

85-105-003



OAKWOOD COLLEGE HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35896 (205) 837-1630

ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT

August 6, 1985

Mr. William H. Thomas, Regional Director
United States Dept. of Education
Region IV
101 Marietta Tower
Atlanta, GA 30323

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REGION IV

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This is in reference to your letter of March 25, 1985 and our request for religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Ammendments of 1972. The following are the bases for our request:

The name of the religious organization that controls Oakwood College is the Seventh-day Adventist Church, incorporated as the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The address of this organization is 6840 Eastern Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC 20012.

As the College's parent body, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists owns all the buildings, property, deeds and titles. As an institution of higher education, Oakwood College is the educational arm of the church -- and is governed by the doctrines, policies, and practices of its religious organization --the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The following is a brief description of the tenets of our faith. Seventh-day Adventists believe:

1. In the entire Bible as the inspired Word of God. II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:19-21.
2. In the Godhead as mentioned in Matt. 28:19, 20.
3. In Jesus Christ as the only Way of Salvation. John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:20-26.
4. In the imminent, personal, visible, and soon return of Jesus in the clouds. Matt. 24; Luke 21; John 14:1-5.

5. In Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; not by our works in keeping the law of God. Eph. 2:8-10; I John 5:11, 12.
6. In obedience as the fruitage of faith. James 2:17-20; Gal. 5:22, 23.
7. In regeneration, the new birth, Bible conversion, true sanctification and holiness of life. John 3:1-6; Acts 3:19; II Cor. 5:17.
8. In the ten commandments, the Law of God, as the standard of the judgment of God and of the daily life. Ex. 20:1-7; Eccl. 12:13, 14.
9. In the original Seventh-day Sabbath, Saturday as the true Lord's Day. Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-1; Isa. 58:13, 14.
10. In the followers of Christ shunning worldly pleasures and follies that unfit them for heaven. Abstaining from fornication. In Christian conduct that is manifested by modesty and simplicity in dress and appearance. I Thes. 4:3, 7; 5:23; I Peter 2:21; Isa. 3:16-24.
11. In the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the body temple and that the Christian should not defile it with alcoholic beverages, tobacco in any form, narcotics or foods that are not in harmony with God's Word. I Cor. 6:18; 9:24-27; Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thes. 5:23; Lev. 11; Deut. 14.
12. In death as a sleep without consciousness and that the dead rest in their graves until the resurrection, for the dead know not anything. Eccl. 9:5, 6.
13. In the gifts of the Holy Spirit; in the presence of the gift of prophecy which is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church. I Cor. 1:5-7; 12:1-28; Amos 3:7; Rev. 12:17.
14. In Baptism by immersion. Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 2:12; 3:1-4.
15. In support of the gospel through tithes and offerings. Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:7-12; Matt. 23:23.

Finally, we feel that Sections 106.21c-2, 106.40b-1, and 106.57-2-b are in conflict with our belief that fornication or sexual

relations before marriage is a sin. (See numbers 10 and 11). Therefore, if an unmarried employee or student were to become involved in such a relationship which resulted in pregnancy we could not permit the parties (male and female) to remain employed at or enrolled in our institution. These individuals are also disfellowshipped from the church body. When and if they re-enter the church through re-baptism, they can be readmitted to the institution, if they so desire.

It is our understanding that Section 106.31b-5 regarding appearance has been deleted from the Regulation and need not be addressed herein.

We believe that this letter clarifies our position relative to our Title IX Waiver request dated May 31, 1977. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosa T. Banks".

Dr. Rosa T. Banks, Vice President
Administration & Development

RTB:lgw

cc: Ken Gross