



The Association of Theological Schools The Commission on Accrediting

Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 1-2, 2017

Abstracted Summary of Actions

All actions are effective **February 2, 2017** unless otherwise noted.

GRANTS OF ACCREDITATION

Initial accreditation granted:

Tennessee

[Freed-Hardeman University Graduate School of Theology](#) - Henderson, TN

Accreditation reaffirmed:

California

[Azusa Pacific Seminary](#) - Azusa, CA

in-state extension site(s): Los Angeles [complete degree]; San Diego [complete degree]

[Franciscan School of Theology](#) - Oceanside, CA

Florida

[Knox Theological Seminary](#) - Fort Lauderdale, FL

Illinois

[Chicago Theological Seminary](#) - Chicago, IL

[McCormick Theological Seminary](#) - Chicago, IL

Indiana

[Bethany Theological Seminary](#) - Richmond, IN

Pennsylvania extension site(s): Elizabethtown [less than half of a degree]

[Earlham School of Religion](#) - Richmond, IN

Louisiana

[New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary](#) - New Orleans, LA

in-state extension site(s): Lafayette [50%-99% of a degree]; Monroe [50%-99% of a degree]; Shreveport [50%-99% of a degree]

Alabama extension site(s): Birmingham [50%-99% of a degree]; Huntsville [50%-99% of a degree]; Montgomery [50%-99% of a degree]; Rainsville [50%-99% of a degree]; Tuscaloosa [50%-99% of a degree]

Georgia extension site(s): Augusta [50%-99% of a degree]; Columbus [complete degree]; Duluth [complete degree]; Jonesboro [50%-99% of a degree]; Marietta [complete degree]; Savannah [50%-99% of a degree]; Warner Robins [50%-99% of a degree]

Florida extension site(s): Hialeah [50%-99% of a degree]; Jacksonville [50%-99% of a degree]; Orlando [complete degree]; Pensacola [50%-99% of a degree]; Tallahassee [50%-99% of a degree]

Mississippi extension site(s): Blue Mountain [50%-99% of a degree]; Clinton [50%-99% of a degree]; Olive Branch [50%-99% of a degree]

[Notre Dame Seminary](#) - New Orleans, LA

New York

[General Theological Seminary](#) - New York, NY

Pennsylvania

[Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University](#) - St. Davids, PA

West Virginia extension site(s): Ripley [complete degree]

[St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#) - South Canaan, PA

[Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry](#) - Ambridge, PA

Texas

[Abilene Christian University Graduate School of Theology](#) - Abilene, TX

in-state extension site(s): Dallas [less than half of a degree]

Candidacy for accreditation (pre-accredited status) granted:

Arizona

[Grand Canyon Theological Seminary at Grand Canyon University](#) - Phoenix, AZ

Illinois

[Loyola University Chicago Institute of Pastoral Studies](#) – Chicago, IL

WITHDRAWALS OF ACCREDITATION

Voluntary withdrawal from Commission membership and accredited status:

(n/a)

Administrative termination of membership and adverse action to withdraw accreditation:

(n/a)

ACTIONS RELATED TO NOTATIONS

A *notation* is a warning that a school partially meets a Standard and must meet it fully within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

REMOVAL of notation:

Missouri

[Aquinas Institute of Theology](#) - St. Louis, MO

N8.b, “The institution's financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.”

Wisconsin

[Nashotah House](#) - Nashotah, WI

N9.3, “The school has sustained a cumulative loss in its operating budget over the past three years and there is no evidence that the institution is implementing a credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.”

IMPOSITION of notation (appeals policy already satisfied):

(n/a)

One-year EXTENSION of notation by the Board (for cause):

(n/a)

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES APPROVED

New degree programs:

California

[Claremont School of Theology](#) - Claremont, CA
Master of Theological Studies [MTS]

[Fuller Theological Seminary](#) - Pasadena, CA
Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies) [MAICS]

[World Mission University School of Theology](#) - Los Angeles, CA
Doctor of Church Music [DCM]

Massachusetts

[Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary](#) - South Hamilton, MA
Master of Arts in Christian Ministry [MACM]

Michigan

[Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary](#) - Grand Rapids, MI
Doctor of Philosophy [PhD]

New York

[General Theological Seminary](#) - New York, NY
Master of Arts in Ministry [MAM]
approval 1/13/2017 (Reader Panel) ratified by full Board as being effective 1/17/2017

Texas

[Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) - Fort Worth, TX
Master of Arts (Philosophy) [MA]
approval 1/13/2017 (Reader Panel) ratified by full Board as being effective 1/17/2017

Alternative delivery method—comprehensive distance education:

(n/a)

Extension sites—new locations:

California

[Fuller Theological Seminary](#) - Pasadena, CA

Cairo (Egypt) extension site: The Board approved a complete-degree extension site *at* THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF CAIRO (ETSC), 8 El-Sekka El-Beda Street, Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt to offer the cohort-based Doctor of Ministry [DMin] program, and authorized a focused visit to confirm this site has the adequate resources.

