Dear Friends,

When I last wrote you, I was very excited about the start of our new school year and the incoming class that we were welcoming at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A month later, I can barely find the words to describe for you how amazing this time has been.

On September 2-3 our faculty spent two days in intensive conversation about assessing how well we are doing in fulfilling our mission in the areas of teaching and learning. While this may sound like an uninspiring topic, it was a remarkable time spent together in creative and open dialogue. In addition to each member of our faculty being a scholar in his or her own field, we are also blessed that they share a firm commitment to the educational programs of the Seminary as a whole. This time spent together really set the tone for what I'm sure is going to be a great year.

Then on September 8 the excitement continued as we matriculated 81 new students during our annual convocation service, one of the largest incoming classes in our history. Of these students, 64 are pursuing the Master of Divinity degree, 11 the Master of Arts, four the Master of Sacred Theology and two are special (non-degree) students working in a particular area of study. As has been the case in recent years, the majority of our students are Presbyterian, with United Methodist following as the second most common denomination. All told, 13 denominations are represented in this incoming class. Nineteen percent of the students represent racial ethnic minorities. In a day when enrollment is down at many seminaries, we are grateful to God for this wonderful incoming class.

There is positive momentum at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the future has never looked brighter. Even in the midst of such abundant blessings, however, we face a great challenge in relation to the economy. Over half of the Seminary’s revenue comes from a draw from our endowment base, an amount set annually based on the average of the past 12 quarters of the fund’s market value. Although our endowment has fared better than that of many institutions, the drop in its value will have great impact upon us in the coming months. There will be less revenue available for us from the endowment fund. In order to prepare for the shortfall, it has become very important for us to increase the number of gifts to the Seminary's Annual Fund.

By intention, I haven't used this monthly communiqué to talk about "fundraising" much in the past, but this month I want to encourage you to help us continue the positive momentum at PTS. In particular, we have a tradition where anyone who gives at the $1,000 or more level each year is considered to be a part of the President's Circle. I am so grateful to all those who have given generously to show their support for me and for PTS. It does not go unnoticed! Whether you have been a part of this Circle in the past, or you have never made a financial gift to PTS, I hope that this year you will join us in our work. Perhaps you will be able to become a part of the President's
Circle with a gift of $1,000, perhaps you are able to do more than that, or perhaps by necessity
your gift will need to be smaller. Whatever the size, your gift will make it possible for us to carry
out God's work at the Seminary—the critical work of preparing joyful leaders who are ready to
share God's message of good news in both word and deed.

It's easy to make your gift to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary! Gifts are accepted online. Or you
can mail a gift to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 North Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA
15206. Additionally, you may also call Tom Pappalardo, vice president for advancement, at 412-
441-3304 ext. 2107 to discuss gifts of stock transfers, estate giving, or other forms of giving.

Thank you for your support!

God is at work in the world, and we are so grateful to be a part of that work! And we are grateful
to you for your encouragement and support as together we advance God's mission at Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary.

Bill
The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President

Continuing Education Offers Five Programs in October

This month will be a busy one in the Office of Continuing Education. In addition to two programs
gereared toward specific groups, five others will be open to the public. These include the following:

"Christian Theology and Undoing Violence: Strategies for Peace That Work!" will be offered
Wednesdays in October. This four-part series runs from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and will be led by the Rev.
Dr. Ronald E. Peters, Henry L. Hillman Professor of Urban Ministry and director of the Seminary's
Metro-Urban Institute. These presentations will consider Martin Luther King Jr.’s ideas about non-
vioience as a strategy for undoing violence and its harmful effects in society. The goal will be to
highlight what Christians can do in their churches and communities to promote justice and peace.
In addition to being presented at the Seminary this event will also be broadcast live to Vance

