DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

May I ask you to consider the future with me?

By the time students now entering college are midway through their careers, three-quarters of the world’s people will live in megacities with populations of more than 20 million. This is the world of the not too distant future. This is the world that our graduates will enter, inhabit and serve.

At present the large majority of America’s Christian colleges, universities and seminaries are located in small towns and suburban areas. These institutions are abundant and they serve effectively in their settings, but therein lies a profound imbalance. Relatively few of these institutions operate in the largest cities in the U.S. Relatively few serve the countless families living in these cities. Very few immerse students today in a changing world that is only a tomorrow away.

The geographic imbalance is not the only imbalance. There is a growing economic imbalance as well. Many in the globalized, urbanized world have inadequate resources to fund higher education or are children of immigrant families who struggle with the cost structure of most private residential colleges—including most Christian colleges and universities.

If the economic imbalance is not addressed, Christian colleges and universities will serve only those students who can afford a private college education. The percentage of these students decreases every year. If the geographic imbalance is not addressed, graduates of Christian colleges will enter, inhabit and serve only the portion of the world that is familiar to them. They will enter, inhabit and serve a geographic and economic cross section of the world already rich with human capital and other resources. And in doing so, they will bypass the globalized, urbanized world of the not too distant future.

Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary will be different. We have already made the difficult decision (see enclosed letter) to reposition all of our programs to our New York City campus beginning in the fall of 2019. This is a momentous and weighty decision made only after considerable prayer.
and consideration. It is a decision we have made because we see the imbalances I have just described and the void these imbalances create. And it is a decision made because we believe we are called to fill that void.

This call began more than twenty years ago. Even then, Nyack’s leadership began to respond to the imbalances they saw emerging. They began to assemble a diverse faculty and staff to serve a rapidly diversifying student body. They developed a business model that positioned Nyack and ATS as more economically accessible. In the decades that have ensued, Nyack and ATS has developed into an intentionally diverse College and Seminary recognized for providing personally transforming and socially relevant higher education.

Nyack and ATS is prepared to make an impact on the imbalance that would otherwise leave the most rapidly growing portions of our world overlooked and underserved.

Nyack and ATS will bring the academic excellence it has developed over the past two decades back to the City where it was established. We are a different kind of institution because we believe our Lord has called us to be so. And we believe He has done so “for such a time as this.”

**Therefore, may I ask you to dream with me?**

Nyack and ATS in New York City will become a community of individuals and a network of institutions that, in imitation of Christ, will seek to transform human relationships, heal a broken world, inspire lifelong learning and develop global leadership.

Nyack and ATS in New York City will be a unique learning and serving community rooted in the love of Christ and the love of our neighbors. Some community members will be American-born, but immigrants, children of immigrants, adult students and non-traditional students will also be a part of this new global community. Quite simply, we will be a reflection of the whole world.

In the world of rapid urbanization, and the intense challenges that accompany this, Nyack will be a diverse and loving community giving life to a network of academic and support programs and partnerships. These programs and partnerships will promote learning through serving, leading through action and transformation through an encounter with the love of Christ.

Nyack and ATS will be characterized by academic and programmatic innovation. This
innovation will be designed to make Nyack more educationally transforming and financially accessible. We know that Christ commanded His disciples to “Go,” and He gave our founder a vision specifically to this end. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to know Jesus Christ and to share His love. We will build bridges of service to a lost world, not bunkers of isolation.

Nyack and ATS in New York City will be a community that invites and develops partnerships with institutions whose missions align with ours. We will be unashamed of our defining commitment to instill the love of Jesus Christ in our learning, our service, our research and our partnerships. We will send forth graduates who represent the whole world, who understand the whole world and who have a burden for the whole world. Ultimately, these graduates will enter, inhabit and serve the whole world.

This is my dream for Nyack and ATS. I am convinced it is God’s dream for Nyack and ATS. I believe it is the next chapter in our pursuit of the mission instilled in us since the days of the Missionary Training Institute.