

# Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools

## Accreditation Commission Meeting

The Grandover Resort and Conference Center  
Greensboro, North Carolina

November 1-3, 2009

### ACCREDITATION COMMISSION ACTION

#### REAFFIRMATION I

The following institutions were granted **Reaffirmation I** by the TRACS Accreditation Commission after completing a successful self-study and being evaluated by an on-site evaluation team:

**Apex School of Theology** (2945 South Miami Boulevard, Suite 114, Durham, NC 27703) a Category IV institution appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 2:30 p.m. on November 2, 2009, and was granted Reaffirmation I Status as a Category IV institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Specialists and Doctoral degrees, plus distance learning) with the following conditions:

- The institution must address the twenty remaining “In Progress” Recommendations noted on the enclosed Staff Analysis Matrix and submit a Progress Report to the TRACS Office by February 15, 2010.

A possible Focus Team Visit will be scheduled before the April 2010 Commission Meeting if substantial progress has not been made by February 2010.

**Midwest University** (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385) appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on November 3, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. and was granted Reaffirmation I Status as a Category IV institution (approved to offer certificates and Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Specialists, and Doctoral degrees, along with distance learning programs) with the following conditions:

- Fiscal Stability (Standards: 18.2, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 18.9)
- Leadership Including the Role of the Board and Administration (Standards: A1. 5.1-5.20, B2 6.1-6.5)
- Education Programs (Standards: 10.1, 11.1, 10.4).
- Policies and Procedures (Standard: 6.1.d).
- Accurate Representation in Publications (Standard: 8.2).

**Pacific Islands University** (172 Kinney's Road, Mangilao, Guam, P.O. Box 22619, Barrigada, Guam, 96921) appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on November 2, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. and was granted Reaffirmation I Status as a Category III institution (approved to offer Certificates, Diplomas, the Associate, Bachelors and Masters degrees, plus distance learning) with conditions. The areas of non-compliance are:

- Institutional Effectiveness (5.2; 6.5; 10.3a,b; 10.7; 11.2; 24.1 – 4; 24.5a-c; 24.7
- Policies, Procedures and Publications (1.2; 1.5; 6.2; 8.9; 10.15k, q; 10.17; 11.9; 11.12; 11.15; 11.16c; 14.9; 15.7; 17.12; 17.19; 20.5d; 21.1)
- Distance Education (12.1)

**Trinity Life Bible College** (5225 Hillsdale Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95842) a Category II institution appeared before the Commission at 2:30 p.m. on November 3, 2009, and was granted Reaffirmation I Status as a Category II institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate and Bachelor's degrees, plus distance learning programs) with the following conditions:

- The institution must address the remaining "In Progress" Recommendations noted on the Staff Analysis and submit a Progress Report to the TRACS Office by February 15, 2010.
- The institution must demonstrate appropriate faculty credentials for all faculty (14.4)
- The institution must demonstrate appropriate curriculum development and assessment processes (10.2).
- The institution must demonstrate student learning as part of assessment (10.2, 16.3, and 24.2)
- The institution must hire a qualified Librarian (25.4)

Reaffirmation I is for a ten-year period through 2019. Within this period, Apex School of Theology, Midwest University, Pacific Islands University and Trinity Life Bible College must complete a mid-term QCR analysis report, conduct a self-study, host an on-site team evaluation and appear before the Accreditation Commission for Reaffirmation II status.

## **ACCREDITATION**

The following institution was granted **Accreditation** by the TRACS Accreditation Commission after completing a successful self-study and being evaluated by an on-site evaluation team:

**Gutenberg College** (1883 University Street, Eugene, OR 97403) a Category II institution appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 3:30 p.m. on November 3, 2009, and was granted Accredited Status as a Category II institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate and Bachelor's degrees).

**Shepherds Theological Seminary** (6051 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518) a Category III institution appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 1:30 p.m. on November 2, 2009, and was granted Accredited Status as a Category III institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate, Bachelors and Masters degrees, plus ESL)

**World Mission University** (500 S. Shatto Place, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90020) a Category III institution appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 1:30 p.m. on November 3, 2009, and was granted Accredited Status as a Category III institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate, Bachelors and Masters degree).

