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May 17, 2004

Dear Name,



Jonathan Ball
M.Div. 2004

I am writing to let you know how much your gift to The Annual Fund at Columbia Theological Seminary means to me. Your support helps maintain the high quality of theological education that Columbia offers its students. As I prepare to embark on my own career in ministry, I would like to tell you how gifts from people like you have made three aspects of my own seminary journey so rewarding.

First, thank you for Columbia's incredible faculty. I looked at many other Presbyterian seminaries before deciding on Columbia. Many seminaries have faculty who are distinguished experts in their field. Many seminaries have faculty who nurture the students and who teach through example what it means to be a pastor. The difference, and what made my choice clear, is that Columbia is the only place I found that has both. Our faculty are incredible scholars of the church, and our faculty, without exception, serve as pastoral examples for the students. Gifts to the Annual Fund make it possible for Columbia to bring these outstanding professors to campus. *For this, I am very grateful.*

Second, thank you for supporting an institution that believes in the power of experience. During the summer, the Office of Supervised Ministry places students in internships with churches in this area and all around the United States. My internship was a place where, with guidance, I could preach, teach, offer pastoral care, and participate in the fellowship and worship of the church. My supervisor and a committee of laity from the church gave me valuable



A Center for
Theological Studies of
the Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Decatur, Georgia 30031

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May 17, 2004

Dear Name,



Jonathan Ball
M.Div. 2004

By the time you read this letter, my journey at Columbia Theological Seminary will be complete, as I graduate and embark on my own career in ministry. It's a time of great emotion and great expectations, one I'm sure you remember well.

Your support of The Annual Fund helps maintain the high quality of theological education that Columbia has offered me—and will continue to offer to others like me. I'm writing you today to tell you how gifts from people like you have made my own seminary journey so rewarding.

First, I am grateful for Columbia's incredible faculty. I looked at many other Presbyterian seminaries before deciding on Columbia. Many seminaries have faculty who are distinguished experts in their field. Many seminaries have faculty who nurture the students and who teach through example what it means to be a pastor. The difference, and what made my choice clear, is that Columbia is the only place I found that has both. Our faculty are incredible scholars of the church, and our faculty, without exception, serve as pastoral examples for the students. *Gifts to the Annual Fund make it possible for Columbia to bring these outstanding professors to campus.*

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feedback that allowed me to grow in understanding and in my pastoral identity.
For this experience, I am very grateful.

Third, thank you for the Alternative Context program. I came to seminary never having left the United States. The church's mission around the world in my mind was a series of second-hand stories and pictures. During Alternative Context, I experienced the work of the church in Mexico, and I shared fellowship with Christians in a context very different than my own. I replaced the distant stories I knew with relationships. I replaced the two-dimensional pictures with three-dimensional faces of friends, and I saw the reality of what the Spirit was doing in Mexico. This experience has given me another perspective through which to understand my faith and my theology. *For this experience, which Annual Fund dollars help support, I am very grateful.*

The students of Columbia Theological Seminary know that your contributions make this learning environment possible. Your gifts help the faculty and staff at Columbia to prepare the next generation of pastors like myself. Your support builds up the church of Jesus Christ. *For that, I am very grateful.*

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ball
M. Div. 2004

P.S. Please help us continue to build Christ's church. To ensure your name appears in our Annual Report of donors, please consider a gift to the Annual Fund before the end of our giving year on June 30.

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Won't you please consider a gift to help the faculty and staff at Columbia to prepare the next generation of pastors like myself? *For that, I would be very grateful.*

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ball
M. Div. 2004

P.S. Your gift makes a difference. Gifts from our alumni/ae make up 25% of the Annual Fund total—enough to support four students at Columbia for a year. To ensure your name appears in our Annual Report of donors, please consider a gift before the end of our giving year on June 30.