

ACTS

SEMINARIES

2019 | Executive Director Search



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Associated Canadian Theological Schools

ACTS SEMINARIES

A Partnership of Four Seminaries

The Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University is a partnership of four distinct Canadian seminaries working together to form and equip men and women to serve God in the church and the world.

ACTS Seminaries is the graduate school of theology of Trinity Western University and is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

ACTS Seminaries also partners with Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL), a ministry of Wycliffe Bible Translators and Vancouver Institute for Evangelical Worldview (VIEW).



2019 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

A Message from the Board Chair

God is still working out His Vision for humanity and history and ACTS is privileged to contribute to that work through theological and ministry education. One of the features we hear students comment about regularly is their appreciation for the partnership of various church families and organizations at ACTS. For over 30 years now, it has been a testimony to the fact that churches can work together for a common purpose. It allows us to do more together than we could alone.

Bringing together the teams and visions of three Seminaries, a University, and two specialty educational institutions requires faith, diplomacy, and collaboration. While ACTS ends up being the vehicle for offering joint programs, it is not a school or seminary; it is a society to support Seminaries and Schools. While the Partner Seminaries are primarily focused toward serving their constituencies, about one-half of its seminary students come from other denominations, so connecting with churches and leaders beyond our key partners is one of the frontiers for us in the years ahead.

Dr. Guy Saffold, our current Executive Director is retiring and leaves the organization in a good spot. We believe there is yet much to accomplish in the years ahead and look forward to welcoming a new Executive Director to help ACTS stay healthy and keep innovating to meet the needs and opportunities of the future. If you feel an interest in this role or know someone who would fit it well, please connect with us.



Ron Penner MDiv, EdD
Chair
ACTS Society Board of Directors



ACTS Seminaries

OUR STORY

A place of faith, mission, growth and creativity.

ACTS Seminaries is leading the way through a unique collaborative venture in theological education. Committed to developing leaders for the church, the seminaries of the ACTS consortium share a common passion for advancing the cause of Christ in Canada and worldwide.

Understanding and applying the truths of God's Word to life is the beating heart of education at ACTS Seminaries. Capacities to reflect theologically, to interpret cultures, and to lead God's people in vibrant, biblical mission are essential implications of our mission. For 30 years these shared values have animated our work together.

ACTS Seminaries is a vital arm of four denominations: the Baptist General Conference, the Evangelical Free Church, the Fellowship Baptists, and the Mennonite Brethren. Working together, these four serve a common core mission and combine their strengths to produce one of Canada's largest theological schools. Trinity Western University, Canada's largest Christian university, is the dynamic context for our work together, awarding degrees to graduates conjointly with each seminary.

ACTS Seminaries is reaching boldly into the future of theological education.

A cutting-edge initiative in competency-based education is led by Northwest Baptist Seminary. The ACTS World Campus is being developed with the help of Mennonite Brethren Seminary. Outstanding partnerships with the Canada Institute for Linguistics and with the Vancouver Institute for Evangelical Worldview significantly expand the reach of ACTS in the global community. A new Master's program offered in Mandarin will serve the church in East Asia.

ACTS Seminaries is financially healthy, growing in enrolment, and pursuing plans to expand our facilities and our capacity to provide first-class education at a distance. Dr. Guy Saffold, who has led the ACTS Seminaries, will end his term on June 30, 2019. We are seeking an Executive Director to work directly with the Presidents of each of the seminaries, the ACTS Seminaries management team, and the University to envision and serve this common mission.

ACTS Seminaries

AT A GLANCE



1985
Founded



15
Degree
Programs



3,000
Alumni



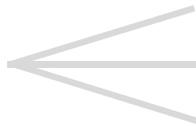
23
Core
Faculty



415
Students



from around
the world



45%

Canada

35%

Asia

20%

US & International



Accredited by the
Association of Theological Schools



Connected to the
local church



Focused on mentoring and
applied learning



Diverse in cultural
and theological perspectives



Mission Statement

Our mission as the Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University is to develop godly servant leaders who have a love and burden for people based on a strong commitment to Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the ministry of the church, who will energetically strengthen, revitalize and actively multiply communities of effectively ministering believers in Canada and around the world.

Vision

- Affirm, live under and promote the authority of the Bible as God's Word, producing graduates who are competent to read, interpret, apply and communicate Scripture.
- Develop leaders who understand and uphold the convictions and distinctions of their faith tradition, applying them effectively in whatever work God has called them to.
- Equip graduates to address competently the Canadian cultural mosaic, reaching it with the gospel.
- Train pastors, global workers, teachers, evangelists, counselors and other vocational and non-vocational Christian leaders to have a transforming vision for ministry in their communities and around the world.
- Foster excellent thinking, writing and speaking skills that enable students to make a significant contribution to Christian scholarship.



Values

Commitment to Common Cause

1. We value working together to build and sustain ACTS as a vibrant, high quality, financially healthy initiative in theological education that makes an important contribution to the effectiveness of God's work.

Mutual Support

2. We value the vitality and effectiveness of our partners and are therefore committed to arranging our work together so that it benefits not only ACTS as a whole but each of our members as well.

Diversity with Unity

3. We value the diversity among our members and believe that unity with diversity and Christian love is possible when consistent and diligent effort is invested to maintain harmony among us.

Equality in Governance

4. We value each of our core partners having an equal share and vote in the governing decisions of the Consortium as this is defined in our governing documents.

Balanced Membership Fees

5. We value sharing together in the cost of operating ACTS through membership fees that are proportional to seminary size, using a formula that is annually reviewed and adjusted as may be needed in light of current circumstances.

