



Office of the President

DR. MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

NEW ULM, MINNESOTA 56073
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*H.A. Meier
10/1/29*

October 1, 1976

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

Dear Mr. Gerry,

Enclosed is the "Assurance of Compliance under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972" and is completed to the extent that we feel it is applicable to an institution owned, controlled, supported, and maintained by a recognized church body, the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod with its national headquarters at 3512 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208.

On July 21, 1976, the synod's president, Rev. Oscar J. Naumann, submitted to you a five page letter with supporting data which fully documents the claim for religious exemption on the basis of Title IX provisions. Repeated contacts with our national headquarters reveal that no response has been given to the exemption claim.

I wish to point out that no educational program on this campus, as a matter of church policy, has ever received federal support and that there is not one penny of federal money in any of its facilities. Nearly 60% of the funds necessary for the annual operating budget is a direct gift of the sponsoring church body. About 40% of the operating budget comes from student fees which are considerably lower than at comparable private and public institutions since the purpose of this college is to educate young people for service as elementary teachers in the Christian day schools within the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. Furthermore, all facilities on this campus were built and paid for by the synod.

There are provisions in Title IX which either militate against the purpose for the existence of this college or are at complete variance with the religious convictions and practices of the sponsoring church body. I'll point out a few.



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The present student body has nearly three times more women than men. In connection with regulations 86.15 it should be stated that we recruit on the basis of the needs in the church and not on the basis of quotas.

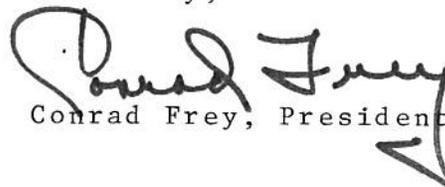
Without violating what we feel strongly would violate Scriptural injunctions, we could not and will not accommodate ourselves to 86.21 - the points under c. We would also have conscientious concerns about 86.32,a. Regulation 86.40b falls into the same category as 86.21,c.

The interpretation we see in 86,34 militates against the purpose of the college. We feel that we must reserve to ourselves the right to determine how student gifts can be best utilized and, therefore, we determine the course offerings a student is to pursue as we seek to meet the needs of the church. The students know this when they enroll.

Interwoven throughout several of the regulations is the whole matter of discipline, Christian discipline, which is a responsibility we cannot abrogate by any fiat of an outside agency.

Although the letter you received from the synod's president, Rev. Oscar J. Naumann, included among its accompanying materials a catalog of this college, I am enclosing another. I would refer you particularly to pages 11, 12, 20, and 31.

Sincerely,


Conrad Frey, President

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