



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

AUG 16 1989

Dr. Paul H. Dixon
President
Cedarville College
Box 601
Cedarville, Ohio 45314

Dear Dr. Dixon:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the Department of Education has completed its review of your letter, dated June 26, 1989, requesting a religious exemption from certain sections of the regulation implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. By letter dated September 13, 1985, Cedarville College (College) was exempted from the following sections of the Title IX regulation: 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21(c)(1), (2) and (4); 106.40(a), (b)(1), (4) and (5); and 106.57(a)(1), (b) and (c).

In your request letter of June 26, 1989, you provided information that establishes that the College is controlled by a religious organization and that tenets of this organization conflict with specific sections of the Title IX regulation (copy enclosed). You described in your request letter certain policies practiced at the College as being consistent with the tenets of the religious organization that controls the institution. These policies would violate certain sections of the regulation implementing Title IX absent a religious exemption. Therefore, I am granting the College an exemption to those sections of the Title IX regulation specified in your most recent request letter. Cedarville College is hereby exempted from the requirements of the following sections of the Title IX regulation: 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21(c), 106.38, 106.40, 106.51, 106.53, 106.55, 106.57, 106.59, and 106.60. The exemption is limited to the extent that compliance with the Title IX regulation conflicts with the religious tenets followed by the College. The basis for this decision is discussed in further detail below.

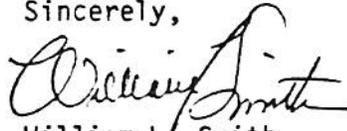
Your request letter indicates that the College is a Baptist College subject to annual approval by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC). The trustees of the College and the faculty, students and employees of the College are all required to espouse a personal belief in the religious tenets of the Christian faith. The Charter of the College and the catalogs and other official publications of the College contain explicit statements that the College is committed to the doctrines of the Christian religion. The College maintains its religious traditions, standards, and beliefs in accordance with the requirements of the GARBC. This relationship between the GARBC and the College adequately establishes that the College is controlled by a religious organization as is required for consideration for exemption under 34 C.F.R. § 106.12 of the Title IX regulation.

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I hope this letter responds fully to your request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chicago Regional Office for Civil Rights. The address is:

Mr. Kenneth A. Mines
Regional Civil Rights Director
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
U.S. Department of Education
401 South State Street, Room 700C, 05-4010
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William L. Smith".

William L. Smith
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights

Enclosure

cc: Kenneth A. Mines, Regional Civil Rights Director, Region V