

January 30, 2017

Dr. Jeffrey Carter
President
Bethany Theological Seminary
615 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374

Dear President Carter:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning Bethany Theological Seminary by the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission at its meeting on January 24, 2017. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with HLC.

Action with Interim Monitoring. IAC continued the accreditation of Bethany Theological Seminary with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2026-27. In conjunction with this action, IAC required the following interim monitoring.

Interim Report. An Interim Report due 06/16/2017 on detailed plan for program review; and an updated Assessment Plan that includes consideration of findings for program changes and improvement which includes all programs of study.

Interim Report. An Interim Report due 12/1/2017 on completed strategic plan which contains measurable goals and assigned responsibilities including a focus on enrollment and retention, increased gift revenue, and support for technology in academic programs.

Action. IAC did not concur with the Quality Initiative Panel's findings and confirmed genuine effort on the part of the institution.

Rationale: In the Criteria for Accreditation evaluation, the quality initiative was mentioned positively. The team's own language from the Quality Initiative Report Panel recommendation indicates support for genuine effort: "There was clear planning and forethought on behalf of the administration in consideration of a Quality Initiative project which involved the engagement of a consultant to review the technological infrastructure. At the time of the HLC review of the QIR, the external consultant's report had just been made available to the institution. As such, there was no time for follow-up actions by the institution."

While IAC understands that there was not follow-up action to the report at the time of the review, IAC does view the engagement of the consultant, the investment of \$6000 and the time and expertise of the institution's staff as evidence of genuine effort. It is expected that the institution will implement appropriate follow-up steps as appropriate to its Quality Initiative.

In two weeks, this action will be added to the *Institutional Status and Requirements (ISR) Report*, a resource for Accreditation Liaison Officers to review and manage information regarding the institution's accreditation relationship. Accreditation Liaison Officers may request the ISR Report on HLC's website at <http://www.hlcommission.org/isr-request>.

Information on notifying the public of this action is available at <http://www.hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/institutional-reporting-of-actions.html>.

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If you have any questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact the institution's staff liaison Mary Vanis. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

CC: ALO