



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

Frank M. Yamada • Executive Director

April 8, 2020

Dear member colleagues of The Association of Theological Schools,

I am providing an update on the ATS/COA Biennial Meeting based on recent information that we have as of yesterday, April 7, 2020.

We have been in communication with hotel officials at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver, and both parties agreed yesterday that it is in the best interests of the participants of the meeting to cancel the contract for the Biennial Meeting events due to the current health crisis created by COVID-19. In fact some of you may have already received cancellation notices from the hotel in the afternoon yesterday.

In my [memo, dated March 26, 2020](#), I had notified the membership of the possibility that the meeting could change to a completely online format. Since the site of the meeting will no longer be in Vancouver, we will move forward with the 2020 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting in a completely online format, an option that both the Board of Directors and the Board of Commissioners approved earlier in the spring.

In summary, here is the information that you need to know:

- The ATS/COA Biennial Meeting is scheduled for June 24–25, 2020. Continue to hold these dates.
- The meeting will be in a completely online format. Specific details about the programming and order of business will be shared at least 45 days before the meeting.
- The format will allow for online participation in the meeting. There will also be an electronic option for voting. Per the bylaws only associate members can vote on Association business, one vote per school. Only members of the Commission on Accrediting can vote on the Commission's business, one vote per school.
- All of these decisions about the meeting have been made with the safety and health of the membership as a priority.

While we regret that we will not be convening the membership in Vancouver, we are firm in our resolve to prioritize the health and safety of the participants and the ATS staff.

If you have questions about the Biennial Meeting or the format, please feel free to reach out to ATS staff by email.

As we continue to weather the storm of this pandemic, may you and yours continue to be healthy and safe.

Peace and grace,
Frank Yamada