

## **Governing Documents and Legal Questions Relating to Sexual Considerations (Aug 2013)**

This is a question that has been circulating for several months now and the information below is what we are sharing with churches and associations concerning this issue. It came from the KBC attorney, James Taylor, and he could answer further questions if you have them. I believe you could probably share this with your churches and therefore, would not need to enlist someone to come down to talk to your folks. Let me know if you have other questions.

Attached is a document that was written several years ago with a TN attorney. He updated it recently to address the issues of marriage and weddings. You will note that TN has a TN Supreme Court decision which assists us in prohibiting courts from interfering in matters of doctrine, belief and practice, so we encourage churches to make sure that they put their policy within that context.



Church Bylaws and Lifestyle Considerations.pdf

Our attorney, James Taylor, also shares the following information for Kentucky Churches: In addition to the information that James has provided below, I have included a link to an article that may provide you with some helpful information.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/08/24/churches-changing-bylaws-after-gay-marriage-ruling/>

James Taylor's advice to churches has been that they do NOT need to amend their Bylaws, but can do so if that makes them feel more secure about the issue. Churches are free to decide who uses their facilities and can refuse a request if they believe the activity to be held in their facilities is inconsistent with their beliefs. These issues can be addressed by way of Bylaws, policies or informally on a request by request basis.

In regard to the conduct of those holding positions within churches, those issues can be addressed in policies or through the actions of nominating committees. If you would like further counsel from James Taylor on drafting policies that relate to these issues, he is available at a per hour rate that would need to be negotiated with his office.

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