San Francisco Theological Seminary
Whole Leaders for the Whole Church

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SFTS receives $1 million gift from Presbyterian philanthropist

San Anselmo, Calif., Aug. 4 – Eleanor Krivin found many ways to support San Francisco Theological Seminary's mission to identify and train men and women for ministry. Over the past 60 years, she has served as trustee, student, donor of the Ellie Krivin Endowment Fund and senior trustee.

Krivin will continue to ensure the training of future church leaders through a $1 million gift to the Seminary following her death last month at the age of 93. Her charitable gift annuity is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation in Jeffersonville, Ind., and will now benefit SFTS.

"Our hearts are filled with gratitude for this kind person whom most students, faculty and staff never had the chance to meet, but who was very proud of all of us," said SFTS Vice President for Institutional Advancement Rev. Peter Crouch. "Ellie's eyes sparkled with happiness that her gift, a true legacy of faith, would become part of the Seminary's enduring endowment and benefit the Seminary for years to come."

In 2006, Krivin agreed to fund a charitable annuity, a special gift that would pay her income during her life and then provide SFTS with a designated donation at her death. SFTS expects to receive a $1 million check on Krivin's behalf from the Presbyterian Foundation that will be added to its endowment.

"Combined with other gifts, we will eventually rebuild our endowment to its prior value,'' Crouch said. "Today, however, we say a prayer of thanks for Ellie Krivin, child of God, who always thought of the needs of others before her own. Now she is in the loving embrace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

A member of First Presbyterian Church, Encino, Krivin developed a special connection to the SFTS's campus in Pasadena. Her pastor, Rev. Curtis Webster, received his Master of Divinity degree from the SFTS's Pasadena campus, a unique commuter degree program that provides evening and weekend classes to accommodate working adults.

"Ellie redefined the word generous," Webster said. "Even as her health declined, Ellie did her best to be a vital part of her church community. Whenever I would visit Ellie, I always felt as if I had gotten much more out of the visit than she. A more committed disciple of Jesus Christ cannot be found."

Besides support for her church and SFTS, Krivin was involved in other philanthropic projects. Before her death, Krivin established a charitable gift annuity to benefit the Mary Magdalene Project, which gives women who have been victimized by street prostitution the

opportunity to turn their lives around. The Mary Magdalene Project was started in 1980 by West Hollywood Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Women.

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non-ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: www.sfts.edu.