



September 22, 2016

Dear CCU Family and Friends,

The past several years have been a season of significant renewal for Cincinnati Christian University. CCU's overall financial viability and traditional undergraduate enrollment have been enhanced through a number of measures, including the implementation of a significant realignment of our academic divisions and programs, a streamlining of our organizational structure, an expansion of our athletic programming, and the implementation of a new and innovative approach to ministry education. We have also passed through several rounds of accreditation review, added a number of new academic programs, developed a new and comprehensive spiritual formation program for students, and launched a new Center for Church Leadership to support regional congregations. Throughout these changes, CCU has remained firmly committed to biblical higher education and to preparing the next generation of leaders for churches, schools, and the marketplace.

Despite the very positive accomplishments, however, recent years have also brought common economic challenges for universities of our size, requiring us and others to look for ways in which long-term sustainability and institutional health can best be achieved. In response to these challenges, over recent months CCU has entered into serious discussion with other Christian Church colleges about ways to partner toward our common goals. Leading voices within our Movement and at peer schools have also called us to consider how we might work together to minimize unnecessary competition, better steward our financial and human resources, and provide the best possible Christian education. These conversations have already resulted in formal mergers between some peer schools, and have particularly led to sustained dialogue between CCU and Kentucky Christian University.

CCU and KCU share many things in common: both are nearing their centennial anniversaries; both were founded to serve Restoration Movement Churches and remain committed to that connection; both focus heavily on biblical higher education and the spiritual formation of students; both were founded primarily for the purpose of training ministers and have gradually expanded their curricula to add programs to reach a broader range of students while remaining committed to the church; both share common connections in our recruiting and donor bases; and both embrace a common vision for Christ-centered, biblical higher education.

Recognizing these many similarities, the Trustees of both schools have been engaged in dialogue on how we might work together toward our common goals. These conversations have thoroughly

explored the heritages and values of each school, and have considered ways that we might improve our services to students and stakeholders while securing the financial futures of both institutions. Working toward these ends, the CCU and KCU Trustees have agreed to explore a merger of the two organizations. As a first step, on January 1, 2017, CCU and KCU will enter a partnership agreement whereby KCU will provide executive level management assistance to CCU, under the ongoing guidance of the CCU Board of Trustees. During this management period, the two schools will work together and with their respective constituencies and accrediting bodies to make immediate improvements while performing due diligence toward an intended full consolidation.

The nature of this partnership will be fully collaborative. The ultimate goal is to preserve the distinct heritage of each university while positioning both to serve students, churches, stakeholders, and Christ with greater excellence and faithfulness. Both schools will retain their physical campuses (in Cincinnati and Grayson), as well as their respective names.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we seek God's continued blessing upon the ministries of Kentucky Christian University and Cincinnati Christian University. Further information will be shared as consolidation efforts continue.

CCU Board of Trustees