

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: January 2020

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts substantive changes only from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS). Canadian schools are not included in this report. References correspond to the [compendium of accrediting documents](#). Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#).

At its semiannual meeting January 30-31, 2020, in Pittsburgh, PA, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **January 31, 2020**, unless otherwise noted.

### **ACTION(S) RELATED TO PERIODS OF ACCREDITATION**

#### **Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius - Pittsburgh, PA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Theology)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **Christ the King Seminary - East Aurora, NY**

[NOTE: adjustment of accreditation period/status to be reviewed—anticipated: March 2020]

#### **Claremont School of Theology - Claremont, CA**

[See action(s) related to change of main campus location, below]

#### **Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology - Berkeley, CA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Philosophy)
  - Master of Arts (Theology)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **Evangelical Theological Seminary - Myerstown, PA**

[See action(s) related to change of governance, below]

#### **George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University - Waco, TX**

To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee and to *extend* the reaccreditation term of George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University for three years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2027.

#### **Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary - Mayaguez, PR**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology
  - Master of Arts (Biblical/Theological Studies)

Doctor of Ministry  
Doctor of Philosophy

3. To approve the following extension sites: None domestic

**Liberty University John W. Rawlings School of Divinity - Lynchburg, VA**

1. To grant initial accreditation to Liberty University John W. Rawlings School of Divinity for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2026, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2027.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Master of Arts in Global Studies
  - Master of Arts in Religion
  - Master of Arts in Sports Chaplaincy
  - Master of Religious Education
  - Master of Arts (Biblical Exposition)
  - Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)
  - Master of Arts (Christian Apologetics)
  - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
  - Doctor of Ministry
  - Doctor of Education
  - Master of Theology
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Theology and Apologetics)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

**Loyola Marymount University Department of Theological Studies - Los Angeles, CA**

To approve a *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*to* fall 2020) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2021].

**Nashotah House - Nashotah, WI**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Nashotah House for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2026, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2027.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Ministry
  - Master of Pastoral Ministry
  - Master of Theological Studies
  - Master of Sacred Theology
  - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension sites: None

**Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Ministry Graduate Department - West Palm Beach, FL**

1. To grant initial accreditation to Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Ministry Graduate Department for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2026, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2027.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Christian Studies)
3. To approve the following extension site:
  - The extension site at 4700 Millennia Boulevard, Suite 100, Orlando, FL 32839 as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Divinity degree and the Master of Arts (Christian Studies)

**Phillips Theological Seminary - Tulsa, OK**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Phillips Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity

Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture  
Master of Theological Studies  
Master of Arts (Social Justice)  
Doctor of Ministry

3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **Princeton Theological Seminary - Princeton, NJ**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Princeton Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Education and Formation
  - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
  - Master of Theology
  - Doctor of Philosophy
3. To approve the following extension sites: None

#### **Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology - Hales Corners, WI**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Theology)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary - Berrien Springs, MI**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (SDATS) for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
  - Master of Arts in Youth and Young Adult Ministry
  - Master of Arts (Religion)
  - Master of Arts (Religious Education)
  - Doctor of Ministry
  - Doctor of Missiology
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology)
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Religion)
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Religious Education)
  - Doctor of Theology
3. To approve the following extension site(s):
  - Florida Conference Office (351 South State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824) as a complete degree-granting site for the Doctor of Ministry degree only.
  - Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church (515 Harley Lester Lane, Apopka, FL 32703) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only.
  - Loma Linda University (Loma Linda University—Drayson Center, 25040 Stewart Street, Loma Linda, CA 92350) as a complete degree-granting site for the Doctor of Ministry degree only.
  - North Pacific Union Conference Office (5709 N. 20th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642-7724) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only.
  - Northern New England Conference Office (479 Main Street, Westbrook, ME 04092) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only.
  - Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church (4747 NW 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73132) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only.
  - Southeastern California Conference Office (11330 Pierce Street, Riverside, CA 92505-3303) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree and the Doctor of

Ministry degree only.  
Union College (3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506-4387) as a complete degree-granting site  
for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only  
[See action(s) related to new sites, below]

#### **Sioux Falls Seminary - Sioux Falls, SD**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Sioux Falls Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2029, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2030.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Leadership
  - Master of Arts in Counseling
  - Master of Arts
  - Doctor of Ministry

NOTE: The school is approved to offer all of its degree programs (*above*) through competency-based education that is course-/credit-based, with no residency requirements.

[See action(s) related to new degree, below]

3. To approve the following extension sites: None

#### **SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary - Orchard Lake, MI**

1. To approve a *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*to* fall 2021) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2022].
2. To require a staff visit by fall 2020 to ensure that the school is attending to the institutional and educational expectations of the Standards in the context of the three-fold reasons for the postponement of the comprehensive visit.

#### **Starr King School for the Ministry - Berkeley, CA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Starr King School for the Ministry for a period of five years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2024, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Social Change
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities - St. Paul, MN**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2026, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2027.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Leadership (Professional MA)
  - Master of Arts (Academic MA)
  - Doctor of Ministry

Note: The school *discontinued* the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree program at the end of 2016. The school is reminded that it should inform the ATS Commission when the last student has graduated from or otherwise exited from this program.
3. To approve the following extension sites: None

#### **Westminster Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA**

To approve a *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*to* fall 2022) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2023].

