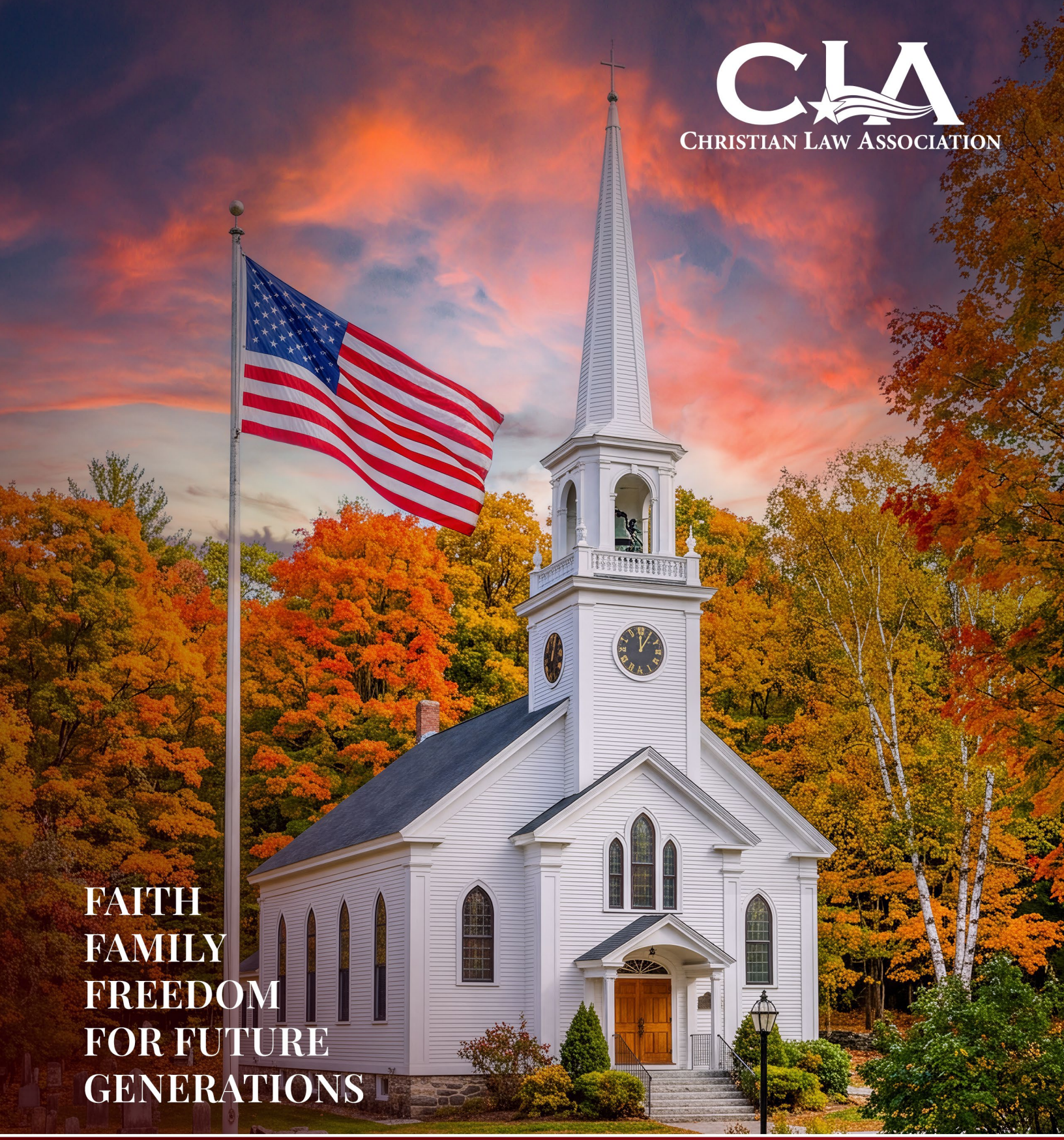

THE LEGAL ALERT

A MINISTRY OF THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

EDUCATE | EQUIP | ENCOURAGE | DEFEND

OCTOBER 2026

The Liberty We Must Never Take For Granted

From the Desk of Dr. David C. Gibbs, Jr.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12)

We can enjoy blessings for so long that we begin to forget how precious they are.

We gather for church on Sunday morning without asking the government for permission. We open our Bibles. We preach the Gospel. We send missionaries. We teach our children the Word of God. We pray publicly. We tell others about Christ.

These freedoms are so much a part of our lives that it is easy to assume they will always be there.

