

March 14, 2023

President Jonathan L. Walton
Princeton Theological Seminary
64 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

Dear President Walton and Board of Trustees,

We, the undersigned students and alumni of Princeton Theological Seminary, demand the immediate removal of Michael Fisch from the Board of Trustees, as well as the adoption of deliberate and transparent policies on appointing and maintaining board members who reflect the anti-slavery theological commitments of the seminary.

Mr. Fisch is the founder and CEO of American Securities LLC—a private equity firm which owns and manages ViaPath (formerly Global Tel Link), one of the largest prison telecommunications companies in the world. According to [an analysis by Worth Rises](#), families across the U.S. pay \$1.4 billion each year to speak to incarcerated loved ones. This is because companies like Mr. Fisch’s American Securities charge as much as \$15 per 15-minute phone call, essentially monopolizing commissions extracted from impoverished families and captive consumers.

According to the [Ella Baker Center](#), due to these fees, more than one-third of all families who choose to remain connected with an incarcerated loved one accrue debt. These technologies are explicitly designed to deepen the pockets of wealthy investors. These “services” do not improve people’s capacity to connect. They only create profits. Given the nature of policing and imprisonment in the United States, American Securities’ profit is plundered primarily from communities of color and people already suffering under financial burdens.

We, the undersigned, were encouraged when Princeton Theological Seminary announced its plans in 2016 to “examine the institution’s historic connections to slavery.” We affirm that “a critical reckoning with our past” was necessary for restoring the institution’s relationship to “God and the world God so loves.” We were enthusiastic about the Seminary’s response to remove the name of Samuel Miller from the seminary chapel and to engage in acts of financial reparation through reallocation of endowment funds. We applaud the public-facing steps to both account for and to safeguard against investments in economic systems that prey on captive people.

Many of the undersigned work directly with imprisoned people and their families, through chaplain work, pastoral care, counseling, teaching, social services, and public policy. Some of us are even more directly impacted by the criminal legal system, through our experiences of being incarcerated or having loved ones in prison. And so, on both personal and principled levels, we are appalled that the board of trustees, which is charged with governing Princeton Theological Seminary, is chaired by someone who makes profits from conditions we have been taught to work against and have been trained at the Seminary to mitigate in our roles as pastors, chaplains, and social workers.

In his role as CEO of American Securities LLC, Michael Fisch actively works against the stated values of Princeton Seminary. How can he continue to be entrusted with guiding its future, and our future, as practitioners of the gospel of Jesus Christ? It is not possible. We therefore demand his immediate removal and *a tangible commitment* to greater theological accountability from all PTS leadership, beginning with the Board of Trustees. In accordance with any call for justice, it is our sincere hope that Michael Fisch can enter into a process of repentance, and choose to submit to a process of personal and professional divestment in the sins of slavery, abuse, and exploitation, and to serve our God of justice and love, with joy and integrity.

We close this letter with a gesture to what the aforementioned tangible commitment to greater theological accountability ought to look like. While Michael Fisch is uniquely disqualified for seminary leadership, a cursory look at several current and past members of the Board of Trustees reveals the seminary's ongoing alignment with oppressive and exploitative investments, including but not limited to military weapons technologies, fossil fuels industries, and other ventures within the prison industrial complex. The removal of Michael Fisch is only a first step. The seminary needs a deeper reckoning with its current relationship to and investment in modern systems of enslavement, dispossession, displacement, environmental degradation, and violence, in local and global contexts. In this we are of one voice with the current efforts of Students for Peace and Justice.

We await your response to this letter, and we commend you in advance for choosing the way of Christ, through self-examination, transformation, and repair.

