



February 8, 2016

Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-100

RE: The Master's College and Seminary Request for Title IX Religious Exemption

Dear Assistant Secretary Lhamon:

As the highest-ranking officer of The Master's College and Seminary, I am submitting this letter as an official request for exemption from compliance to particular Title IX regulations under the religious exemption clause.¹

The Master's College and Seminary is a private, Christian, liberal arts college and pastoral seminary that is directly associated with Grace Community Church of Sun Valley. I concurrently serve as the Pastor of Grace Community Church.

The Master's College and Seminary has a doctrinal foundation rooted in biblical fidelity and orthodox Christianity. The Bible is inerrant truth which provides knowledge and direction for all of life, including gender identity and human sexuality.

The Bible states that human beings were formed in the image of God, created as distinctively male and female. Over and over, Scripture confirms this heterosexual creation of human beings. Scripture testifies that God created sex as a gift intended for one man and one woman who have entered into the covenant of marriage. Any pursuit of sexual activity outside the bonds of marriage is considered sinful behavior and is a perversion of God's intended purposes. Therefore, sexual promiscuity and homosexuality exist outside of His design. Any attempt to change or shift God's intention for human sexuality violates the biblical standards set forth.

It is in the Biblical account of creation that gender is firmly established. We reject any belief that attempts to alter gender identity or gender characteristics, which include cross-dressing, transgender, and gender-neutrality.

It is due to our commitment to Scripture as ultimate truth that we can affirm the dignity of all human beings, which have been created in the image of God. We do not condone any form of harassment or harm against any person. Every Christian is called to treat all people, even those living lifestyles in conflict with the law of God, with love and compassion, offering repentance, forgiveness, and transformation through Jesus Christ. However, it would be a violation of our firmly held religious beliefs and our consciences to accept and support a person openly violating biblical principles.

¹ 20 CFR 1681(a)(3); 34 CFR §106.12(a)

These truths set forth by Scripture are affirmed by The Master's College and Seminary and are reflected in our Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement.

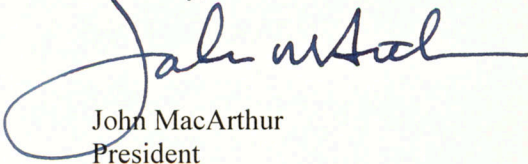
Based upon the most recent interpretations of Title IX regarding sexual activity and gender, we cannot give support to every section of Title IX. On behalf of The Master's College and Seminary, I am requesting exemption from the specific regulations found below. These exemptions will allow us to faithfully practice our doctrinal beliefs, while at the same time remain in compliance with the Department of Education and the Office of Civil Rights.

The following is the delineation of the specific regulations we are requesting exemption from based on our deeply held doctrinal beliefs:

- 34 CFR §106.21**– policies regarding admissions prohibitions on the basis of sex
- 34 CFR §106.23** – policies regarding recruitment of students
- 34 CFR §106.31(b)(4)** – policy regarding rules of behavior, sanctions, or other treatment
- 34 CFR §106.31(b)(7)** – policies regarding limitation of rights, privileges, advantages or opportunities
- 34 CFR §106.32** – policies regarding room and board/housing
- 34 CFR §106.33** – policies regarding restrooms and locker rooms
- 34 CFR §106.40** – policies regarding pregnancy; policies regarding marital and parental status of students
- 34 CFR §106.41** – policies regarding athletics
- 34 CFR §106.51**– policies regarding discrimination in employment in leaves for pregnancy, childbirth, and termination of pregnancy, based on sex, including those in regards to issues of gender identity
- 34 CFR §106.53** – policies regarding recruitment of employees
- 34 CFR §106.57** – policies regarding pregnancy and marital status
- 34 CFR §106.60** – policies regarding pre-employment inquires

If you require more detailed explanation of our doctrinal stance or other information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



John MacArthur
President

Attachments:
Bylaws
Doctrinal Statement