Dear Friends,

Summer is really flying by. I can't believe that it is already August and in just another month the campus will once again welcome an incoming class of new students and returning students. Jane and I have enjoyed some quality time at several conferences this summer. First, I attended the British Library's Conference on the Digitization of the Codex Sinaiticus in London. Then I preached and lectured at the Omaha School for Pastors on the campus of Hastings College in Nebraska. In addition, Jane and I have spent a week at Chautauqua where I served as the Chaplain at the Presbyterian House. This week and next I will be preaching at the Massanetta Springs Bible Conference in Virginia and the Epworth Conference in Ludington, Mich. Before all that we participated in our own PTS Summer Leadership Conference with some outstanding preachers and lecturers including our own Professor Andrew Purves.

As we look ahead to the upcoming academic year, this will be a special time in the life of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Fifty years ago this fall, students from Pitt-Xenia and Western Theological Seminaries (both located in Pittsburgh) came together for the first time to study at a new school--Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Henry Herchenroether, a long time friend, supporter, and former legal counsel for the Seminary shared his reflections on this time in a brief historical record: "The legal combination of Pitt-Xenia and Western Seminaries under Pennsylvania Law could have been accomplished by either a merger or a consolidation of the two corporations. A merger would have required a decision that one seminary would absorb the other one and be the surviving institution. A consolidation would have resulted in the creation of a new corporation by the combination of the two existing corporations. The tension between the representatives of the two corporations clearly indicated that neither would tolerate the survival of the other. Furthermore the large majority foresaw the possibility of the new seminary becoming much more than the mere combination of the two old seminaries. A consolidation was obviously the answer to both issues especially in emphasizing the positive image of creating a new seminary with its own personality and plans for the future education of the professionals and laity of the Church."

As we prepare for the 50th new class since that consolidation took place in 1959, I believe that the vision of those who went before us has been brought to fruition. This really has been more than a simple combination, but rather a creation of a seminary that is recognized today as one of our nation's leading theological schools. Please make sure you get a copy of Ever A Vision, written by the Rev. Dr. Don McKim '74, which documents the past 50 years at Pittsburgh Seminary. It will be published by Eerdmans this fall. I know that the first 50 years haven't always been easy, but we are grateful to God for how far we have come. In the months ahead, I hope that you will join us in giving thanks to God for these first 50 years, even as we look forward with great joy to where God will lead us in the future.

To God be the glory!
Associate Director of Admissions Ordained to Position

The Rev. Anthony Rivera, associate director of admissions at PTS, was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in July. The Presbytery of New York City Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the session and congregation of San Andres Presbyterian Church of Bronx, N.Y. ordained him. Rivera has served at the Seminary since earlier this year. Dr. and Mrs. Carl attended Rivera’s ordination service representing the Seminary community and Dr. Carl offered the charge to the ordained at a truly multicultural and bilingual service. He earned his degrees from The Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (bachelor’s), and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Th.M.). He is married with two school-aged daughters. Join us in celebrating Anthony’s ordination!

Seminary Welcomes New Students to Various Programs

Later this month PTS will kick off the *Pneuma* Spiritual Direction and Leadership Certificate Program. The first group meets for a two-day retreat during which time they will be introduced to the two-year program. In early September new degree students will arrive on campus. The incoming class will become acclimated with PTS during the annual Orientation held Sept. 2-5. Throughout the four days students will hear from various student services departments, register for classes, meet with faculty advisors, and spend time exploring the many wonders of Pittsburgh. Please keep these students and these programs, along with our faculty, in your prayers as we begin another year of preparing leaders who proclaim with great joy God’s message of good news in both word and deed.

Continuing Education Offers Course on Old Testament Spirituality

The Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament at PTS will lead this week-long course running Aug. 9-14. This course explores the works of the Spirit in the Old Testament and the implication of the Spirit’s work for spiritual formation. In particular, participants will spend time in Genesis, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Registration fee is $35. Continuing education credits and certificate credit are available. Contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu for more information.