

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: July–August 2025

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. Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#). Past abstracts can be found [here](#).

*At a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of COAATS on August 25, 2025, the Board voted on the below actions with an effective date of **August 25, 2025**—unless otherwise noted.*

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

#### Lancaster Theological Seminary – Lancaster, PA

1. To acknowledge the school's **voluntary withdrawal** from accredited membership in the Commission, effective August 8, 2025.
2. To acknowledge that the educational programs of all students continue unchanged in what will be known, going forward, as Moravian University School of Theology and that the expectations of a teach-out plan in the event of voluntary withdrawal are thereby satisfied (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2).
3. To **rescind** the four reports required by the Board in June 2025, due November 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, November 1, 2027, and November 1, 2028.
4. To require Moravian University School of Theology to submit a petition by September 8, 2025, establishing Lancaster Theological Seminary (555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603) as an additional location.

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

#### Moravian School of Theology – Bethlehem, PA

To acknowledge notification of an institutional name change *from* Moravian Theological Seminary *to* Moravian University School of Theology, and affirm that this does not represent a substantive change, as specified in *Policies and Procedures*, IV.C.1.2.

*[Commission staff action 8/25/2025 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

### ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO PUBLIC SANCTION (WARNING, PROBATION, OR SHOW CAUSE)

#### John Leland Center for Theological Studies – Arlington, VA

1. To receive the report required in June 2022 regarding finances.
2. To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standard. The school must address this warning adequately and immediately, or the Board will take appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J:  
Standard 10.3 on Financial Resources: The school is at risk of not having “sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” The school must submit a report by the 1st of November 2025, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, resulting in balanced budgets and eliminating operating deficits, including a financial plan that is “realistic, holistic, and sustainable.” The school’s FY 2025 audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report.
3. To authorize a focused evaluation visit no later than January 2026, to confirm that the school’s financial plan is “realistic, holistic, and sustainable.”

*Report prepared: August 26, 2025*

**Leah K. Wright** | Accrediting Records Coordinator

**The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting**

10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 240 | [accrediting@ats.edu](mailto:accrediting@ats.edu) | [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)