

**ITEM C.206**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**OFFICE OF THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP UPDATE**

**Financial Aid for Service**

Financial Aid for Service (FAS) forgave \$40,000 in loans to pastors serving PC(USA) congregations. This is the implication of the action that the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approved at the September 2015 meeting. FAS also added partnerships with Women's Leadership Development & Young Women's Ministries to provide six supplemental awards of \$1,000 to undergraduates, and promoted the application to join the Presbyterian delegation to the United Nations to 350 college and seminary women. Financial Aid for Service is interested in bringing more mission engagement opportunities to students.

**Theological Conversations**

The Theological Conversations initiative launched mid-year in 2015 with the first in a series of bi-monthly papers designed to spark theological reflection and theological conversations in the PC(USA). Each paper is accompanied with a set of questions called "Conversation Starters." The first paper was Cindy Cushman's "Mary, the Magnificat, and Race," which was republished in the November/December 2015 issue of *Presbyterians Today*. Three additional papers were released in 2015: Dean Thompson's "Our 'Presbyterian Virtues,'" Karen Russell's "The Rivers' Flow: Transformation, Leaders, Congregations," and Kevin Park's "The Nations Will Bring Their Glory,". The release of each paper was accompanied by a one-hour Twitter chat with the author. In 2016 six additional papers will be released. A Facebook page has been established, and has been liked by over 400 persons, with new connections being made each week. Between publication of Theological Conversations papers and Twitter chats, questions have been posted on the Facebook page linked to topics that invite theological reflection and conversation.