

ACTION LETTER

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November 9, 2022

Dr. Matthias Gebhardt, President Olivet University 36401 Tripp Flats Rd. Anza, CA 92539 c/o

Dear President Gebhardt:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This letter is your official notification of ABHE Commission on Accreditation action relative to Olivet University. The Commission on Accreditation reviewed the institution at its November 8, 2022 meeting and took the following action:

Place Olivet University (CA) on warning and continue accreditation until February 2024 in light of the Commission on Accreditation's judgment that the institution marginally complies with the ABHE Institutional Accreditation Standards listed below and require that the institution submit a self-study document due 8 weeks before a Comprehensive Evaluation Team Visit to be scheduled in Spring 2023. The institution should provide in-depth evidence in its self-study on the following items of concern:

 Standard 3; Standard 3 EE 6, 8 (Provide evidence that the institution demonstrates integrity in all of its practices and relationships with strict adherence to ethical standards and its own stated policies; Honest and open communication regarding compliance with agencies such as accrediting, licensing, and governing bodies; Integrity in all financial matters and in compliance with applicable legal and governmental regulations)

Warning is a negative public action indicating that the COA has determined that an institution is in substantial compliance with ABHE standards, but meets one or more standards with sufficient weakness that, if the current trend is not altered, the institution is in jeopardy of being found out of compliance with a standard in the near future and placed on probation. The institution retains accredited status with ABHE during a period of warning, and will be subject to periodic monitoring, which may include progress reports and/or focused visits by COA staff or evaluation teams. If weaknesses are not resolved within the time specified (usually one year), the COA may (1) extend the warning for a second year, (2) place the institution on probation. (3) order the institution to show cause why its accreditation should be continued, or (4) withdraw accreditation. Warning is rarely extended beyond two years. Rather, an institution that fails to strengthen specified weaknesses by a stated COA deadline is placed on probation. Warning is not an appealable action.

ABHE provides notification of the action to the United States Department of Education, state, and provincial postsecondary education offices, and recognized accrediting agencies at the same time as notification is provided to the institution. Within 24 hours of this notification, the action and reasons for the action will be posted to the ABHE website and appear on the institution's Accreditation Profile in the institution's public directory listing at https://abhe-dir.weaveeducation.com. A link to this action letter will also be available on the ABHE website. Within seven (7) days after receiving notification from the COA of a decision to place the institution on warning (this letter), the institution must publish notice of the action to its website. The prescribed language for that notification is found in the *Policy on Communication of*

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Accreditation Decisions in the COA Manual (p. 124, <u>https://www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-</u> <u>documents/</u>).

The institution will be expected to send representatives to meet with the COA at its February 2024 meeting to respond to questions and provide clarification regarding progress in addressing concerns. At that time, the COA will act to remove warning and reaffirm accredited status, continue warning, impose another sanction, or remove accredited status depending on compliance with ABHE Standards and Essential Elements.

The institution is reminded to consult the *Policy on Substantive Change* (see COA Manual at <u>https://www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/</u>) to identify institutional changes requiring a Substantive Change Proposal. The Policy includes specific requirements for institutions that currently are or have been on warning, probation, or show cause in the last three academic years.

The effective date of this action is November 8, 2022. Please see the Report Guide at <u>www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/</u> for assistance in formatting and submitting any reports required by the Commission.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Beatty, Ph.D. Executive Director, Commission on Accreditation

cc: Dr. Ginturn Tran, Board Chair, c/o