

בית המדרש לתורה

THE HEBREW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

7135 NORTH CARPENTER ROAD

SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60077

(312) 267-9800

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1101

September 9, 1985

Linda A. Cornelius
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director
Region V
Office for Civil Rights
United States Department of Education
300 South Wacker Drive-8th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Cornelius:

The Hebrew Theological College wishes to request religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation, 34 CFR Part 106. Pursuant to this request, the following information is provided.

The Hebrew Theological College is under the control of the Board of Directors of the Hebrew Theological College which is bound by its constitution to all the tenets of the Orthodox Jewish faith. The Board of Directors sets policy and through the chief executive officer, the president, exercises control over the institution.

The Hebrew Theological College follows the religious tenets of the Orthodox Jewish faith as set down in the Torah (Old Testament), Talmud and Jewish law that has been established for centuries.

The relationship between the Hebrew Theological College and the Orthodox Jewish faith establishes that Hebrew Theological College is controlled by a religious organization as is required for consideration for exemption under section 106.12 of the Title IX regulation.

The Hebrew Theological College maintains a program to train men for ordination as rabbis in the Orthodox Jewish faith and also offers a doctorate and a masters degree in Pastoral Counseling open only to ordained rabbis. Based on the above the Hebrew Theological College requests an exemption from section 106.21 regarding admissions to these two programs only. The Hebrew Theological College does not request exemption for admissions in all other programs which are open to men and women: Bachelor in Hebrew Literature, Master in Hebrew Literature, Doctor in Hebrew Literature, Master in Religious Education and Doctor in Religious Education. However, since classes and facilities for these programs are segregated by sex in accordance with our religious tradition, we request to be exempted from the prohibition against programs operated separately on the basis of sex found at section 106.34. For the programs restricted to men, we are also requesting exemptions from two other sections of the regulation: section 106.22 (Preference in Admission) and section 106.23 (Recruitment).

In addition to these exemptions, the College only can offer housing for the male students in its nonrabbinical degree programs since housing is shared with rabbinical students. Therefore, we wish to apply for an additional exemption under section 106.32.

Finally, in employment matters, all instructors in the rabbinical program are required to be ordained rabbis. Therefore, we wish to request an exemption under section 106.51 for hiring academic staff, under section 106.52 for requiring ordination as an employment criterion, under section 106.53 (Recruitment), under section 106.55 (Job Classification and Structure) and under section 106.59 (Advertising).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

THE HEBREW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



Rabbi Don Well
President

DW/csf