



# CHOWAN COLLEGE

MURFREESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27855

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 26, 1976

Mr. Martin H. Gerry  
Director  
Office for Civil Rights  
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Gerry:

Per your memorandum of July 1976, enclosed you will find for Chowan College the completed Assurance of Compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Should you have questions concerning the compliance of Chowan College with respect to Title IX, you may contact either me or Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., Dean of the College, whom I have appointed as Coordinator of Title IX.

Very sincerely yours,

Bruce E. Whitaker  
President

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Enclosures



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## CLAIM FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

Chowan College is a church-related institution, owned by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. As such, it unapologetically includes the following statement in its college catalog under Requirements for Admission: "Chowan College desires to enroll only those persons who are trustworthy and studious and who possess those qualities that make for a congenial adjustment to college life. Evidence of good moral character, seriousness of purpose, and desirable personal traits will be considered of first importance."

Consequently, Chowan College has grave misgivings with respect to those requirements as set forth in the various paragraphs of Section 86.40 of the Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972, insofar as these regulations require Chowan College to treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, or termination of pregnancy of an unmarried woman as a temporary disability. The college is also concerned with similar requirements as included in paragraph 86.21 (c), 86.39, 86.51 (b) (6), 86.57 (a) (1), 86.57 (b), 86.57 (c), and 86.60 (a), whether with respect to unmarried students or employees.

As a church-related institution, Chowan College does not condone premarital unchastity on the part of male or female students or employees. Further, the college shall continue to carry in its catalog the following statement: "The College reserves the right at all times to exclude students whose conduct or academic standing it regards as undesirable..."

With reference to section 86.40 and those other paragraphs listed above, Chowan College reserves the right, pursuant to paragraph 86.12 (b) of the Title IX regulations, to claim exemption from requirements as set forth in the enumerated paragraphs, insofar as it may adjudge any portion or all of these to be contrary to the basic religious stance of Southern Baptists.

Respectfully submitted,

CHOWAN COLLEGE

Bruce E. Whitaker

President of the College