



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
NORTHEASTERN SEMINARY

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Northeastern Seminary's Statement on the Decision of the UMC's University Senate

Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University is grateful for the years during which it could, as an approved non-UMC theological school, educate persons preparing for ordination in the United Methodist Church. These years enriched the Northeastern Seminary community and strengthened the ties with the Upper New York UMC conference, from which the majority of our UMC students came.

For these reasons, Northeastern Seminary is saddened by the decision of the University Senate of the United Methodist Church to remove it from the list of approved schools for the preparation of candidates for ordination. While we hoped for a different result, Northeastern Seminary appreciates the fair and transparent process with which the Commission on Theological Education conducted this review and communicated their reasons for the decision: Northeastern Seminary currently does not have United Methodist faculty teaching the courses in United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity, and it primarily delivers its curriculum online.

Our school remains deeply committed to its mission to prepare men and women for faithful and effective ministry in today's complex world. As we move forward, we will carefully evaluate these findings with the desire to address the differences and hopefully regain the approved status with the United Methodist Church in the future.

Northeastern Seminary, an embedded theological school within Roberts Wesleyan University, is located in Rochester, NY. Affiliated with the Free Methodist Church and currently educating over 200 students, Northeastern Seminary primarily delivers its curriculum online, allowing students to gain a quality theological education while remaining in their ministerial settings.

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