

Topic: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION: CHRISTIAN LEARNING INSTITUTE – RENEWAL OF AUTHORIZATION AS A SEMINARY/RELIGIOUS TRAINING INSTITUTION

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I. Summary

This agenda item recommends the renewal of authorization for Christian Learning Institute (CLI) as a Seminary or Religious Training Institution pursuant to the provisions of the Degree Authorization Act (C.R.S. §23-2-103.3).

II. Background

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. Seminaries and religious training institutions are required to apply for renewal of authorization every three years. To be considered for renewal of authorization, an institution must demonstrate that it continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in statute and CCHE policy, Section I, Part J. Those minimum operating standards are demonstrated by the following documentation:

- An updated list of program offerings;

- Confirmation of current non-profit status;
- Confirmation of property exemption pursuant to Colorado State Law; and
- Updated contact information

II. Staff Analysis

Staff has reviewed the documents submitted by Christian Learning Institute and determined that they meet the criteria for the renewal of authorization in accordance with CCHE policy, Section I, Part J. Based on the institution's vision and mission and the programs it offers, staff determined that Christian Learning Institute continues to meet the definition of bona fide religious postsecondary educational institution (C.R.S. §23-2-102 (4)).

III. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the renewal of authorization for Christian Learning Institute as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary under the Degree Authorization Act.

IV. Statutory Authority

C.R.S. §23-2-103.3 (4) To operate in Colorado, a seminary or religious training institution shall apply for and receive authorization from the department and establish that it qualifies as a bona fide religious institution and as an institution of postsecondary education, as defined by rules promulgated by the commission. A seminary or religious training institution that meets the criteria and rules established by this subsection (4) is exempt from the provisions of subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section. A bona fide religious institution and an institution of postsecondary education that applies for authorization pursuant to this subsection (4) shall pay the fee established according to section 23-2-104.5.