Throughout its history, Columbia Friendship Circle has been an organization deeply concerned about the well-being of students preparing to be ministers, missionaries, and Christian educators called by God to be the leaders of Christ’s church.

Columbia Friendship Circle addresses this concern in their threefold statement of purpose:

- To pray for the students, faculty, staff, and all members of the seminary community
- To encourage men and women to consider Christian ministry
- To provide financial assistance through selected projects that help meet the students’ needs

Columbia Friendship Circle began when the wives of two seminary professors encouraged other Atlanta wives to contribute one dollar each to help seminary students.

From that small group, Columbia Friendship Circle has grown to include all who participate in the Presbyterian Women’s organization throughout the synods of South Atlantic and Living Waters.

Columbia Friendship Circle has helped seminary students in a variety of ways.

The group’s projects include establishment of the Peter Marshall Chair of Homiletics; furnishings for residence halls, the library, and classrooms; an organ for the chapel; housing for married students; and continuing education for ministers.

In recent years, support has focused on scholarships for students with families and fellowships awarded to outstanding graduates.

Projects for 2016-2017

Columbia Friendship Circle scholarships
$52,000

These scholarships are offered to men and women who have demonstrated strong academic and leadership qualities. The scholarships provide relief to students who have family responsibilities.
**Columbia Friendship Circle Scholarships**

J. Robert Bannan, MDiv ’17

Robert Bannan is a senior under the care of Foothills Presbyterian in South Carolina. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC and has been worshipping at North Avenue Presbyterian Church here in Atlanta for the past two years. He received his undergraduate degree from Erskine College in Due West, SC, a BS in Business Administration. Before coming to seminary, he worked at First Presbyterian Church as the director of recreation, but additionally took on the role of youth director. He is married to Holly with three children: Jacob (6), Hattie (3), and Trace (almost 1).

“My wife, children, and I are so grateful for this scholarship. As you all know, raising a family while going to seminary is no easy task. This scholarship helps cover the tuition for my classes, and allows me to spend more time at home. The CFC scholarship is truly a gift from God and a reminder that there are such generous people in this world!”

Sang Hoon Han, MDiv ’17

Sang Hoon is a senior under the care of the Eastern Korean Presbyterian. His home congregation is Praise Presbyterian Church in Somerset, NJ. He is now serving Crystal Korean Church in Marietta, GA. He graduated from Konkuk University with a BA in Jewish (Hebrew) and Middle East Studies. His family includes his wife Jinyoung, and his children Karis (3) and Joshua (1).

“This scholarship is an honor and a blessing to me and my family. This will help greatly in reducing my family’s financial burdens and allow me to focus on my education. I will be sure to do my best in pursuing God’s call. Thank you so much.”

Sungwoo Sam Kim, MDiv/MAPT ’18

Sam is under the care of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and is a church planter and campus minister with Atlanta Oikos. His home church here since 2014 is Shalom International Ministry. He served with honors as an officer in the South Korean army for 8 years and holds a BA in Theology from Presbyterian University and BS in Computer Engineering from Myungji University. He lives with his wife Huynsun Kweon and 3 daughters: Seongyeong Kim (9), Taehui Kim (7), and Gloria Kim (3).

“Thank you very much for the generous scholarship. It is an honor and a blessing to my family and me. I will certainly not forget your generosity when I am in the position do the same for others.”

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**You Can Help**

Promote Columbia Friendship Circle by

- Joining the Columbia Friendship Circle if you are not already a member, becoming familiar with the purpose of the CFC, and making that purpose a part of your commitment to the mission of Columbia.
- Being sure your church has a Columbia Friendship Circle representative who is willing to promote the CFC in their churches.
- Encouraging your women to designate a special month to emphasize the ministry of Columbia Friendship Circle.
- Preparing a display of Columbia Friendship Circle materials and membership forms, placing the display where it can be seen by all church members, and inviting a scholarship recipient to visit your local church.
- Reminding your local church representative to distribute the Columbia Friendship Circle brochures. Extra brochures are mailed as requested in early fall.
- Knowing your presbytery Columbia Friendship Circle representative and asking her to keep your church informed about ways other churches promote CFC.
- Asking your session and diaconate to pray for the seminary and to help you promote the CFC in their churches.
- Encouraging your women to attend Columbia Friendship Circle by attending Columbia Day on April 27, 2017, and joining us in the celebration.

**Columbia Friendship Circle**

**President:** Marimae Coleman • maricoleman@aol.com

**Vice-President:** Tamah Halfacre • tamah@bellsouth.net

**Immediate Past President:** Deidra Crosby • deidra.crosby@gmail.com

**Columbia Day**

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Presbyterian Women can visit with students, faculty, and other CFC members on the beautiful Columbia campus.

This year’s gathering will include fellowship, inspiring worship, delicious food, and campus tours. Make plans to attend and share in this annual celebration!

**Morning**

9:00 Registration

Harrington Center, Columbia campus

10:00 Worship led by Dr. Israel Galindo

Associate Dean for Lifelong Learning and Director of Online Education

Columbia Theological Seminary

11:00 Faculty presentations

**Afternoon**

12:30 Luncheon and introductions of scholarship recipients

Refectory, Columbia campus

1:30 Campus tours

If you would like more information or Columbia Friendship Circle materials, please contact us at: Columbia Seminary, CFC Office

PO Box 520

Decatur, GA 30031

404-687-4525

or email Valrie Thompson at CFC@CTSnet.edu.

More information about Columbia Seminary is available on our website, www.CTSnet.edu.