

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**New England Commission of Higher Education and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

At its meeting September 20, 2019, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) voted to issue a Notation with respect to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary because the Commission found that the Seminary's accreditation may be in jeopardy if current conditions continue or worsen with respect to the Commission's standards on *Institutional Resources*.

An institution issued a Notation will be closely monitored by the Commission, including a focused evaluation within two years to assess the institution's success in addressing the identified concerns.

If the Commission finds the institution has successfully addressed the concerns, it will remove the Notation and specify further monitoring. If the Commission has reason to believe that the institution may or may not meet one or more *Standards for Accreditation*, the Commission will ask the institution to show cause why it should not be on probation or why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. If the Commission finds that the concerns have not been sufficiently addressed, the Commission may issue a continued Notation.

Bishop Claude Alexander, chair of the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, said, "We want to reassure our students, faculty, staff and larger community that under new Presidential leadership, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is taking appropriate action to address the abrupt recommendations of the New England Commission on Higher Education. We have been implementing a five-fold adjustment during this transition period which includes growing enrollment, increasing giving, improving revenue streams at our academic centers, focusing our degree programs, and simplifying structural overlaps. Our vision will continue: To develop a thoughtful, loving, and Christ-centered community of global discipleship. In the midst of our leadership transition we look forward to working with NECHE in addressing the areas of notation to strengthen the seminary for our next 50 years of leadership."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly operating as the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of NEASC, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 220 degree-granting institutions in the six New England states and eleven American-style institutions in other countries.

Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary was first accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (now NECHE) in 1985. It is a multi-denominational evangelical Protestant graduate school serving students at the master's and doctoral level at campuses in Hamilton and Boston, Massachusetts, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Further information may be found at:

New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org>

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary: <https://www.gordonconwell.edu>

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