



# newsletter

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
OMEGA BIBLE INSTITUTE &  
SEMINARY  
JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022



## Marriage...What Now?

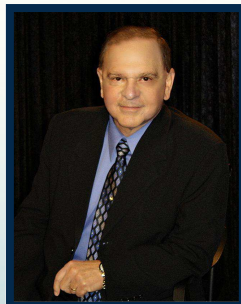
Americans learned about the decision of the Supreme Court ruling on same sex marriage on Friday, June 26, 2015. The court voted that all 50 US states and territories are required to recognize marriages between same-sex couples by permitting them to obtain a marriage license. Though much controversy exists concerning this matter, it isn't conclusive as to how this ruling will affect churches and clergy. There was no explicit religious exemption provided in the ruling and a lack of clarity in regards to the churches of America. According to some lawyers' claims, it may be a sign that more legal challenges and hurdles are in store for churches. A major legal concern is this: a minister acts on behalf of the state as an officiate to sign the marriage license making the marriage legal. This position can be a loop hole for legal issues to arise. This is because at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony, it is stated by the presiding minister: "By the authority invested in me by God and the state of ????, I now pronounce you husband and wife." But since the Supreme Court of the United States has made this decision, all marital regulations have been transferred into the hands of the Federal Government.



assure you that my stand and the stance of the Omega Bible Institute & Seminary remains the same: "God ordained marriage between a natural born man and natural born woman, not the state or the government." The "first" marriage recorded in the Bible was between a natural born man and a natural born woman, not people of the same sex. God intended this to be the model for marriage and He intends for us to follow His model for all of humankind. I encourage all Omega ministers to stand firm in their belief and not waiver.

Below is a link you can go to check more information about this subject and other church law/ tax matters:

[www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com)



By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck,  
Omega President

## WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Omega Bible Institute & Seminary. Omega is excited to have you consider us as your school of choice. It was founded in 1976 as a local Bible Institute in Monroe, Louisiana and now has grown to have students from all parts of the US and other countries.

Omega's leaders have been pioneers in non-traditional education for over three decades. All our faculty members (Mentors) hold doctorate degrees and are eager to assist you. Therefore, you can be assured that you will be receiving the best education possible through Omega's long distance training programs.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
<https://omega.edu/>

© Copyright 2022

In reference to the abovementioned, I

# Chart For Election Year

SOURCE: Church Law & Tax Newsletter

A church makes contributions to a candidate's campaign fund	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church makes public statements of position (verbal and written) in favor of or in opposition to candidates for office through official church publications, at official church functions, or both	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church's pastor delivers a sermon series addressing what the Bible says about abortion, criminal justice reform, sexual orientation and gender identity, and other topics with social and spiritual implications	Permitted	First Amendment of the US Constitution
A church provides a nonpartisan forum for all candidates to address the church	Permitted	IRS Publication 1828
A church invites all candidates for a political office to address the congregation and informs the congregation before each candidate's speech that the views expressed are those of the candidate and not the church, and that the church does not endorse any candidate	Permitted	Revenue Ruling 74-574; IRS Publication 1828
A church invites only one candidate in a political campaign to address the congregation	Prohibited	Revenue Ruling 2007-41; IRS Publication 1828
A church provides an opportunity for a candidate to speak in a noncandidate capacity (for example, as a member of the church, public figure, or expert in a nonpolitical field) without providing equal access to all political candidates for the same office. The church ensures that the candidate speaks in a noncandidate capacity; no reference is made to the person's candidacy; the church mentions the capacity in which the candidate is appearing (without mentioning the person's political candidacy); and no campaign activity occurs.	Permitted	IRS Publication 1828
A church distributes a compilation of voting records of all members of US Congress on major legislative issues involving a wide range of subjects; the publication contains no editorial opinion, and its text, design elements, and structure do not imply approval or disapproval of any members or their voting records	Permitted	Revenue Ruling 78-248; IRS Publication 1828
A church distributes a voter guide containing questions answered by all candidates. The questions cover a wide range of topics, but the wording of the questions demonstrates bias on certain issues.	Prohibited	Revenue Ruling 78-248; IRS Publication 1828
A church endorses a candidate (by any variety of ways, including verbal or written statements, references to the candidate's political party, references to the candidate's distinctive platform or biography, and/or showing the candidate's picture)	Prohibited	Int. Rev. News Release IR-96-23; IRS Publication 1828

Church employees carry on campaign activities for a candidate within the context of their church employment	Prohibited	FSA 1993-0921-1; IRS Publication 1828
A church fails to "disavow" the campaign activities of persons under "apparent authorization" from the church by repudiating those acts "in a timely manner equal to the original actions" and taking steps "to ensure that such unauthorized actions do not recur"	Prohibited	FSA 1993-0921-1
A church engages in fundraising on behalf of a candidate	Prohibited	Int. Rev. News Release IR-96-23; IRS Publication 1828
A church conducts a neutral voter registration drive	Permitted	11 C.F.R. § 111.4(c)(4); IRS Publication 1828
A church buys and places newspaper ads urging voters to vote for or against a candidate	Prohibited	Branch Ministries, Inc. v. Commissioner, 99-1 USTC ¶50,410 (D.D.C. 1999), aff'd, Branch Ministries v. Rossotti, 2000 USTC ¶50,459 (D.C. Cir. 2000)
A church website contains information either supporting or opposing candidates for public office	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church website contains links to candidate-related materials, and does not include any text, design elements, or structure indicating support of or opposition to any of the candidates	Permitted	Revenue Ruling 2007-41; IRS Publication 1828
A church website links to third-party websites containing materials supporting or opposing candidates	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church maintains a list containing contact information for its members and has never rented it to a third party. The church allows one candidate to rent the list to send campaign information, but declines similar requests from other candidates.	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church maintains a website that includes biographies of its ministers, times of services, details of community outreach programs, and activities of members of its congregation. A member of the congregation is running for a seat on the town council. Shortly before the election, the church posts the following message on its website: "Lend your support to your fellow parishioner in Tuesday's election for town council."	Prohibited	Revenue Ruling 2007-41; IRS Publication 1828
A church urges its members to contact members of the state legislature and urge them to reject a proposed bill legalizing marijuana	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828
A church gives a pro-life advocacy group permission to place pamphlets on vehicles in the church's parking lot during Sunday worship services. The pamphlets urge congregants to support a "pro-life" slate in the upcoming election.	Unclear based on IRS regulations and current law—but likely prohibited	