[World Mission University School of Theology](#) - Los Angeles, CA

in-state extension site: The Board approved a new, complete-degree site to offer the Board-approved Master of Arts in Christian Counseling [MACC] program *at* 7342 Orangethorpe Avenue, #A103, Buena Park, CA 90621, and authorized a focused visit within 6 months of the start of classes to confirm this site has the adequate resources.

Michigan

[Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary](#) - Berrien Springs, MI

Beirut (Lebanon) extension site: The Board approved a complete-degree site located *at* MIDDLE EAST UNIVERSITY (MEU), Ferdous St., Sabtieh, Bauchrieh, Beirut, Lebanon [mailing address: P.O. Box 90-481, Jdeidet El Metn Metn 1202 2040, Lebanon] to offer the Master of Arts (Religion) [MAR] program, and exempted this site from the focused visit requirement (cf. Board of Commissioners' [Policy Manual](#), section III.A.1).

Mississippi

[Reformed Theological Seminary](#) - Jackson, MS

Texas extension site: The Board approved a new, complete-degree site *at* 6060 North Central Expressway, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75206, at which the residential portion of the Master of Divinity [MDiv] program and the complete Master of Arts (Theological Studies) [MATS] degree could be earned, and exempted this site from the focused visit requirement (cf. Board of Commissioners' [Policy Manual](#), section III.A.1).

Pennsylvania

[Evangelical Theological Seminary](#) - Myerstown, PA

in-state extension site: The Board approved a new, complete-degree site located *at* GOGGLEWORKS CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 201 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601, at which the residential portion of the hybrid Master of Arts in Leadership Development [MALD] program could be earned; the Board also authorized a focused visit within 6 months of the start of classes to confirm this site has the adequate resources.

Extension sites—expansion of existing locations:

Illinois

[Moody Theological Seminary](#) - Chicago, IL

Michigan extension site: The Board granted approval to expand the existing complete-degree extension site located *at* 41550 East Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 to offer also the complete MA (Biblical Studies) degree program.

Extension sites—relocation existing sites:

Illinois

[Trinity Evangelical Divinity School of Trinity International University](#) - Deerfield, IL

Florida extension site: The Board granted final authorization to relocate the school's complete-degree site *from* 8190 W State Road 84, Davie, FL 33324 *to* 3700 Lakeside Drive, Miramar, FL 33027, approved the teach-out plan at the former site, and exempted the focused visit requirement at the new site (cf. Board of Commissioners' [Policy Manual](#), section III.A.1).

Extension sites—closure of existing locations:

(n/a)

Main campus relocation or closure:

Illinois

[Bexley Hall Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Federation, Inc.](#) - Chicago, IL

confirmation of previously reported action: The Board confirmed the school's relocation *to* 1407 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 (CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY campus) and that resources are available and appropriate to offer the Master of Divinity [MDiv].

Massachusetts

[Episcopal Divinity School](#) - Cambridge, MA

closure effective 6/30/2017: The Board acknowledged that the school intends to cease granting degrees by **June 30, 2017** and approved the school's teach-out plan as meeting the criteria described in the Board of Commissioners' [Policy Manual](#), Appendix 5.

Institutional change in name or governance:

Pennsylvania

[Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg](#) - Gettysburg, PA

and [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia](#) - Philadelphia, PA

consolidation effective 7/01/2017: The Board granted approval for the consolidation of LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG and LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA to create a consolidated entity that will be known as UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY, **effective July 1, 2017**.

Report prepared March 4, 2017

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The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

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Summary of Final Actions
Effective Date: March 31, 2017

At its meeting February 1-2, 2017, the Board of Commissioners voted to impose the below actions with an effective date of **March 31, 2017**—thereby allowing for a period of appeal. The period has since expired; these actions are now final.

ACTIONS RELATED TO NOTATIONS

A [notation](#) is a warning that a school partially meets a Standard and must meet it fully within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

IMPOSITION of notation (appeals policy already satisfied):

Ohio

[Payne Theological Seminary](#) - Wilberforce, OH

The Board voted to impose notation N8.c, “Significant deficiencies have been noted in the institution’s internal financial and reporting systems and/or internal controls, and the institution’s response to the deficiencies does not appear to be sufficient effective or appropriately timely.” The evidence for removal of a notation should reach the Board of Commissioners no later than November 1, 2018, in order to be considered by the Board at its February 2019 meeting.

Tennessee

[Memphis Theological Seminary](#) - Memphis, TN

The Board voted to impose notation N9.c: “The institution has not demonstrated the extent to which its students have met the learning outcomes appropriate for each degree program it offers or that its assessment efforts have led to improvement and there is no evidence of a credible plan or its implementation to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.” The evidence for removal of a notation should reach the Board of Commissioners no later than November 1, 2018, in order to be considered by the Board at its February 2019 meeting.

Report prepared April 12, 2017

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