**Visible School—Music and Worship Arts College** (1015 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN 38104) a Category II institution appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 11:30 a.m. on November 3, 2009, and was granted Accredited Status as a Category II institution (approved to offer certificates, the Associate and Bachelor's degrees) with the following conditions:

- The institution must address the remaining "In Progress" Recommendations noted on the Staff Analysis and submit a Progress Report to the TRACS Office by August 15, 2010.
- The Institution must submit a plan and show progress for ensuring the faculty members are appropriately credentialed (14.4, 14.5, 14.6).

Within the next five years, the above Institutions, Gutenberg College, Shepherds Theological Seminary, World Mission University and Visible School—Music and Worship Arts College, must complete a successful self-study, host an on-site evaluation team visit, and appear before the TRACS Accreditation Commission for Reaffirmation I by 2014.

## **CANDIDACY**

The following institutions were granted **Candidacy** by the TRACS Accreditation Commission after completing a successful self-study and being evaluated by an on-site evaluation team:

**Hiwassee College** (225 Hiwassee College Drive, Madisonville, TN 37354) a Category II institution, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission at 10:30 a.m. on November 3, 2009, and was granted Candidacy Status as a Category II institution (approved to offer associate's bachelor's degrees, including certificate programs) with the condition that Hiwassee College submit a Progress Report addressing the five suggestions addressed in the Focus Team Visit Report.

Within the next five years, Hiwassee College must complete a Self-Study, host an on-site evaluation team visit and appear before the Accreditation Commission for accredited status by November 2014.

In keeping with Federal regulations, Hiwassee College, formerly accredited by SACS and dismissed after the conclusion of a long appeal, became an applicant with TRACS. As with all applicant institutions, TRACS required Hiwassee College to file a letter of intent and to submit an application along with the necessary materials required by the TRACS Review Committee.

Hiwassee appeared before the TRACS Review Committee to discuss those specific areas that SACS had identified as cause for the College's membership termination in 2004, as well as to discuss the TRACS application and supporting documentation.

The TRACS Review Committee required and accepted updated documentation concerning basic reasons for SACS dismissal—namely new financial evidence, which was not accepted in the SACS review of Hiwassee College. New financial evidence presented to the Review Committee demonstrated marked financial improvement and sound leadership dedicated to the continuing success of Hiwassee College.

Hiwassee College was approved by the Review Committee to submit a Self- Study Proposal to TRACS, and a staff person was assigned to guide them through the preparation and submission of the Self-Study. Upon completion of a successful Self-Study, an on-site evaluation team visited the campus to verify their self- study for Candidacy.

The TRACS Accreditation Commission, in making a positive decision to grant Candidacy to Hiwassee College in November 2009, noted that new and updated financial information admitted for discussion and review by the administration was a determining factor. In a letter from SACS to Hiwassee College dated May 2, 2008, it also was noted that SACS invited Hiwassee College to reapply for membership once they had met all of SACS requirements.

## **DEFERRED**

**Faith Theological Seminary** (529 Walker Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212) a Category IV institution, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on November 3, 2009, and was deferred Candidacy Status because the institution is not in compliance with the following TRACS standards:

- General education requirements for the Bachelor's degree (10.14)
- Faculty Credentials (14.3, 15.1)
- Adequate faculty to support the current programs (14.1, 14.2, 1.51)
- Financial stability (18.4, 18.9)
- Adequate Library resources to support research programs, specifically the Th.D. program (25.2)

## SHOW CAUSE

**Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary** (10830 Navajo Drive, Saint Petersburg, FL 33708) a Category IV Institution, approved to offer certificates, the Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees, along with distance learning programs, appeared before the TRACS Accreditation Commission on November 3, 2009, and was placed on Show Cause. The three major areas of non-compliance are:

- Financial Stability (18.4; 18.9; 5.7; 5.8; 5.9)
- Leadership Stability (6.1; 6.4; 6.5)
- Faculty Stability (14.4; 15.1; 16.1)

## SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

The following institutions were **granted approval** for substantive changes:

**Bakke Graduate University** (1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 401, Seattle, WA 98104)

- To add three new online courses:  
*RES 701a, Research Bridge: The Dissertation Journey*  
*THE 600, Theology: God's Grand Narrative*  
*MCC 7-5, The Nature of Cities*

**Bethesda Christian University** (730 North Euclid Street, Anaheim, CA)

- To change the name to Bethesda California University

**Beulah Heights University** (892 Berne Street SE, Atlanta, GA)

- To initiate a Master of Business Administration Program

**Carolina Evangelical Divinity School** (2400 Old Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403; PO Box 7148, Greensboro, NC 27417)

- To add two new Master's level programs:  
*Master of Arts in Ministry*  
*Master of Arts in Strategic Christian Leadership*
- To rename the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) to Master of Arts (Biblical Studies).

