



February 7, 2020

Rosemary McNatt
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Dear President McNatt,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 30-31, 2020, and included on its agenda Starr King School for the Ministry's recent comprehensive visit and the resulting report by the evaluation committee.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission Standards and *Procedures*, the Board voted:

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Starr King School for the Ministry for a period of five years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2024, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2025.
Rationale if less than maximum period: The school's financial fragility and inconclusive strategic planning makes a shorter period of accreditation necessary.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Social Change (Professional MA)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes
5. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing these distinctive strengths:
 - a. The institution's missional integrity, as lived out in their Education to Counter Oppression (ECO).
 - b. The strategic initiative in fundraising, particularly increasing the number of donors, the development of multiple giving opportunities and the expansion of relationships.
 - c. The school's capacity to make space in the educational community for diverse religious perspectives that link contextualized human experience, social justice and spiritual practice.
6. To encourage that attention be given to the following areas of needed growth during the next period of accreditation, with each area linked to a specific Standard:
 - a. Focused attention to the governing board's infrastructure, particularly the timely reporting of board minutes, and processes of accountability and decision making that provide effective protocols for institutional governance (Standard 7, section 7.1.3.10).
 - b. Increased attention to the appropriate care and security of the rare book collection and to providing digitized accessibility of these unique resources, mindful of the existing collaborative relationship between with the GTU library and the school (Standard 4, sections 4.5.4 and 4.5.6).
 - c. Clarity in the expectation of faculty to engage in research; the provision of structured opportunities for faculty to achieve these expectations; and the workload in teaching, advising, and administration that permits adequate attention to scholarly pursuits (Standard 5, sections 5.1.8, 5.4.1, and 5.4.2).
 - d. Inclusion in the institutional assessment plan of a schedule for comprehensive evaluations that more readily inform educational programming and effectiveness (Educational Standard, section ES.6.2.4).

7. To require the following reports addressing areas of needed improvement, with each action below linked to one or more specific Standards:
 - a. To require a report by April 1, 2020, regarding a system of timely budgetary reports of revenues and expenditures to those persons with oversight responsibilities (Standard 8, section 8.2.2.5).
 - b. To require a report by October 1, 2020, regarding faculty advising of students that addresses the sustainability of current practices: including course selection, intensive vocational discernment, mental health support, and spiritual direction. The report should include a sustainable advising method detailing necessary financial support (Standard 5, section 5.3.3).

Actions taken during the 2020 winter meeting of the Board of Commissioners are effective as of **January 31, 2020**.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Elsie Miranda
Director of Accreditation

/cmt

cc: glettini@sksm.edu