

Dear Pusey Minister Search Committee,

We write to you as the Board of the Harvard Christian Alumni Society, a Harvard Alumni Association Shared Interest Group ("SIG"). Our organization was formed to establish a religious, social, educational, and professional network for Harvard Christian alumni worldwide, and to advance the interests of members with a shared identity, experience, and belief in the Christian faith. We are an ecumenical group of Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Evangelicals and more.

Given our charter, you can appreciate our membership's particular interest in your efforts as a search committee. Almost all of our members have firsthand memories of Memorial Church and its influence on their faith journey. For me personally, I remember my roommate asking me to walk with him to Memorial Church to have a conversation in the spring of 1994 (our first year at the college). I think he chose to have the conversation there above all the other locations on campus because a house of worship still represents to many a sacred space to ponder our place in the universe and wrestle with the existential questions of our humanity. My roommate shared with me his diagnosis of bone cancer that morning. He did not live out the rest of his Harvard years.

We believe that the Harvard community, individually and corporately, will always encounter moments that press upon us the need to wrestle with questions of faith, and so we are thankful for your search efforts for a minister to serve in a role that can shepherd those who are at a moment of seeking. We are glad that Harvard has positions for Chaplains from a variety of faiths, including a continuing role for a professor of Christian morals that has been an integral part of the university's tradition. We affirm the benefit of interfaith dialogue within the Harvard community, and the examples these different faith leaders can provide in such exchanges.

The value of diversity at Harvard is created when we each serve the community in our uniqueness. In that vein, we would encourage you to seek out a minister of genuine Christian faith, rather than a minister who proclaims no "surety of hope or certainty of what is not seen." We believe a man or woman of shallow faith will ultimately ring hollow and undermine the role itself. We acknowledge that even amongst our own board, there is a diversity of theological and faith practice differences, but we respect and learn from each other's sincere authenticity in our search for truth.

We have re-shared your original search letter with our membership, and we have asked our members to pray for the committee in this search. We believe the health and vibrancy of the overall Harvard community is strengthened by having men and women leaders on campus who can serve as guides when members of the Harvard community find themselves seeking wisdom from the longstanding religious, spiritual and ethical traditions of those that have gone before them.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grinstead (AB 1997)

President of the Harvard Christian Alumni Society (<https://harvardchristianalumni.org/>)

And Board Members:

Aaron Barth (AB 2004)

Douglas Howard Luke Chin (AB 1988, MD 1993, ScMM 1994)

Lawrence Franko (AB 1963, DBA 1970)

Jordan Monge Gandhi (AB 2012)

Oriana Li Halevy (AB 1992)

Poh-Lian Yap (AB 1987)