

**Subject: IMPORTANT** Presidential Search Update

All Concordia University Faculty and Staff,

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Earlier this month, following the process required by the LCMS Bylaws, the Board of Regents submitted a list of five candidates to the Prior Approval Panel. This decision was not made lightly. It was based on the recommendation of the Presidential Search committee, which in turn was informed by “needs and qualifications” expressed through the 17 listening forums, CV’s and other information submitted by all candidates, professional and personal references, and deliberations, all covered with prayer.

The LCMS Bylaws provide that the Prior Approval Panel (consisting of the President of Synod, the Chairman of the Concordia University System Board, and the Pacific Southwest District President) “may choose to remove names from the list, but only with a two-thirds majority vote.”

The Prior Approval Panel communicated through Dean Wenthe, President of the Concordia University System, that they removed three names from the list and have endorsed the Rev. Dr. Scott Ashmon and the Rev. Dr. Steven Mueller as presidential candidates for the Board of Regents’ consideration.

The final step, according to the LCMS Bylaws, is for the Board of Regents to elect a president “using the slate that received prior approval.” We ask for your continued prayers to discern God’s will for Concordia University Irvine.

We are also fervent in seeking your input before we schedule a special Regents’ meeting in late May or early June to consider election of a president. To that end, we encourage you to participate in the on-campus interviews that will be scheduled during the next two weeks. We also ask that you provide feedback directly to the Presidential Search Committee, using the electronic forms that will be distributed.

Details regarding the on-campus visits and feedback opportunities will be provided soon.

Thank you for your participation as we seek to identify the next president of Concordia University Irvine. Please join me in thanking the members of the search committee for their excellent work in bringing us to this point in the search and selection process. And please continue to pray for God’s guidance to lead the Board of Regents in this extremely important decision.

Elmer Gooding, Chair  
CUI Board of Regents