September 2, 2004

Dear Friend:

We are extremely grateful for your interest in the Global Center for Interfaith Scholarship and Respect at Bard College, and we are writing now to ask you to contribute financially to its creation. Bard College is eager to inaugurate the Center and make it viable as quickly as possible. All of us involved in its envisioning believe deeply that the work it intends to do is unique and essential for world peace. Andrew Harvey's mission statement is included with this letter to remind you of the range and ambition of the Center's plans.

All financial contributions, large or small, would be welcome. Please be as enthusiastically generous as you can. And if, at this time, your financial situation does not allow you much flexibility, please help us with any connections you may have, or any ideas of networking. We consider you already a creative member of the Global Center and would be grateful for all forms of your active participation.

There are essentially seven categories of the Center's operations that finances are urgently needed for. If you decided to underwrite one or other of these categories, a way will be found to honor your contribution publicly, by naming lectures or conferences in your honor (or, eventually, rooms in the building we intend to house the Center in). If you decide to give us the money for the building of the Center, the whole center would be named for you.

The seven categories, with the amounts needed for each per year are as follows:

1. Infrastructure, $80,000
   Administrative oversight and website creation, expansion, and maintenance

2. Research, $125,000
   Andrew Harvey's salary as program director, and traveling and research expenses

3. Graduate Program of the Institute of Advanced Theology, $500,000
   Comparative religion and interfaith dialogue to equip clergy in interreligious scholarship and respect

4. Training in the religious mediation of conflict, $200,000
   Major conferences on topics such as AIDS, fundamentalism, the environment, and women’s and minority rights
The seven categories, with the amounts needed for each per year are as follows (continued):

5. Media Wing, $350,000
   Creation of tapes, pamphlets, and mainstream television documentaries and salary for
   media director, Eleanore Johnson

6. Spiritual Ecology, $200,000
   Work relating religious issues to environmental, economic, political, and health issues in
   conservation, networking, and research

7. Building Drive, $10,000,000 to $15,000,000
   Creation of a building by a major modern architect that would house the Center's
   activities, incarnate its ideals of interfaith respect and harmony

We would be happy to provide further information on any of these categories, and look forward

to hearing from you.

Please join us now in this great intellectual and spiritual adventure.

With gratitude and respect,

Andrew Harvey              Bruce Chilton                    Jacob Neusner              Leon Botstein

Enclosure