Press release

For immediate release

SACSCOC maintains ITC’s accreditation status

ATLANTA, December 10, 2014 — The Interdenominational Theological Center remains accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for good cause and is continued on probation. The ‘For Good Cause’ decision means the following: (1) ITC has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance concerns; (2) ITC has provided evidence which makes it reasonable for the Commission to assume we will remedy all deficiencies within a twelve month period, and (3) ITC has provided assurance to the Commission that we are not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the institution’s accreditation cannot be continued for good cause. SACSCOC has identified five areas of concern: Comprehensive Standard 2.11.1 (Financial Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3 (Control of Finances, and Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV Program Responsibilities), that still remain to be removed through providing 12 months of data ensuring stability in these areas.

ITC has been given a third year to address the concerns of the Commission particularly because it takes an institution at least three years to recover from the impact of a financial deficit. In 2011 we finished with a budget surplus of $187,208. However, in 2012 the institution had a budget deficit of 1.6 million dollars. This deficit sent an alarm to SACSCOC, because it was during our ten year reaffirmation of accreditation process. As a result, ITC was placed on probation. The good news is that in 2013 there was a budget deficit of $257,625, which demonstrated an improvement from 2012. Furthermore, at the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, there was a budget surplus of
$793,200. This showed a major improvement. Nevertheless, the two years of improvement resulted from scaling back, cutting the budget, decreasing staff, and taking several other measures. The concern of SACSCOC now is whether or not ITC can mature and sustain the efforts made in the last two years for another year. They are looking for three years of mature data. Thus, the issue of Good Cause is the institution’s ability to demonstrate a positive trend for at least three years.

ITC President, Dr. Edward Wimberly, stated “We are on our way, but our entire institution and our constituent denominations and seminaries must routinize the best practices we have developed in the last two years and make them permanent. We have another year to show our determination.”