

86-081-483

SOUTHERN COLLEGE
OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
Collegedale, Tennessee 37315

A
LIBERAL ARTS
COLLEGE

(615) 238-2000

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

October 31, 1985

Mr. Louis Bryson
Department of Education
Suite 2704
101 Marietta Towers
Atlanta, GA 30323

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U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH
OFFICE FOR CIVIL
RIGHTS

Dear Mr. Bryson:

In the Title IX assurance form, previously filed with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Southern Missionary College (name changed to Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists in February, 1982) requested that it be granted exemption as provided for in 34 C.F.R. Section 106.11, from certain provisions of Title IX regulations because they appear to be in conflict with certain religious teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, of which Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists is an integral part. Specifically, Southern College of SDA requested exemptions from the following regulations on the grounds hereinafter stipulated: 34 C.P.R. Sections 106.21, 106.40, and 106.57 which pertain to marital and parental status.

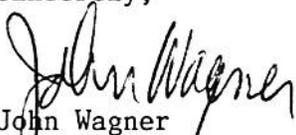
The eighth fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church states that, "The law of the ten commandments points out sin," Church Manual, p. 33. The seventh commandment, Exodus 20:14 states, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The church interprets this commandment to cover adultery, fornication, various perversions, and certain remarriages ("reasons for Which Members Shall be Disciplined," Church Manual, p. 247). The Church Manual comments, "The church cannot afford to deal lightly with such sins nor permit personal considerations to affect its actions. It must register its decisive, emphatic disapproval of the sin of fornication, adultery, all acts of moral indiscretions and other greivous sin," p. 249. Thus, pregnancy outside of marriage is considered immoral conduct inappropriate for a student in a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution.

Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists, as a church institution, is obligated to uphold the above religious standards in its relationship with its students and employees.

Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists believes it is in compliance with the requirements of Title IX because it applies its religious principles and regulatory standards equally to students and employees of both sexes. It has requested these specific religious exemptions because it is not clear as to how the regulations promulgated under Title IX will be interpreted and applied to religious institutions, specifically to Southern College of SDA.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States operates two universities, seven senior colleges, and one medical arts college to provide for its youth the opportunity to do advanced study within the context of the church's world view, sense of mission, and theological positions. Southern College is owned and operated by the SDA church and is therefore an integral part of the church and as such is listed in the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook as a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution and thus comes under the church's basic 501C3 tax exemption. In addition, members of its constituency and Board of Trustees are Seventh-day Adventists, as are its faculty and staff.

Sincerely,


John Wagner
President

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