But religious liberty is not self-perpetuating. For more than five decades, the Christian Law Association has had the privilege of standing beside pastors, churches, Christian schools, missionaries, and individual believers whose religious liberties were threatened. Again and again, we have been reminded that rights that are not understood are easily surrendered, and freedoms that are not defended are quickly lost.

That is why Christians should be informed and participate responsibly in our communities. We should vote. We should respectfully speak the truth. And when government exceeds its constitutional authority, we should be willing to stand for the liberties God has allowed us to enjoy. But there is something else we must never forget.

America's greatest need cannot be solved at the ballot box.

Government can protect our freedom to preach the Gospel, but government cannot make the Gospel powerful. A court can protect the right of a church to assemble, but a court cannot bring revival to that church. An election can change those who hold public office, but only God can change the human heart. The Psalmist prayed, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalm 85:6)

Revival has always been God's work among God's people. So as we defend religious liberty, let us also use it. If we are free to pray—let us pray. If we are free to preach—let us preach. If we are free to witness—let us witness. If we are free to train our children in the things of God—let us do it faithfully. If the doors of our churches are open—let us fill them.

"...and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
2 Corinthians 3:17b

The Christian Law Association will continue to stand wherever God gives us opportunity to defend the religious liberties of His people. But our ultimate prayer is not merely that America remains free. Our prayer is that God's people will faithfully use that freedom for Him. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." (Galatians 5:1a)

Election Season: 7 Things Every Church Should Know

Election season inevitably brings questions to our office. "Can we encourage people to vote?" "What happens if a candidate visits our church?" These are important questions. Below are seven key principles to help your church navigate this season with confidence.

1 Churches Can Encourage People to Vote

A church may encourage its members and community to register and vote. Nonpartisan voter registration as well as get-out-the-vote activities are generally permissible.

2 Churches Can Address Biblical and Moral Issues

Nothing about an election season requires a pastor to stop preaching Biblical truth. Marriage, the sanctity of human life, religious liberty, fiscal responsibility, and other moral issues do not suddenly become forbidden because they may relate to candidates.

3 Voter Guides Must Be Nonpartisan

A voter guide that is factual and objective about candidates' positions on moral and Biblical issues is permitted. Churches should not endorse or oppose candidates.

4 Candidate Appearances Require Caution

Inviting candidates to speak at churches can be appropriate, but care must be taken to maintain nonpartisanship and avoid the appearance of endorsement.

5 The Church Should Not Endorse Candidates

Direct endorsement of a candidate by a church can jeopardize its tax-exempt status. This includes using church funds, facilities, or official communications to support or oppose a candidate.

6 Remain Focused on the Gospel

The church's primary mission is to proclaim Christ. While political issues may be discussed from a Biblical perspective, the church should avoid becoming a partisan battleground.

7 When in Doubt, Call Before You Act

Election law can be complex. The Christian Law Association is here to help. Our attorneys can provide practical guidance so your church can participate without crossing the line.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." Romans 13:1a

*If you have questions about elections, political activity, or any legal matter, call us at **888-252-1969** or visit **christianlaw.org.***

They Thought They Couldn't Afford a Lawyer

But God Made A Way

When a small church in our region received a legal letter threatening the ministry, they felt overwhelmed. They knew they needed an attorney, but like many churches, they simply did not have the financial means to hire one. Then someone told the pastor about the Christian Law Association, and he called.

We were able to help—at no cost to the church. Because of the Lord's provision through faithful supporters, CLA attorneys reviewed the matter, provided guidance, and helped the church craft a proper response. The situation was resolved, and the church can now continue its ministry with confidence.

"Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses."
Psalm 107:6

You Make Stories Like This Possible

Many of the churches, pastors, missionaries, Christian schools, and individual believers who contact CLA simply cannot afford legal help. Because of your prayers and generous support, we are able to provide assistance—often at no cost—to those who need it most.

Together, we are making an eternal difference for the cause of Christ. Thank you for your faithfulness!

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

Prayer & Praise Across America

ALABAMA
- Pray for a Christian school seeking wisdom as it reviews employment policies to ensure that its Biblical beliefs are clearly reflected in the responsibilities expected of faculty and staff.
- Praise the Lord for public school students in Alabama who continue to enjoy important protections for voluntary prayer and religious expression.

ALASKA
- Pray for a rural church facing questions concerning the use and ownership of ministry property.
- Praise the Lord for Christian employees who have been able to resolve workplace scheduling conflicts through reasonable religious accommodations.

ARIZONA
- Pray for church leaders seeking guidance concerning confidential communications and their responsibilities when serious allegations of misconduct or abuse are reported.
- Praise the Lord for Christian parents who successfully worked with school officials to resolve concerns regarding their child's religious expression.

