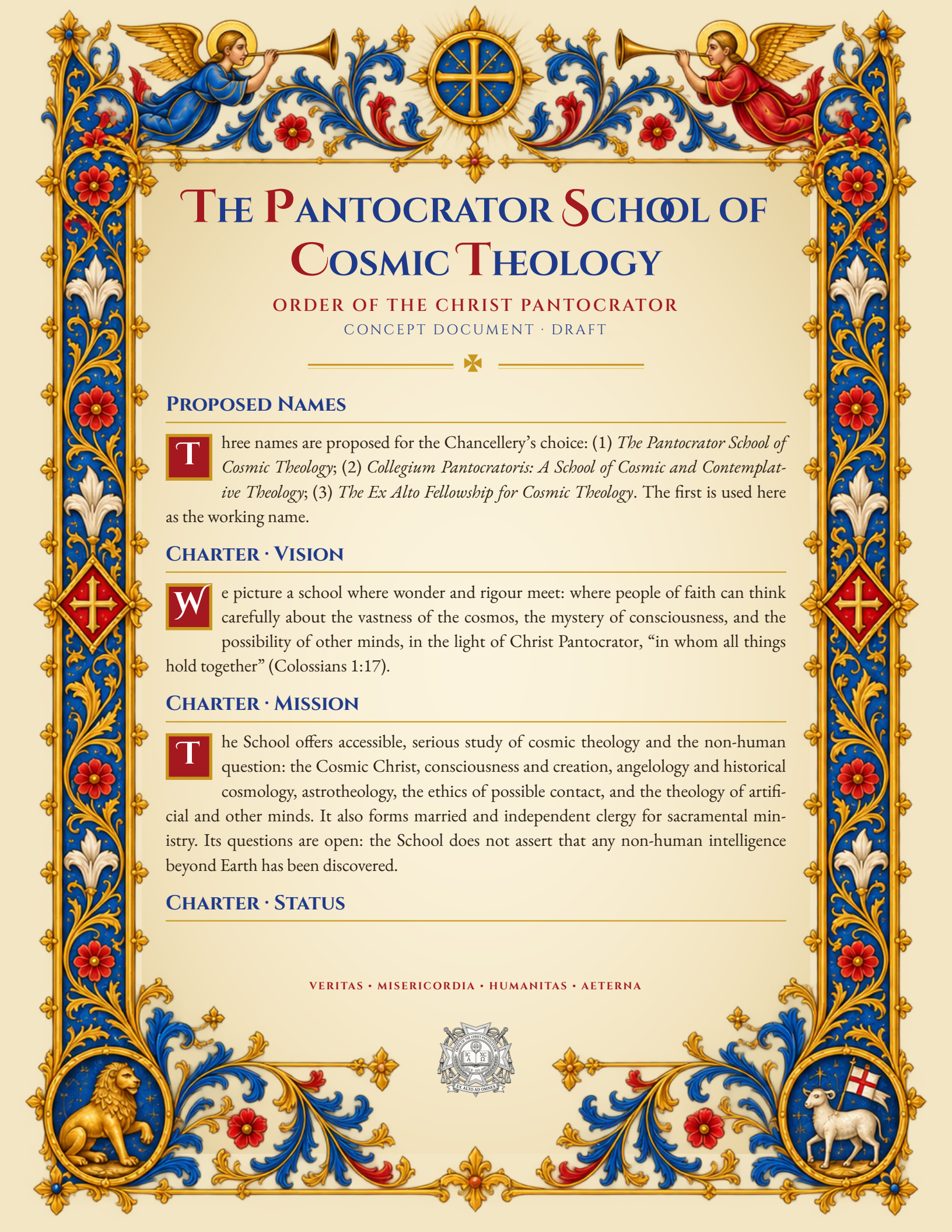




THE PANTOCRATOR SCHOOL OF COSMIC THEOLOGY

ORDER OF THE CHRIST PANTOCRATOR
CONCEPT DOCUMENT · DRAFT

PROPOSED NAMES

Three names are proposed for the Chancellery's choice: (1) *The Pantocrator School of Cosmic Theology*; (2) *Collegium Pantocratoris: A School of Cosmic and Contemplative Theology*; (3) *The Ex Alto Fellowship for Cosmic Theology*. The first is used here as the working name.

CHARTER · VISION

We picture a school where wonder and rigour meet: where people of faith can think carefully about the vastness of the cosmos, the mystery of consciousness, and the possibility of other minds, in the light of Christ Pantocrator, “in whom all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17).

CHARTER · MISSION

The School offers accessible, serious study of cosmic theology and the non-human question: the Cosmic Christ, consciousness and creation, angelology and historical cosmology, astrotheology, the ethics of possible contact, and the theology of artificial and other minds. It also forms married and independent clergy for sacramental ministry. Its questions are open: the School does not assert that any non-human intelligence beyond Earth has been discovered.

CHARTER · STATUS

VERITAS · MISERICORDIA · HUMANITAS · AETERNA





The School is a non-credit program of study offered by the Order of the Christ Pantocrator, a religious fellowship. It is not a college, university or seminary. Its certificates and fellowships recognise completion of study for personal, spiritual and ministerial enrichment only. They carry no academic credit, are not academic credentials, are not recognised by any government or educational licensing body, and do not by themselves confer ordination or any civil authority.

CHARTER • ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND ECUMENICAL POSTURE

Teachers and students are free to inquire, to disagree and to follow arguments where they lead, with courtesy and honesty about evidence. The School welcomes students from Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant and independent sacramental traditions, and from none. It respects the findings of the sciences and does not present speculation as established fact.

