

## TRACS Fall Accreditation Commission Meeting

The Fall Meeting of the Accreditation Commission of Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools was conducted November 4-5, 2003 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Action taken by the Commission is as follows:

1. *The following institutions were **granted initial reaffirmation of accreditation** by the Accreditation Commission after the institutions completed successful self-studies and hosted on-site evaluation team visits. A five-year outcomes based Status Report is due by May 1, 2008.*
  - **California Christian College, Fresno, California**, as a **Category II** institution (bachelors degree granting).
  - **Heritage Bible College, Dunn, North Carolina**, as a **Category II** institution (bachelors degree granting).
  - **Messenger College, Joplin, Missouri**, as a **Category II** institution (bachelors degree granting).
  - **Northwest Baptist Seminary, Tacoma, Washington**, as a **Category III** granting institution (masters degree granting).
  
2. *The following institution was **deferred reaffirmation of accreditation** by the Accreditation Commission and the institution was continued on accreditation:*
  - **Michigan Theological Seminary, Plymouth, Michigan**, a **Category IV** institution (masters and doctors degree granting) was deferred reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission until its April 6-7, 2004 meeting to allow for the following:
    - 1) To submit a qualified financial audit (Standard 18.13).
    - 2) To develop a policies and procedures manual for networking among the financial aid office, business office, registrar's office and the academic office (Standard 20.5).

It is noted that the preliminary approval for the proposed undergraduate program remains in force through the April 2004 Commission meeting.

*(Transnational Association of Christian Colleges & Schools - Continued)*

3. *The following institution was **granted initial accreditation** by the Accreditation Commission after the institution completed a successful self-study and hosted an on site evaluation team visit:*
  - **Saint Petersburg Theological Seminary, Saint Petersburg, Florida**, as a **Category IV** (bachelors, masters, doctorate degree granting) institution for a period of five years, with a self-study, on-site team evaluation visit and review by the Accreditation Commission within five years.
  
4. *The following institution was **deferred initial accreditation** by the Accreditation Commission after the institution completed a self-study and hosted an on-site evaluation team visit:*
  - **Midwest Theological Seminary, Wentzville, Missouri**, as a **Category III** institution (master's degree granting) was **deferred initial accreditation** by the Accreditation Commission and continued in Candidacy to allow the institution to respond to the following:
    - 1) Financial audit and management letter (Standard 18.13).
    - 2) Further library volume development (Standard 25.2)
    - 3) Continue to develop a process for evaluating rigor for courses in both on and off-campus programs. (Standards 10.2, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7)
    - 4) Show that off-campus courses are comparable in rigor to on-campus courses (Standard 12.1b, 121e).
    - 5) IER #5, Biblical Foundations Statement, and IER #6, level and quality of educational programs.
    - 6) Completion of the 55 Recommendations of the visiting team and the four conditions cited by the Associate Executive Director in his Staff Visit Report of August 29, 2003.
  
5. *The following institutions were **granted initial candidacy** by the Accreditation Commission after the institutions completed successful self-studies and hosted on-site evaluation team visits:*
  - **New Life Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina**, as a **Category III** (bachelors, masters degree granting) institution for a period of five years, with a self study, on-site team evaluation visit and Accreditation Commission review within five years.
  
  - **Oxford Graduate School, Dayton, Tennessee**, as a **Category IV** (masters, doctorate degree granting) institution for a period of five years, with a self-study, on-site team evaluation visit, and Accreditation Commission review within five years.

*(Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools – continued)*

6. *The Accreditation Commission, after a successful self-study and on-site focus team visit for final approval of programs, **continued the accreditation of the following institution to include the following programs:***
  - **Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, as a Category IV** institution (associate, bachelors, masters, doctorate degree granting institution) for review of the **Master of Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Education (Ed.D).**
7. *The Accreditation Commission voted to stay the effect of its decision of April 9, 2003, to **deny reaffirmation of accreditation to American Christian College and Seminary** (associate, bachelors, masters, doctorate degree granting institution) and to **continue its accreditation until the April 6-7, 2004 meeting**, requiring that American Christian College and Seminary host an on-site evaluation team visit in late January 2004 demonstrating that the institution is in substantive compliance with all Standards and Criteria. The Accreditation Commission will then reconsider the Visiting Team Report and all relevant information available for a final decision.*
8. *The Accreditation Commission **granted approval** to the following accredited institutions to **initiate substantive changes** at the same Category (level):*
  - **Beacon College and Graduate School, Columbus, Georgia, a Category III** institution (bachelors, masters degree granting)
    - 1) To offer extension classes at the Destiny World Outreach Center, Pensacola, Florida, and the Door of Hope Church, Fairbanks, Alaska.
    - 2) To offer non-degree/non-transferable certificate courses through the Beacon Global School of Ministry

The Commission deferred the institution's proposed name change to Beacon University while staff studies the issue as it relates to Standard 2.7 (The name of the institution must be appropriate).

- **Beulah Heights Bible College, Atlanta, Georgia, a Category II** institution (bachelors degree granting):

To change its Urban Ministries degree to the Urban and Global Economic Development degree.

- **Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, Washington, a Category III** institution (masters degree granting):

To offer the Master of Theological Studies with two concentrations, and the Master of Christian Ministry with two concentrations instead of the former six concentrations.

*(Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools – continued)*

(Substantive Changes – Continued)

- **Shasta Bible College and Graduate School, Redding, California, a Category III institution (bachelors, masters degree granting):**

To offer the Master of Arts degrees in Counseling and in Christian Family Life Education.

- **Southern California Bible College and Seminary, El Cajon, California, a Category III institution (bachelors, masters degree granting):**

To offer off-campus extension courses to Koreatown, Los Angeles.

- **Williamson Christian College, Franklin, Tennessee, a Category II institution (bachelors degree granting):**

To offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Music and Worship Leadership.

9. *The Accreditation Commission placed the following institution on **Show Cause** until its April 2004 meeting for the reasons noted:*

- **Spurgeon Baptist Bible College, a Category II institution (bachelors degree granting):**
- IER #1 – Faculty sufficient in number to support the educational programs offered by the institution.
- IER #11 – Students enrolled in and pursuing degrees. Current enrollment does not support current programs.
- IER #12 – A master plan (strategic plan) that addresses financial, physical, and educational areas of the restructured institution, especially the increased debt load and three-years' deficits. The plan must project for the facility sale and move, plus any restructuring costs involved and plans for continuance of the institution. The plan must include an assessment mechanism for demonstrating the accomplishment.
- IER #14 – Adequate financial base that demonstrates the institution's ability to carry on its stated purposes

10. *The Accreditation Commission **accepted the business plan of Piedmont Baptist College, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a Category III institution (bachelors, masters degree granting) for the final approval of its Bangladesh Campus.***