



THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
7418 Penn Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

Office of the President
Bruce C. Stewart, M.A., D.D.

August 14, 1985

Mr. Dewey E. Dodds, Director
Office for Civil Rights
Region III
U. S. Department of Education
3535 Market Street, P.O. Box 13716
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Mr. Dodds:

In response to your letter regarding the granting of a religious exemption to the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary from the Title IX regulations, we claim the following religious exemption as provided for in the Federal Register, Vol. 45, No. 92, Section 86, 12 (b):

As a matter of religious conviction, the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary does not offer classes in homiletics to women. This is the only exemption we claim. Women may take any other courses that we offer.

The Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary is controlled by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. Its professors are elected by the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Its Board of Trustees must be elders in the Reformed Presbyterian Church and are elected by the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. According to the Constitution of the Seminary, "The purpose of the Seminary shall be to provide a succession of godly men for the Gospel ministry, by instructing candidates for this ministry, and others who may be preparing for special lines of Christian service, in the Scriptures and the doctrines found therein. This system of doctrine is summarily exhibited in the Standards of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America."

The Reformed Presbyterian Church does not allow the ordination of women to the ministry nor does it permit women to preach. The following citation is taken from the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, the Form of Church Government, Chapter IV, paragraph 2 (page 246): "Young men are to be encouraged to devote their lives to the ministry. Presbyteries shall receive as students of theology such men as are members

in good standing in the Reformed Presbyterian Church....In respect to scholastic attainments, a full collegiate course shall be required in all ordinary cases." Subsequent paragraphs speak of progress in the Seminary, of Licensure to preach, and of Ordination. No provision is made for the ordination of women or their participation in preaching.

Section 106. 34 is the section from which exemption is requested. Consistent with the policy of the Reformed Presbyterian Church which controls the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Seminary does not give access to women to courses in homiletics. This is the only restriction we place upon women; they are free to take any other courses we offer.

I trust that this is the information you requested. If you have further questions, please let me know.

Cordially,



Bruce C. Stewart
President

BCS/ms