



TO: Concordia University Stakeholders

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

SUBJECT: Concordia University Texas Response to LCMS Lawsuit

DATE: September 5, 2023

On Sept. 1, 2023, Concordia University Texas (CTX) learned that The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, against our University, Board Chair Chris Bannwolf and myself as CTX president. This development is especially disappointing given our request for and willingness to engage in honest conversation about our Board of Regents’ (BOR) decision for self-governance and any ongoing relationship with the LCMS.

In our last communication with the LCMS Board of Directors (BOD) on Aug. 30, our BOR sent an official response agreeing to meet, but with modified arrangements including the request that the meeting be professionally facilitated and include those most knowledgeable and best able to address the situation. We were looking forward to continuing the conversation with the LCMS BOD, and expressed an openness to collaborate.

Since we began the conversation with the LCMS in February of 2022, we have been transparent throughout our discussions with the LCMS and have remained committed to finding a way forward. Even as the BOR remains the sole governing body of the University, we continue to be aligned with the Confession of the Church and committed to the theology, history, and practice of the LCMS. This commitment shapes every facet of our campus life, from our academic curriculum to our mission and ministry.

We humbly ask for your prayers as we navigate the coming weeks and months and continue to do the work that God has called us to—serving and providing students with the opportunity to pursue higher education in a Christ-centered environment. For more information on the University’s commitment to its Lutheran identity and a timeline of the governance change, as well as our discussions with the LCMS, visit the [University’s Lutheran Identity page](#).

