

# The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches

*For Pastoral Care in Specialized Settings™*

Pentecostal



Renewal



Charismatic

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February 23, 2011

## The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches' Policy on the Repeal of DADT

To Whom It May Concern:

Several of our endorsees (and military recruiters of our endorsees) have been asking for a policy statement from this endorsing body to address the issues of performing and/or providing pastoral care to all military personnel and their families in the post Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) era. The specific populations of concern are those personnel and/or their family members who may be homosexual, bisexual, or transgender in orientation and lifestyle.

This religious endorsing body is not a specific distinct faith group, except that all member faith communities and chaplains affirm that:

**The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches (CSC) believes that "Jesus Christ is Lord, Savior, and Baptizer in the Holy Spirit today. Both natural and supernatural Spiritual gifts are available to those Christians who believe in them and sincerely seek them."**

**The Coalition is willing to serve any pastoral caregiver, church, or network of churches who so believes. In essence, the Coalition is willing and earnestly desires to represent independent Pentecostal, Renewal, and Charismatic communities of faith.**

Additionally, this religious endorsing body is not chartered to make political or supplemental theological statements on behalf of its member ordaining churches and networks of congregations. We respect the customs, traditions, and practices of our member congregations and their autonomous right to establish them.

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As such, it is the responsibility of the individual faith community members [i.e., our churches and networks of congregations] of the CSC to establish and designate their own particular political and theological statements and to communicate these to the chaplains whom they have ordained and to execute these statements thru their own autonomous polities. Hence, the ordaining bodies of our chaplains set the policies and doctrines for their clergy's specific practices and beliefs.

Nevertheless, chaplaincy within government organizations is a ministry that is very distinct from that of the local congregation or specific faith community. As such, it comes with a different set of standards of practice than that which may be observed in a typical Spirit-filled congregation. Specifically, by law, the policies and regulations of DADT no longer are the policies and regulations of the DoD. As such, CSC chaplains are required to work with, work under the leadership of and be able to provide supervision (when appropriate) to, all chaplains. All CSC chaplains are expected to work with and minister appropriately to people of all faith traditions or no faith -- and minister to all personnel (and their families) whatever their sexual orientation and identity. This is not to suggest that CSC chaplains have to *endorse* the lifestyles or beliefs of those to whom they minister or with whom they serve. In matters of pastoral care and counseling as well as in worship services, CSC chaplains are expected to perform such in a Christ-like manner with dignity, compassion, and sensitivity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Plummer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David B. Plummer  
Endorsing Executive