

May 11, 2026

Dr. Kyong Hwan Ko, President
Bethesda University
730 North Euclid Street
Anaheim, CA 92801
[REDACTED]

Dear President Ko:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This letter is your official notification of ABHE Commission on Accreditation actions relative to Bethesda University. The ABHE Commission on Accreditation reviewed your institution at its February 11, 2026 meeting and took the following action:

Defer action on reaffirmation, place the institution on probation, and continue programmatic accreditation of the following programs of Bethesda University (CA) for one year

- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Biblical Studies)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Christian Education)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Missions)
- Bachelor of Arts - Religion (Pastoral Ministry)
- Master of Arts - Biblical Studies
- Master of Divinity
- Doctor of Ministry

in light of the Commission on Accreditation's judgment that the institution fails to comply with the ABHE Programmatic Accreditation Standards noted below. Require a progress report due May 15, 2026, including a detailed financial recovery plan with revenue and expense projections for the next three years and addressing the following areas of non-compliance:

- Programmatic Standard 1: EE 2 (Demonstrated fulfillment of applicable Commission requirements as demonstrated by timely communication, including submission of required Progress Reports by due dates)
- Programmatic Standard 5: EE 2 (Demonstrate with evidence adequate resources, including financial resources, to support institutional mission, achieve intended program outcomes, and ensure continuity of offerings in light of low cash reserves and operating deficits)
- Programmatic Condition of Eligibility 11: Student Body (Demonstrate with evidence sustained and viable enrollment in accredited programs)

Require a subsequent progress report, due November 15, 2026, addressing the following concerns:

- **Programmatic Standard 2: EE 4 (Demonstrate with evidence outcomes data for all accredited programs, disaggregated in missionally relevant ways, with particular attention to clear reporting)**
- **Programmatic Standard 2: EE 5 (Demonstrate with evidence the ongoing provision of reliable and current information to the public for all accredited programs, including graduation and retention rates, employment rates for professional programs, and licensure pass rates for programs where licensure is expected, with particular attention given to each program approved by ABHE)**
- **Programmatic Standard 6: EE 1 (Demonstrate with evidence recruitment strategies that are directed toward students whose spiritual commitments, educational goals, and interests are consistent with the intended outcomes of the programs)**

Note: The Commission notes that the institution did not submit the required progress report, due December 15, 2025, on Standard 5: EE 2.

Probation is a negative, public action indicating that the Commission has determined that the institution no longer complies with one or more Programmatic Standards for Accreditation. Accredited programs retain accredited status with ABHE during a period of probation, and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by Commission staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the Commission must take adverse action and remove programmatic accreditation status. Where there is sufficient progress, the Commission may grant a one-year extension of programmatic accreditation status for “good cause” to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Programmatic Standards for Accreditation. An institution on probation for two years cannot be returned to warning.

Placement on probation is an appealable action, and such action is not final until the option of appeal is exhausted. Bethesda University appealed the February 11, 2026 COA action, and the appeal hearing was held on May 7, 2026. The Appeal Panel reviewed and considered documentation from the February COA meeting, appeal documentation supplied by the institution on March 18, 2026, and testimony from the May 7, 2026 appeal hearing.

The decision of the Appeal Panel was to uphold the COA action as stated above. In its ratification of the Appeal Panel action, the Commission on Accreditation adjusted the due date of the required Progress Report from May 15, 2026 to May 30, 2026. The effective date of the action to place Bethesda University (CA) on probation status is May 7, 2026. This is a final action.

ABHE provides notification of final actions to the United States Department of Education, state, and provincial postsecondary education offices, and recognized accrediting agencies at the same time as final notification is provided to the institution. Within 24 hours of notifying the institution, the final action and rationale for the action will be posted to the ABHE website and appear on the

Accreditation Profile in the institution's directory listing at <https://abhe-dir.weaveeducation.com/>. A link to this action letter will also be available on the ABHE website.

Within no more than seven (7) business days of this notice, the institution must publish notice of the action to its website where its statement of accredited status is published. The prescribed language for that notification is found below:

"The ABHE Commission on Accreditation has placed Bethesda University (CA) on probation for failure to comply with the following Programmatic Condition of Eligibility and Programmatic Accreditation Standards.

- Programmatic Standard 1: EE 2 (Demonstrated fulfillment of applicable Commission requirements as demonstrated by timely communication, including submission of required Progress Reports by due dates)
- Programmatic Standard 5: EE 2 (Demonstrate with evidence adequate resources, including financial resources, to support institutional mission, achieve intended program outcomes, and ensure continuity of offerings in light of low cash reserves and operating deficits)
- Programmatic Condition of Eligibility 11: Student Body (Demonstrate with evidence sustained and viable enrollment in accredited programs)

The institution retains programmatic accredited status with ABHE during this period of probation and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by Commission on Accreditation staff or evaluation teams. Should the institution fail to correct the identified deficiencies within two years, the Commission on Accreditation must take adverse action against the institution and remove its programmatic accreditation status. Where there is sufficient progress, the Commission on Accreditation may grant a one-year extension of programmatic accreditation status for 'good cause' to allow the institution to demonstrate substantial compliance with the Programmatic Standards for Accreditation."

In addition to the report indicated above, the institution will be expected to send representatives to meet with the Commission at its February 2027 meeting to respond to questions and provide updates on progress in addressing the concerns. At that time, the Commission will act to remove probation, continue probation, or impose another sanction, depending on the progress made in strengthening compliance with the ABHE Programmatic Condition of Eligibility and Programmatic Accreditation Standards. Please see the Report Guide at www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/ for assistance in formatting and submitting any reports required by the Commission.

A teach-out plan, approved by the COA Substantive Change Officer or the appropriate COA committee, is required for ABHE-accredited programs at institutions placed on probation. **The institution is required to submit a teach-out plan in accord with specifications in the *Policy on***

***Teach-Out Plans and Teach-Out Agreements* within 60 days of this notice informing it of probationary status.** A Teach-Out Plan template is attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Shane Wood, your Commission Staff Representative, with any questions that arise regarding this communication. May God continue to bless your service in biblical higher education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa L. Beatty".

Lisa L. Beatty, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Commission on Accreditation

cc: Dr. Soon Bum Heo, Board Chair, [REDACTED]
Dr. George Winney, Accreditation Liaison, [REDACTED]