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Molly Dowell Baum accepts call to Africa as Global Ministry Fellow

SAN ANSELMO, Calif., April 16 – San Francisco Theological Seminary graduating senior Molly Dowell Baum (M.Div. '10) has been selected to be the Global Ministry Fellow at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (MAPC) in New York City, a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity. She is “both thrilled and overwhelmed by this call,” and will share the two-year position with her husband Ryan, a seminary graduate from Pacific School of Religion.

“We feel so blessed to know that we have a call right out of seminary,” Molly said. “It’s a privilege not many in the PC(USA) or UCC have, and to minister together as a team.”

The fellowship program ordains a recent seminary graduate in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a parish associate at MAPC in New York before spending a year working at a ministry site in the Global South. They will then have three months to travel in the Global South before returning to New York for six months to share their experience the congregation.

Molly and Ryan begin their first three months of work at MAPC on June 1. They will spend the summer getting to know the MAPC congregation, preaching, and training in Louisville and Chicago before heading abroad.

In early September, they will depart for Kitwe, Zambia, to serve as interns at Theological Education by Extension Zambia (TEEZ), a program which trains tutors to develop strong lay and pastoral leadership for the Zambian Christian community by bringing the theological education to their local communities.

“During our time at TEEZ, we will be involved in curriculum revision and development, tutoring and tutor training of Zambian lay pastors, and administration of a program which provides theological education to inmates in the Zambian prison system,” Molly explains.

A year later in September 2011, they will have three months to travel in the Global South, “learning about the ways that Christianity has taken root and blossomed among communities in the Global South,” before returning for six months of debriefing and sharing. As parish associates, they will also have the opportunity to preach and teach

about that experience, sharing with the Madison Avenue congregation the new wisdom and understanding their time in Zambia has provided them.

“We are excited and optimistic as we look toward the future, and we will be relying on the support and prayers of our community back home,” Molly said.

Visit www.dowellbaumsinzambia.blogspot.com to follow along in their travels. For more information about the fellowship, visit MAPC’s web site at <http://www.mapc.com/gmf/>.

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non-ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: www.sfts.edu.