



# TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research  
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MacGregor M. Stephenson, J.D., Ph.D.  
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July 25, 2012

Stacey Silverman, Ph.D.  
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Joshua Reneau  
Dean of Academics  
Texas Bible College  
3900 College Drive  
Lufkin, Texas 75901

Dear Mr. Reneau:

You inform us that the Texas Bible College, located in Lufkin, Texas, is a religious postsecondary educational institution. You further inform us that the only programs the Texas Bible College intends to offer are in religious studies.

In *H.E.B. Ministries v. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*, 235 S.W.3d 627 (2007), the Texas Supreme Court held that sections 61.304 and 61.313(a) of the Texas Education Code, which regulate the activities of degree-granting institutions, may not constitutionally be "applied to a religious institution's program of religious instruction." Provided that the Texas Bible College's activities are, as you have informed us, entirely religious in nature, they are outside the purview of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

As a reminder, it is also necessary that the Texas Bible College apply for and receive an exemption from Chapter 132 of the Texas Education Code through the Texas Workforce Commission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Fred White, Program Director, Academic Affairs, by telephone at 512.427.6238 or via email at [Fred.White@thehb.state.tx.us](mailto:Fred.White@thehb.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MacGregor M. Stephenson", written over a horizontal line.

MacGregor M. Stephenson

WAAR/fw