## TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – rECOMMENDation for the renewal of authorization for religious training institutions

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends renewal of authorization for several institutions currently authorized as Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries under the Degree Authorization Act.

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

**III Staff Analysis**

Staff received the required documentation and based on review of the institutions’ materials for renewal, recommends the following seminaries or religious training institutions for renewal of authorization until 2027:

* Artios Christian College
* Bear Valley Bible Institute
* BEE Word (Biblical Education by Extension)
* Camp Gunnison, The Way Corps
* Colorado Theological Seminary
* Front Range Bible Institute
* Harvest University
* Iliff School of Theology
* Rocky Mountain School of Ministry & Theology
* Sangre de Cristo
* Summit Christian College

The materials submitted by each institution includes an updated list of program offerings to ensure only religious programs are offered, a review of the institution’s property tax exemption, a review of the institution’s tax status, and renewal fee. Institutions that continue to meet the provisions of the Religious Training Institution/Seminary authorization are recommended for renewal.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends approval for the Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries listed above in Section III of this consent agenda item.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

§23-2-103.3 C.R.S.

(II) A seminary or religious training institution that continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in this section is presumed qualified for renewal of authorization, and the department shall recommend that the commission renew the institution's authorization for three additional years.