

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

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# CHURCH ALLIANCE



## Benefits of Membership and Scope of Services

As an ADF Church Alliance member, you will receive:

- A religious liberty audit, including legal review of church bylaws and policies that relate to protecting the church's religious liberty;
- Direct access to attorneys to answer your questions about protecting the church's religious liberty;
- Consultation for legal issues involving the church's religious liberty (prior to litigation);
- Legal representation in cases involving the church's religious liberty (e.g., employment, land use, tax exemption, church member discipline/removal, requests to use church facilities, government mandates or unconstitutional regulation, volunteer requirements, equal access to government property or benefits, and clergy confidentiality); and
- Specialized resources such as webinars and newsletters tailored to protecting the religious liberty of the Church.

The ADF Church Alliance is not an insurance program, and Alliance Defending Freedom is not an insurance company. ADF will typically represent ADF Church Alliance members in all litigation related to protecting the religious liberty of the church. However, ADF cannot guarantee legal representation in every situation and does not provide casualty payments for a lawsuit. Any legal representation undertaken by ADF is without cost to ADF Church Alliance members.

Some church legal matters involve administrative tribunals such as zoning boards and tax agencies. ADF normally does not appear as legal counsel before administrative agencies or administrative tribunals. ADF will assist in finding local counsel for administrative phases of legal matters that fall within the ADF Church Alliance scope of services, but cannot guarantee that local counsel representation will be free of charge.

ADF does not provide legal representation for the following:

- Intra-ministry, inter-ministry, or denominational disputes;
- Allegations of child abuse or criminal prosecutions unrelated to religious liberty;
- Tax advice, tax audits, or investigations that do not relate to religious liberty;
- Start-up and filing requirements (e.g., 501(c)(3) applications, sales tax exemption applications, corporate filings);
- Advice regarding corporate structure or general liability issues not related to religious liberty;
- General advice regarding government contracts or grant agreements;
- Drafting business contracts such as rental agreements or vendor contracts; or
- International legal matters or compliance with international law.
- Land use cases will generally only be approved if discrimination or unequal treatment is present.

ADF has the sole authority to determine whether a request for advice or representation falls within the scope of services offered.

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## Statement of Faith

ADF Church Alliance members should be in general agreement and be able to certify that their own church's statement of faith (or similar document) does not materially conflict with the following portions of the Alliance Defending Freedom statement of faith:

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity and humanity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His present rule as Head of the Church and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe that all those who die in God's grace through faith are assured eternal salvation; those who die in a state of sin and unbelief suffer the punishment of hell.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, with equality across racial, gender, and class differences.

ADF Church Alliance members must be in specific agreement with the following portions of the Alliance Defending Freedom statement of faith:

- We believe God immutably creates each person as male or female. Rejecting one's biological sex rejects God's created design.
- We believe God designed marriage as a unique conjugal relationship joining one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, life-long union. God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman joined in marriage.
- We believe all forms of sexual immorality are sinful and offensive to God.
- We believe God endows all human life with inherent dignity at every stage of development and it must be respected and protected from conception to natural death. Thus, the unjustified, intentional taking of human life before or after birth is sinful and offensive to God.