ARKANSAS
- Pray for Christian parents navigating difficult questions involving objectionable curriculum and their responsibility to direct the upbringing of their children.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to update outdated bylaws before an internal disagreement exposed weaknesses in its governing documents.

CALIFORNIA
- Pray for a Christian ministry facing an employment issue involving the application of its sincerely held religious beliefs.
- Praise the Lord for churches that have been able to resolve zoning and land-use concerns while continuing to minister in their communities.

COLORADO
- Pray for a church encountering local restrictions concerning the use of property for worship and ministry activities.
- Praise the Lord for Christian students who continue to exercise their right to voluntarily pray and express their faith at school.

CONNECTICUT
- Pray for families facing difficult conscience questions concerning requirements imposed upon their children in public education.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian ministry that strengthened its employment documents before a potential dispute developed.

DELAWARE
- Pray for a Christian school working through new requirements involving employees and volunteers who have contact with children.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to resolve a facility-use concern without litigation.

FLORIDA
- Pray for a church developing security policies after concerns arose regarding the safety of its congregation.
- Praise the Lord for Christian students whose rights to form religious clubs and participate in voluntary religious expression remain protected.

GEORGIA
- Pray for a church dealing with an internal governance disagreement that could affect its leadership and future ministry.
- Praise the Lord for parents who continue to enjoy significant freedom to choose Christian education, home education, and other educational options for their children.

HAWAII
- Pray for a Christian employee seeking an accommodation after a workplace requirement conflicted with a sincerely held religious conviction.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to address a property question before it threatened an important ministry opportunity.

IDAHO
- Pray for a Christian school reviewing its parent and student handbook after questions arose concerning the application of Biblical standards.
- Praise the Lord that public-school employees retain important protections for personal religious expression during appropriate times.

ILLINOIS
- Pray for Christian parents concerned that their child's religious viewpoint is receiving unfavorable treatment in a public-school classroom.
- Praise the Lord for churches that have successfully strengthened their governing documents to better protect their Biblical identity.

INDIANA
- Pray for a church confronting a property-use issue that could restrict future outreach and ministry activities.
- Praise the Lord for Christian employees receiving scheduling accommodations allowing them to faithfully observe sincerely held religious practices.

IOWA
- Pray for a Christian school seeking guidance concerning job descriptions and the religious responsibilities of its employees.
- Praise the Lord for a church that peacefully resolved an internal membership dispute without resorting to litigation.

KANSAS
- Pray for parents seeking access to important educational records concerning decisions being made about their child at school.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian ministry that discovered and corrected weaknesses in its governing documents before those weaknesses became the subject of a dispute.

KENTUCKY
- Pray for pastors seeking wisdom concerning voter education and other church activities during election season.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee whose religious-accommodation request was resolved without the loss of employment.

LOUISIANA
- Pray for churches concerned about protecting worship services from intentional disruption while continuing to welcome those sincerely seeking spiritual help.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian school that was able to resolve a parent-school disagreement through careful communication rather than litigation.

MAINE
- Pray for religious schools facing difficult decisions about participation in government educational programs when requirements may conflict with sincerely held Biblical beliefs.
- Praise the Lord for Christian parents who have been able to continue educating their children according to their convictions.

MARYLAND
- Pray for a Christian employee being asked to participate in workplace activity that conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs.
- Praise the Lord for a church that obtained helpful guidance concerning its bylaws before making an important leadership transition.

MASSACHUSETTS
- Pray for parents concerned about age-inappropriate or objectionable material being presented to their children at school.
- Praise the Lord for Christian students who have been able to participate in religious expression without being penalized because their viewpoint is religious.

MICHIGAN
- Pray for two congregations considering a merger as they work through questions involving property, governance, liabilities, and future leadership.
- Praise the Lord for Christian schools that continue faithfully educating thousands of children from a Biblical worldview.

MINNESOTA
- Pray for churches concerned about deliberate disruption or interference with services.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee who was able to obtain an accommodation for a religious scheduling conflict.

MISSISSIPPI
- Pray for a small church that has received a threatening legal communication.
- Praise the Lord for public school students who remain free to engage in prayer.

MISSOURI
- Pray for a congregation facing a zoning question.
- Praise the Lord for churches establishing appropriate security procedures.

MONTANA
- Pray for a Christian ministry whose bylaws no longer reflect current practices.
- Praise the Lord for parents who resolved a public-school concern.

NEBRASKA
- Pray for a Christian student seeking equal opportunity in a religious group.
- Praise the Lord for a church that successfully resolved a property use disagreement.

NEVADA
- Pray for an employee whose work schedule conflicts with church.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian school that strengthened its statement of faith.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
- Pray for a church facing property questions.
- Praise the Lord for parents who obtained an accommodation for their child.