The Rev. Dr. Deirdre King Hainsworth, assistant professor of Christian ethics and director of the
Seminary's Center for Business, Religion and Public Life, will present "Technology and the
Practices of Ministry" Mon., Oct. 12, 19, and 26. This three-part series runs from 10:00 a.m.-
12:15 p.m. Most mainline denominations and many churches have been active online in an effort
to use new web and social technologies to be visible and relevant. Yet, within the church there
has been less reflection on the ways that these rapidly spreading technologies are actually
affecting the context of ministry: the ways that people maintain relationships, recognize authority,
interact with social institutions, and define the boundaries between public and private, and work
and home. This series will address these issues.
Called to Welcome: Further Along the Way will be held Mon., Oct. 19 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Erik W. Carter, associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will lead this one-day conference. Following up on an earlier event, "Called to Welcome: A Conference on People with Disabilities in Seminaries and Congregations," held at PTS in 2005, this conference will consider ways not only to include, but also to engage the gifts of persons with disabilities in the activities and life of local congregations. The conference will address a number of significant themes, and individual workshops will offer practical ideas and advice on a variety of relevant topics. All pastors and lay leaders who are concerned with inclusion and hospitality in their congregations are encouraged to attend!

The Seminary will host a church educators' certification course "Reformed Theology" Oct. 26-30. The Rev. Dr. James A. Gilchrist, senior pastor and head of staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair, Pa., will lead the group. This course will provide an overview of the essential tenets of Reformed theology for Christian educators and others who teach or preach in the Reformed tradition, and for those of different backgrounds who seek a clearer understanding of Reformed theology. Readings from historic confessions of faith and from an introductory text in systematic theology will inform classroom discussions on key topics, with a view to cultivating theological understanding among members of contemporary congregations.

The semi-annual Journey Inward, Journey Outward conference "Don't Let Theology SCARE You" will be held Thurs., Oct. 29 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, Robert Meneilly Professor of Leadership and Ministry and senior pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, will lead the course. Theology—the very word sounds too deep, something that theologians do, not a topic for "regular" people. Yet, we all have a theology, because we all hold beliefs about God, creation, and redemption in Christ. In this presentation, Barnes will help you see how exciting theology can be, and you will experience how effectively it can aid you in enjoying a richer relationship with God.

Contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu to learn more about how to register for these events. All events are also detailed online.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches Holds Meeting at PTS

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches will gather at PTS for "Consultation on Communion and Justice for North America and English-speaking Caribbean" Oct. 9-14. WARC is a fellowship of 75 million Reformed Christians in 214 churches in 107 countries. Its member churches are Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, and United churches with roots in the 16th-century Reformation led by John Calvin, John Knox, and others. The Seminary is excited to welcome WARC to campus!

Seminary Welcomes Prospective Students Oct. 16-17

Know someone interested in pursuing ministry? Encourage them to join other prospective students Oct. 16-17 during the annual OctoberQuest visit event. Throughout the day, participants
will explore ministry and the Seminary’s unique resources in fieldwork, urban issues, archeology, dual degree programs, and more. This two-day event features faculty-led workshops, tours of campus and the city, information from admissions and financial aid officers, and fellowship opportunities with current students.

Reservations are required. Contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-451-4194, admissions@pts.edu, or www.pts.edu/visit to reserve your spot at this free event. Overnight accommodations are available for those traveling from a distance. Come learn how your bridge to the future starts here.

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**Metro-Urban Institute Hosts One-Day Conference on Youth Issues**

The Seminary’s Metro-Urban Institute will host “Churches and Communities: Listening to Our Youth, Coalition Building for Our Children” Sat., Oct. 17 from 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Dr. Linda Lane, deputy superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, will be the keynote speaker. She will discuss what youth are saying about how their lives have been affected by violence, ways to stop street violence, and what youth talk about with God.

MUI’s Urban Church Network will sponsor this event in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence. For more information or to register contact the Metro-Urban Institute at 412-441-3304 ext. 2163, mui@pts.edu or online at www.mui-pts.org.

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**Phonathon Held Oct. 19-23 and 26-30**

At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary we’re all about Call. Your continued support allows us to answer our Call to prepare those answering God’s Call. From Oct. 19-23 and again 26-30, alums will be phoning their peers to say hello, reconnect, and ask for their financial support. Please answer our call so students can answer their Call.

Contact Director of Alumnae/i and Church Relations Carolyn Cranston ’99 at 412-441-3304 ext. 2109 or ccranston@pts.edu with questions. You can give on the Seminary’s website.