

HEARTLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Preaching the Word.



Reaching the World

March 31, 2017

Sandra Battle, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-1100

Dear Secretary Battle:

As president of Heartland Baptist Bible College, Inc., I am the highest ranking official of the college. I am writing this letter to apply to the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education for a religious exemption from certain regulations under Title IX, as they relate to discrimination based on sex, in accordance with the following paragraphs:

34 CFR 106.12 - Educational institutions controlled by religious organizations

(a) *Application.* This part does not apply to an educational institution which is controlled by a religious organization to the extent application of this part would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization.

(b) *Exemption.* An educational institution which wishes to claim the exemption set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, shall do so by submitting in writing to the Assistant Secretary a statement by the highest ranking official of the institution, identifying the provisions of this part which conflict with a specific tenet of the religious organization.

20 U.S. Code § 1681 - Sex

(a) *Prohibition against discrimination; exceptions:* No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, except that:

(3) *Educational institutions of religious organizations with contrary religious tenets:* this section shall not apply to an educational institution which is controlled by a religious organization if the application of this subsection would not be consistent with the religious tenets of such organization;

Sam Davison, President

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Independent | Fundamental | Baptist Doctrine | Bible Preaching | King James Bible | Local Church Ministry | World Missions | Godly Music

(c) "Educational institution" defined:

For purposes of this chapter an educational institution means any public or private preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education, except that in the case of an educational institution composed of more than one school, college, or department which are administratively separate units, such term means each such school, college, or department.

Heartland Baptist Bible College is an independent Baptist college training men and women for ministries in independent Baptist churches. Our mission statement states that "Heartland Baptist Bible College is committed to excellence in educating and training preachers, missionaries, and Christian workers."

The primary area of concern for which we seek religious exemption is the issue that the college's Biblical Studies program is gender specific in nature. We believe that only men are considered clergy.

We affirm that the Biblical Studies program is training church pastors and associate pastors, missionaries who will pastor churches overseas, and youth workers who will pastor teenagers. As stated in the Heartland Baptist Bible College Doctrinal Statement (What We Believe), "We believe that a Baptist church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel,...; and that its officers are pastors or elders and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture...."

The Scripture that provides the foundation for our doctrinal belief is located in I Timothy and Titus in the King James Version of the Bible:

I Timothy 3:1-13: 1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 1:5-9: 5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Secondarily, we request religious exemption from certain regulations under Title IX regarding prohibitions against discrimination only to the extent that such prohibition have been or may be interpreted to include discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. These would include 34 C.F.R. paragraphs 106.21, 106.23, 106.31, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.40, 106.41, 106.51, 106.53, and 106.57. Again, we request religious exemption only to the extent that discrimination is defined on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. The Heartland Baptist Bible College Doctrinal Statement addresses Human Sexuality in article XXI. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a one man one woman marriage. We believe that any form of adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, pedophilia, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex and design for mankind. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 9:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29)

We further believe that a person cannot change their birth gender. All persons are created in God's image and are made to glorify Him (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 43:7). God's design was the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6). We reject all attempts at defining or altering one's sexual identity or gender in any manner (Matthew 19:4; Deuteronomy 22:5).

In accordance with paragraphs 34 CFR 106.12 and 20 U.S. Code § 1681, we therefore claim this religious exemption for our Biblical Studies program and for issues dealing with gender identity and sexual orientation; otherwise, we intend to comply with regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Davison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sam Davison
President