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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SFTS to offer 'Presbyterian Distinctives' courses in Denver

San Anselmo, Calif., Sept. 26 – San Francisco Theological Seminary will begin offering “Presbyterian Distinctives” courses January 2008 in Denver for Presbyterian students in non-Presbyterian seminaries in the Mountain West.

The courses will include basic Reformed and Presbyterian theology, history and polity that is central to the SFTS curriculum and foundational for students who intend to enter into the ministry in the PC(USA). Courses will be two-week intensives, with the first course on “Reformed Creeds and Confessions” being offered Jan. 7-19. Interested students can find registration forms on the SFTS Web site: www.sfts.edu.

The Presbytery of Denver in the Synod of the Rocky Mountains requested the course offerings since many students in the region are attending non-Presbyterian seminaries but seeking positions in Presbyterian churches.

David Tomlinson, vice president of SFTS/Southern California in Pasadena, is in charge of the Denver initiative and one of the primary teachers.

Tomlinson added that the program provides two main strengths for the participating students - a chance to study and learn together in a Presbyterian environment and a chance to study courses that are covered by the Ordination Examination process of the PC(USA).

“It gives students in non-Presbyterian seminaries a clear sense of who we are as a church and the journey that brought us here,” Tomlinson said. “It also (hopefully) gives students a stronger sense of those things within our unique Presbyterian heritage that should be retained as well as those within which there might well be greater flexibility as the church moves into the future.”

Jana Childers, dean and vice president of academic affairs, noted that SFTS has long hoped to offer its resources to those parts of the West that lie outside California.

“As the ‘Presbyterian Seminary in the West,’ we are so glad for this opportunity to work with the Denver area churches and their seminarians,” she said. “We look forward to a great new partnership with the Church in the Denver area.”

For more information about the Denver courses, please contact Mary Booker or David Tomlinson at 1-800-473-8772.

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (USA) 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.