



## COMMISSION'S STATEMENT OF ACCREDITED STATUS

**Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University**  
**625 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE**  
**Hickory, NC 28601**

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University has been accredited by the Commission on Accrediting (COA) of The Association of Theological Schools since 1944. The school's accreditation was last reaffirmed in winter 2021, based on an institutional self-study report and a comprehensive evaluation visit by a committee of peer and public reviewers. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis limiting travel and group gatherings in fall 2020 when the visit was scheduled, this comprehensive evaluation visit was conducted entirely via virtual means through interactive videoconferencing in keeping with COVID-19 guidelines approved by the COA Board of Commissioners on March 23, 2020. This remote visit was conducted by the same evaluation committee selected for the original onsite visit, and the committee interviewed the same persons and groups of people scheduled for the original onsite visit. At the same time that the COA Board voted to reaffirm accreditation, it also authorized a follow-up, onsite focused visit to the school when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per the extended COVID-19 guidelines approved by the COA Board on June 8, 2021, in order to meet normal requirements for an onsite evaluation that could not be met via remote visit. This onsite evaluation took place during fall 2021, with findings confirmed by the COA Board in February 2022. The school's current period of accreditation expires March 31, 2031.

The school's current status of *Accredited in Good Standing* means the school meets all applicable COA Standards of Accreditation. The school demonstrates educational quality and financial stability and provides evidence that its student learning outcomes are appropriate, rigorous, and being achieved. The school has no public sanctions (i.e., warning, probation, or show cause).

The school is approved to offer the following degree(s): MDiv, MA in Christian Ministry, MTS

The school is approved to offer distance (online) education at the following level: Comprehensive (Half or More of a Degree)

The school is not approved to offer half or more of a degree at any additional location(s).

*The Commission on Accrediting (COA) of The Association of Theological Schools accredits more than 250 graduate schools of theology and seminaries in the United States and Canada. The COA has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education since 1952 as an accreditor of freestanding, single-purpose institutions and of specialized programs at larger institutions offering post-baccalaureate degrees in professional and academic theological education. The COA is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as a national faith-related accrediting organization that accredits free-standing seminaries and academic units of larger institutions in the United States and Canada that offer post-baccalaureate degrees in professional and academic theological education.*