

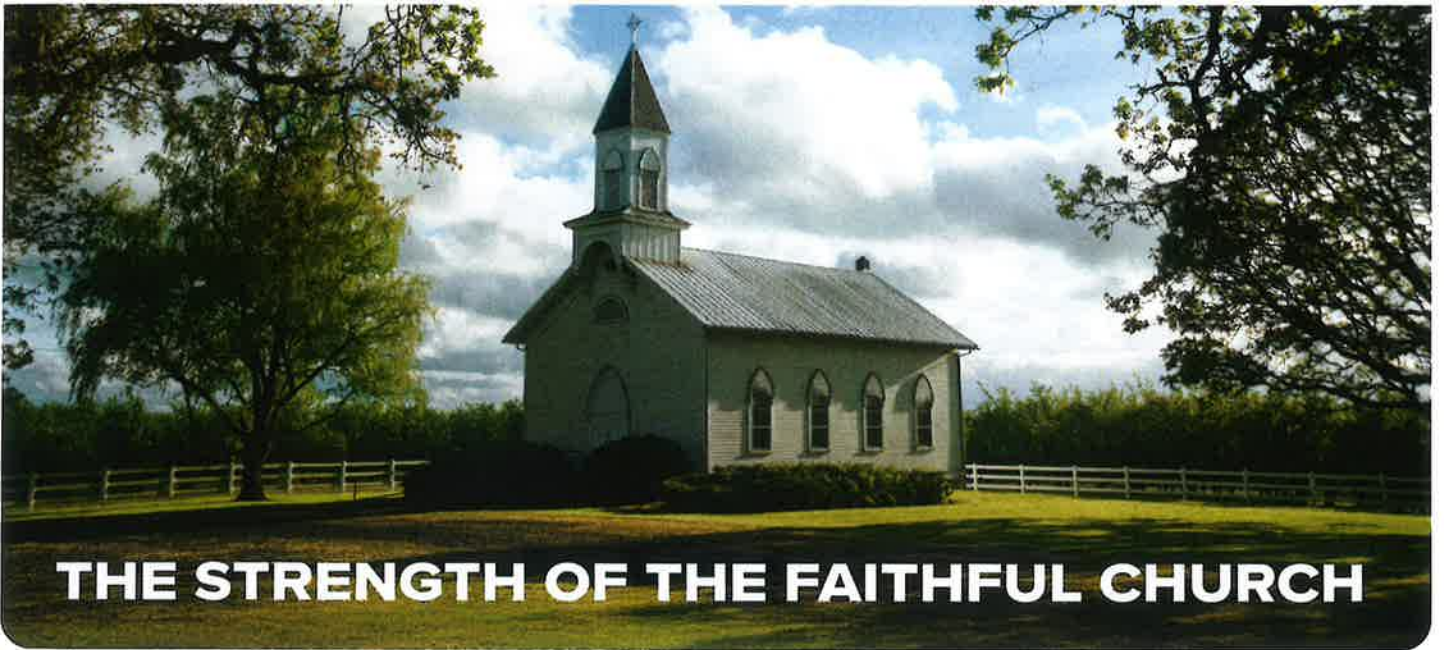
3-25-26



THE LEGAL ALERT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026



THE STRENGTH OF THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

If someone were to judge the condition of the church only by what appears in the news, they might assume the church is struggling or losing influence in today's world. But the truth is something very different. Every week across America, thousands of churches quietly gather to worship the Lord, preach the Scriptures, disciple believers, and share the Gospel with their communities. You may not read about these churches in national headlines. **Faithful ministry rarely makes the news.** Yet it is through these quiet, faithful ministries that God continues building His church.

FAITHFUL MINISTRY RARELY
MAKES THE NEWS.

Across America this very week, pastors are preparing sermons, counseling families, and praying for their congregations. Church members are serving in children's ministries, leading Bible studies, visiting the sick, and encouraging one another in the faith. These acts of service rarely attract public attention. They

THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH HAS NEVER
DEPENDED ON PUBLICITY OR POPULARITY—IT
RESTS ON FAITHFULNESS
TO GOD'S WORD.

are not dramatic or controversial enough to make headlines. But they matter deeply. In fact, they represent the very heartbeat of the church. The Bible reminds us that God often works through what the world considers small or unnoticed. ***"For who hath despised the day of small things?"*** (Zechariah 4:10)

Throughout Scripture, the Lord repeatedly used ordinary people who simply remained faithful to Him. The strength of the church has never depended on publicity or popularity. It rests on faithful obedience to God's Word. Every Sunday, pastors stand behind pulpits and proclaim the Scriptures. Congregations gather to worship the Lord and encourage one another. Children hear Bible stories that may shape their lives for decades to come. Missionaries are supported. Families are strengthened. These quiet acts of faithfulness rarely appear in headlines. But they are transforming lives.

