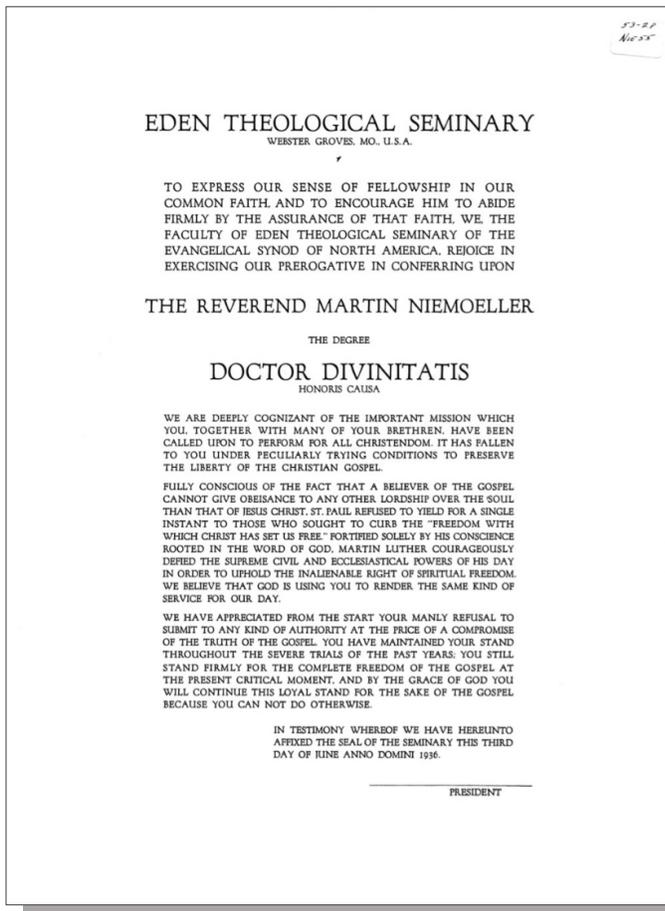


This Week in Eden History January 14 | Martin Niemoeller



Copy of the Doctor of Divinity Degree Certificate awarded to Martin Niemoeller in the Collection of Eden Seminary Archives

German theologian and Church leader **Martin Niemoeller**, born on **January 14, 1892** (died March 4, 1984), is best known as a founding member of the Confessing Church opposing the Nazification of the German Protestant Church during the Hitler regime and for the poem “First they came...” He was imprisoned from 1937 to 1945 in Sachsenhausen and Dachau and became a prominent spokesperson for peace and denuclearization after World War II.

The Faculty of Eden Seminary awarded Niemoeller an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree June 3, 1937, in part to help shield him from execution by Hitler. Eden’s president, Samuel Press, wrote in the degree certificate, “We have appreciated from the start your refusal to submit to any kind of authority at the price of a compromise of the truth of the Gospel.”