

April 6, 1960

Dr. Charles W. Stewart  
Iliff School of Theology  
Denver, Colorado

*Prof. J. Breachley 6 Park Lane*  
*2201 S. Union Blvd*

Dear Dr. Stewart,

It was good of you to make the long trip to Dallas for the homiletics colloquy. My colleagues, Joe Quillian, Grady Hardin and Bill Martin, thought the meeting was fruitful and mutually helpful.

I am still admonishing myself for not canceling a previous engagement which took me out of town during the colloquy. I would have greatly enjoyed the dialogue with the group. Also, upon my return last Monday I heard a report which interested me somewhat. This is a more personal matter and the one about which I write this letter. It was reported that Iliff might be on the lookout for additional faculty in the field of homiletics and Christian worship.

I have been teaching at Perkins for two years as an Instructor. I have been teaching both the basic core course in preaching and the advanced course in Christian worship. You may have received a syllabus of my advanced course in your packet. These have been two very fruitful years of beginning teaching here at Perkins. This has been a stimulating context in which to teach.

The field of specialization in which I did my doctoral studies was Christian ethics. I frankly admit, however, that homiletics and Christian worship have been the areas in which I feel that I have done my most creative and rewarding work. Having worked in this department at Perkins, I am about convinced that it would be a good field in which to invest one's career. Unfortunately, however,



at Perkins I have been needed to do service not only in the field of homiletics, but also in several other areas, one of which is a non-credit course in philosophy. I would be very pleased to be considered for a position in which I would spend the major portion of my time teaching homiletics and liturgics.

My doctoral studies were done at Yale. I did my undergraduate work at the University of Oklahoma, where I became a member of Phi Beta Kappa. My B.D. is from Perkins, where I received the DeJernett Award in Preaching. I feel that my experiences as a teacher at Yale and my two years experience teaching in this seminary take me out of the fledgling class. Also I have had four years experience as a minister. I am a member of the Oklahoma Conference. If you need a person with my background and interests, my academic record is available at the Office of the National Council on Religion in Higher Education (400 Prospect, New Haven, Conn.), of which I am a fellow, or a more complete dossier may be obtained at the Yale Hall of Graduate Studies.

At Nashville last summer, at the National Convocation of Methodist Theological Professors, I had the pleasure of meeting a number of your colleagues. I am sorry that our paths have not crossed during the past year.

(May I add one more comment. Ordinarily I would never have written you directly about this. I hope that you will understand that, due to the shortness of time and due to the circumstances of a change of administrations at Perkins, I find it more convenient to write you directly. If you would care to have a further assessment of my work at Perkins, I am sure that Dean Cunningham, Grady Hardin, Albert Outler or Fred Gealy would be most glad to give you a fuller report.)

And may I add one more note. It may be that you are not seeking additional personnel and that the report passed on to me was spurious. If so, please disregard my letter, and please do not feel obliged to pursue the matter further. With all good wishes, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Thomas C. Oden  
Instructor, Christian Ethics and Homiletics