



**JOAN BALLWEG**

STATE SENATOR · 14<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**Assembly Bill 721: Crossroads College and the Church of Christ  
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities  
Testimony of Senator Joan Ballweg  
January 10, 2024**

Thank you, Chair Murphy and members of the committee, for hearing Assembly Bill 721, which makes a technical fix in the statutes regarding property for the Church of Christ.

Under current law, when a local entity that is part of the Church of Christ dissolves or becomes defunct, the property is vested with the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association. About two years ago, the Wisconsin Christian Missionary merged with Crossroads College, which is the surviving entity. Since the Wisconsin Christian Missionary no longer exists and is the organization named in statute, the Executive Director of Crossroads College requested a bill to update the law.

AB 721 updates the statute to reflect Crossroads College as the entity that the property would be vested with. The bill also includes language about any successor organization to Crossroads College so a bill is not needed in the future should Crossroads College no longer exist.

The senate companion, Senate Bill 687, is scheduled for an executive session tomorrow in the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

Thank you for your consideration of AB 721.



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# LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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## Testimony on Assembly Bill 721

Relating to: specifying Crossroads College as the entity in which the Church of Christ's property vests if the Church of Christ becomes defunct or is dissolved.

### Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Good morning Chairman Murphy and committee members. Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 721. Unfortunately I am unable to testify in person today. However, please accept this submission of my written testimony in support of AB 721 and my research assistant Mathew will be there to testify on my behalf and answer any questions.

Current law provides a process for the members of a church to organize a corporation for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, and this corporation has the powers and privileges of a nonprofit corporation. The corporation may purchase and hold real property and personal property, and its secular business and temporal affairs are managed by a board of trustees.

Current law specifies if the Church of Christ becomes defunct or is dissolved the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association (WCMA) receives the Church of Christ's assets. However, the WCMA merged with Crossroads College two years ago. Crossroads College, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, is the surviving entity of this merger and the new successor to the WCMA.

This bill provides uniformity following this merger and allows the current successor to the WCMA, and any future successors to receive the assets of the Church of Christ without having to change state statute in the future. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of AB 721.