### **ACTION(S) RELATED TO NEW/REVISED DEGREES**

#### **Earlham School of Religion - Richmond, IN**

To approve the Master of Arts in Peace and Social Transformation.

**Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary - Mayaguez, PR**

*[See action(s) related to period of accreditation, above]*

**Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - Kansas City, MO**

To approve the Doctor of Education.

**Moravian Theological Seminary - Bethlehem, PA**

To approve the Master of Arts in Formation and Ministry.

**Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America - Santa Fe Springs, CA**

To approve the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies.

**Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology - Wickliffe, OH**

To approve the Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry.

**Shepherds Theological Seminary - Cary, NC**

1. To approve the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies).
2. To approve the Master of Theology.

**Sioux Falls Seminary - Sioux Falls, SD**

To approve the Doctor of Theology.

**Talbot School of Theology - La Mirada, CA**

To approve the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy.

**Vanderbilt University Divinity School - Nashville, TN**

To approve the Doctor of Ministry.

**ACTION(S) RELATED TO NEW/EXPANDING EXTENSION SITES OFFERING AT LEAST HALF A DEGREE**

**Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary - Berrien Springs, MI**

To approve the following extension site(s):

AdventHealth University (671 Winyah Dr., Orlando, FL 32803-1226) as a complete degree-granting site for the Doctor of Ministry degree only.

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (9705 Patuxent Woods, Columbia, MD 21046) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree only.

**ACTION(S) RELATED TO CLOSING/RELOCATING EXTENSION SITES OFFERING AT LEAST HALF A DEGREE**

**Evangelical Theological Seminary - Myerstown, PA**

*[See action(s) related to change of governance, below]*

**ACTION(S) RELATED TO CHANGE OF GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTION NAME, OR MAIN CAMPUS LOCATION**

**Claremont School of Theology - Claremont, CA**

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current site (1325 N College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711) *to* Willamette University (with a teaching location at 680 State St. SE, Salem, OR 97301), effective July 1, 2020, and approve the continued use of its current campus as an ongoing course-offering site.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location in Salem (OR) within six months of the relocation (visit anticipated fall 2020).
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
4. To approve the school's request for a delay in its next comprehensive evaluation visit for reaffirmation of accreditation *from* fall 2021 *to* fall 2022, and to extend the school's period of accreditation accordingly (*to* March 31, 2023).

**Evangelical Theological Seminary - Myerstown, PA**

1. To approve the seminary's request for a change in ownership and governing control through a formal acquisition by Sioux Falls Seminary, whereby Evangelical Theological Seminary will transfer

management and governing control to Sioux Falls Seminary, effective July 1, 2020, continuing as a degree-granting, legal entity until July 1, 2022, at which point it will dissolve and transfer its assets and liabilities to Sioux Falls Seminary.

2. To extend the Evangelical Theological Seminary's period of accreditation *from* March 31, 2022, *until* June 30, 2022, and *waive* the school's comprehensive evaluation visit for reaffirmation of accreditation scheduled for fall 2021.
3. To *exempt* the seminary from a focused evaluation visit to confirm that it continues to meet all applicable Commission Standards, since the seminary will cease to exist after the completion of the two-year teach-out agreement with Sioux Falls Seminary and since Sioux Falls Seminary will not offer any courses for credit on the seminary's campus or at its approved additional location in the Dixon University Center (2986 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110).
4. To approve the seminary's teach-out plan and the teach-out agreement with Sioux Falls Seminary since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans and agreements described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
5. To approve the closing of the seminary's complete degree extension site located at Lancaster Mennonite Center (2160 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA 17602), effective January 31, 2020, where the Master of Arts in Leadership Development had been offered.
6. To approve the seminary's teach-out plan for the Lancaster location since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5 (the school has not enrolled any students at that location for some time).

#### **Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University - Marion, IN**

To acknowledge notification of name change for the COAATS-accreditable entity, *from* Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University *to* Wesley Seminary.

### **ACTION(S) RELATED TO THE REMOVAL OF NOTATION**

A notation is a warning, i.e., negative action, to denote that a school partially meets a given Standard, which it must fully meet within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation, i.e., adverse action. See [Policies and Procedures](#), section VII.E.

#### **Payne Theological Seminary - Wilberforce, OH**

1. To receive the report required in February 2017 regarding 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 these deficiencies does not appear to be sufficiently effective or appropriately timely.*"
2. To remove Notation N8.c.
3. To require a follow-up report by November 1, 2020.

#### **Saint Paul School of Theology - Leawood, KS**

1. To accept the report required in February 2018 regarding Notation 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.*"
2. To remove Notation N8.b, and to remind the school that its upcoming self-study report (for a comprehensive visit anticipated in fall 2021) should show continued progress towards long-term financial equilibrium.
3. To accept the report required in February 2018 regarding 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.*"
4. To remove Notation N9.c.

*Report prepared: February 7, 2020*

Christopher The, MAR, MDiv, PhD Candidate | Director of Commission Information Services  
The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting  
10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 253 | [accrediting@ats.edu](mailto:accrediting@ats.edu) | [www.ats.edu](http://www.ats.edu)