



Office of the President

Concordia Theological Seminary

6600 N. Clinton St. / Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825-4996 / (219) 482-9611

July 30, 1985

Ms. Linda A. McGovern
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director
Office for Civil Rights
Department of Education, Region V
300 South Wacker Drive - 8th Floor
Chicago, ILL 60606

Re: Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

This letter is in response to your letter of July 18.

Perhaps the reason your prior request was not answered is that the institution which requested the exemption in 1976, Concordia Senior College, is not the same as Concordia Theological Seminary. The Senior College was closed several years ago and the Seminary, formerly located in Springfield, Illinois, was moved to the campus in Ft. Wayne.

However, we wish at this time to claim an exemption from Title IX for the Seminary.

Concordia Theological Seminary, a theological seminary owned and controlled by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, claims an exemption from the provisions of Title IX based upon Statutes Section 1681(a)(3) and Regulations Section 86.12* which specify that Title IX does "not apply to an educational institution which is controlled by a religious organization if the application . . . would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization." Specifically a determination of exemption is requested with respect to the activities subject to Regulations §86.21 Admissions, §86.22 Preference in Admission, §86.23 Recruitment, §86.31 Education Programs and Activities, §86.32 Housing, §86.34 Access to Course Offerings, §86.37 Financial Assistance, §86.38 Employment Assistance to Students, and §86.51 Employment.

*All citations to Regulations are to those as amended and revised as of October 1, 1984.

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In each case the tenet of the religious organization which controls Concordia Theological Seminary is the one which prohibits the ordination of women as pastors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Since Concordia Theological Seminary exists to train men for ordination into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it directs its recruitment efforts to those who will qualify for such ministry, and will give preference as to admissions, education programs and activities, housing, course offerings, financial assistance, employment assistance and otherwise to men. Although Concordia Theological Seminary does not automatically refuse admission or access to course offerings or other programs of the Seminary to women, it does reserve the right to exclude them if circumstances warrant that, and in any event makes it clear that admission and access to courses will not produce the same result as for men, namely ordination into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

In addition, since the educating of prospective pastors is generally accomplished through those who themselves are pastors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Seminary gives preference to men in faculty and certain staff positions which it regards as necessary or desirable as being filled by pastors.

If additional detail is required in order for you to process the Seminary's application for exemption, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT PREUS
PRESIDENT

RP:dm