



EURO-ASIAN ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION OF GOSPEL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Accreditation visit report

The name of the institution: Tavria Christian Institute
Visit dates: October 7–9, 2019

Accreditation visit status: evaluative

Composition of the accreditation commission:

Victor Shevchuk – chairman/commissions,
Vitaly Stankevich – member/commissions
Mikhail Khromyak – member of the commission, representative of the
accreditation department

EAAA

Assessment program: "Master of Christian Leadership" on the basis of the UCC TCI in
Uzbekistan, Kherson.

Purpose of the visit: **Assessment** Master level programs for the possibility of being
awarded full accreditation status.

At the invitation of the leadership of the Tavria Christian Institute, the EAAA Council, by decision of April 28, 2019 (Minutes No. 57), appointed a commission to evaluate and analyze the "Master of Christian Leadership" program, held at the UCC TCI in Uzbekistan.

After the meeting of the commission, the work plan was finally agreed upon and the areas of activity of each member of the commission were determined:

Victor Shevchuk assessed the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of the Seminary's activities.

Vitaly Stankevich evaluated academic activities, educational process, programs, library work and teachers.

Mikhail Khromyak resolved organizational issues and provided advice to commission members on emerging issues.

The commission began its work with its meeting, where the analysis of the Institute's Self-Report by each member of the commission was discussed. Then a meeting was held with the management of the institute, which was attended by: rector Siny Valentin Sergeevich and other employees of TCI

At this meeting, the work plan of the commission was finally approved, and an acquaintance took place with the main employees of the institute and their areas of responsibility. After the meeting, there was a tour of the main buildings and grounds of the school.

During its work, the commission held a meeting with four teachers who taught in Uzbekistan. There was also the opportunity to attend the morning prayer of the employees.

Each member of the commission met individually with employees of the institute. The commission was given the opportunity to review the necessary documents and materials.

The institute's management, teachers and staff showed complete openness. The commission members thank the school management for their sincere interest in

maximizing the process of training future ministers for the Kingdom of God in Uzbekistan.

The commission also sincerely thanks the entire staff of the institute for the good atmosphere of the visit, for the fraternal warm meetings and favorable conditions created for the work of the commission.

It is worth noting that the working group approached the preparation of the self-assessment very professionally and responsibly. Also, it is important to note that this TCI program is a very big blessing for students of Uzbekistan, who, as a rule, studied at the bachelor's level

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PART

General information about TCI

The Tavria Christian Institute was established by the Kherson regional union of ECB churches in 1997 with the aim of training spiritual workers for local communities.

The document entitled "The Philosophy of Education of TCI" dated June 9, 2006 states that in its work TCI strives for a balanced relationship between the academic, practical and spiritual components of education. Therefore, TCI pays attention to the spiritual formation of students during training, as well as in extracurricular activities.

Information about the school is available on the TCI website.

The school is located in the southern part of the country, which makes it attractive for applicants from this region and for working in neighboring countries. Getting to it from the station is not difficult.

To ensure that the school's programs meet the needs of the churches, an analysis of the work is being carried out jointly with the regional education department of the WCC ECB and evangelical associations of the countries in which the UCC operates.

The school has a rich history. Since the last accreditation visit, the following events have occurred in the life of the school:

2012 – celebration of the 15th anniversary of TCI. Release of the book "15 True Stories". 2013 – beginning of cooperation with the international organization Pioneer Bible

Translators. The organization Translators of the Bible of Ukraine was created.

2014 year – change V exploitation two-story building libraries And its gas supply.

2015 - opening of a master's program, as well as youth, chaplaincy and Roma programs; acquisition of a plot of land and placement of greenhouses on it.

2016 – opening of a master's program at the UCC in Uzbekistan, as well as a program "Women's service"; reconstruction beach; equipment rooms For preparations food students; the first harvest from greenhouses and its implementation.

2017 – TCI celebrated its 20th anniversary.

2019 – TCI was the first evangelical educational institution in Ukraine to receive a state license for a bachelor's program in theology.

Organization and objectives of the school

The Tavria Christian Institute was registered with state authorities on August 26, 1997 as a secondary theological educational institution founded by the Union of ECB Churches of the Kherson Region.

The charter, as amended, was re-registered on July 1, 2010 with the State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Religions as a higher theological educational institution at the legal address: Kherson, Antonivka, 73485, st. Dniprovska, 74.

