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Constituent Universities

Appalachian
State University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central University

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

University of
North Carolina
School of the Arts

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

Constituent High School

North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

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September 22, 2017

Dr. Danette M. Vercher, PhD.
Chancellor/CEO
Crystal Rain Institute
Treasures of the Heart International Ministries
P.O. Box 40952
Fayetteville, NC 28309

Dear Dr. Vercher:

The President of the University of North Carolina accepted the findings and recommendation in a report prepared by staff. Exercising authority delegated by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the President declared Crystal Rain Institute exempt from licensure to conduct, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the following degree programs in religious education under provisions of G.S. 116-15(d) and the *Rules and Standards for Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina* with respect to religious education:


- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Theology
- Doctor of Theology
- Master of Christian Counseling
- Doctor of Christian Counseling
- Master of Christian Psychology
- Doctor of Christian Psychology

The following statement regarding licensure should be displayed in all catalogues and promotional materials:

Degree programs of study offered by Crystal Rain Institute have been declared by the appropriate state authority exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116-15(d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education. Exemption from licensure is not based upon assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

We wish you success in the conduct of these degree activities.

Sincerely,



Daniel S. Harrison

Application of Crystal Rain Institute
For Exemption from Licensure with Respect to Religious Education

North Carolina General Statutes (G.S.) Section 116-15 charges the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina (hereafter called the Board) with responsibility for licensing certain nonpublic educational institutions conducting post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

G.S. 116-15 also charges the Board with responsibility for determining the eligibility of institutions for exemption from licensure. Paragraph (d) of the statute provides guidelines for Exemption of Institutions Relative to Religious Education as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no institution shall be subject to licensure. . . with respect to post-secondary degree activity based upon a program of study, equivalent experience, or achievement testing the institutionally planned objective of which is the attainment of a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education or in any other program of study, equivalent experience, or achievement testing that is designed by the institution primarily for career preparation in a religious vocation. This exemption shall be extended to any institution with respect to each program of study, equivalent experience, and achievement test that the institution demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board should be exempt under this subsection.

On August 11, 1995, the Board, under its statutory authority to establish such rules, regulations, and procedures as it may deem necessary to carry out licensing provisions, adopted a set of policies with respect to exemption from licensure of religious education. On September 12, 1997, the Board amended the policies.

Dr. Danette M. Vercher applied on behalf of the institution for exemption from licensure to conduct degree activity with respect to religious education. The degree activity will be courses conducted in religious education under exemption provisions of North Carolina General Statute 116-15 (d) and amended Board policies. Crystal Rain Institute will offer the following program in Fayetteville, NC:

- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Theology
- Doctor of Theology
- Master of Christian Counseling
- Doctor of Christian Counseling
- Master of Christian Psychology
- Doctor of Christian Psychology

A brief review of staff findings and recommendations with reference to compliance with exemption provisions by the institution follows:

1. Delegation. The institution understands that the President of the University of North Carolina is delegated responsibility by the Board of Governors to apply provisions of G.S. 116-15 and relevant policies and procedures of the Board to the institution's application for exemption pursuant to G.S. 116-15(d) from licensure to undertake post-secondary degree activity with reference to religious education and to determine the propriety of such exemption.

2. Definitions. The institution understands that definitions have been used as set forth in G.S. 116-15(a).

3. Standards for exemption. The institution understands that its proposed religious education constitutes post-secondary degree activity based upon a) programs of study the institutionally planned objectives of which are student attainments of degrees in theology, divinity, or religious education, or b) programs that are designed primarily for career preparation in a religious vocation.

4. Extent of exemption. The institution understands that exemption from licensure is conferred to an applicant institution only with respect to each degree program that the institution demonstrates to the satisfactions of the President comes within one of the two standard exemptions.

5. Determination of eligibility for exemption. Staff recommendations concerning the institution's eligibility for exemption are based upon a) a review of documents and information relevant to the qualifying nature of the institution and the subject curriculum, and b) assurances by the institution that it has or will conform institutional literature and educational credentials to conditions of the licensure exemption pursuant to Board policies.

a) Documents

- (1) The institution is incorporated under laws of the State of North Carolina as a non-profit corporation and will do business in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- (2) The courses of study for which exemption is sought may be applied toward the degree programs offered by the institution.
- (3) The institution has developed an educational credential for the activity for which exemption is sought bearing course credit as an award to students upon satisfactory completion of each program.
- (4) The institution has developed a catalog statement for the degree activity for which exemption is sought.

b) Assurances

The institution has provided assurance that it has conformed, or will conform, institutional literature and educational credentials to the conditions of licensure exemption pursuant to Board policies. These conditions include:

- (1) Designating any degree program of study or academic credential for which exemption from licensure is to pertain by a title that clearly indicates its religious nature so that the institutional objective of the program for its use in attainment of a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education or its institutional design primarily for career preparation in a religious vocation is apparent.
- (2) Prominently displaying in relevant institutional publications a statement that the relevant degree activity has been declared by the appropriate state authority exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.)116-15(d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education.

- (3) Prominently displaying in relevant institutional publications a statement that Exemption from licensure is not based upon any assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

6. Duration of exemption. The institution understands that staff shall make annual inquiry to it as an institution conferred exemption with respect to religious education to ascertain the continuation of those conditions upon which the institution was conferred exemption from licensure. The exemption shall continue unless suspended or revoked by the President following the President's consideration of a corresponding recommendation from staff.

7. Pursuit of licensure. The institution understands that it shall seek licensure to conduct post-secondary degree activity with respect to any program of study, equivalent experience, or achievement test for which exemption from licensure has been denied for failure of the institution to satisfy Board policies but which post-secondary activity the institution continues to offer or intends imminently to offer.

8. Violation of conditions. The institution understands that if the President determines that it (1) has failed to seek and obtain licensure or exemption from licensure, as required by the Board policies, or (2) has failed to fulfill any obligation attendant to exemption from licensure under Board policies, the President may request that the Attorney General of North Carolina take appropriate action against the institution.

9. Effective date. The institution understands that Board policies, as revised, are effective as of September 12, 1997.

Staff is of the opinion that the proposed degree activity with reference to religious education complies with the statutory requirements, and with Board of Governors' policy for exemption from licensure. Therefore, staff recommends exemption from licensure with reference to religious education be granted to Crystal Rain Institute to offer the above-mentioned degree programs in Fayetteville, NC.