Hebrew College (HC) and the Boston University School of Theology (ST) are both committed to training religious leaders who possess the knowledge and skills to serve as effective interreligious bridge-builders. Over the last decade, each institution has developed nationally regarded initiatives in the field, with growing interaction between the two schools. This includes a current project exploring the vocational possibilities for graduates of seminaries and other religious training programs who specialize in interreligious studies (funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations). Building on this groundbreaking work and other existing relationships among administrators and faculty, we are entering into an institutional partnership, tentatively entitled “The Green Line Theology Project,” that will begin with the following three elements (listed in chronological order), and that could expand significantly in the future (we include a preliminary list of possibilities at the end of this document):

I. Publications

*The Journal of Interreligious Studies — July 2016*

*JIRS* is a leading, online scholarly forum in the emerging field of interreligious studies. This interdisciplinary publication has drawn tens of thousands of readers since its launch in April 2009. Currently co-published by HC and Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS), we believe that ST would make for an excellent co-sponsor, bringing both scholarly expertise and academic prestige to this thriving publication. In this new arrangement, HC and ST would be
equal partners in the funding, administration, and publication of *JIRS*; ANTS will no longer be involved formally with the *Journal*.

The structure of *JIRS* is as follows:

- Publishers: Representatives of HC and BU
- Editor-in-Chief (10 hours a week)
- Editorial Assistant (five hours a week)
- Advisory Committee: 12 scholars and practitioners (no fiduciary responsibilities)

The *Journal* is published three times a year: fall, winter, and spring:

- Fall — Open Call
- Winter — Guest Edited by an Organizational Partner
- Spring — Essays from the AAR Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Group

The budget for *JIRS* can be found at the end of this document.

We will evaluate this component of our partnership at the conclusion of the first year of our work together – June 30, 2017.

### II. Academic Courses — Fall or Spring 2016-2017

*Spirituality & Social Justice: Abraham Joshua Heschel*

Instructor: Rabbi Or Rose with Guest Presenters

This is a course Rabbi Rose has taught or co-taught successfully for several years within the context of CIRCLE for Jewish, Christian, Unitarian Universalist, and Muslim students. BU has on its faculty Walter Fluker, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Ethical Leadership and
Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Initiative for the Development of Ethical Leadership. Further, MLK is one of the most illustrious graduates of BU and his legacy remains strong at the school (including an extensive archive). Rabbi Rose will serve as the instructor and consult with Professor Fluker on the design of the course, and invite him to serve as a guest lecturer. HC will pay for the instructor, BU for the guest lecturer and for other costs associated with the course (see proposed budget below).

Course Details:

• 8-10 graduate students from each school
• 2-hour sessions (over dinner)
• 10 sessions total (once weekly)
• BU campus
• Taxi/Van for HC students

It is our intention to develop a series of co-sponsored and co-taught courses as this partnership unfolds. We will begin exploring new course possibilities as early as the summer of 2016, including the development of a scope and sequence for these courses.

III. Public Events — Fall/Spring 2016-2017

“Religion & the Presidential Election”

Creating a public forum in which to explore the role of religion in the current election cycle would be a service to the public and provide us with the opportunity to publicize our new partnership widely in the Greater Boston community. We will create a two-part series—October and January—featuring speakers and/or panelists from both schools and from the Greater Boston academic, religious, and civic communities.

Possible Speakers (TBD):
• Dr. Kecia Ali, BU
• James Carroll, Boston Globe, Suffolk University
• Dr. David Gergen Harvard University
• Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, HC
• Dr. Mark Oppenheimer, New York Times (possible affiliation with HC)
• Dr. Stephen Prothero, BU
• Rev. Liz Walker, Roxbury Presbyterian Church

As with the other two partnership components, we intend to develop a robust public programming agenda beginning in the summer of 2016.
Draft Budget Overview – 2016-2017

Expenses

*JOURNAL OF INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES (JIRS)* – $30,000

- Editor (10 hours/week) – $16,500
- Editorial Associate (5 hours/week) – $5,000
- Website Update (reflecting the new partnership) – $3,500
- Administrative Support – $5,000

*SPIRITUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSE* – $10,500

- HC Instructor (paid by HC) – $6,000
- Guest Lecturers (paid by BU) – $2,000
- Transportation (paid by BU) – $1,000
- Food (paid by BU) – $1,500
- Space (in-kind donation from BU) – $0

*PUBLIC PROGRAMMING* – $7,500

- Speakers (2-4) – $3,500
- Space (in-kind donation from schools) – $0
- Private Receptions (2 events) – $2,000
- Publicity – $1,000
- Administrative Support – $1,000

**TOTAL $48,000**
Possible Sources of Income – 2016-2017

I. Journal of Interreligious Studies

• The Henry Luce Foundation
• The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
• JIRS Advisory Board Members — JIRS ($4,000 raised from the board in 2015-2016)
• Private Donors

II. Spirituality & Social Justice Course

• Merrimack College Interfaith Curriculum Grant — $5,000 max.
• The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
• Private Donors

III. Public Programming

• Ticket Sales — $3,000 (150 people x $10 x 2 events)
• The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
• Private Donors
Appendix—Future Possibilities

Academics:

- Co-Taught Courses – History, Classical Text Study, Pastoral Care, etc.
- Academic Colloquia and Conferences for Faculty & Students
- Education Travel Experiences in the US & Abroad

HC introduced a new MA specialization in Global Interreligious Leadership in the spring of 2015. As BU continues to develop its interreligious programs, we might explore the creation of parallel cohorts that engage in ongoing joint learning.

Co-Curricular Programming:

- Service-Learning Opportunities
- Musical Performances
- Arts-Based Workshops

As we develop our partnership, we might create a team of administrators, faculty, and students to explore various opportunities for transformative educational opportunities.