The Apostle Paul wrote: ***"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*** (1 Corinthians 4:2) Faithfulness may not always draw attention, but it is precious in the sight of God. At the Christian Law Association, we have the privilege of witnessing this faithfulness every day. Many of the pastors and churches who contact CLA are faithfully serving their communities with humility and dedication. They are not seeking recognition. They simply desire to serve the Lord and shepherd the people God has entrusted to them.

ACROSS AMERICA, CHURCHES ARE
QUIETLY CHANGING LIVES
EVERY WEEK.

Sometimes these faithful ministries encounter unexpected challenges—administrative questions, legal concerns, or regulatory matters that arise as they carry out their work.

THE GREATEST HOPE FOR AMERICA IS THE
GOSPEL AND THE LOCAL CHURCH.

— DR. DAVID GIBBS

When those moments come, CLA is honored to stand beside these churches and provide guidance so that pastors can continue focusing on their mission. Dr. David Gibbs often reminds: **“The greatest hope for America is Gospel and the local church.”** And that work is happening every day. In small towns and large cities, in rural communities and growing suburbs, churches are quietly continuing the work of the gospel. Lives are being changed. Families are being strengthened. Believers are growing in their faith. And the church of Jesus Christ continues moving forward. Jesus Himself promised: **“I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”** (Matthew 16:18) That promise still stands today.

While the headlines of the world may focus on conflict and uncertainty, God is still at work through faithful churches across America. And much of that work happens quietly—one sermon, one prayer, one act of faithfulness at a time.



STANDING WITH THOSE WHO STAND FOR CHRIST



Every week across America, pastors, churches, Christian schools, and believers face legal questions and challenges simply because they are trying to faithfully live out their Biblical convictions. Many feel overwhelmed, unsure where to turn, or concerned about the cost of legal help.

That is where the Christian Law Association steps in.

For more than five decades, CLA has been committed to defending religious liberty and helping ministries navigate legal challenges with wisdom, compassion, and Biblical conviction. From pastors needing guidance on church policies, to Christian schools facing government pressure, to believers seeking counsel on matters of conscience, CLA’s legal team is available every day to provide assistance.

Most of the help CLA provides happens quietly. Calls come in from churches across the nation asking questions about zoning, church governance, employment issues, religious freedom protections, and more. In many cases, a single phone call with one of CLA’s attorneys can prevent a small issue from becoming a serious legal problem.

CLA exists to stand beside those churches, helping them remain free to preach, teach, and minister without unnecessary interference.

Because of faithful friends and supporters, CLA is able to assist ministries across all 50 states. Every call answered, every letter written, and every case handled represents another opportunity to protect the freedom to serve Christ.

If your church, ministry, or Christian school ever faces a legal question, remember—you do not have to face it alone.

The Christian Law Association is here to help.

LEGAL QUESTIONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, OR DONATIONS:
CALL **888-252-1969** OR VISIT **WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG**

1 PLANNING CHURCH OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Spring and summer bring wonderful opportunities for churches to host outdoor activities such as picnics, Vacation Bible School, youth camps, and community outreach events. While these events are a blessing, it is wise for churches to take a few simple legal precautions.



Churches should review their liability insurance coverage to ensure that outdoor activities, transportation, and volunteers are properly covered. It is also wise to have permission forms and medical release forms for minors participating in activities, especially when transportation or off-site events are involved.

A little planning ahead can prevent problems later and allow your church to focus on what matters most—sharing the Gospel and ministering to families in your community.

2 SUMMER WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Many churches and Christian camps bring on additional help during the summer months. This may include youth interns, seasonal workers, or volunteers assisting with children's programs or outreach events.



Churches should clearly understand whether someone is serving as a volunteer, an employee, or an independent contractor. Misclassifying workers can sometimes create tax or legal complications. Additionally, churches working with minors should consider background checks for staff and volunteers who will have direct contact with children.

Taking these steps helps protect both the ministry and the families your church serves.

3 MISSION TRIPS AND TRAVEL PLANNING

Many churches organize mission trips during the summer months. These trips can be tremendous opportunities for spiritual growth and outreach, but churches should also be mindful of several practical legal considerations.



Written permission forms, medical information, and travel waivers are important when minors are participating. Churches should also verify that their insurance policies provide coverage for travel-related activities.

