

February 28, 2025

Dr. Seung Je Cho, President
Bethesda University
730 North Euclid Street
Anaheim, CA 92801
[REDACTED]

Dear President Je Cho:

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 15-19, 2025 meeting and took the following action:

Continue on warning and continue programmatic accreditation of the following programs of Bethesda University (CA) for one year in light of the Commission on Accreditation's judgment that the institution marginally complies with ABHE Programmatic Accreditation Standards noted below.

- 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

Require a campus visit by a Commission staff representative to advise the institution concerning fulfillment of ABHE Programmatic Accreditation Standards, and require that the Response to the Evaluation Team Report, due September 15, 2025, specifically address the following concerns related to marginal compliance:

- Programmatic Standard 1: EE 2 (Demonstrate with evidence fulfillment of Commission policies and requirements, including on-time submission of all required reports)
- Programmatic Standard 5: EE 1 (Documented evidence of a budgeting process, informed by program planning, that serves as an effective instrument of financial oversight)
- Programmatic Standard 9: EE 3 (Documented evidence of services that address the needs of at-risk students and improve student achievement and retention in ABHE-accredited programs)

Note: The Commission staff visit can be conducted in conjunction with the institution's Spring 2025 evaluation team visit for reaffirmation of programmatic accreditation.

The effective date of this action is February 19, 2025. Please see the Report Guide at www.abhe.org/accreditation/accreditation-documents/ for assistance in formatting and submitting any reports required by the Commission.

Within seven days of receipt of this letter, the institution is required to update the information on its website regarding the reasons for its warning status (the Programmatic Standards cited in the action above). Once updated, please screenshot the relevant page and submit it to coa@abhe.org.

In addition to the report indicated above, the institution will be expected to send representatives to meet with the COA at the February 2026 meeting to respond to questions and provide clarifications regarding further progress in addressing the concerns. At that time, the COA will act to remove warning or impose another sanction depending on the progress made in strengthening compliance with the ABHE Programmatic Standards noted above.

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,



Lisa L. Beatty, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Commission on Accreditation

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