



TO: Concordia University Stakeholders

FROM: Dr. Donald Christian, President & CEO, Concordia University Texas

SUBJECT: Concordia University Texas Seeks Next Steps with LCMS

DATE: August 30, 2023

On August 8, 2023, the Board of Regents (BOR) at Concordia University Texas received a formal letter from The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) Board of Directors (BOD) proposing a meeting between the Concordia Texas BOR and the LCMS BOD. In a special meeting on August 24, the Concordia Texas Board of Regents met to craft a response, expressing a desire for a joint meeting to address three key objectives: clarifying the University's governance structure, creating a joint ministry vision, and fostering spiritual reconciliation. An official response has now been sent to the LCMS BOD, asking that a trained facilitator lead the meeting and include those most knowledgeable and best able to address the situation.

The Board's next steps involve coordinating a suitable meeting time and working collaboratively with the LCMS BOD to design an agenda. The primary outcome of this meeting will be to understand what is necessary to begin formulating a proposal outlining the potential trajectory of any ongoing relationship. We recognize that while this process may present challenges, our commitment to preserving the University's Lutheran identity remains firm. We believe this dedication will pave the way for innovative approaches to further contribute to LCMS ministries.

As we begin the 2023-24 academic year, our new student population has increased by 20% compared to last year. Our chapel services have been standing-room only, where students, faculty, and staff heard messages focused on the Concordia Texas 2023-24 campus-wide theme, "ENOUGH," derived from 2 Corinthians 12:9, emphasizing the sufficiency of God's grace during challenges. We are experiencing a marked increase in student engagement with Campus Ministry, led by a ministry team that includes a number of students from LCMS congregations across the country. This growth further strengthens our commitment to creating an environment where all students will encounter Christ and explore their faith identity. We remain dedicated to providing quality education within a Christ-centered, caring community.

For more information about Concordia University Texas' Lutheran identity and our ongoing discussions with the LCMS, visit www.concordia.edu/lutheranidentity. We will continue to provide updates throughout the process.

Office of the President

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