Sincerely,

Rev. J. Amos Caley, M.Div 2013
Rev. Nicholas A. Johnson, M.Div 2013
Michael Toy, M.Div 2015
Matthew M. Harris, M.Div 2014
Rev. Emily Wilkes, M.Div 2020
Rev. Erich Kussman, M.Div 2019
Isak de Vries, M.Div 2013
Rev. Melissa Florer-Bixler, M.Div 2012
Dr. Matthew J. Smith, M.Div 2014
Jolyon Pruszinski, M.Div 2014, Ph.D 2019
Rev. Laura Colee, M.Div 2012
Felipe Witchger, Donor
Ryan Jackson, M.Div 2013
Rev. Dr. Ry Siggelkow, Ph.D 2017
Collin Cornell, M.Div 2013
Adam Walker Cleaveland, M.Div, M.A. 2008
Tristan Carwile, M.T.S. 2021
Rev. Nathan Roberts
Joshua Cleveland, 2007
Heidi Biermann, M.Div 2019
Micah Cronin

Rose Troyer
Benjamin Rudeen Kreider, M.Div Student 2023
Greg Woods, M.Div 2014
SueAnn Shiah, M.Div Student
Samuel Greenlee, M.Div 2012
Jessica Patchett, M.Div 2008
Rev. Dr. Catherine Knott, M.Div 2008
Rev. Gretchen N. Sausville, 2005
Rev. Christina Falcone Manero, M.Div 2019
Rachel Pennington, M.Div, M.A. 2010
Emilee Walker-Cornetta, M.Div 2013
Chad Schwickerath, M.Div 2013
Dr. Henry Kuo, M.Div 2013
Jason Frey, M.Div 2013
Rev. Laura Hannah, M.Div 2015
Rebecca White Newgren, M.Div 2007
Rev. Liz Kearny, M.Div 2016
Rev. Dexter Kearny, M.Div 2016
Riley Pickett, M.Div 2020
Rev. Jenny Replogle, M.Div 2010
Mark R. Smith, M.Div 2014
Jasmin Figueroa, M.Div, M.A. 2017
Kathleen Getaz, Current Masters Student
Rev. Olivia Lane, M.Div 2012
Rev. Katrina Drew, M.Div 2012
Dr. Sarah Lane Ritchie, M.Div 2012
Joshua Hester-Goralski, Community Member
Douglas Hume, M.Div 2000, Ph.D 2009
Rev. Emma Neishloss, M.Div 2012
Rev. Christopher W. McNabb, M.Div 2016
Rev. A. T. Kaegler, M.Div 2011
Rev. Denise D. Pass, M.Div 2006
Rev. Dr. Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Ph.D 2004
Kayla Hopgood, M.Div 2018
Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer, M.Div 2011
Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood, Ph.D 2019
Aaron Morrison, M.T.S. 2018
Sarah Bhatia, M.Div 2012
Rev. Katie Spencer, M.Div 2015
Johannah "Williams" Creager, M.Div 2012
Rev. R. Crate, M.Div 2012
Rev. Rachel Frey, M.Div 2000
Rev. Jonathan Britt, M.Div 2013
Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, M.Div 2012
Anders P. Pedersen, M.Div 1991
Rev. Samantha Evans, M.Div 2014

Irene King, M.Div 1989
Beth DuBois, M.Div 1988
Rev. Kristen N. Levens, M.Div, M.A. 2018
Rev. Erin Moore, M.Div 2014
Rev. Kayla Kelly-Beard, M.Div, M.A. 2017
Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, M.Div 2014
Calvin Walker, M.Div 2000
Adam Fairchild, Current Masters Student
Rev. Amy Long, M.Div 2008
Mary Nickel, 2016
Steven Slaubaugh, M.Div 2017
Jason Spring, M.Div 2000
Gaila Rajae, M.Div 2008
Rev. Sara C. R. Hill, M.Div 2009
Angela Davis, M.Div 2007
Rev. Melanie Smith, M.Div 2012
Rev. McKinley L. Sims, M.Div 2015
Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel, Ph.D 2018
Jennifer Herold, M.Div 2016
Rev. Sylvia Bull, M.Div, M.A. 2015
Rev. Lindsay Bates, M.Div 2021
Carrie G. Littauer, M.Div 2011
Rev. Jennie Barber, M.Div 2008
Andrew Jones, Current Masters Student
Rev. Brenna Dykman, M.Div, M.A. 2013, Th.M 2018
Rev. Mary Haggard, M.Div, M.A. 2002
Rev. Leigh DeVries, 2017
Rev. William Stell, 2016
Andrew Kang Bartlett, Son of Alumnus Douglas E. Bartlett
Rev. Crawford Brubaker, M.Div 2009, Th.M 2010
Dr. Stephanie Mota Thurston, Ph.D 2020
Enoch H. Kuo, M.Div 2017
Rev. Beatrix Weil, M.Div 2017
Rev. Don Van Antwerpen, M.Div 2016
Rev. Jonathan H. Reinink, M.Div, M.A. 2014
Dr. Chelsea Williams, M.Div 2012, Ph.D 2022
Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe, M.Div 2006, Ph.D 2013
Rev. Deborah A. Chase, M.Div 1986
Mary N. Pugh, M.Div 1990
Rev. Jennifer Martin, M.Div 2001
Rev. Gabrielle (Martone) Corbett, M.Div 2017
Rev. Devin Dickinson, M.Div 2014
Rev. Christine Caton, M.Div 1991
Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div 2008
Dr. Mel Webb, Th.M 2009, Ph.D 2016
Chaplain Julie Prey, M.Div 2004

