



MEMO

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023
TO: Friends and Constituents of Concordia University Texas
FROM: Dr. Donald Christian, President & CEO
RE: Concordia University Texas Governance

On Friday, February 10, the Concordia University Texas Board of Regents met at its regularly scheduled Board meeting to consider a request from the LCMS Board of Directors to return to the previous governance structure directed by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). After much deliberation, the Board chose not to act at this time and instead asked the LCMS Board of Directors for further discussion before considering the Synod Board’s request. The University’s Board remains the sole governing body of the institution.

Earlier in January, our Board met with representatives from the Concordia University System and the LCMS to hear their concerns and discuss any possible actions moving forward. Friday’s request for further conversation reflects the Concordia Board’s commitment to ongoing dialogue and finding the best way forward for the University and the students and communities it serves.

We remain devoted to our alignment with LCMS congregations, schools, and organizations and our history of providing Lutheran higher education. In many ways, we are strengthening this commitment and our calling to be a part of the mission of the church at large. The Board has adopted guiding principles for the University that formalize the demonstration of our LCMS identity. These principles state the following:

- The University will subscribe to the Confession of the LCMS as currently outlined in Article II of the LCMS Constitution.
- All Board members will be active members of LCMS congregations,
- The Board will reserve two seats for representation from the LCMS and the Texas District of the LCMS.
- The Board will conduct an annual review and assessment of the institution’s Lutheran identity.
- All called workers will continue to be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the Texas District President.

We encourage you to review this information on the Lutheran Identity page of our website to learn more about our enduring commitment to the mission and ministry of the LCMS, its congregations, and its people.

Regarding the Board’s decision of November 8, it is essential to know that they did not come to this governance decision hastily. For more than a year, the Board had engaged in deep analysis, deliberate conversations, and steadfast prayer about the University’s governance structure. These intentional discussions centered on ensuring Concordia University Texas can continue fulfilling its mission to

provide students of all backgrounds with high-quality, Christ-centered higher education that prepares them for meaningful work.

We understand that our new governance model may mean we no longer have access to certain benefits enjoyed as a member of the Concordia University System. The University has set in place plans to navigate any disruptions that might occur. The University has a well-developed strategy along with strong financial resources. Concordia University Texas is committed to living out its historic mission of preparing graduates for service in the churches and schools of the LCMS, together with its current mission of empowering students of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership.

If you have any questions, please know that our provost, Dr. Kristi Kirk, and I are available to answer them as best we can. You can also share your questions by completing a [brief survey](#). The survey allows us to learn what information we can share that would be most meaningful for you. We are thankful for your prayers and ask you to continue to pray for God's blessings, provision, and guidance for the University, the Church, our students, and our community.

To learn more about the history of the governance change and for ongoing updates, visit the Lutheran Identity page of our website, concordia.edu/lutheranidentity.