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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DALLAS, TEXAS, MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT RECEIVES LILLY PASTORAL RESIDENCY, A UNIQUE PROGRAM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER RESIDENTS FROM ALL DENOMINATIONS**

Rachel Helgeson of Jefferson County will receive her Master of Divinity Degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary on May 20, 2012. The ceremony will take place at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Currently sponsored by the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Pittsburgh’s Shadyside Presbyterian Church, both of Pennsylvania, Helgeson will be moving to Dallas, Texas, to serve as an ordained Lilly Pastoral Resident at the First Presbyterian Church, Dallas.

There, she will explore all facets of ordained pastoral ministry with the support of the congregation and a cohort of other Lilly Pastoral Residents. This program brings together residents from different denominations, including United Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopalian, for the cause of not only preparing for pastoral ministry but also for understanding the roles a pastor plays within each denomination’s church.

While in seminary, Helgeson served as student body president, chapel coordinating assistant, and founder of the student theater group Agape Theatre. She also

acted as student chaplain at the University of Louisville Hospital and student intern at Springdale Presbyterian Church. *more*

**MASTER OF DIVINITY**

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Her thesis, “The Tree of Life,” depicted this Biblical element in a recital format, using

vocal music, artistic images, and scripture.

Helgeson is married to Chris Roode, a middle school music teacher.

For more information, please contact Rachel Helgeson at rachelgeson@gmail.com.

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