According to the Charter, the general management of the school is carried out by the Board of Trustees. Direct management is carried out by the rector, and in his absence - by his deputy, approved directly by the rector.

TCI has a Mission Statement dated October 21, 2011, in which its activities are defined as training for Ukraine and other countries competent and spiritually mature Christian ministers, capable and willing to respond to the needs of the church and society, both in the spiritual and social spheres.

Confessionally, TCI is a denominational school of the WCC ECB, which was approved at a meeting of the TCI Board of Trustees on November 12, 2010.

The Institute also has a Religion approved on May 18, 2007.

The Institute accepts for training representatives of other Christian churches that agree with the TCI Confession. Currently, representatives of more than 9 Christian associations have been trained here at different times.

Accounting and financial activities are maintained at a high level. The annual budget of the Institute is developed annually and approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees also hears a report on the implementation of the previous budget once a year. The Institute consistently fills the revenue side of the budget and ensures that there is no deficit.

School facilities

THI has a land plot with an area of 4.868 hectares, located on the right bank of the Dnieper River. This is an environmentally friendly area. The site is fenced on three sides with a prefabricated reinforced concrete fence. There is a beach and a pier, its own access to the road. THI leases the land plot from the regional administration in accordance with the agreement dated October 27, 2006. The lease term is 49 years with a preferential right to extend it. The buildings and structures belong to THI on the basis of purchase and sale agreement No. 110 dated November 27, 2003. In general, educational, office and residential premises meet operational requirements.

The premises of the Institute have 5 equipped classrooms (desks, chairs, necessary equipment) and 2 more large rooms for holding various events and services, which allows for full-fledged classroom and individual lessons with students. The premises are well ventilated and heated.

Employees have their own well-equipped offices and workspaces. The school management takes full care of the needs of its employees.

Favorable conditions have been created for teachers and students to live. There are double and quadruple rooms. In total, up to 120 people can live simultaneously. The rooms are equipped with everything necessary for living, are well heated and ventilated.

Currently, the curator of the program coordinators of the UCC TCI is S. Demchenko, the academic coordinator of the UCC in Uzbekistan was Yu. Lubinets - the position is now vacant, and the coordinator of the UCC TCI in Uzbekistan is D. Kondanov.

Recommendations:

1. Clearly formulate and formalize the interaction of TCI departments with the UCC in Uzbekistan in the next self-assessment report.

TRAINING PART

General information TCI

Academic programs

Over the history of TCI, 23 programs have been developed and implemented, of which TCI currently trains students in the following programs:

online: Missionary Training; part-time:

- "Bachelor of Christian Leadership" (for Ukraine),
- "Bachelor of Christian Leadership" (for UCC TCI in Uzbekistan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan),
- "Bachelor of Youth and Adolescent Ministry"
- "Master of Christian Leadership" (for Ukraine and UCC)

There are also a number of church-educational programs that are conducted both on the basis of TCI and on-site: "Training of Youth Ministers", "Training of Children's Ministers", "Women's Ministry", "Courses for Preachers".

Bachelor of Christian Leadership program for UCCs in Uzbekistan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Due to the territorial remoteness, students of three educational centers do not have access to a library, but TCI managed to provide them with sets of more than 4 thousand books on electronic media. In addition, students have the opportunity to use the public access fund to the EAAA on-line library.

The program has a complete description, curriculum, course descriptions. Records are kept of students' compliance with course requirements (for security reasons, documentation is stored electronically via DropBox in the TCI office). A record card for completing the program curriculum has been compiled for each student. Also, all work on training courses is stored in electronic form.

ACADEMIC PART

Program

Uzbekistan became the first region outside of Ukraine where TCI launched its activities. The idea of organizing the educational process in this country belonged to the Board of Trustees of TCI, representatives who visited Uzbekistan in 2000, saw an urgent need for Christian education there.

Today, the UCC TCI in Uzbekistan is implementing a full-time and part-time program “Bachelor of Christian Leadership”, which is a locally adapted version of the TCI program of the same name, accredited by the EAAA in 2007 and received confirmation of accreditation in 2011.

Graduates of this program, as well as other representatives of Uzbek churches who received bachelor's degrees from other Christian educational institutions, have repeatedly expressed a desire to study further. In their opinion, this would help them grow spiritually and professionally, and would also provide them with the official diplomas necessary to officially serve as pastors in their country.

