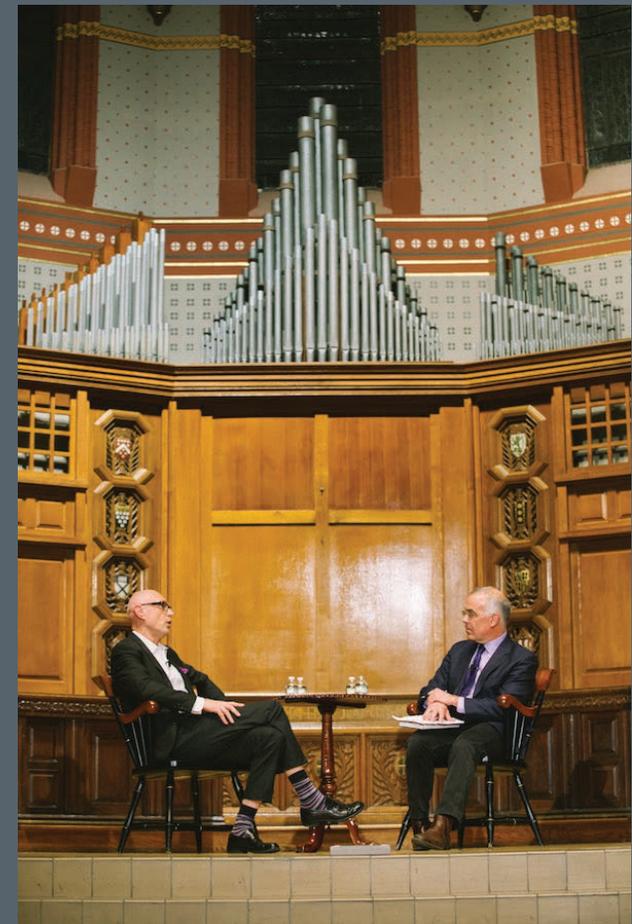
We are an *incubator* for scholarship:

- YCFC Scholars have written or edited 8 books since 2010.
- From 2014 to 2016, YCFC hosted 20 collaborative scholarly consultations, which produced 98 papers on topics ranging from Joy, Trust, and Suspicion to the future of theology. We plan for 13 more in 2017-2018.
- Since 2016, YCFC has awarded grants to 32 scholars in fields ranging from philosophy and systematic theology to Confucian studies and practical theology.



Joy & Adolescent Faith & Flourishing Lunch & Lecture featuring Kenda Creasy Dean, Professor of Youth, Church, & Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary.

"I'm giving deliberate thought to joy; what it is, where I feel it is missing in the world of Youth Ministry, what is inhibiting adolescent joy, and how I have or have not helped my youth to discover and embrace this benefit of their faith. I think in the past...the concept of joy got buried somewhere in the concept of peace for my students who were experiencing difficulties in life, and the concept of happiness for those who seemed to be living the good life." --Participant in Joy & Adolescent Faith & Flourishing Scholar-Practitioner Collaborative



Miroslav Volf & David Brooks speaking at Battell Chapel, Yale University.

We are a *witness* to publics beyond the academy:

- The Joy & Adolescent Faith & Flourishing Lunch and Lecture series convenes a community of roughly 75 local youth ministry leaders and provides tools and insights for their ministry.
- Educational videos from YCFC have received over 200,000 views since the beginning of 2016.
- YCFC Director Miroslav Volf regularly speaks to lay and specialist audiences around the world.
- YCFC scholars write for popular publications including the *Washington Post*, *The Christian Century*, and *Sojourners*.