

## THE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY LLC

### Accreditation Matters

#### **Biblical Foundation:**

*And the authorities said, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching, in the name of this man Jesus, behold now you have filled all of Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring the blood of Jesus upon us." But Peter and the Apostles answered and said, "We must serve God rather than men." (Acts 5: 28-29)*

*"And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)*

#### **TACI Approval:**

The Christian University LLC (TCU) is theologically accredited by Transworld Accrediting Commission International, a worldwide organization for Christian Theological accreditation with the goal of maintaining the highest educational standards for its' member institutions. TACI accreditation standards are maintained through ongoing evaluation, compliance and accountability.

TACI supports the Biblical principle of separation of Church and state; Mark.12:17; James 4:4; II Corinthians. 6:14. Remaining consistent with Biblical standards and not liberal or secular positions, TACI is a rapidly growing and respected network of approximately 200 schools on the cutting edge of Christ-centered, Biblical education.

TACI is an international membership association of over 200 Christian educational institutions. Members must pass a rigorous evaluation process, leading to theological accreditation for their educational programs in accord with Christian educational standards and institutional integrity through initial and ongoing evaluations. All TACI member institutions are enabled to demonstrate educational accountability to the Christian educational community. This accountability is demonstrated through documented evidence of compliance with IACEA standards of structure, governance, material resources, policies, faculty and curriculum. Further information concerning our process of evaluation leading to Christian educational accreditation may be obtained by visiting IACEA at: [www.traccomm.org](http://www.traccomm.org)

The following quote is taken from the web site of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). "There are accrediting organizations that may not be recognized but are not accreditation mills. For example, the accreditor may be seeking recognition, but the process is not complete. Or the accreditor does not meet the requirements of CHEA or USDE for reasons that do not relate to quality."

The following quote from the United States Department of Education. "It should be noted that some institutions have chosen not to participate in the federal student aid program and therefore do not have to be approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department. While these institutions do not appear on the Department's list, they may be legitimate schools.

This quote from the former executive director of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education), stated as follows: "There are hundreds of Bible Colleges and Seminaries in the United States and Canada that are offering good solid theological training, yet they are not accredited.

**But, will a degree from The Christian University LLC, be accepted by your Church or place of employment?**

While there certainly are some situations when only a degree from a government approved school can qualify one for certain positions and privileges, for the most part, you are judged and accepted based on how you present yourself, not solely by the image represented by the school from which you graduated. Example: Are you already in ministry? If so, when was the last time a member of your church asked you if you had a degree at all, much less if it was from a regionally accredited university, college or seminary?

Ministry and education: Your ministry avocation is one of those areas where God's will and plan is more important than anything else. In fact, for those already serving in ministry, a degree from a highly credible though governmentally unrecognized school may be the smartest choice. Especially when you can receive a quality online seminary education for a fraction of the expense associated with regionally accredited schools. We should not forget that, especially in the Christian tradition, academic freedom is considered a cornerstone of religious liberty. Of course, so is academic responsibility! Therefore, any program of study leading to a theological degree should be both Biblically sound, and academically honest. At TCU, you can be assured of such integrity with quality educational materials based soundly on Biblical principles.

However, if you are concerned whether your church or place of employment will accept you with a degree earned through a privately accredited school, that is not regionally accredited, then you should simply inquire concerning the same. Remember too, that even with degrees earned from regionally accredited schools; there could be restrictions on what kind of degree is recognized. Always inquire first, since in some cases, denominations and ministries may not accept degrees from secular schools, or schools not affiliated with a specific denomination or organization.

### **Educational Affiliations**

The Christian University LLC is a member in good standing with the following:

1. Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH)

2. Council of Private Colleges of America, Inc.
3. Apostolic Council for Educational Accountability

## **About Accreditation**

Throughout history there has always been some religious confusion, and there is some controversy over the subject of accreditation today. But to clarify the issue:

### **There is secular education and there is religious education.**

\*Secular schools seek secular accreditation, and sacred schools receive sacred accreditation - each by their own peers.

\*Religious institutions need no secular accreditation because they offer no secular degrees.

\*Secular accreditation associations in turn are recognized by governmental agencies. They trace their authority back up to the capitol of a country, like Washington, D.C.

