

May 8, 2020

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
LCMS International Center
1333 South Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63122

Re: Closure and Sale of Concordia University – Portland and Request for Dialog with CNA

Dear Rev. Harrison:

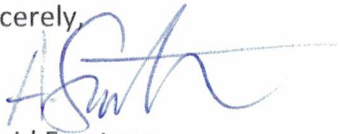
With the February 10 announcement that the Portland campus of Concordia University ("University") will cease operations at the end of the Spring 2020 academic semester, which is this month, we seek to open a line of communication with the owner(s) of the University – the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ("LCMS"), which we understand you lead. The University has been a well-regarded Concordia neighbor for approximately 115 years. As the neighborhood grew up around it and many neighbors have fond memories of growing up here, we are sad to see the University close. In fact, our neighborhood takes its name - Concordia - from the University, and is known throughout Portland and the region.

As you can imagine, our neighborhood has a vested interest in what is in store for the campus and its associated properties. This is an issue on every resident's mind. The Concordia Neighborhood Association ("CNA") represents approximately 10,000 residents, 5,500 homes, and 1,000 local businesses, within one-square mile of the University's 24-acre campus. Our community has had a close working relationship throughout the years with the University's administrators, staff, and students. At this time, CNA would like to introduce itself to the governing body and owners of the University and proactively request to open a dialog with LCMS. It is our hope that this dialogue will ensure a constructive process by which this campus will be transferred to a new owner for the next 100 years. It is our wish that we continue to have a positive relationship with the new owners. You see, while the University seeks a new buyer for the property and will thus move on, the residents who call Concordia their home will still be here and we have a reasonable expectation that a future owner of the site will continue to be a respected neighbor, just as the University was.

Concordia Neighborhood Association
Closure and Sale of Concordia University

Our Association has a broad outreach and relationship with our residents and businesses; we like to think that we are a tight-knit community. We are here to support a constructive dialog and an orderly transition to new owners. Having an open dialogue with LCMS regarding the sale of the University, will go far in easing the minds of the residents. Would you and those with the authority to make decisions regarding the sale of the property be willing to open a line of communication with us regarding the future of this site? We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Astrid Furstner
Chair, Concordia Neighborhood Association
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P.O. Box 11194
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chair@concordiapdx.org

Cc:

- Dr. Thomas Ries, Interim President, Concordia University - Portland
- Chuck Gerken, Chair, Board of Regents, Concordia University – Portland
- Michael Kumm, Chairman, Board of Directors, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- President, Concordia University System (1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63122)