

November 11, 2025

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Dr. John Bowling
Interim President
Nazarene Bible College
2020 N Academy Blvd., Suite 316
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Dear President Bowling:

This letter is formal notification of action taken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Board of Trustees (“the Board”) concerning Nazarene Bible College (“the Institution”). This action is effective as of the date the Board acted, November 6, 2025. In taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent focused visit, including, but not limited to: the focused visit report the Institution submitted, the report from the focused visit team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

Summary of the Action: The Institution has been placed on Probation because it is out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. The Institution does not meet Core Components 5.B and 5.C. The Institution is required to host a comprehensive evaluation for Probation no later than May 2027 to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings that led to the imposition of the sanction.

Institutional Disclosure Obligation: HLC policy¹ requires that an institution inform its constituencies, including Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and any other constituencies about the sanction and how to contact HLC for further information. The policy also requires that an institution on sanction disclose this status whenever it refers to its HLC accreditation. HLC will monitor these disclosures to ensure they are accurate and in keeping with HLC policy. The Institution must submit drafts of its planned disclosures to these various audiences to its HLC Staff Liaison in advance of transmission and provide its Staff Liaison with a link to relevant information on its website. At a minimum, an institution must: i) provide a copy of this Action Letter to its governing board, administration, and faculty, ii) provide a copy of the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice to its currently enrolled students, and iii) prominently display the Mark of Accreditation Status where accreditation status is described on its website. Once disclosures have been made, the Institution must submit copies of its disclosure documents as a single .pdf file to <https://www.hlcommission.org/sign-in/submit-documents-to-hlc/> (by selecting “Information about Institutional Disclosures”) no later than seven (7) business

¹ INST.E.20.010, Probation.

days following receipt of this Action Letter. HLC will retain this information as part of the Institution's record.

Provisional Plan: HLC policy also requires that the Institution file a provisional plan with HLC for review and approval by the Institutional Actions Council according to HLC's substantive change procedures. This provisional plan must comport with HLC's requirements for provisional plans.² The Institution must submit its provisional plan within 90 calendar days of this letter.

Substantive Change: HLC policy³ states that while an institution may file one or more applications for substantive change during the probationary period, such applications will be subject to strict scrutiny and are likely to be denied or deferred until after the probationary period. HLC policy also requires that an institution placed on Probation be subject to additional requirements for substantive change during the probationary period and for three (3) years following the removal of Probation.⁴

Notification Program: HLC policy⁵ states that an institution placed on Probation is ineligible for the Notification Program for Additional Locations for three (3) years following the removal of Probation, even if other requirements for the Notification Program are met.

Board Rationale

The Board based its action on the following findings made with regard to the Institution as well as the entire record before the Board:

Nazarene Bible College ("the Institution") does not meet Criterion Five, Core Component 5.B, "the institution's resource base supports its educational offerings and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future," for the following reasons:

- Although the Institution has recently benefitted financially from a combination of immediate and planned private gifts as well as increased funding from its church denomination, the ongoing nature of these funds are contingent upon the Institution's overall performance as indicated by reporting mechanisms that are not yet fully operationalized.
- Although the Institution has made recent gains in addressing its fiscal situation, implementing its new budgeting model will be critical while the Institution undergoes a planned presidential transition and the arrival of its inaugural director of development, all of which are central to the Institution's plans for fiscal sustainability.

The Institution does not meet Criterion Five, Core Component 5.C, "the institution engages in systematic and integrated planning and improvement," for the following reasons:

- The Institution's strategic planning does not sufficiently consider the long-term sustainability of its degree-granting programs.

² FDCR.B.10.010, HLC Approval of Institutional Teach-Out Arrangements.

³ INST.E.20.010, Probation.

⁴ INST.G.10.010, Substantive Change.

⁵ INST.E.20.010, Probation.

- The Institution has not demonstrated a pattern of planning and budgeting that anticipates its current situation, including fluctuations in the Institution's sources of revenue and enrollment.

Next Steps in the HLC Review Process

Assurance Filing: The Board required that the Institution submit an Assurance Filing at least eight weeks prior to the comprehensive evaluation for Probation providing evidence that the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance identified in this action that resulted in the imposition of Probation, and providing evidence that the Institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance Requirements.⁶

Comprehensive Evaluation: The Institution will host a comprehensive evaluation for Probation no later than May 2027 to enable a team of peer reviewers to determine whether the Institution has ameliorated the findings of noncompliance that led to the imposition of Probation and whether the Institution otherwise meets the Criteria for Accreditation, and to make a recommendation about whether the Board should remove Probation or take other action.

Board Review: The Board will review the documents associated with the comprehensive evaluation for Probation at its November 2027 meeting to determine whether Probation shall be removed, or if the Institution has not provided sufficient evidence of amelioration as noted above, whether other action should be taken, up to and including withdrawal of accreditation.

HLC Disclosure Obligations

The Board action resulted in changes that will be reflected in the Institution's Statement of Accreditation Status as well as the Institutional Status and Requirements Report. The Statement of Accreditation Status, including the dates of the last and next comprehensive evaluation visits, will be posted to the HLC website.

In accordance with HLC policy,⁷ information about this action is provided to members of the public and to other constituents in several ways. This Action Letter and the enclosed Public Disclosure Notice will be posted to HLC's website not more than one business day after this letter is sent to the Institution. Additionally, a summary of Board actions will be sent to appropriate state and federal agencies and accrediting associations. This summary also will be published on HLC's website. The summary will include this HLC action regarding the Institution.

⁶ Please note: Revisions to HLC's Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices went into effect on September 1, 2025. Institutions will be evaluated against these revised HLC requirements for all reviews conducted after that date, including reviews related to previously assigned monitoring. Institutional reports submitted on or after September 1, 2025, or institutional reports or Assurance Arguments for visits that will take place on or after September 1, 2025, should be written to the revised version of the Criteria or Assumed Practices as applicable. More information, including a crosswalk between the previous and revised versions of the Criteria, is available on HLC's website at <https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/criteria/>.

⁷ COMM.A.10.010, Notice of Accreditation Actions, HLC Public Notices and Public Statements

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your HLC Staff Liaison, Dr. Andrew Lootens-White.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Gellman-Danley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Gellman-Danley
President

Enc: Public Disclosure Notice

Cc: Chair of the Board of Trustees, Nazarene Bible College
Alan Lyke, Provost, Nazarene Bible College
Evaluation Team Chair
IAC Hearing Committee Chair
Andrew Lootens-White, Vice President of Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning
Commission
Marla Morgen, Vice President and General Counsel, Higher Learning Commission
Angie Paccione, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education
Elizabeth Daggett, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education,
U.S. Department of Education