



UNIVERSITY SENATE

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 7, 2021

Dr. Jeffrey F. Bullock, President
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
2000 University Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001

Sent via email: president@dbq.edu

Dear President Bullock:

As part of our continuing ministry in the education of our ordained clergy, The United Methodist Church seeks partnership with theological schools of other denominations and ecumenical seminaries. On behalf of the church, the University Senate reviews theological schools to be approved for the education of persons preparing for United Methodist ordination. Candidates for ordination must do their seminary work at an institution approved by the University Senate. The Commission on Theological Education carries out the review. Following the review, the Commission makes recommendation to the full Senate. All non-United Methodist approved theological schools are reviewed each quadrennium.

In undertaking this quadrennial review, the Commission on Theological Education is interested in compatibility with the document “A Wesleyan Vision for Theological Education and Leadership Formation for the 21st Century”, freedom of academic inquiry, opportunities for growth in the United Methodist tradition, compatibility with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, racial and gender inclusiveness of faculty, staff and student body, and academic quality. Of course, accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools and a regional accrediting agency is presupposed. A full description of the criteria will be sent to you electronically. Please note that the criteria for evaluating both United Methodist and non-United Methodist schools of theology states: “In reviewing individual schools, due consideration will be given to the availability of theological education through United Methodist seminaries and other approved institutions in the region in order to provide for the [most] appropriate training of United Methodist students for fulfilling the mission of The United Methodist Church. Preference for approval of non-United Methodist schools will be given to schools of other denominations having ecumenical agreements with The United Methodist Church.”

In 2022, **University of Dubuque Theological Seminary** will once again be extended the opportunity to be reviewed for the current quadrennium. Materials related to the review that are listed below as enclosures will be sent to you electronically. Please be as specific as possible, sharing with us supplementary descriptions of programs, policies, and curricular structures you deem appropriate. In addition, please comment on any notations and recommendations of your institution’s most recent Association of Theological Schools accreditation and regional accrediting agency.

If your institution operates approved extension centers, certification of these centers requires independent action by the Commission on Theological Education. (Please see the information on

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approved extension centers in the criteria.) If you desire to have an extension center reviewed, duplicate the enclosed "Data Report Form", complete it, and submit it with your review materials.

Please submit the following materials from your institution to the Senate electronically via this [Dropbox link](#) by **December 1, 2021**:

- A copy of the charter and bylaws;
- The most recent catalog and selected admissions material;
- The most recent institutional self-study;
- The report of the visiting committees of the regional accrediting agency and of the Association of Theological Schools;
- The institutional response to reports from the regional accrediting agency and the Association of Theological Schools;
- Action letters of the regional accrediting agency and of the Association of Theological Schools and any subsequent reports required;
- The financial audits and management letters from the **three** most recent years;
- Copies of the institutional affirmative action plan and/or other relevant policies, plans, and practices;
- A written report regarding ways the institution demonstrates its church relatedness;
- The completed document "Data Report Form" enclosed;
- The course title, number, description, requirements, and the amount of academic credit offered for courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity;
- An outline with a list of topics to be covered for courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity;
- A bibliography of required and supplementary reading material for courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity;
- Vitae of instructors teaching courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity

If your institution does not wish to seek approval of the University Senate for the training of United Methodist candidates for ordination, please indicate this desire to the senate electronically to Mrs. Jean Kohler (jkohler@gbhem.org).

We welcome inquiries concerning the work of the Commission on Theological Education and appreciate your assistance in this review process.

Sincerely,



Greg Bergquist
General Secretary, GBHEM
Acting Executive Secretary, University Senate

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Electronic Enclosures:

A Wesleyan Vision for Theological Education & Leadership Formation in the 21st Century
Data Report Form
Appendix A: Working Rules of the Commission on Theological Education
Appendix B: Criteria for Evaluating United Methodist and Non-United Methodist Schools of
Theology
Standards for United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity courses
2016 United Methodist Social Principles

Cc: Bishop Laurie Haller
The Rev. Chad Jennings
Ms. Lisa Steel
The Rev. Shannon Conklin-Miller