In 2015/2016, TCI, in collaboration with the Kremenchug Regional Bible College (KRBK), introduced the Master of Christian Leadership program. This provided the necessary theoretical basis and practical experience for the opening of the long-awaited program in Tashkent. Thus, the Master of Christian Leadership program introduced in 2016/2017 at the UCC was based on a program that began in 2015/2016 in Ukraine. At the same time, some adjustments were made to it, taking into account the interests and needs of students in this region, as well as the need to conduct sessions in another country.

Teachers

TCI uses both full-time and visiting teachers to implement the MHR curriculum. At the time of the visit, the MHR program was taught by 2 full-time TCI employees who combine this activity with administrative responsibilities. Of the invited teachers, 10 people taught in this program.

The faculty in the Master of Christian Leadership program meets the expectations of EAAA standards. When selecting personnel, not only the professional, but also the spiritual qualities of the candidate and his involvement in church service are taken into account, which is very important in the context of modern educational challenges.

TCI Library

At the first stage of development of the UCC, part of the books from the main library collection was transferred to Tashkent. Funds were also invested in purchasing books directly for the UCC. This is how the library of the UCC was formed in Uzbekistan, which provided the first intake of students. However, this library died. Subsequently, due to local conditions, it was considered inappropriate to store books on paper, as a result of which the UCC is currently developing an exclusively electronic library.

Since studying in a master's program involves greater student independence than in a bachelor's program, master's students are expected to show significant initiative, including in finding the resources necessary for their studies. However, this does not relieve TCI of its responsibility to help them find the information they need to receive a quality education. Therefore, UCC students receive a set of electronic books (more than 4 thousand titles).

In addition, it is possible to use the on-line public access fund of the EAAA library, to which students gain access through the mediation of TCI. Also, undergraduates have the opportunity to use the resources of the library of the Tashkent Theological Seminary.

However, students find most materials using the Internet. On course "Research Methods," which they completed early in the program, taught them the basic principles of finding reliable and relevant online sources, as well as evaluating and effectively using those resources. In addition, they were provided with a list of sites with a brief description of them where they could find the information they needed. The list was compiled by TCI bibliographer N. A. Gorodetsky. At this time, searching for materials on the Internet is the best option for collecting information for students living in such conditions.

The management of TCI did everything necessary to provide books for the educational process for one group of UCC students. Despite the negative experience with paper books, we found the best alternative option, which is to provide an electronic library. Most importantly, TCI strives to maintain a balance between encouraging students to independently search for the necessary resources for their studies and providing them with quality materials.

Recommendations:

1. Understanding the specifics of work in Central Asia and the existing experience with the "death" of the first TCI library in Uzbekistan, we should continue to work on expanding the UCC electronic library. In this regard, before the spring Council of the EAAA 2020, no later than March 30, 2020, submit to the EAAA office a plan for the development of the electronic library of the UCC in Uzbekistan, in accordance with the minimum requirements of the EAAA standards regarding the titles of books and periodicals at the master's level.
2. When defending master's theses, in addition to the supervisor's review, involve independent reviewers. Do not allow the chairman of the commission for the defense of master's theses to be among the supervisors of master's theses that are submitted for defense.
3. Involve a specialist in the field being studied by the undergraduate to supervise the writing of the final work.
4. Add biblical disciplines (for example, Biblical Theology and Special Hermeneutics), since MHR is accredited as a specialty program "theology".
5. Develop a transition program for those wishing to study without a bachelor's degree in a specialized field, taking into account the minimum requirements of the EAAA Standards for bachelor's level programs in the field of theology.

TCI PROGRAM
“MASTER OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP” (MCR) ON THE
BASE OF THE UKC IN UZBEKISTAN

Final, most serious recommendations:

1. Clearly formulate and formalize the interaction of TCI departments with the UCC in Uzbekistan in the next self-assessment report.
2. Provide necessary resources For writing master's degrees dissertations, regulate the management and defense process according to the proposed recommendations.

Final Recommendation The Commission

recommends that the EAAA Council:

Assign to the program of the Tavria Christian Institute
Master of Arts in Christian Leadership, Fully
Accredited.

The next assessment visit should be scheduled no earlier than autumn 2024 after receiving the Self-Assessment Report (two months before the visit).

Signatures:

Victor Shevchuk

Vitaly Stankevich

Mikhail Khromyak

October 09, 2019,
Kherson,
Tavria Christian Institute