



February 23, 2012

Alan Hayes
Toronto School of Theology
47 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
Canada

Dear Dr. Hayes:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in February 2012 and included on its agenda the report of the 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 reaffirm accreditation of Toronto School of Theology for a period of ten years (fall 2021).
2. To recognize the following degree programs offered by the Toronto School of Theology member colleges:

Awarded conjointly with the University of Toronto:

- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Religious Education (MRE)
- Master of Religion (MRel)
- Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS)
- Master of Arts in Ministry and Spirituality (MA in Ministry and Spirituality)
- Master of Sacred Music (MSM)
- Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- Doctor of Theology (ThD)

Awarded by the University of St. Michael's College:

- Master of Arts (MA)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

[Note: TST does not confer degrees. All degrees are conferred by one or more TST member colleges, in many cases conjointly with the University of Toronto. See the listings of the individual TST member colleges for details.]

3. To approve the following extension site(s) and/or distance learning program(s): None
4. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing the following distinctive strengths:
 - a. Demonstrated collective goodwill among students, faculty, and administration in the midst of institutional diversities and the changing landscape in theological education.
 - b. Stable and predictable sources of income and prudent use of facilities.
 - c. Continued development of exceptional library resources.

d. Opportunities for students and faculty afforded by the unique relationship with the University of Toronto and the constituent colleges.

5. To take actions regarding the following areas of needed improvement:

a. To require a report, by September 1, 2013, regarding the relationships between the TST member colleges and the TST. Particular attention should be paid to the following:

(1) How faculty work is adjudicated between the school where a faculty member is located and his or her responsibilities to TST.

(2) This consideration of the division of labor should also include an assessment of how, when, and to whom courses common to the various degree programs and schools are offered.

(3) A similar form of common conversation and procedures could and should be applied to areas of the curriculum where there are gaps in the offerings and faculty positions.

b. To require a report by May 1, 2014, to show cause why notation N4.10, *"The school is unable to demonstrate the extent to which students have met the educational goals of the program, or the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students or religious communities,"* should not be imposed. The report should provide ongoing, sustainable, comprehensive, and systematic assessment of programmatic student learning outcomes for each advanced degree program. While the school demonstrates progress in developing measurable assessment procedures, it should (1) revise as needed the student learning outcomes for each degree; (2) clarify and enrich the assessment tools used to measure outcomes for each degree, including criteria for measuring success (rubrics and other means); (3) provide an analysis of assessment findings achieved through direct (performance-based) and indirect (perception-based) measures for each degree; and (4) demonstrate how the analysis shaped appropriate changes in each degree program. This programmatic assessment (in contrast to individual course assessment) should reflect broad-based faculty participation (ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2.2; Standard 6, section 6.3.1; and section 5 of ATS Commission Standards F, K, and L).

c. To require a report by May 1, 2014, regarding a comprehensive institutional evaluation process that informs and shapes ongoing strategic planning, budgeting, forecasting, and decision making. The report should include how the strategic plan is implemented into the operations and how data and evidence shape decision making (ATS Commission Standard 1, section 1.2; and Standard 8, section 8.3.1.5).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tisa Lewis, Director
Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation