

FEB 22 1979



**BELMONT
COLLEGE**
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
AND
ACADEMIC DEAN

February 16, 1979

Mr. Waite H. Madison, Jr., Acting Director
Division of Postsecondary Education
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
Office for Civil Rights
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mr. Madison:

In response to your letter dated January 26, 1979, I am pleased to re spond to your inquiry regarding 45 CFR Section 86.4 under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

You asked for clarification in two areas:

First, regarding religious tenets and provisions of the regulation which the college believes to be in conflict. Belmont College is owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The Baptist denomination is not a creedal faith nor does it have stated dogmas. It does very clearly emphasize certain practices and beliefs.

The Baptist Faith and Message was adopted by the denomination in its annual convention in 1963 and reaffirmed in 1969. There are 17 sections of this statement growing out of Biblical truth. The Baptist Faith and Message statements are a part of our Faculty Handbook and, therefore, a part of our contracts. It stresses that every Christian is under obligation to follow the teachings of Exodus 20:3-17 and other Biblical truths stated elsewhere. Exodus 20:14 (one of the Ten Commandments) states: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Our denomination believes that pregnancy and childbirth out of wedlock are wrong and, therefore, reserves the right to act accordingly. This teaching also permeates the denominational educational literature used in the churches. The college does not discriminate in its action regarding sex in these matters.

Mr. Waite H. Madison, Jr.

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Second, Belmont College belongs to the Tennessee Baptist Convention having been established in 1951. Its trustees are elected by the convention in its annual session and the denomination significantly funds the college with operational and capital funds. The college is responsible to the convention in fiscal, academic and spiritual matters, even though the convention leaves wide discretionary power with the college.

Sincerely,

BELMONT COLLEGE



Glen E. Kelley
Executive Vice President
and Academic Dean