



February 15, 2008

William McKinney
Pacific School of Religion
1798 Scenic Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94709

Dear Dr. McKinney:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in January 2008 and included on its agenda the report of the joint comprehensive evaluation committee. The Board also reviewed the institution's self-study. After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and Procedures, the Board voted:

1. To receive the report of the joint Commission/WASC comprehensive evaluation committee that conducted the Capacity and Preparatory Review of the Pacific School of Religion.
2. To extend the current grant of accreditation of Pacific School of Religion through June 2009 in order to be able to take into account the recommendations of the joint Commission/WASC comprehensive evaluation committee conducting the Educational Effectiveness Review.

The Board concurs with the recommendations to the WASC Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities:

1. **Fiscal Management.** PSR must make dramatic improvements in its financial position: reviewing the overall cost structure including employee benefits with an eye toward the elimination of deficits, decreasing the high draw rate from the endowment funds to a more prudent level, recognizing the importance of incorporating all known expenses in the annual budget (including depreciation), addressing the conditions of an aging physical plant on a systematic basis, and arranging for consultant services aimed at monitoring investments and making recommendations relative to appropriate draws and fund management (WASC 3.5, 4.1-4.3; ATS Commission Standard 9, section 9.2).
2. **Strategic Planning.** PSR must review and more clearly establish the vital connections between strategic planning, action plans, and budgeting (WASC 4.1-4.3; ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2).
3. **Assessment of Student Learning.** PSR must develop a thoughtful and formal plan for the assessment of student learning, including the need and potential use for the data collected, the coordination of data sources, the relevance of information collected to specified and measurable learning outcomes, and feedback loops that demonstrate improvement in those accomplishments (WASC 4.4-4.6; ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2.2).

In a separate action, the Board considered the report of the focused evaluation committee. After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and Procedures, the Board voted:

4. To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee authorized at its June 2007 meeting.
5. To grant approval to American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW), Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), and the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) to offer ongoing courses at the Northwest Consortium extension site for as much as two thirds of the MDiv degree program.

6. To require a report from each of the four participating GTU schools (ABSW, CDSP, PLTS, and PSR) by April 1, 2009, showing how the assessment program of the school takes account of the learning outcomes assessment of the Northwest Consortium.

As Secretary to the Board, I would be glad to respond to your inquiries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeremiah J. McCarthy".

Jeremiah J. McCarthy, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

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CC: Western Association of Schools and Colleges