



ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΘΕΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΩΤΙΟΥ
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February 9, 2016 (Old Style)
February 22, 2016
St. Nicephoros the Forbearing

Board of Directors of the St. Photios
Orthodox Theological Seminary

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφοί, Εὐλογεῖτε.

Εὐλογία Κυρίου. May the Lord bless you.

This morning, I received a copy of the decision of the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Association, one of the four accreditation agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation for faith-related colleges and seminaries, to “grant applicant status to the St. Photios Orthodox Theological Seminary.” The Commission’s “Action Letter” is dated today, February 22, 2016, and notes that “the effective date of this action is February 10, 2016.”

Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to “those institutions that meet the ABHE Conditions of Eligibility and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate status within five years.” We hope to have such status well in advance of the five-year deadline.

Having now accomplished the first major step in our attempt to commence seminary classes this coming September, our next formidable hurdle is to receive licensure from the State of California to award degrees under the auspices of the new seminary, for which we applied some months ago and which has been delayed by limited staffing (owing to budget shortfalls) in the California State offices. God willing, we will receive our licensure in time to proceed with classes.

We would ask clergy to encourage young men in their parishes with high school diplomas (or a General Equivalency Diploma) and a desire to serve the Church as Priests, teachers, or lay theologians to apply to the seminary at the earliest possible date. A limited number of scholarships covering tuition or room and board and two full scholarships, covering both tuition and in-residence room and board, are available for students requiring financial aid. Married students, who must arrange for their housing and living expenses independently, are also encouraged to apply for scholarships.

We ask for the prayers of all of you for the gargantuan task that faces us in finishing the interior of the seminary facility. I also thank all of you for your sacrificial and generous service on the Board of Directors and for your constant support.

Your humble servant,

† Bishop Auxentios