Nyle Fort, M.Div 2014
Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen, Field Education Supervisor
Rev. Lindsey Santamaria, M.Div 2012
Rev. Susan Tindall, M.Div, M.A. 2010
Rev. Dr. Michael Granzen, D.Min 1998
Karen Rohrer, M.Div 2011
Kelly Chripczuk, M.Div 2004
Rev. Amy Nelson Busiek, M.Div
Dr. Joshua Scott, M.Div 2011
Cherice Bock, M.Div 2009
Melissa Berkey-Gerard, M.Div 1999
Emily Pruszinski, M.Div, M.A. 2022, Current Doctoral Student
Rev. Lauren Evans, M.Div 2012
Anna Stamborski, M.Div 2022
Noah Buchholz, M.Div 2014, Th.M 2018, Current Doctoral Student
Rev. Edward "Teddy" Thode, 2011
Dr. Tyler Davis, M.Div 2015
Beth Putney, Current Masters Student
Rev. Will Wellman, M.Div 2014
Rev. Anna Langholz, M.Div 2022
Amanda Samuel, Incoming M.Div Student 2026
Madison Johnston, M.Div 2017
Deborah Jodrey, M.Div, M.A. 2020
Jeremy Lambson, M.Div, M.A.
Rev. Emily Phillips Davis, M.Div 2015
Rev. Dr. William Barnett, M.Div 2006, Ph.D 2014
Sarah Messner, M.Div 2013
Heath Pearson, M.Div 2013
Linda Kwak, M.Div 2022
Rev. Nicholas K. Young, M.Div 2020
Brooke Matejka, Current Masters Student
Allison Rudeen Kreider, Current Masters Student
Amanda Alvey, M.Div 2013
Rev. Dr. Anita Wright, Th.M 2009
Jessica Campbell, M.Div 2003
Rev. Heather Prince Doss, M.Div 2006
Rev. Amy Morgan, M.Div 2006
Rev. Kristen Pratt (Will), M.Div 1990
Rev. Matthew Querns, M.Div 2009
Katherine Jameson Pitts, M.Div 1985
Rev. Katie O'Hern Hamilton, M.Div, M.A. 2015
Rev. Edward Lowe, M.Div 2018
Alyssa Mitchell, Current Masters Student
Grace Francque, Current Masters Student
Rev. Arlene B. Dunn, 2004
Rev. Ronell Howard, M.Div 2010