Proper planning allows churches to focus on ministry while ensuring the safety of those participating.

4 WEDDINGS AND FACILITY USE

Spring and summer are popular seasons for weddings, and many churches graciously allow their facilities to be used for these special occasions. Having a written wedding policy can help avoid misunderstandings and ensure that the use of church facilities remains consistent with the ministry's Biblical convictions.



Policies may address scheduling, facility guidelines, expectations for conduct, and any required fees or deposits. Clear policies protect the church while helping couples understand what to expect as they plan their wedding day.



PRAYER & PRAISE CHECKLIST

○ ALABAMA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance after a zoning official raised questions about its midweek ministry programs and parking arrangements.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a pastor who recently received assistance in strengthening his church's constitution and bylaws.

○ ALASKA

Prayer: Pray for a rural church working through questions regarding building use permits for an expanded outreach program.

Praise: Praise God for a ministry that recently resolved administrative questions regarding nonprofit status and recordkeeping.

○ ARIZONA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking counsel regarding proper classification of ministry staff and volunteers.

Praise: Praise the Lord for church leaders who recently implemented clear policies protecting the church's doctrinal position.

○ ARKANSAS

Prayer: Pray for wisdom for pastors reviewing child safety and ministry protection policies.

Praise: Praise God for a church that recently updated its leadership structure to strengthen accountability.

○ CALIFORNIA

Prayer: Pray for a congregation seeking guidance after local officials questioned certain ministry activities on church property.

Praise: Praise the Lord for pastors who received helpful guidance regarding facility use policies.

○ COLORADO

Prayer: Pray for a ministry addressing questions regarding use of its church property for community outreach events.

Praise: Praise God for a church that successfully clarified its rights regarding ministry programs held on its property.

○ CONNECTICUT

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance on responding to inquiries regarding employment policies.

Praise: Praise the Lord for pastors who recently strengthened church governance policies.

○ DELAWARE

Prayer: Pray for wisdom for church leaders reviewing bylaws and leadership roles within the ministry.

Praise: Praise God for a congregation that successfully clarified its nonprofit administrative requirements.

○ FLORIDA

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking guidance on employment matters involving church staff.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that received counsel helping them confidently move forward with a new outreach program.

○ GEORGIA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance on facility use policies to ensure church property is used in ways consistent with its beliefs.

Praise: Praise God for church leaders who recently strengthened their ministry policies and procedures.

○ HAWAII

Prayer: Pray for pastors addressing questions related to church governance and leadership responsibilities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries continuing faithful outreach in their communities.

○ IDAHO

Prayer: Pray for a church reviewing policies regarding volunteers working with youth ministries.

Praise: Praise God for a ministry that recently implemented improved financial accountability practices.

○ ILLINOIS

Prayer: Pray for church leaders seeking guidance on employment classifications and ministry staff roles.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that recently resolved administrative questions regarding its church records and governance.

○ INDIANA

Prayer: Pray for pastors reviewing their church constitution to ensure it clearly reflects the church's beliefs and mission.

Praise: Praise God for a congregation that recently strengthened its leadership structure.

○ IOWA

Prayer: Pray for wisdom for church leaders working through questions regarding facility use and outreach events.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that recently received helpful counsel regarding nonprofit compliance.

○ KANSAS

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking guidance regarding church insurance and liability protection for ministry activities.

Praise: Praise God for a church that recently strengthened its policies to protect the ministry.

○ KENTUCKY

Prayer: Pray for church leaders seeking counsel regarding employment matters involving ministry staff.

Praise: Praise the Lord for pastors who recently updated their church policies to protect the ministry's mission.

○ LOUISIANA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance on how to properly structure its ministry leadership roles.

Praise: Praise God for congregations strengthening their administrative procedures.

○ MAINE

Prayer: Pray for pastors reviewing policies regarding outside groups requesting to use church facilities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for faithful churches continuing to reach their communities.

○ MARYLAND

Prayer: Pray for church leaders seeking guidance regarding nonprofit reporting and recordkeeping responsibilities.

Praise: Praise God for ministries strengthening their governance practices.

○ MASSACHUSETTS

Prayer: Pray for pastors addressing questions related to ministry outreach programs and facility use.

Praise: Praise the Lord for churches continuing faithful ministry despite administrative challenges.

○ MICHIGAN

Prayer: Pray for wisdom for church leaders reviewing employment and volunteer policies.

Praise: Praise God for a church that recently strengthened internal financial procedures.

