



Great Lakes Christian College

November 15, 2022

Dear Friend,

Last month I wrote you about the financial challenges GLCC faces and the concern those challenges have caused our accrediting association, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). In that letter I stated that HLC could impose sanctions based on our financial sustainability. I am writing to you today to let you know that has, in fact, happened.

Last week HLC placed GLCC on probation. The probationary period will last two years. GLCC will be released from probation when the College demonstrates we have the financial resources to sustain our mission, a strategic plan to generate those resources, and improved financial processes in place.

What is the impact of probation on our current students and graduates? In practical terms, very little.

Degrees awarded in the past remain accredited. Degrees currently being offered by GLCC continue to be accredited. Our courses remain accredited, and credits are transferable to other institutions. According to HLC, the education we provide our students is our strength. Evidence of that is contained throughout the report HLC prepared after their site visit in April. Here are quotes from that report:

“A strong focus on mission is a major strength of Great Lakes Christian College.”

“Overall, Great Lakes Christian College acts in an ethically and responsible way.”

“The education offered at Great Lakes Christian College is appropriate to higher education.”

“GLCC has the faculty and staff needed for high-quality programs. Faculty and staff are qualified for their positions.”

“GLCC has a dedicated faculty and staff committed to providing quality in their educational offerings.”

One of the individuals who wrote that report stated, “I’ve done six of these visits, and by far, your faculty is the most passionate and committed to the mission that I’ve encountered.”

GLCC met four of the five criterion HLC measures. We did not meet criterion five, which ensures that GLCC has the resources, structures, processes, and planning to fulfill its mission. In other words, HLC lauds the education we provide our students. They recognize the quality of our faculty. But they are concerned we don’t have the financial resources and adequate strategic planning to sustain our mission.

My letter last month detailed how critical our mission is, and our need to grow enrollment and giving so we can sustain that mission. Since then, giving from individuals and churches has exceeded our budget by 50%. We rolled out two new subscription-based online certificate programs in Bible and Theology and Ministry. They show early promise for increasing enrollment. We are on our way to addressing HLC’s

concerns. Doing so will enable the College to overcome probation and continue providing the excellent education HLC recognizes that our students receive.

I am committed to leading through this crisis with transparency. I share this information with you, along with trustees, faculty, staff, students, parents, prospective students, supporting churches, and individual donors, and I ask for your help. This information will lead people to make decisions about GLCC.

Some individuals might give up on GLCC. They may stop sending students. They may stop giving. Doing that would have the opposite effect of HLC's intent. The HLC wants GLCC to succeed. Placing us on probation is intended to hold us accountable for developing financial sustainability. They are eager to remove us from probation as soon as we fix the problems they cited.

Alternatively, this challenge can serve as a rallying cry. It can be the motivation that causes us to declare that we want GLCC to continue its mission to glorify God, "by preparing students to be servant leaders in the church and world." We can resolve to make certain GLCC does not close like other Restoration Movement colleges. We can send our students and our money so the College has the resources that are critical to fulfilling that mission.

We're already on our way. Since becoming President in June, we have cut costs and increased giving. We have added personnel and programs to boost enrollment in the coming semesters. We are doing what HLC wants, and if we stay the course, I am confident HLC will return us to non-probationary status.

But we need your help. The path to a sustainable future requires growing enrollment and increased giving. Send us your students. Dig deep and give to ensure the College raises up the next generation of servant leaders the church and world (www.glcc.edu). Please pray for me, our administration, faculty, and students.

This letter no doubt raises questions. Many of those are answered at www.glcc.edu/HLCUpdate. Please look it over and contact me with your questions at fweller@glcc.edu or through my assistant Kim Feldpausch at 517-321-0242. You can also contact HLC for more information at www.hlcommission.org. Thank you for your prayers.

Together in service,



Dr. Frank E Weller
President

P.S. Regional Meetings have been scheduled for 7:00 pm at the following sites to answer your questions: Kalkaska Church of Christ, 11/17; Great Lakes Christian College, 11/21; Rock Lake Christian Assembly, 11/28; Michiana Christian Camp, 12/5; and Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center, 12/8. RSVP – www.glcc.edu/events.