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Unity in diversity : English puritans and the puritan reformation, 1603-1689

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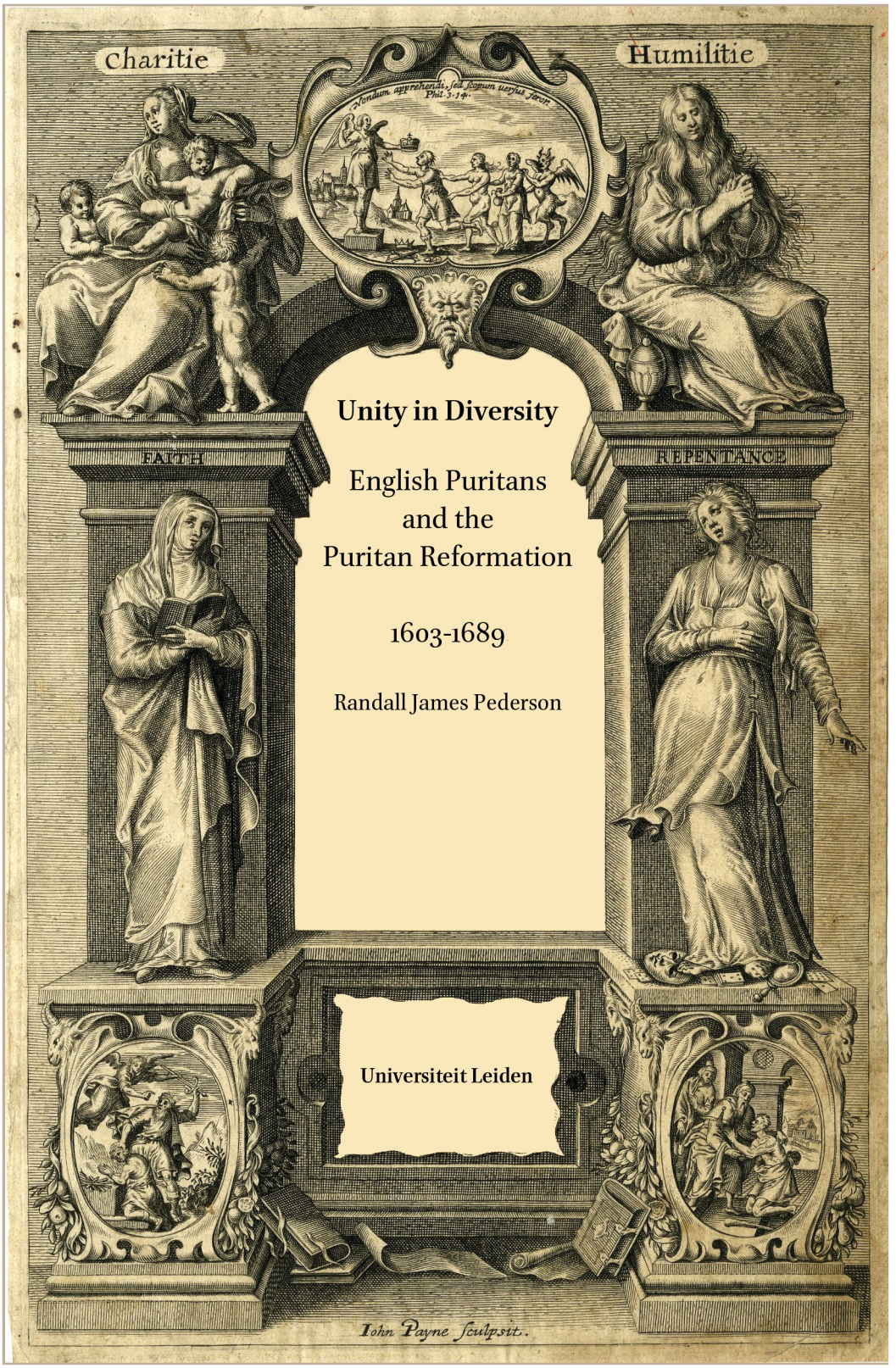

Unity in Diversity

English Puritans and the Puritan Reformation

1603-1689

Randall James Pederson

Universiteit Leiden

Unity in Diversity presents a fresh appraisal of the vibrant and diverse culture of Stuart Puritanism. This work provides a historiographical and historical survey of current issues within Puritanism, critiques notions of *Puritanisms*, which tend to fragment the phenomenon, and introduces *unitas* within *diversitas* in three divergent Puritans, John Downame, Francis Rous, and Tobias Crisp. This study draws on insights from these three figures to propose that seventeenth-century English Puritanism should be thought of both in terms of *Familienähnlichkeit*, in which there are strong theological and social semblances across Puritans of divergent persuasions, and in terms of the greater narrative of the Puritan Reformation, which united Puritans in their quest to reform their church and society.

Randall James Pederson (1975) studied theology, Reformation, and Post-Reformation history at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA, from 2002-2007. From 2007-2009, he studied Post-Reformation history at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. He entered the doctoral program at Leiden University in 2009, and this work consists of his finished PhD thesis.