



## Churches Under Christ Newsletter

August 1, 2019

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and one and only head of **HIS** churches.

A ministry under the authority of Pastor Ben Hickam and Charity Baptist Tabernacle, Amarillo TX.

Purpose of the ministry: To Glorify God in helping churches organize totally under the Lord Jesus Christ and operate according to New Testament Church Doctrine.

- Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I** will build **my** church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- Ephesians 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things to the church.**"

### A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING June 2019

Thought: For by one book are we all [**believers in a local church under Christ who study and practice God's Word**] brought into the unity of the faith.

In June, I worked with pastors, churches, and other believers to include the following:

1. July 1, 2019: Published **Reply to a missionary who wants help in legally organizing a ministry in the United States.**
2. I finished a legal memo for a law firm which is helping one of the DOT churches in Minnesota. The substance of that memo formed the legal arguments used in their Response to the County Attorney's weak arguments that a church in Minnesota has to be incorporated and 501c3 in order to get property tax exemption for property used by the church for church purposes only. After the Response was filed and served and court hearing, the county attorney relented on her position and settlement was reached by which the church received the exemption on the property which is held in trust for the Lord Jesus Christ. The county assessor denied the exemption in 2016. I started working on the case starting in 2017 after obtaining my Minnesota License to Practice Law, but it was not taken up in court until June, 2019. In Minnesota, there is no agency process for settling property tax exemption conflicts and all property tax disagreements with the county assessor must be taken up in one Minnesota Tax Court which handles 6,000 cases a year. Of course, this was

very likely the only case of this nature on the docket. I will publish the substance of that legal memo on the website, [jeraldfinney.com](http://jeraldfinney.com), in the near future.

3. July 9, 2019: Conference call with several pastors or corporate 501c3 churches in Pennsylvania who are examining getting out of the corporate 501c3 status.
4. July 15, 2019: Call from pastor of Massachusetts church which just executed a Resolution and DOT with Appendix. On July 16, answered some questions on conference call with the pastor and a member concerning opening a bank account and getting a lawyer/title company to do the title transfer and how to put the title in the name of the trust, not in the name of the church. They are paying cash for the meetinghouse. The pastor opened a trust checking account on July 20, 2019. I continue to work with the pastor as he drafts a Quitclaim Deed on the trust property and seeks property tax exemption.
5. July 20, 2019 sent documents to Indiana pastor who wishes to organize church using a DOT along with overview of Indiana religious property tax and sales tax exemption laws. Have spent some time over the phone with this elder over the past few months. Had more discussions with him answering his questions on July 25.
6. July 26, 2109. Call from a Indiana DOT church made up of former Soviet bloc members concerning pastor in a church in Atlanta, Georgia also made up of former Soviet bloc members. The pastor of the Georgia church does not speak English and wants to discuss how to organize the church, etc. I advised the Indiana church member to tell the pastor to see if he has someone in his church who speaks English well enough so that we can communicate. The Indiana church member also suggested that he will be willing to translate some of the documents we use into their language, etc.
7. The pastor of an Indiana church which established a trust relationship with property using Resolution, DOT, and Appendix notified me that their property tax exemption was approved by the County Property tax office. I had advised him as the church purchased the property and dealt with the local office about the exemption.
8. Received inquiries from believers asking about any non-incorporated non-501c3 churches in Florida (early July-sent contact info. on how to contact Dr. Dixon since he is familiar with the churches there that use the DOT), and California (July 10-sent here info. on 2 churches using the DOT in California). A pastor of one of the churches we helped organize in California replied and said the church he pastors is only about 30 minutes from her home and the she was informed of this.
9. I continue to preach and display signs and banners on the sidewalk outside Trinity Fellowship Church. See the [May 1, 2019 Newsletter](#) for more on this ministry. See also, [Doing God's Work God's Way: A Bible Call To Preach Outside The Typical American Church Explained \(050919\)](#).

### **Featured Sermons, Essays, and Books**

**Sermons:** Go to [Bible Studies of New and Old Testament books which explain the Doctrine of the Church](#). A born again church member who understands that doctrine will never be satisfied with corporate 501(c)(3) status or any other legal status which compromises a church's love for the Savior.

**Articles:** [Is it illegal for a church in America not to incorporate? Does a church have to be a 501c3?; Does God Care if our Church is Incorporated?; For more such articles see, Short Answers to Some Important Questions.](#)

For answers to false arguments given by uninformed pastors and "Christian" Attorneys for church corporate 501(c)(3) status, see [Separation of Church and State/God's Churches: Spiritual or Legal Entities?](#)

**Books** by Jerald Finney are free online in PDF, online form, and Kindle, and may be ordered. Go to the [free online, PDF and order page for books by Jerald Finney.](#)

**Churches Under Christ Ministry Website:**

<https://jeraldfinney.com/> **(Browse this page for a wealth of informational resources)**

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ANY REASON. YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

For the Glory of God,

Brother Jerald Finney

512-785-8445

E-mail: [jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerald.finney@sbcglobal.net)