



BETHEL COLLEGE  
MISHAWAKA, INDIANA 46544  
PHONE (219) 259-8511

June 1, 1977

Mr. Albert T. Hamlin  
Acting Director  
Office of Civil Rights  
Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mr. Hamlin:

Bethel College has reviewed its current policies and practices in regard to full compliance with the provisions of Title IX.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 86:12 of Title IX, I request exemption of Bethel College from the provisions of section 86:21 c; 86:40 (a) and (b) and 86:57 to the extent that they may deal with pregnancy out of wedlock. The sections of the act are inconsistent with the general practice of The Missionary Church with which Bethel College is affiliated.

The Constitution of The Missionary Church as published in its 1973 edition requires practices and conduct in social relationships that reflect the spiritual ideals of Christianity. (See the Constitution of The Missionary Church, p. 12.) Further, the church takes a position that the sanctity of marriage and the home should be taught to all believers (ibid., page 11.)

While it is the expectation of Bethel College to apply college rules and regulations equally to men and women there may be occasions in the instance of pregnancy out of wedlock where the evidence regarding the father may be insufficient to meet due process requirements whereas such would not be the case with the woman. To deal with neither party because we could not deal with both would be tantamount to sanctioning of a moral situation which violates a position of the church.

Further, I request exemption of Bethel College from the provisions of section 86:31 to the extent that appropriate differences may be required between the sexes in regulations concerning dress. The application of the standards of practice and conduct of the church requires differences in dress code in specific circumstances. The acceptable style of swim suit for a swimming class would be different for the men than for the women.

Your favorable consideration of our request for specific exemption will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Albert J. Beutler  
President

AJB:cc  
Enclosure