

85-001-074



Atlantic Christian College
Wilson, N. C. 27893

Office of the President

October 17, 1984

Mr. William H. Thomas, Regional Director
United States Department of Education
Region IV
101 Marietta Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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CIVIL RIGHTS
REGION IV

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the information requested in your letter of September 12, 1984.

As I explained in my letter of August 29, 1984, the College was founded and is sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Five ministers of the church, including the regional minister of North Carolina, serve as members of our Board of Trustees. The Disciples do not have specifically stated religious tenets; therefore, the information you requested cannot be provided at the level of specificity you requested. The following remarks provide a general statement and description of the fundamental religious beliefs of the Disciples of Christ. We believe these beliefs and certain specific provisions of the Title IX regulations are in conflict.

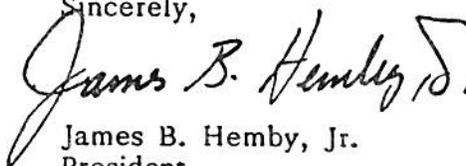
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a New Testament Church. Its theological teachings are based on the New Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The religious, moral, and ethical principles of the church do not condon sexual relationships out of wedlock. The commitment of the College to these beliefs are reflected in its statement of purpose which is to "... maintain and operate an institution of learning, for the education and instruction of qualified students within the framework of Christian ideals and principles and under the auspices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina."

Our affiliation with the Christian Church requires that we demonstrate, through teaching, rules, and actions, support for the teachings and beliefs of the church. Because one of the important ways by which the College attempts to develop the moral character of its students is role modeling, the presence of unmarried pregnant women in our dormitories clearly contradicts the principles of the church and the educational goals of the College. Allowing unmarried pregnant females to reside in our dormitories define for the other women residents our acceptance and condoning a type of behavior considered to be immoral and unethical by the church. For these reasons, we are requesting that we be granted an exception from the applicaiton of Title IX, 34 C.F.R., Section 86.32, (a), (b).

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Thank you for your prompt response to my first letter and for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Hemby, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James B. Hemby, Jr.
President

JBHjr:ls