Sarang Kang, M.Div
Jordan Loewen-Colón, M.Div 2015
Lisa Powell, M.Div 2001, Ph.D 2008
Christine (Shander) Sprenger, M.Div 2011
Nathaniel Maddox, M.Div 2013
Emily Zinsitz, Current Masters Student
Amber Slate, M.Div, M.A. 2017
Rev. Andrea M. Baas, M.Div 2014
Ella Myer, M.Div 2020
Rev. Dr. Andrew Thompson Scales, M.Div 2011, Ph.D 2019
Ethan Park, Current Masters Student
Rev. Dr. Frances Wattman Rosenau, 2007
Emma-Claire Martin, Current Masters Student
Kripanand Roy Komanapalli, M.Div 2017
Rev. Dr. Katie Nix, 2010
Rev. Chris Hedges, Field Education Supervisor
Mark Douglas, M.Div 1993, Th.M 1994
Rev. Katherine Pate, M.Div 2000
Dr. Amy Michelle DeBaets, M.Div 2006, Th.M 2007
Andrew M. Hagee, Th.M 2018
Rev. Jonathan Scanlon, M.Div 2005
Rev. Ramón L. Orostizaga, M.Div 2013
Evan Schneider, M.Div 2008, Th.M 2010
Dr. Mark J. Edwards, M.Div 2007, Ph.D 2013, Faculty in Practical Theology
Wing Yin Li, M.Div 2022
Jackson Reynolds, Current Masters Student
Emily Sutphin, Current Masters Student
Byron Walker, Current Masters Student
Jack Brownfield, Current Masters Student
Jenna Morgan, Current Masters Student
Kendall Brown, Current Masters Student
Isabel Gallegos, Current Masters Student
Courtney Steininger, M.Div 2021
Rev. Dr. Judith Jones, M.Div 1986
Yena Hwang, M.Div 1997
Victoria Callahan Giger, Current Masters Student
Jesse Hershberger, Current Masters Student
Eva Dalzell, Current Masters Student
Dr. Andrew J. Peterson, M.Div 2015, Ph.D 2022
Rev. Dr. Sammy Arroyo, M.Div 2009
Delaney Piper, Current Masters Student
Lillian Hines, M.Div 2013
Rev. Kelly Spencer, M.Div 2020
Brent Stanfield, M.Div 2020
Kim Miller, Member of the Community
Dr. Briana Wong, M.Div 2015, Ph.D 2020

Staci Bryson Des Rault, 2006
Brendan Finch, Current Masters Student
Sean M. Pomory, M.Div 2022
Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, M.Div 2006
Rev. Sharyl Dixon, 2005
Melissa Temple, M.Div, M.A. 2021
Joshua Parks, Current Masters Student
Rev. Kate Taber, M.Div 2009
Rev. Joicy Becker-Richards, M.Div 1990
Aron Tillema, M.Div 2017
Taylor M. Silvestri, Current Masters Student
Nicole Busacca, M. Div 2022
Kelsey Martin, Current Masters Student
Ryan MacLean, Current Masters Student
Rob Kraft, M.Div 2021
Lauren Hoak, M.Div 2022
Rev. Margaret Poteet, M.Div 2020
Rev. Lenore Scales, M.Div 2011
John Tyson, M.Div 2014
Rev. Rebecca Blake, M.Div 2009
Rev. Andy Greenhow, M.Div 2013
Rev. Rebecca Lawson Putman, M.Div 2015
Rev. Dr. Luke Zerra, M.Div 2016, Ph.D 2022
Madeline Baas, M.Div 2021
Rev. Shannon White, 1990
Rev. Miriam Diephouse-McMillan, M.Div 2010
Rev. Ryon Herin, M.Div 2022
Dr. Matthew Puffer, M.Div 2009
Karla Ann Kokk, Ph.D 2004
MiKayla Hamilton, Current Masters Student
Bruce P. Gillette, M.Div 1984, Th.M 1985
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, M.Div 1985
Katie Rosenson, M.Div 2022
Brady Beard, M.Div 2015
Chaplain Tamarah Lee, 2021
Rev. Cathie Capp, M.Div, M.A. 2013
Rev. Dr. Michael Hafele, M.Div 2003
Ava Randel, Current Masters Student
Rev. Amy Williams Fowler, M.Div 1984
Rev. Dr. Nancy Young, 1993
Rev. Zoë Garry, M.Div 2019
Rev. Kristin Hutson, M.Div 2000
Rev. Jennifer Pattee, Concerned Minister
Christian Zamarriego, M.A. 2018
Mary Rodgers, M.Div 1998
Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr, M.Div 1984

