

## JERALD C. FINNEY

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Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name of Church]  
[City, TX, Zip Code]

Dear Brother \_\_\_\_\_ and members of [Name of Church]:

We thank the Lord that you are looking at the matter of church organization under Christ and Christ alone according to New Testament Church Doctrine, with the protections of First Amendment to the United States Constitution and corresponding Texas constitutional provisions.

You may not understand all the matters covered in this letter and in the attached "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines." That is to be expected. Most pastors in America have never studied, much less taught, New Testament church doctrine. Some relatively few have studied and have a basic understanding of the doctrine, but have not applied or taught it. Some, including many who pastor churches who have established the common law trust, are afraid of teaching the doctrine for various reasons. For example, they fear losing members, or they fear that they will lose the friendship of pastors and/or incorporated churches (unholy associations); or they fear that they will lose the security that church operation under man's law affords (so they believe); or they fear their wives; etc. Matthew 15:8-9: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men." They choose to fear earthly temporal relationships and "securities" rather than fearing and obeying God. Here are just a few verses gleaned from a word search of "fear Lord:"

- Psalms 115:13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.
- Psalms 147:11: "The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy."
- Proverbs 1:7: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
- Proverbs 3:7: "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."
- Proverbs 1:29: "For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:"
- Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

Your pastor has the unique ability to put some of the deeper truths in God's work in very forceful, yet simple to understand, words. He is a master of the rhetoric question. For example, as we talked about, among other things, the relationship of churches to their betrothed, he once said to me: "Is there any good reason for a woman to cheat on her husband?"

We are at the beginning of the process. You will not proceed to do anything until you are satisfied that you actions are according to the will of God and for His Glory as stated in His Word. Should you choose to continue to work with this ministry for the Glory of God, this ministry will be here to answer any your questions and concerns and to work with you in any and all matters. The Bible will be our authority. To apply what the Bible says, you will need to understand what a legal entity such as a corporation or a 501(c)(3) or 508 (c)(1)(A) tax exempt organization is, why church organization as a legal grieves the espoused of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ, what the common law trust is, and why a church who establishes a common law trust conforms to Bible church doctrine and pleases the Lord.

Before I forget it, I advise that each church who establishes a common law trust not use the same name as a prior incorporated, 501(c)(3) church or church organized as some other type of legal entity. There are good reasons for this.

As you know, the First Amendment, to this point in history, protects (1) churches who do things God's way by remaining totally separate from man's law; (2) the right of every citizen of the nation to soul liberty, the liberty to choose to worship God, a god, or no god; (3) freedom of press; (4) freedom of assembly; (5) freedom of speech; (6) and freedom to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Because of the First Amendment, the highest law of the land regarding the matters protected by the Amendment, civil government cannot force any church to submit to man's law through incorporation, federal tax exempt status (Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(A) status, charitable trust law, the law of unincorporated association, or any other manner.

You and I know that the atmosphere is now changing rapidly, that the state and federal constitutions are being nullified, and that Satan is using the state political system to mount an attack on God and God's churches. Depending upon how successful the present satanic and communist regime (which gained power by lies and fraud) is in implementing the planned communist, the constitutional protections now afforded churches may be, as in other communist nations, eliminated.

Churches freely choose either to be under Christ and Christ alone, or to become subject to civil government laws which are lower than the First Amendment. Churches have had this freedom under Christ since the beginning of the New Testament church. For most of that time, New Testament churches and their members were viciously persecuted when they refused to bow down to Caesar, or the official church state establishment; when they chose to render unto God the things that are His, and refused to render unto Caesar the things that are God's. Many nations still persecute horribly those they find following God contrary to the rules of Caesar (the state).

The First Amendment, as correctly understood and applied, honors the Bible principle of separation of church and state. The First Amendment states:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Texas law, as well, recognizes that churches should be free to organize under Christ and Christ alone; and protects the soul liberty of the citizens of Texas. Those Texas patriots who rejected the despotism of the government of Mexico and the union of religion (church) and state wrote in the [Texas Declaration of Independence](#):

- “When the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the everready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants. ...
- “In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers us the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood. ...
- “It [the Mexican government] denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God. ...
- “We, therefore, the delegates with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, Sovereign, and independent republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and, conscious of the rectitude of

our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations. ...”

The PREAMBLE to the [Texas Constitution](#) states:

“Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God, the people of the State of Texas, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”

The [Texas Constitution](#) in the Bill of Rights, Article 1, Sections 6, 7, 8, 27, 29 states:

Sec. 6. FREEDOM OF WORSHIP. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No man shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry against his consent. No human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious society or mode of worship. But it shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass such laws as may be necessary to protect equally every religious denomination on in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship.

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECTARIAN PURPOSES. No money shall be appropriated, or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any sect, or religious society, theological or religious seminary; nor shall property belonging to the State be appropriated for any such purposes.

Sec. 8. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS; LIBEL. Every person shall be at liberty to speak, write or publish his opinions on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege; and no law shall ever be passed curtailing the liberty of speech or of the press. In prosecutions for the publication of papers, investigating the conduct of officers, or men in public capacity, or when the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence. And in all indictments for libels, the jury shall have the right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

Sec. 27. RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY; PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES. The citizens shall have the right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good; and apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other purposes, by petition, address or remonstrance.

Sec. 29. BILL OF RIGHTS EXCEPTED FROM POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AND INVIOLEATE. To guard against transgressions of the high powers herein delegated, we declare that everything in this “Bill of Rights” is excepted out of the general powers of government, and shall forever remain inviolate, and all laws contrary thereto, or to the following provisions, shall be void.

As a side note, [Texas Tax Code 11.20, Religious Organizations](#) covers property tax exemptions for churches. Should you go forward to establish the trust, we will examine this at length.

