

The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches

For Pastoral Care in Specialized Settings™

Pentecostal



Renewal



Charismatic

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CSC Policy on Political Statements

Recently, several chaplains have asked us if we have taken a position on a letter published in May 2011 by a political and legal action organization and signed by 21 religious endorsing bodies. It can be found at

<http://oldsite.alliancedefensefund.org/userdocs/ChaplainEndorsersLetter.pdf>.

The better question is "Do we, The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches (CSC), as a nationally and federally-recognized religious endorsing body, get involved in politics in general? The answer is "No, we do not." We state that on our website. Please read <http://spirit-filled.org/documents/66662396.pdf> found at <http://spirit-filled.org/dadt.html>.

The Alliance Defense Fund (<http://www.alliancedefensefund.org>), author of the letter, is a political and legal action organization and the CSC is not a member. Perhaps some of our chaplains and member churches are. Personally, I think, that **chaplains and endorsing agencies should focus on performing pastoral care and avoid public politics -- which badly divide the very individuals for whom they seek to care.**

With the exception of the reference to the Navy Chief of Chaplains' recent letter [that when the time comes those Navy Chaplains who want to use chapels for homosexual weddings may do so (and he rescinded shortly after)] the content of the Alliance Defense Fund letter is nothing new. Chaplains HAVE ALWAYS, NO EXCEPTIONS, been free to conduct weddings or refuse to marry together whomever they wish, within the confines of the law. There has never been a crisis of conscience for freedom of speech for chaplains. It is similar to the issue of baby baptizers. Those chaplains whose convictions are that infants do not need to be baptized, have never been compelled to baptize infants. But they are expected to try to locate a willing chaplain.

And so it is with the DADT Repeal -- which is now the law of the land in the military (it has been the civilian employers' law for decades now and many people seem to overlook that fact). I am sure the day is coming soon when chaplains will be asked if they are willing to or can marry homosexual couples. (It is the expectation that CSC chaplains will follow the dictates and practices of their ordaining bodies, the vast (make that overwhelming) majority of which, if asked, would be against homosexual marriage.) In the common phrase of today, if this is the position of your home congregation, then "Just say 'no.'" There is no need to be mean-spirited about it!

It is my hope and prayer that all our chaplains are and will be people of great conscience, kindness, and gentleness. It is my hope that all of our chaplains are people who are approachable to all folks and that they will cheerfully and professionally perform pastoral care to all people with justice, fairness, and agape love, whether or not they agree with the counselee.

With agape love and respect,

David B. Plummer
Endorsing Executive

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