Continued on page 3



## Election Chart... continued from page 2

A minister who is known well in the community attends a press conference at a political candidate's campaign headquarters and states that the candidate should be reelected. The minister does not say he is speaking on behalf of his church. His endorsement is reported on the front page of the local newspaper, and he is identified in the article as the minister of his church.	Permitted	Revenue Ruling 2007-41; IRS Publication 1828
A church provides its members with educational materials about the legalization of marijuana and hosts an educational meeting on the topic	Permitted	IRS Publication 1828
A church owns space suitable for events and makes it available for rent to the public on a first come, first served basis. A candidate pays the standard fee to host a campaign dinner.	Permitted	IRS Publication 1828
A church sets up a booth at the state fair where citizens can register to vote. The booth only contains the church's name, the date of the next statewide election, and notice of the opportunity to register. No reference to any candidate or political party is made in any materials or in any statements given by volunteers.	Permitted	IRS Publication 1828
A church sets up a telephone bank to conduct a "get-out-the-vote" effort and contacts registered voters in its district. Church volunteers are instructed to ask the registered voters about their positions on certain moral issues, and if the voter's positions align with a specific candidate running for office in the district, to then remind them about the upcoming election, the importance of voting, and the availability of church-sponsored transportation to the polls.	Prohibited	IRS Publication 1828

## Testimony

*Rev. Manny Cuellar, Omega Student*

Omega has truly been a great blessing. Since enrolling in Omega I have been challenged through the Associate and Bachelors Degree programs. Every course takes you deeper in God's Word and I love it. I have found myself doing and holding Bible Studies in various churches and Men's Ministries.



If you desire to study God's Word in a deeper sense, Omega will definitely take you there and more. Your writing skills will improve, and maybe find yourself writing a book, like myself. Still remembering when I started on the Associate Degree, I struggled writing summaries. All the professors at Omega gave me the encouragement in gaining the confidence to write. For that, I am very grateful.

If you are considering enrolling in Omega, I challenge you to take the challenge, and I promise you that you definitely will not be disappointed. ♥

*We encourage our graduates and students to share their testimony or write an article to be published in the Omega Newsletter. We are honored to be part of what God is doing in your life.*



*Equipping Men & Women of God through Christian Education for over 45 years!*

BACHELOR, MASTER, DOCTORATE, Th.D., Ph.D.

*Earn Your Degree Without Leaving Home!*

Ask about our "Degree By Testing!"

*Honorary & Combined & Accelerated Degrees Available for qualified applicants*

"Accredited by TAC"

Affordable Quality Education - FREE Evaluation - Credit for Life Experience

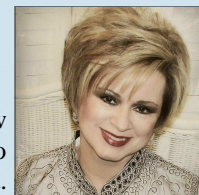
**888-837-4931 or visit [www.omega.edu](http://www.omega.edu)**



## Inspirational Thought

*By Dr. Jan Harbuck, Omega Vice-President*

### Prayer



We are told that when it comes to how we approach our daily lives, we need to always be turned toward God. The idea is that our communion with God should be so intimate and personal that we find ourselves naturally talking to Him through-out our day.

Praying continually means praying repeatedly and often. The word translated "continually" (adialeiptos) was also used to refer to a *hacking cough*. If you have ever had a cold, you know what it's like to cough spontaneously? There are times you just can't stop yourself. The same should be true of prayer life. We should be continuously offering up prayers to the Lord because we just can't help ourselves.

*"Prayerlessness is our declaration of independence from God." - Daniel Henderson*

Prayerfulness indicates we're relying on God; while prayerlessness indicates we're relying on ourselves. That's why, through-out our day, we need to keep a prayerful attitude. Our lives are full of impossibilities, but God specializes in doing the impossible.

*"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." - Mark 10:27 (NIV)*  
*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - Martin Luther*



# DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED

## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

- Certificate Programs
- Diploma in Biblical Studies
- Associate Degrees
- Bachelor's Degrees



## MASTER'S DEGREE CURRICULUM

- Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
- Master of Christian Counseling
- Master of Christian Education
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Ministry
- Master of Theology



## DOCTORATE DEGREE CURRICULUM

- Doctor of Christian Counseling
- Doctor of Christian Education
- Doctor of Ministry
- Doctor of Theology
- Doctor of Philosophy



**Have the knowledge  
but NO recognition  
for it?**

**CHECK OUT OUR  
DEGREE BY TESTING**



### Omega Bible Institute & Seminary

2149 Highway 139, Monroe, LA 71203

Monday-Friday, 8AM - 3PM, CST

Toll Free: 1-888-837-4951

Email address: [admin@omega.edu](mailto:admin@omega.edu)

Website: [omega.edu](http://omega.edu)

**Omega Bible Institute & Seminary**

2149 Hwy. 139

Monroe, LA 71203