The first step in proceeding with these matters is to understand the Bible principles; i.e., God's principles for church organization under Christ and Christ alone. As you know, the Bible teaches that (1) believers and churches should proceed with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom; (2) your pastor has the leadership responsibility in teaching these principles and their application in the real world; and (3) church members have a responsibility to study, understand, and apply New Testament principles of church organization.

This ministry is convinced, from the King James Bible, that the way to do things God's way in church organization is through application of the concept of the common law trust (which this ministry also calls the "Bible" trust). Should the church chose to establish the common law trust, this ministry will continue to work with you on all related matters. Should you establish the common law trust, various matters may or may not call for proactivity. Some such matters include:

1. opening a trust bank account;
2. using the trustee's social security number or getting an EIN "for banking purposes only" for that account;
3. transferring property into the name of the trust;
4. or purchasing property for a church meetinghouse in the name of the trust; property tax exemption;

5. etc.

This ministry will be here for you at all times, at least until the Lord takes me home.

Attached is a “Statement of Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines.” Please read it and discuss it. It is important that you understand the basics of the church common law (Bible) trust. The information will help you to complete Questionnaire 2, which comes later.

Please answer the questions on Questionnaire 1. List any and all of your concerns at the bottom of Questionnaire 1. After you complete Questionnaire 1 and return it to me via email, I will review it and give you a call.

The next step will be Questionnaire 2, which I will e-mail to you after you have completed and we have discussed Questionnaire 1. I suggest that you give a copy to each mature male member for them to answer, and then have a meeting to discuss and answer the questions. Or, have a meeting and jointly answer the questions. Or, do a conference call with me and we will go over each question. Or, a combination thereof. After you have filled in the answers, e-mail Questionnaire 2 to me. I will make sure you have answered the questions correctly and get back with you.

Next comes drafting and executing the trust documents.

It is very important that we remain in contact before and after the documents are executed. Please do nothing without consulting with this ministry. Do not, for example:

1. execute the documents
2. open a bank account,
3. apply for an EIN – you must fill out the application form, the form SS-4 correctly “for banking purposes only”-
4. purchase property for a meetinghouse,
5. apply for property tax exemption,
6. etc.

The ministry is your servant in these matters. Should you act without consulting this ministry, you may make a mistake or mistakes which could have adverse effect(s) and, perhaps, take a lot of time and work to correct.

Should you execute the trust documents, the church will not be a part of the legal system as long as she, or a church ministry, does not misstep in some other way. The church will be legal, but she will not be a legal entity. She will be a First Amendment Church under Christ alone, a church which is not under any man-made law of the state or federal government such as:

1. state non-profit corporation law,
2. state charitable trust law,
3. state business trust law,
4. state unincorporated association law,
5. federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(a) law (a First Amendment church is non-taxable whereas a 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(a) church is tax exempt),
6. etc.

A church who organizes under man’s law, or which in effect establishes an alter ego (collateral or associated ministry or work) under man’s law, is a hybrid, partially under the First Amendment and partially under the rules and regulations that come with man’s law. A church which is a legal entity (such as an incorporated and/or 501(c)(3) church) is either partially or totally under the Fourteenth Amendment whereas a church which is not a legal entity is totally protected by the First Amendment. As well, ministries of a church should be under the authority of the church, not under the authority of man’s law.

Should the church or any collateral or associated ministry or work act legally before or after establishing the common law (Bible) trust, she will have nullified her status as a First Amendment Church under the Lord Jesus Christ only. A church, or a collateral or associated ministry or work of the church, can act legally, for example, by:

1. purchasing or leasing property,
2. entering into a contract,
3. giving IRS acknowledgements for contributions,
4. holding property liability insurance,
5. opening a bank account
6. organizing under a law of man, examples of which are given above.
7. etc.

To preserve the non-legal status of the church, all matters must be in the name of the trust, not in the name of the church.

**For emphasis, I repeat:**

**“Should you decide to establish a common law trust so as to the church under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone, please do nothing without consulting with this ministry first. For example, do not go to the bank regarding setting up a bank account, provide an identifying number for that account, lease property for a meeting house, buy property for a meeting house, or any other matter without consulting with this ministry first. Acting alone, you can misstep and undo much of what you have done by organizing according to New Testament principles. Remember, this ministry does not charge for services. The motivation is love for God and the goal is the Glory if God, not financial reward.”**

**ONCE THE DOCUMENTS ARE EXECUTED, DO NOT FORGET TO IMMEDIATELY E-MAIL, TO THIS MINISTRY, A COPY OF, IN ONE SCANNED DOCUMENT AND IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

1. **THE COVER SHEET TO THE DOCUMENTS**
2. **THE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE DECLARATION OF TRUST**
3. **THE DECLARATION OF TRUST**
4. **THE APPENDIX.**

Please do not hesitate to call me for any reason. I would be glad to discuss all your comments, questions, and concerns. As you know, I am available for telephone conferences with individuals and groups.

Should anyone—any lawyer, pastor, or anyone else—disparage any of the principles relied upon by this ministry to help churches do things God's way, I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss and debate our differences. As believers working together in this endeavor, our goal is to glorify God, and I will not knowingly do anything to dishonor that goal. Churches all over America, though only a remnant, are openly applying the methods recommended by this ministry. Lawyers, bankers, etc. have examined the documents as trustees have opened trust bank accounts, bought meetinghouses in the name of the trusts (said meetinghouses, by definition in the trust documents belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ), secured property tax exemptions, etc. By the way, property tax exemption, unlike Internal Revenue Code tax exemption, is a courtesy which comes with no strings attached.

God bless you as you move forward for the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Jerald Finney