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March 3, 1988

Professor John W. Kuykendall, President
Davidson College
Davidson, North Carolina 28036

Dear John,

Warmest greetings from the still cold north! I am writing to tell you the wonderful news for me of a job offer to teach Church History at Duke Divinity School, and to thank you for your large part in making it possible. When Dean Campbell offered me the job, he said he had talked with you about me and my record at Davidson, and I am deeply indebted to you for giving him such a positive report. It was very important to him to have your affirmation of me.

The position is one that is terribly exciting for me and very close to my heart. They wanted someone who had an interest in the pastoral task for which the young Div students are preparing, and it has always been my longing that our ministers today have a greater appreciation for the patristic and medieval tradition, which is all of ours' heritage, Roman of Reformed. I am excited about what I can give, and how much I will have to grow. I was enormously attracted by all the faculty and students I met there, starting with Dean Campbell. Thank you again, John, for doing all that you could for me. I am deeply touched that you go on caring about people, and obviously were immediately sensitive to my situation.

I truly hope all is going well for you at Davidson. I certainly do miss it. I only last night opened a letter from Margaret McGeahy telling me of Diane Martin's death. What a blow! Oh, dear, how my heart goes out to David. How does one comfort him in such a loss? Diane was such a beautiful person, so straightforward and clean and full of life and laughter. She didn't need to die to become an angel. How it puts our daily quibbles in perspective. Well, for all the sorrow you and Davidson are feeling with Dave so close, all my prayers are with you. And, John, for all your work and your cares at this moment and in the future, I will keep on praying. Thank you again for your kindness that has opened up so much for me.

Warmest regards,

Juan