\*Religious accrediting associations are recognized by the Church of Jesus Christ, which has no supreme central office on earth. Our authority is derived from Heaven.

\*Civil and religious interests are different and have separate realms of jurisdiction.

\*The state is not superior to the Church. The Church need not wait for approval from the secular world.

\*Civil agencies should not be dictating standards of Christian education, any more than a police officer should be directing the worship of God.

\*Theological Seminaries, Colleges and Universities should not be accredited by accrediting associations that are "recognized" by an agency of the federal government, because it is contrary to the Biblical principle of "Separation of Church and State", indicated by Christ when he said, "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." Mark 12:7.

\*What business does a Christian educator have, going to the world of unbelievers for recognition and acknowledgment as II Cor. 6:14 says, "Be not equally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?"

As a theologically accredited Biblical university, we are not required, by the U.S. Dept. of Education or any other agency, to have regional accreditation nor are we subject to

governmental or secular oversight. As such, our educational programs are not required to qualify our students for either governmental or secular certification. However, legally, our degrees are classified as theologically accredited and state authorized (North Carolina) as exempt, which fully qualifies all degrees from The Christian University LLC to be recorded professionally both on your resume and in personal employment records. You can be proud of the legitimacy of your Degrees from The Christian University LLC.

The Christian University LLC is duly registered in the States of New Jersey and North Carolina as a Limited Liability Corporation. We are registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and file our taxes according to Federal and State laws. Since we are considerate of, and obedient to, all of the laws set by our government, as a Christ centered biblical education ministry, our ultimate authority is God and as such we choose to remain free in our rights to teach degree programs based on the word of God as found in His Holy Bible. However, Because of our legal position based on the U.S. Constitution, NO outside agency has any authority over our educational content regarding our right to teach Bible based educational programs leading to the award of appropriate certificates and degrees.

In the United States, accreditation of universities and seminaries is a voluntary process with accreditation granted by private, non-governmental agencies. Governmental agencies never provide theological accreditation.

Additionally, there is no national standard for educational accreditation, and the educational world is currently re-examining criteria for accreditation, focusing less on institutional inputs and more on educational outcomes.

### **What the Department of Education Does Not Do**

#### **IMPORTANT:**

The United States Department of Education does NOT accredit any College, University, Seminary or any Education Program. Here is a quote from the U.S. Department of Education's Web Page: <http://www.ed.gov/about>

Under the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Nothing specific is said about education in the Constitution; therefore it falls outside federal authority.

In creating the Department of Education, Congress made clear its intention that the secretary of education and other Department officials be prohibited from exercising "any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution, school, or school system." The establishment of schools and colleges, the development of curricula, the setting of requirements for enrollment and graduation -- these are responsibilities handled by the

various states and communities, as well as by public and private organizations of all kinds, not by the U.S. Department of Education."

### **The Facts Concerning Regional Accreditation**

Our Regents Board has chosen not to apply for regional accreditation for all the following reasons:

- Regional Accreditation is a "Voluntary Process" that is not required of religious institutions.
- A regionally accredited degree is required for public school teachers in all states, and for some state and federal employment situations. It is our opinion, that the vast majority of ministry related employers do not require that a minister or religious worker have a degree from a regionally accredited school.
- Ministers and Religious workers do not need a degree from a regionally accredited school unless regional accreditation of the school is required by their Church Board or as a requirement of ordination by the particular religious denomination.
- Individuals in today's world have sufficient information resource to evaluate programs, schools and universities without depending on the "opinions" of accrediting associations.
- Regional Accrediting Association does NOT guarantee the quality of a school, its programs or acceptability of the Degree by any other school or employer.

### **Regional Accrediting Associations:**

- Do not require regionally accredited schools to accept transfer students from other regionally accredited schools and are not required to accept transfer students from schools that are not regionally accredited.
- Try to dictate hiring practices.
- Attempt to influence guidelines for faculty selection.
- Presume to influence curriculum. Such practices clearly interfere with Academic Freedom.
- Regional Accrediting Associations' policies have not kept up with technology for the modern trend of Web Based Distance Education.

**All TCU Degree Programs are intended to prepare students for  
Ministry Avocations.**