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ST. ATHANASIUS & ST. CYRIL
COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA 

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Catholic University of America (CUA)

Saint Athanasius and Saint Cyril Coptic Orthodox Theological School (ACTS)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into between the **CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**, Washington DC, on behalf of its **SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES** and **SAINT ATHANASIUS AND SAINT CYRIL COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL (ACTS)** (hereinafter, "The Parties").

WHEREAS both parties are educational institutions providing Masters-level courses in theology, religious studies and cognate disciplines; and

WHEREAS both parties share a number of important common interests and goals; and

WHEREAS both institutions work to foster academic excellence in Coptic Studies, including the fields of Coptic Orthodox Theology, History, Language, and Liturgical Studies;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identifies the first phase in what the Parties hope will be a growing collaboration. To that end, the Parties propose the following steps.

1. Expanded scholarly and/or community access to Coptic Studies by jointly sponsoring lectures, conferences, workshops, and other activities, as appropriate and agreed, especially in the fields of Coptic Studies, Liturgical Studies, and Church History.
2. Extended Educational Opportunities at CUA:
 - a. ACTS students and/or graduates will be encouraged to apply for admission to appropriate masters or doctoral programs at CUA.
 - b. Applicants will be subject to CUA's normal standards and procedures for graduate admissions.
 - c. The Parties will explore ways of structuring accelerated degree programs at CUA for ACTS students and/or graduates. Such programs would allow a portion of the coursework taken at ACTS to be evaluated by CUA academic programs and

accepted for credit toward a student's degree requirements at CUA, in keeping with the university's established policies regarding transfer credits, thus shortening students' time to degree.

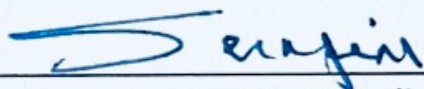
- d. The parties will explore ways to allow ACTS students to audit CUA classes and to take CUA classes for credit.
 - e. Both Parties will explore ways to enhance scholarship support for ACTS students and/or graduates enrolled in CUA degree programs.
3. Library: CUA will provide guidance to ACTS in expanding its Digital Library.
 4. Joint Seminars and Conferences: The two schools hope to cosponsor international conferences in the future, in-person and/or online as may be agreed upon based on common academic interests and shared expenses. The first conference is proposed for fall of 2023. The parties' respective responsibilities and other details related to cosponsoring international conferences in the future will be agreed upon in a separate document signed by both parties.
 5. Marketing:
 - a. Both parties have the right to review and approve in writing or via email press releases or similar communications relating to this agreement prior to their release. Each party will designate a contact person for receipt and approval of all press releases.
 - b. ACTS will not use any CUA material or trademarks without CUA's prior written approval. CUA will not use any ACTS material or trademarks without ACTS's prior written approval. Both Parties will strive to respond to any request to use such material or trademarks promptly.
 - c. The Parties agree to link to each other's websites. This will draw the attention of those who visit the one site to the programs and courses of the other institution, and it will publicize the growing bonds between our two institutions.
 6. Publications: The parties agree to discuss collaboration between ACTS Press and CUA Press, especially regarding publication of series involving patristics and translation of Coptic, Arabic, and Greek texts. Details of any such collaboration will be agreed upon in a separate document signed by both parties.
 7. Oversight:
 - a. Implementation of this MOU will be overseen by the chief academic officer, or his or her designee, of ACTS and of CUA.

8. Amendments:

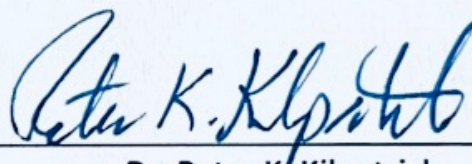
- a. This MOU constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof. Any amendment, waiver, or other change can be executed only in writing and only when signed by the signatories, their designees, or successors.

9. Term:

- a. This MOU will commence upon execution and will continue for an initial three-year period. Unless decided otherwise by the committed Parties, this MOU may be renewed by mutual written, signed consent of the original signatories, their designees, or successors.
- b. Each January during the term of this MOU, the Parties shall evaluate the MOU in terms of the opportunities it creates, the student experience it affords, and the operations it maintains. In the event that either of the Parties wishes to alter the agreement, amendments may be proposed as outlined above. In the event that either of the Parties desires to withdraw from the MOU, the withdrawing party must provide notification to the other Party in writing on or before December 1, for termination of the agreement effective the following January 1. In the event that the MOU is terminated as provided in this paragraph, or in the event that both Parties mutually agree that the MOU should be discontinued, further matriculations under the MOU will cease.



His Eminence Metropolitan Serapion
St. Athanasius and St. Cyril Coptic Orthodox
Theological School
President



Dr. Peter K. Kilpatrick
Catholic University of America
President



His Grace Bishop Kyrillos
St. Athanasius and St. Cyril Coptic Orthodox
Theological School
Dean



Fr. Mark Morozowich
Catholic University of America, School of Theology
and Religious Studies
Dean

November 5, 2022