March 23, 1960

Prof. Millard Scherich Chmn., Dept. of Religious Education Dept. of Philosophy Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Scherich,

I have heard some splendid reports about the work being done by your faculty in Arts and Sciences. It is clear that you are concerned to nurture outstanding and significant programs in all the departments of the Arts and Sciences.

My interest is in the development of adequate academic training in the area of studies in Religion---history of religious thought, Biblical studies, Christian ethics, comparative religions, and religious education. I am now teaching in a seminary, Perkins School of Theology, at Southern Methodist University. I would be interested in knowing if there are any positions in your Department of Religion currently open.

One reason I am interested in college teaching rather than seminary teaching is the challenge of inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary dialogue. It would seem to me to be a challenging situation to be in a college in which broad inter-disciplinary experimentation and conversation between the department of religion and other departments were encouraged by the administration.

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 S.M.U. and my M.A. is from Yale. I feel that my experiences as a teacher at Yale and my two years experience teaching at Perkins School of Theology take me out of the fledgling class. Also I have had four years experience as a minister. I am prepared to teach generally in a department of religion and in some inter-departmental courses touching philosophy, sociology and literature. 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.), or a more complete dossier may be obtained at the Yale Hall of Graduate Studies. Thanks ever so much.

Sincerely, Thomas C. Oden

Thomas C. Oden Visiting Lecturer Theology and Christian Ethics

