



February 20, 2017

Jay Wade Marshall  
Earlham School of Religion  
228 College Avenue  
Richmond, IN 47374

Dear Dr. Marshall:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in February 2017 and included on its agenda the report of Earlham School of Religion's comprehensive evaluation visit.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission standards and procedures, the Board voted:

1. To reaffirm accreditation of Earlham School of Religion for a period of ten years (spring 2026).  
[NOTE: The term listed in parentheses is the date of the next anticipated comprehensive visit, one term before the period of accreditation expires (i.e., 7/31/2026).]
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity/Master of Ministry (*NOTE: MMin nomenclature is a non-standard alternative to the MDiv, approved in 2007*)
  - Master of Arts (Academic MA)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): none
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: yes
5. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing these distinctive strengths:
  - a. The commitment to institutional integrity consistent with the Quaker testimonies of ESR. This commitment permeates the institution, including administration and faculty structures and meetings and the communication and interactions of the seminary community as a whole
  - b. The collaborative relationships—in the context of shared institutional and educational resources and shared peace tradition—with Earlham College and Bethany Theological Seminary
  - c. The visionary, collegial, and entrepreneurial leadership of the Dean supported by the ESR academic leadership
  - d. The dedicated and hardworking staff
6. To encourage that attention be given to the following areas of needed growth during the next period of accreditation:
  - a. The institutionalizing of educational and administrative relationships and practices between ESR and Earlham College (Standard 7, sections 7.1.2.2 and 7.2.2)
  - b. The strengthening of mechanisms and processes of institutional planning and evaluation for institutional vitality, including regular review of MOUs with educational partners (Standard 1, sections 1.2.2 and 1.2.2.1)
  - c. Continuing attention to the excellent progress that is being made in assessment (*Educational Standard*, section ES.6)
7. To take an action regarding the following area of needed improvement:
  - a. To require a report by April 1, 2018, regarding a comprehensive, institution-wide plan to develop racial/ethnic diversity in the board of trustees, the advisory board, the faculty, and the student

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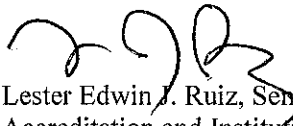
body (Standard 2, sections 2.5 and 2.6; Standard 5, section 5.1.3; Standard 6, section 6.2.4; and Standard 7, section 7.3.1.3).

- b. To require a report by November 1, 2019, providing evidence of the successful implementation of the plan required in 7.a.

The actions of the Board are effective February 2, 2017.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lester Edwin J. Ruiz, Senior Director  
Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation

/cmt

cc: n/a