Proportional Contribution to Teaching

6. We value distributing the teaching load among us in significant proportion to member enrolments, annually reviewed and adjusted over time as needed to sustain this principle with reasonable equity.

Flexibility in Teaching Load

7. We value recognizing that our members should have some degree of flexibility in how this teaching load is provided and will arrange our systems to support this.

Effectiveness in Teaching

8. We value providing excellent instruction and believe that wise use of adjunct faculty in reasonable proportion is consistent with both this objective and with good financial stewardship.

Balanced Marketing and Recruitment

9. We believe that we individually and ACTS together will best thrive through a balanced effort at marketing and recruitment that provides for, encourages, and supports funding of both centralized and individual seminary efforts.

Revenue Sources

10. We believe that our ACTS operation should seek to develop other revenue sources including from affiliate programs and fund raising from donors and groups that are not aligned to our respective denominations.

Adaptability

11. We value strategic flexibility in our governing and operational arrangements, recognizing the need for adaptability over time so that functional patterns can be adjusted to serve our values rather than the other way around.



Academics

DEGREES & PROGRAMS

- Diploma in Christian Studies
- Master of Arts - Christian Studies
- Master of Divinity
- Immerse Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
- Master of Arts in Linguistics and Translation
- Master of Theology
- Master of Theological Studies
- Post-Masters Certificate in Spiritual Care
- Doctor of Ministry
- Master of Arts - Christian Studies (Mandarin)
- Graduate Diploma - Christian Worldview Studies (Korean)
- Master of Arts - Christian Worldview Studies (Korean)
- Master of Arts - Global Christian Leadership (Korean)
- Master of Divinity - Global Christian Leadership (Korean)

AREAS OF STUDY

- Apologetics
- Biblical Studies
- Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care
- Children's Ministry
- Church History
- Church Ministries
- Leadership
- Pastoral Ministry
- Septuagint Studies
- Theological Studies

ACTS SEMINARIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Position Description

Overview

Executive Director of the Associated Canadian Theological Schools Society

Position Summary

The Executive Director (XD) is the chief executive officer for the Associated Canadian Theological Schools Society (ACTS), a consortium of seminaries and affiliates, and will be committed to the effective fulfilment of its mission, the well-being of its people, its organizational health, and financial sustainability. This position is full-time and offered in four-year renewable terms.

Qualifications

- The Board seeks an XD who has warm Christian faith and is prepared to affirm the Society's Theological Basis of Agreement.
- The Board seeks an XD with at least 5 years of experience in successfully leading another non-profit organization, preferably in the field of Christian Higher Education.
- Particularly desired areas of experience are: fostering collaboration, leading change, and ability to operationalize new initiatives.
- The leader must combine strength with humility; servanthood with initiative; and drive with compassion. This XD must also be familiar and comfortable with collaborative governance, drawing together the expertise of board, faculty, and administrators for the good of ACTS.
- Educationally, the Board would prefer an XD who has a terminal degree in a teaching field typically incorporated into a seminary curriculum.

(Position Description continued on the next page.)

ACTS SEMINARIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Position Description

Key Responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the XD include:

- To pursue the fulfilment of the ACTS Society purposes:
 - To support and facilitate excellent theological education, Christian leadership training, and the provision of resources for effective Christian ministry primarily at the graduate level;
 - To support the creation and maintenance of effective joint academic programs among those registered charities that are members of the Society that grant the credits and confer the degrees offered through such joint academic programs;
 - To promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those registered charities that are Members of the Society.
- To model the values by which we want ACTS to be known.
- To work with the Board in shaping an inspiring Vision.
- To work with the Presidents, Faculty, University, and Administrators in the shaping and execution of an effective strategic plan.
- To design, build, supervise, and encourage a strong team in support of an effective and positive ACTS consortium. To shape and strengthen the culture of the ACTS community.
- To lead in external relations on behalf of ACTS.
- To lead the efforts of ACTS and its partner seminaries in connecting with present and potential partners in support of seminary education.
- Generation of donation support for the work of ACTS as determined by the Board from time to time.
- To oversee the development and implementation of a balanced budget.
- To ensure that ACTS maintains a strong assessment culture and its accreditations.
- To keep the Board well-informed regarding progress and risks in the consortium.
- To serve as the signing officer for the consortium except where the signature of officers of the Board of Directors is specifically required.
- To employ initiative and best practices as XD of ACTS within the context of the mandates and limitations set out in the ACTS consortium or by the Board of Directors.

Statement of Relationships

The XD is the lead employee of ACTS and its Board of Directors and accountable to it.

- The XD leads the Presidents Strategic Council, an advisory group made up of full-member presidents that meets regularly to advise, to facilitate healthy collaboration and communication, to engage in vision development and strategic planning, and to participate at the behest of the Board in the construction of major initiative proposals.
- The XD is an ex-officio member of all ACTS committees.
- The XD is responsible for the appointment of other ACTS personnel as well as their care and effectiveness.
- Subject to appropriate qualifications, the XD is a member of the ACTS faculty and either leads the faculty or delegates the responsibility to lead it, for example, to the Academic Dean.

ACTS SEMINARIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applications

Get In Touch

For further information, to apply, or to nominate someone, please contact the Search Committee at Ron.Penner@twu.ca.

To apply, please submit your **Resume and Letter of application** commenting on your experience related to key qualifications and duties.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however we hope to begin processing applications in March 2019.

Search Committee Members

Kent Anderson

Ron Penner (Chair)

Kevin Schular

Archie Spencer

Bill Taylor

Mark Wessner

CONTACT

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