Dear Friends,

The world needs ESR. You know ESR fulfills a unique and vital purpose, and you know students come here because of the distinct Quaker graduate theological education we provide. Your gift today will help these students succeed and help ESR continue our vital mission.

As we head into the Christmas season, I hope you and yours will have the opportunity to celebrate a year well-lived and prepare for the upcoming year with anticipation. At Earlham School of Religion, there is much for which to be thankful, and much for which to look forward, as well.

Too often, I see news of graduate theology schools forced to merge or close. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, however, ESR continues to operate in the black and has a strong endowment that allows us the freedom to develop new programs driven by student interest and faculty expertise rather than out of scarcity or fear.

As you may know, in 2016 ESR was re-accredited for 10 years based on the integrity of our overall operations and educational purpose. As part of our 5-year Strategic Plan approved by ESR’s faculty and Board of Advisors, and Earlham College’s Board of Trustees, we adopted a new mission statement: “Rooted in the Christian Quaker tradition of contemplation that inspires action, Earlham School of Religion prepares theologically diverse students for a pluralistic world. Our curriculum unites spiritual formation, academic study, social engagement, and vital ministry.” What other school can offer students this unique experience? To answer our mission, ESR’s faculty developed and launched a new Master of Divinity curriculum this fall that places greater emphasis on practical ministry engagement and more flexibility for emphasis choices.

Our new M.Div. curriculum is just the beginning. Our video-based classrooms are on the cutting edge of graduate education and give our residential and distance students greater ability to connect. This fall we launched a new Master of Arts in Theopoetics and Writing with our partner school Bethany Theological Seminary that continues to attract students that can find this programming nowhere else. We also re-launched our Entrepreneurial Ministry Certificate and incorporated this program into our M.Div. as an emphasis. Expect to hear more in the coming months about new programs and offerings.

To sum up, we have a solid financial base from which to build. We are fulfilling our mission. We are innovating. As a donor, you play a critically important part in our work. Thank you in advance for your gift. With a contribution in the enclosed reply envelope, you can help us maintain our momentum and continue to meet the needs of students seeking to develop their unique ministries in perhaps the only place they can – right here at ESR.

In gratitude,

Matt Hisrich

P.S. As an ESR graduate, I know just how important donors like you are to students. I would not have been able to attend without the generosity of those who valued the mission of the School and the ministries of its students. Thank you again for your support!