Dear Friends,

The fall semester is underway at ESR, and we have excitedly welcomed new students from different religious traditions including Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist, MCC, Methodist, Catholic, and of course, Quaker. They have come to us from as close as our town of Richmond, to as far away as California, Oregon and Washington State.

Living and learning together in a diverse group like this is what makes ESR so special, as I’m sure you remember from your time here!

At this year’s opening convocation, the sermon revolved around the theme of living together and the joys and challenges of sharing a home with others. In many ways, community life here at ESR mirrors that of a home. We are sharing classroom space, eating together, and trusting each other with our deeply held beliefs and practices.

Every day we are given the task of providing a space where our students can learn and grow in community with each other, taking their differences and using them to grow as individuals and as ministers. Living in unity is challenging, yet rewarding and necessary work!

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

Your support helps us to send our students and graduates like you out into the world, having learned how to share space with those who experience life differently from them, and who will work to fill in the gaps they see in their communities with their ministerial gifts of love, understanding, and respect. I hope you will consider continuing your support of our annual fund today!

With a thankful heart,

Mandy Ford
Director of External Relations