



JOAN BALLWEG

STATE SENATOR · 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

**Senate Bill 687: Crossroads College and the Church of Christ
Senate Committee on Government Operations
Testimony of Senator Joan Ballweg
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Stroebel and members of the committee, for hearing Senate Bill 687, which makes a technical fix in the statutes regarding the 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.

SB 687 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.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 687, and I am happy to answer any questions.



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on Senate Bill 687

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.

Senate Committee on Government Operations

December 19th, 2023

Good afternoon Chairman Stroebel and committee members. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 687.

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 also specifies if the Church of Christ becomes defunct or is dissolved the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association receives the Church of Christ's assets. However, the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association merged with Crossroads College two years ago. Crossroads College, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, was chosen as the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association's new successor.

This bill provides uniformity following this merger and allows the current successor to the Wisconsin Christian Missionary Association, and any future successors to receive the assets of the Church of Christ without having to change state statute. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 687.