**New Life Theological Seminary** (3117 Whiting Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205, PO Box 790106, Charlotte, NC 28206)

- To add Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies
- To add Associate of Arts Degree in Urban Christian Ministries

**Northland International University** (W10085 Pikes Plains Road, Dunbar, WI)

- To change doctoral program from DSM to D.Min

**Piedmont Baptist College & Graduate School** (420 South Broad Street, Winston-Salem, NC27101)

- To change Branch Campus in Bangladesh to a teaching site

**Southern California Seminary** (2075 East Madison Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92019)

- To add Marriage and Family Therapy to Behavioral Science Department
- To offer Master of Religious Studies and Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degrees at the Seville, Spain Branch Campus

## **WITHDRAWALS:**

1. Michigan Theological Seminary (41550 East Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48107)
2. Williamson Christian College (200 Seaboard Lane, Franklin, TN 37027)
3. Beacon University (6003 North Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909)

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** (All were presented to the Commission.)

### **Focus Visits** (Reports displayed in the Reading Room.)

1. Hiwassee College (225 Hiwassee College Drive, Madisonville, TN 37354); September 15-17, 2009
2. Midwest University (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385); September 22-24, 2009

### **Mentoring Staff Visits** (Reports displayed in the Reading Room.)

1. Faith Theological Seminary Atlanta Branch Campus (3565 Greenview Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044); April 16-17, 2009
2. Barber-Scotia College (145 Cabarrus Avenue West, Concord, NC 28025); April 23-24, 2009
3. Carolina Evangelical Divinity School (2400 Old Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403; PO Box 7148, Greensboro, NC 27417); May 6, 2009
4. Bakke Graduate University(1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 401, Seattle, WA 98104); May 11-12, 2009
5. World Pacific University (241 San Vicente Drive, Barigada, Guam 96913); May 21, 2009.
6. Mars Hill Graduate School (2501 Elliot Avenue, Seattle, WA); July 25, 2009
7. United Christian College (506 Gulley Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530); July 27, 2009
8. Grace School of Theology (10200 Grogan's Mill Road, #340, The Woodlands, TX 77380); September 29, 2009
9. Paul Quinn College (3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas, TX); September 30, 2009
10. Piedmont Baptist College & Graduate School (420 South Broad Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101); September 29-30, 2009
11. International Baptist College (2211 W. German Road, Chandler, AZ 85286); October 22-23, 2009
12. Zoe University (6504 Arlington Road, Jacksonville, FL 32211); October 22-23, 2009
13. Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary(10830 Navajo Drive, Saint Petersburg, FL 33708); October 23, 2009

### **Institutional Staff Meetings** (held at the TRACS Office) (Information only)

1. Hiwassee College (225 Hiwassee College Drive, Madisonville, TN 37354); June 3, 2009
2. Midwest University (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385); June 8, 2009
3. Patrick Henry College (One Patrick Henry Circle, Purcellville, VA 20132); June 15, 2009
4. Carolina Evangelical Divinity School (2400 Old Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403; PO Box 7148, Greensboro, NC 27417); June 16, 2009
5. Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Virginia Beach (2221 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23464); June 18, 2009
6. Harvest Bible College (P.O. Box 23189, Barrogada, GUAM 96921); July 14, 2009
7. Paul Quinn College (3837 Simpson Stuart Road, Dallas, TX); July 15, 2009
8. Beacon University(6003 North Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909); July 31, 2009
9. Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary (10830 Navajo Drive, Saint Petersburg, FL 33708); August 3, 2009

10. Midwest University (851 Parr Road, Wentzville, MO 63385) ; August 6, 2009
11. Bakke Graduate University(1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 401, Seattle, WA 98104); August 7, 2009
12. Virginia University of Lynchburg (2058 Garfield Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501); August 20, 2009
13. California Central University(520 S. LaFayette Park Pl. #103, Los Angeles, CA 90057; September 22, 2009
14. Detroit Theological Seminary (481 Allen Road, Allen Park, MI 48101-2913); September 22, 2009
15. Bethany College of Missions (6820 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN 55438); October 2, 2009