



July 15, 2010

Dear EC Pastors and Lay Leaders,

In a letter dated June 30, 2010, the University Senate of the United Methodist Church informed us that Evangelical will be removed from their list of approved seminaries. Their letter states: "After a careful review of the materials received from Evangelical Theological Seminary, the needs of The United Methodist Church and candidates for ministry within The United Methodist Church, the Commission on Theological Education recommended to the University Senate that Evangelical Theological Seminary be removed from the University Senate approved list of seminaries. This action will be effective on July 1, 2011. Students who are enrolled and attending classes prior to July 1, 2011 can finish their degree programs at ETS without prejudice."

In their letter, the University Senate goes on to state the reason for their decision was based on "the continuing lack of ethnic inclusiveness of faculty and staff and the absence of full time United Methodist faculty." This action is sad news not only for our seminary but also very sad news for United Methodists throughout the region. For years, Evangelical has diligently and faithfully provided this constituency with top-notch theological education in the Wesleyan tradition.

The seminary administration is ascertaining steps to be taken to appeal this decision to the University Senate. We have until October 1, 2010. Please faithfully and fervently pray with us, asking God to restore Evangelical's University Senate approval to prepare men and women for ministry within the United Methodist Church. Currently, 25% of Evangelical's student body is United Methodist.

In the meantime, feel free to contact us if you have questions ([msigman@evangelical.edu](mailto:msigman@evangelical.edu) or [jtornfelt@evangelical.edu](mailto:jtornfelt@evangelical.edu)).

In Christ,

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