○ MINNESOTA

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking guidance on church policies that protect the ministry's doctrinal convictions.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries that recently updated their governing documents.

○ MISSISSIPPI

Prayer: Pray for church leaders addressing questions related to church property and building use.

Praise: Praise God for pastors strengthening leadership accountability within their ministries.

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

○ MISSOURI

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking counsel regarding governance and leadership responsibilities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries that have taken steps to strengthen church policies.

○ MONTANA

Prayer: Pray for pastors serving churches in remote areas who often handle both ministry and administrative responsibilities.

Praise: Praise God for faithful congregations continuing ministry outreach.

○ NEBRASKA

Prayer: Pray for wisdom for pastors reviewing policies related to ministry volunteers.

Praise: Praise the Lord for churches strengthening their financial accountability practices.

○ NEVADA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance regarding zoning questions affecting ministry activities.

Praise: Praise God for pastors continuing faithful outreach in their communities.

○ NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prayer: Pray for church leaders reviewing their bylaws and leadership responsibilities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for congregations strengthening unity and ministry focus.

○ NEW JERSEY

Prayer: Pray for pastors navigating regulatory questions while remaining faithful to their convictions.

Praise: Praise God for ministries continuing strong outreach efforts.

○ NEW MEXICO

Prayer: Pray for churches reviewing policies regarding church staff and ministry leadership.

Praise: Praise the Lord for pastors receiving guidance that helped resolve administrative questions.

○ NEW YORK

Prayer: Pray for church leaders addressing questions related to building use and ministry activities.

Praise: Praise God for congregations strengthening their governance structure.

○ NORTH CAROLINA

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking counsel regarding employment and volunteer roles within the church.

Praise: Praise the Lord for churches strengthening leadership teams.

○ NORTH DAKOTA

Prayer: Pray for pastors serving smaller congregations while addressing administrative responsibilities.

Praise: Praise God for faithful churches continuing Gospel ministry.

○ OHIO

Prayer: Pray for churches seeking guidance on facility use policies and outreach events hosted on church property.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries strengthening governance and policy structures.

○ OKLAHOMA

Prayer: Pray for pastors reviewing church constitutions to ensure their mission and beliefs are clearly stated.

Praise: Praise God for congregations strengthening internal leadership practices.

○ OREGON

Prayer: Pray for church leaders addressing regulatory questions affecting ministry activities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries continuing faithful outreach efforts.

○ PENNSYLVANIA

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking guidance regarding property use and ministry programs.

Praise: Praise God for churches strengthening leadership and accountability.

○ RHODE ISLAND

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking wisdom as they guide their churches through administrative questions.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries faithfully serving their communities.

○ SOUTH CAROLINA

Prayer: Pray for church leaders reviewing governance and ministry policies.

Praise: Praise God for congregations strengthening discipleship ministries.

○ SOUTH DAKOTA

Prayer: Pray for pastors addressing administrative matters while leading rural congregations.

Praise: Praise the Lord for faithful churches continuing ministry outreach.

○ TENNESSEE

Prayer: Pray for church leaders seeking guidance regarding staff roles and responsibilities.

Praise: Praise God for ministries strengthening church policies and procedures.

○ TEXAS

Prayer: Pray for pastors seeking counsel regarding ministry leadership structure and staff matters.

Praise: Praise the Lord for churches proactively strengthening governance policies.

○ UTAH

Prayer: Pray for pastors faithfully sharing the Gospel in communities where churches are fewer in number.

Praise: Praise God for believers continuing to stand strong in their faith.

○ VERMONT

Prayer: Pray for pastors serving small congregations while addressing ministry administration.

Praise: Praise the Lord for faithful churches continuing Gospel outreach.

○ VIRGINIA

Prayer: Pray for church leaders reviewing policies to protect their ministry and mission.

Praise: Praise God for congregations strengthening leadership structures.

○ WASHINGTON

Prayer: Pray for pastors addressing administrative questions related to ministry outreach programs.

Praise: Praise the Lord for ministries continuing to reach their communities.

○ WEST VIRGINIA

Prayer: Pray for church leaders seeking guidance regarding governance and ministry administration.

Praise: Praise God for churches strengthening fellowship and leadership.

○ WISCONSIN

Prayer: Pray for pastors reviewing policies that protect the ministry's doctrinal convictions.

Praise: Praise the Lord for congregations strengthening ministry outreach.

○ WYOMING

Prayer: Pray for pastors serving churches across widely spread rural communities.

Praise: Praise God for faithful believers supporting their local churches.

We covet your prayers for these requests and hundreds of others we receive weekly.