Rev. Dr. Glenn D. Leupold, M.Div 1988
Rev. Doug Hagler, Community Member
Rev. Reford B. Nash, Th.M 1978
Rev. Diana M. Hagedwood Smith, M.Div 1984
Bill Galvin, M.Div 1978
Ann Lews, M.Div 1984, Th.M 1987
Rev. Geneva McAuley, M.Div 2016
Jessica Figueroa, Current Masters Student
Rev. Rachel Christine Hébert, M.Div 2015
Rev. Molly Casteel, M.Div 2005
Brint Pratt Keyes, M.Div 1997
Rev. Dr. Shawn MacDonald, M.Div 1988
Rev. J. Mark Davidson, M.Div 1979
Casey Wait, M.Div 2003
Dr. Samantha Slaubaugh, M.Div 2017
Carter Grant, Current Masters Student
Laura Batten-Carbaugh, M.Div 2003
Rev. Muriel Schmid, Visiting International Student, 1995-96
Rick Cummings, M.Div 2018
Rev. Charles Sadler II, 2017
Jonathan Jackson, M.Div 2011
Rev. Emmie Arnold, M.Div 2019
Rev. Erin Counihan, M.Div 2014
Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala, M.A. 1979
Rev. Erika Spring, M.Div 2014
Sarah Caley, M.A. 2019
Kevin Vollrath, M.Div 2017, Current Ph.D Student
Samantha Gilmore, M.Div, M.A. 2016, Ph.D 2022
Rodney J. Hunter, B.D. 1965, Ph.D 1974
Kristy Woodrow, M.Div, M.A 2022
Chikara Saito, 2018
Rev. David Black, M.Div, M.A. 2018
Andrea Johnson, M.Div, M.A. 2022
Rev. Ashley Bair, 2018
Renn Turner Sanderman, M.Div 2005
Rev. Pamela Jacobi Starbuck, M.Div, M.A. 1999
Dr. Nathaniel Van Yperen, M.Div 2007, Th.M 2008, Ph.D 2013
Emily Wilmarth, M.Div 2008
Catherine McCollough, M.Div 1985
Gail Brown
Rosa Ross, Current Masters Student
Dr. Zuline Gray Wilkinson, M.Div 2015
Mary Morrow, 2015
Adam Lyons, M.Div, M.A. 2018
Rev. Dr. Francisco Pelaez-Diaz, Th.M 2013, Ph.D 2022
Rev. Jamie Fiorino, 2018

J.T. Young, M.Div 2018
Angel Nalubega, Current Masters Student
Rev. Hayley Cohen, M.Div 2016
Rev. Julie Reishus Peterson, M.Div 2014
Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Graham, M.Div 1973
Rev. Chris Waks, M.Div 2016
Rev. Dave Brown, M.Div 1980
Marielle Evans, M.Div 2015
Rev. James Macaulay, M.Div 2001
Rev. Katy Bedford, M.Div 2016
Walker Weatherly, M.Div 2017
Rev. Erik "Skitch" Matson, M.Div 2016
Lisa S. Johnson, M.Div 1999
Rev. Matt Ackerman, M.Div 2012
Laura L. Choi, M.A. 2004
Rev. Rachel Erin Stuart, M.Div 2014
Rev. Audrey Webber, M.Div 2019
Rev. Charlotte Mallory, M.Div 2005
A.J. Wallace, M.A. 2022
Rev. S. Unzu Lee, M.Div 1988
Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Graham, M.Div 1973
Rev. Christine Fentress-Gannon, M.Div 2002
Elizabeth VanderHaagen, M.Div 2001
Dr. Logan Hoffman, M.Div 2012
Anna Forshee, Current Masters Student
Alex Turpin, M.Div 2013
Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen, M.Div 2012
Rev. Evan Bever, M.Div 2012
Terry J. Stokes, M.Div 2017
David Wiltshire, M.Div 2013
Charlie Lewis, M.Div 1987
Rev. Jonathan Thomas, M.Div 2010
Rev. Richard Lanford, M.Div 1984
Rev. Rory Chambers, M.Div 2020
Carlos G. Acosta, Jr., M.Div 2020, current Th.M student
Rev. Rebekah Anderson, M.Div 2021