NEW JERSEY
- Pray for a student experiencing hostility for Biblical beliefs.
- Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved an employment concern.

NEW MEXICO
- Pray for parents seeking an appropriate response to classroom material.
- Praise the Lord for a church that received favorable treatment on property use.

NEW YORK
- Pray for a church facing zoning and building-use requirements.
- Praise the Lord for religious schools obtaining judicial review.

NORTH CAROLINA
- Pray for a school reviewing policies.
- Praise the Lord for churches that improving security measures.

NORTH DAKOTA
- Pray for a rural ministry needing legal counsel.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee whose workplace concern was resolved.

OHIO
- Pray for CLA attorneys and staff as they respond to legal requests.
- Praise the Lord for a church that recently updated governing documents.

OKLAHOMA
- Pray for Christian educators and families as important questions continue concerning religious schools and equal participation in publicly available educational programs.
- Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully clarified its facility-use policies before receiving a difficult request involving use of church property.

OREGON
- Pray for a Christian employee whose sincerely held religious convictions conflict with a requirement imposed at work.
- Praise the Lord for parents who were able to work cooperatively with school officials to address concerns about their child's religious expression.

PENNSYLVANIA
- Pray for a church determining how to respond appropriately to an individual whose conduct has created safety concerns for members of the congregation.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian school that successfully completed a review of its employment policies and religious job requirements.

RHODE ISLAND
- Pray for a student experiencing bullying and exclusion because of religious beliefs.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to resolve a disagreement involving ministry finances without litigation.

SOUTH CAROLINA
- Pray for a Christian school seeking to apply Biblical student-conduct standards consistently and compassionately.
- Praise the Lord for efforts to strengthen protections for voluntary student religious expression in public schools.

SOUTH DAKOTA
- Pray for a pastor dealing with a difficult internal church matter involving membership and church discipline.
- Praise the Lord for strengthened legal protections against intentionally disrupting the lawful worship of a congregation.

TENNESSEE
- Pray for a church facing disagreement over the ownership and control of ministry property.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee who was able to maintain employment while receiving an accommodation for a sincerely held religious practice.

TEXAS
- Pray for Christian public-school teachers seeking wisdom concerning their own personal religious expression while faithfully carrying out their responsibilities to students.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to resolve a local zoning concern and continue using its property for ministry.

UTAH
- Pray for a Christian ministry reviewing employment and governing documents so its Biblical mission is clearly expressed.
- Praise the Lord for protections allowing students to express religious viewpoints in responsive school assignments without being penalized.

VERMONT
- Pray for a Christian employee facing a workplace conflict because of a sincerely held religious conviction.
- Praise the Lord for the significant favorable resolution involving Mid Vermont Christian School after the school challenged its exclusion from state athletic activities because of its religious convictions.

VIRGINIA
- Pray for a church reviewing security procedures and determining appropriate policies for protecting its congregation.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian school that was able to resolve a question involving its governing documents before the issue disrupted the school community.

WASHINGTON
- Pray for Christian ministries facing government requirements that may conflict with sincerely held beliefs concerning employment and ministry practices.
- Praise the Lord for public-school students who retain protections for expressing relevant religious viewpoints in their schoolwork.

WEST VIRGINIA
- Pray for a small church facing questions concerning its bylaws and the proper procedure for making an important leadership decision.
- Praise the Lord for Christian parents who continue to enjoy significant freedom to choose private, church, or home education for their children.

WISCONSIN
- Pray for Christian parents concerned that their child's Bible club or other religious activity is not receiving treatment equal to comparable student activities.
- Praise the Lord for a church that was able to address an employment matter without the need for litigation.

WYOMING
- Pray for a rural church seeking guidance concerning a property and zoning matter that could affect future ministry.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee who received an appropriate accommodation allowing faithful observance of a sincerely held religious practice.

CLA
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Publication of ***The Legal Alert***, a monthly newsletter
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Weekday radio program broadcast, ***The Legal Alert***, on 1,600 outlets around the world

HELPFUL ARTICLES

Browse our online library of articles on church law, religious liberty, and more.
Visit **christianlaw.org/articles**.

RESOURCES

Access materials for Christian living and ministry administration as well as women's devotionals and children's books at **christianlaw.org/shop**.

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

We serve churches, ministries, Christian schools, pastors, and individuals. Call 888-252-1969 or visit **christianlaw.org/services**.

Standing with churches. Defending religious liberty. Serving believers.

Since 1969, the Christian Law Association has stood beside Christians and churches facing legal challenges—without charging them for our legal assistance.

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