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Accredited by:- University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) &
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Joint Committee for Tertiary Education (JCTE)
Joint Board for Teacher Education (JBTE)

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

From: The President's Desk

To Our Valued Stakeholders:

Re: Addressing Community Concerns Regarding the LGBT+ Faith and Sexuality Symposium

We are writing to address the concerns that have arisen within our community following the sharing of information about the upcoming LGBT+ Faith and Sexuality Symposium. We understand and appreciate the thoughtful feedback we have received from various stakeholders, and we want to reaffirm our commitment to fostering a community of open dialogue, academic exploration, and unwavering adherence to our core values.

Addressing Recent Anxiety and Reaffirming Our Faith:

We also acknowledge the anxiety and concern that many of you have experienced over the past week due to adverse publicity surrounding this matter. We understand that such attention can be unsettling, and we want to reassure you, in no uncertain terms, of our unwavering commitment to the Christian faith. The principles that have guided JTS since its inception remain our steadfast foundation, and we will continue to uphold and promote these values in all that we do.

Acknowledging Diverse Perspectives:

We recognize that the intersection of faith, sexuality, and identity is a complex and sensitive topic with a wide spectrum of perspectives within our JTS community. Some may view the symposium as an opportunity for learning and understanding, while others may have reservations based on their deeply held beliefs. We value the diversity of thought within our community and are committed to creating spaces where all voices can be heard with respect and empathy.

Clarifying Intent and Commitment to Mission and Values:

The sharing of information about the symposium was intended to promote awareness of diverse perspectives and encourage academic inquiry. It does not represent an endorsement of the symposium's views or the views of the event organizers. JTS remains firmly committed to its theological foundation, biblical teachings, and core values. We believe it is possible to engage with challenging topics in a manner that is both intellectually rigorous and faithful to our principles.

JTS is a multi-disciplinary college which, through the range of programmes it offers and the core values that infuse its operations, is preparing its students to help change the world one life at a time. Accordingly, it is fully committed to intellectual rigour, life-enhancing scholarship and knowledge-expanding academic enquiry. These are underlaid by sound theological and biblical foundations. JTS's goal is to prepare persons to better understand, communicate with, and evangelize others of all persuasions, with a view to more and more experiencing "the life which is truly life".

Moving Forward Together:

We are dedicated to creating opportunities for our community to engage in constructive dialogue on this important issue. To facilitate this, we are planning the following initiatives:

- **Community Dialogue Forum:** We will be organizing a forum where students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of JTS can come together to share their perspectives, ask questions, and engage in respectful conversation. Further details regarding the date, time, and format of this forum will be shared soon.
- **Resources for Further Learning:** We will be compiling and sharing resources that offer diverse perspectives on the intersection of faith, sexuality, and identity, including theological, historical, and social perspectives.
- **Emphasis on Core Values:** Throughout these discussions, we will continually emphasize JTS's core values and ensure that our conversations are grounded in our theological foundation.

We believe that by engaging in open, honest, and respectful dialogue, we can strengthen our community, deepen our understanding, and remain steadfast in our commitment to the values that define Jamaica Theological Seminary.

We value your input, your commitment to JTS, and your willingness to engage in these important conversations. We encourage you to participate in the upcoming forum and other initiatives as we navigate these complexities together.