

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: July 2021

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS) concerning substantive changes only for schools in the US (Canadian schools are not included in this report). The membership of COAATS has adopted new [Standards of Accreditation](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), effective July 1, 2020. Any older references would correspond to the [pre-2020 accrediting documents](#) and are currently subject to the Board-approved implementation procedures [posted here](#). Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#). Past abstracts can be found [here](#).

At its videoconference meeting on [July 14, 2021](#), the Officers Committee of the COAATS Board of Commissioners voted on the below actions with an effective date of **July 14, 2021**, unless otherwise noted.

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO MISSION, LEGAL STATUS, NAME, OR MAIN LOCATION

#### Lancaster Theological Seminary – Lancaster, PA

1. To approve Lancaster Theological Seminary's request for a change in ownership and governing control through a formal "Agreement to Consolidate" with Moravian University, whereby the seminary will transfer management and governing control to Moravian University (anticipated effective date: July 30, 2021), while continuing as a degree-granting entity until all the terms and conditions stipulated in the "Agreement to Consolidate" are met (anticipated date: late 2022 or early 2023), in accordance with the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including, but not limited to the approval from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education for LTS to become a controlled 509(a)(3) entity supporting MU.
2. To require a report by September 1, 2021, providing evidence of (a) a comprehensive timeline for the consolidation; (b) how the school plans to address the needs of its students who may be affected by the consolidation (see *Policies and Procedures* III.L.1-3); and (c) the results to date of the seminary's communication strategy related to the consolidation, including the impact on the school's internal and external constituencies. The report should also clarify the corporate, administrative, and educational relationship between Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary, including their respective authority to grant degrees and keep their respective accredited statuses.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this change in ownership and governing control, as required by *Policies and Procedures* IV.C, to verify that the seminary continues to meet applicable Commission Standards (visit anticipated by *January* 2022), particularly Standards 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10, as well as the ATS membership criteria.

*Report prepared: July 15, 2021*

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