GOVERNANCE

Eugene, **High Chancellor** serves as Founder and Rector, responsible for the School's vision and the award of certificates and fellowships.

A Faculty Council of three to five members oversees curriculum, admissions and standards. [PLACEHOLDER: names and short biographies of council members.] The Council reports annually to the Chancellery.

CERTIFICATE TRACK I

COSMIC CHRIST & CONTEMPLATION

For anyone drawn to prayer, mysticism and a theology of creation.

The Cosmic Christ in Scripture and Tradition. Colossians 1, John 1 and Ephesians 1; Irenaeus, Maximus the Confessor and the Pantocrator icon.

Creation, Evolution and Teilhard de Chardin. Reading Teilhard and his critics on evolution, consciousness and the Omega Point.

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Consciousness and Creation. Philosophical and theological approaches to mind, from classical theism to contemporary philosophy of mind.

Contemplative Practice. Silence, the Jesus Prayer, lectio divina and the daily office as ways of attention.

Light and Transfiguration. The theology of uncreated light in Eastern Christian thought and its echoes in the West.

CERTIFICATE TRACK II

THEOLOGY OF NON-HUMAN INTELLIGENCE



Open questions about other minds: angels, possible extraterrestrial life and artificial intelligence.

Historical Cosmology and the Plurality of Worlds. From Democritus and medieval debates to Kepler, Fontenelle and the modern era.

Angelology Then and Now. Pseudo-Dionysius, Aquinas and modern readings of the angelic hierarchies as a theology of non-human persons.

Astrotheology. How Christian doctrines of creation, incarnation and redemption might respond if life is found beyond Earth.

The Ethics of Contact. Responsibility, humility and hospitality in imagined encounters with other intelligences; lessons from history.

Theology of AI and Other Minds. Personhood, the image of God and moral status in an age of artificial intelligence.

Seminar: Open Questions. A research seminar; participants present a short paper. No conclusions are assumed in advance.

CERTIFICATE TRACK III

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY FOR MARRIED AND INDEPENDENT CLERGY

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Practical formation for clergy and families serving in independent ministries.

Sacramental Theology in Cosmic Perspective. Eucharist, baptism and blessing as participation in a sustained creation.

Liturgy and the Pantocrator Altar Book. Preparing and celebrating the rites; writing new texts responsibly.

Ministry, Marriage and Family. Married clergy, boundaries, rest and the family as a school of love.

Pastoral Care and Safeguarding. Listening, referral, confidentiality and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Good Order for Independent Ministries. Records, simple governance, finances and civil requirements, including marriage law.

FORMAT

 **Online seminars.** Live 90-minute sessions in eight-week terms, recorded for those in other time zones.

Reading circles. Small peer groups meeting monthly around a shared book.

Annual virtual colloquium. A gathering where fellows and guests present papers and conversations are published in The Concordat.

CREDENTIALS AND DISTINCTIONS [PENDING DECISION]

[PENDING DECISION] Credentials and distinctions are under review by the Chancellery. This section will set out how the School recognises completion of study and contribution, and the exact wording of any post-nominals or honorary distinctions. Until decided, no awards are described or offered.

ADMISSIONS

 **Open to all adults, of any tradition or none, who wish to study in a spirit of curiosity and respect.**

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Apply with a short letter of interest (about 300 words) describing background and hopes.

A brief conversation with a member of the Faculty Council follows.

No prior academic study is required; some courses suggest prerequisite readings.

[PLACEHOLDER: term dates, application deadlines]

FEES

[PLACEHOLDER: course fees, sliding scale and scholarship policy. Consider offering reading circles free of charge.]

SEED READING LIST

1. Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre, *The Phenomenon of Man* (New York: Harper & Row, 1959 (published in French 1955; later translated as *The Human Phenomenon*)).
2. Maximus the Confessor, *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* (trans. P. M. Blowers and R. L. Wilken; Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2003).
3. Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Celestial Hierarchy*, in *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works* (trans. Colm Luibheid; New York: Paulist Press, 1987).
4. Peters, Ted, et al. (eds.), *Astrotheology: Science and Theology Meet Extraterrestrial Life* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018).
5. Wilkinson, David, *Science, Religion, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
6. Davies, Paul, *Are We Alone? Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life* (New York: Basic Books, 1995).
7. Davies, Paul, *The Eerie Silence: Renewing Our Search for Alien Intelligence* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010).
8. Dick, Steven J., *Plurality of Worlds: The Origins of the Extraterrestrial Life Debate from Democritus to Kant* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982).
9. Crowe, Michael J., *The Extraterrestrial Life Debate, 1750–1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).
10. Davison, Andrew, *Astrobiology and Christian Doctrine: Exploring the Implications of Life in the Universe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023).
11. Ward, Keith, *Religion and Creation* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996).
12. Lewis, C. S., "Religion and Rockets," in *The World's Last Night and Other Essays*, New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1960.
13. Fox, Matthew, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988).

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14. Delio, Ilia, *Christ in Evolution* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2008).
15. Chalmers, David J., *The Conscious Mind: In Search of a Fundamental Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).
16. Nagel, Thomas, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?", *The Philosophical Review* 83, no. 4 (1974): 435–450.
17. Herzfeld, Noreen L., *In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Human Spirit* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002).
18. Ware, Kallistos, *The Orthodox Way* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1979).

Proposed to the Chancellery
[PLACEHOLDER: date]

EUGENE, HIGH CHANCELLOR
Founder and Rector (proposed)

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