

May 9, 1960

Dean Stephen J. England
Phillips Graduate Seminary
Enid, Oklahoma

Dear Dean England,

I am pleased to report that I have decided to accept your invitation to come to Phillips Seminary.

I look forward with genuine eagerness to the vocation to be performed there, since the tasks I will be called upon to do in theology and pastoral care are uniquely my chief concerns. I will await any public announcement until I have received a word of confirmation from you.

I need not conceal from you the fact that we have struggled with a serious reservation which delayed us considerably in giving you this answer, viz., the uncertainty of regular faculty status. But it was chiefly on the strength of what you said in your last letter, that you "would anticipate that we could get such a clearance of policy during the next year," that I have decided to accept with pleasure the position as you have outlined it.

My spring semester ends here on May 30, and my summer term begins June 13, running through July 14. I hope that sometime between May 30 and June 13 we can make a quick trip to Enid for two or three days and look over the housing situation. Doubtless there will be concerns about which we would like to talk, and could do so then.

It would ease our minds considerably to have some firm assurance from you that every effort will be made by the administration to try to secure a policy decision during the fall of 1960 rather than the winter of 1961, so we would be in a position by that time either to purchase a home in Enid or to make alternative plans, rather than to be anxiously uncertain about our status for a more extended period of time.

You have been very gracious, patient and cordial in all our conversations and correspondence. I look forward to serving under your leadership. The astounding progress which the school has made under your guidance in the last several years is quite apparent. Your plans for expansion of the seminary and your hope that the seminary will increasingly perform an ecumenical vocation in theological education for all the Protestant Churches in your area, make the future all the more interesting and promising.

Respectfully and cordially yours,

Thomas C. Oden

TCO:jbs

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London, England
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I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst.

in relation to the proposed extension of the contract for the purchase of the land in the city of London, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I have also the honor to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration.

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Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

John W. Smith

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