

Eden Theological Seminary

475 East Lockwood Avenue

Webster Groves

Missouri

Office of the President

February 11, 1936

The Reverend Otto Dibelius,
The Reverend Gerhard Jacobi,
The Reverend Martin Niemöller,
Berlin, Germany.

Alzely 14.9.

Dear Sirs:

The faculty of Eden Theological Seminary is pleased to inform you that it has taken the following action:

With many others of your Christian brothers in the various lands of the Christian world, we are deeply cognizant of the important mission you are called upon to perform for all Christendom. It has fallen to you under peculiarly trying conditions to preserve the liberty of the Christian gospel.

Fully conscious of the fact that a believer of the gospel cannot give obeisance to any other lordship over the soul than that of Jesus Christ, St. Paul refused to yield for a single instant to those who sought to curb the "freedom with which Christ has set us free." Fortified solely by his conscience rooted in the Word of God, Martin Luther courageously defied the supreme civil and ecclesiastical powers of his day in order to uphold the inalienable right of spiritual freedom. We believe that God is using you to render the same kind of service for our day.

We have appreciated from the start your manly refusal to submit to any kind of authority at the price of a compromise of the truth of the gospel. You have maintained your stand throughout the severe trials of the past years; you still stand firmly for the complete freedom of the gospel at the present critical moment, and by the grace of God you will continue this loyal stand for the sake of the gospel because you cannot do otherwise.

It is to express our sense of fellowship in our common faith and to encourage you to abide firmly by the assurance of that faith that we, the faculty of Eden Theological Seminary confer upon you the degree,
DOCTOR DIVINITATIS, Honoris Causa.

Sincerely yours,

an Prof. H. Barth
a friend an
Prof. Heller Gaus

S. D. Press, President
EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

We want his intervention. Has he in brief before.
Reverend Heller? I will run with him. Please H.