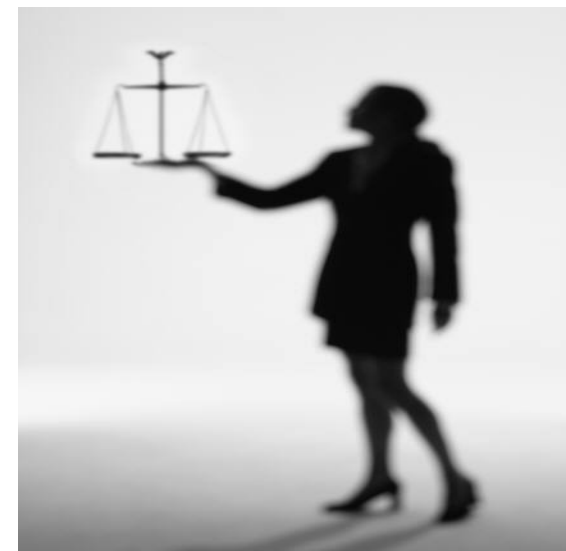


# CHURCH LAW

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Rehoboth Trenton

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# DISCLAIMER

- THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS LEGAL ADVICE AS THE ATTORNEY IN QUESTION IS NOT LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BUT RATHER THIS INFORMATION CONCERNS ISSUES A CHURCH MAY CONSIDER WHEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR ATTORNEY.

# Legal Considerations for the Church

- **1. Buildings and Property**
- **2. Caring for Financial Assets**
- **3. Employees and Volunteers**
- **4. Protecting Children and Adults from Abuse**
- **5. Tax Issues**
- **6. Ethics Policy**
- **7. Confidentiality**
- **8. Use of Computers and Internet**

# Legal Considerations etc. cont'd

- **9. Use of Vehicles and Equipment**
- **10. Copyright and Intellectual Property**
- **11. Protecting Members from Fraud**
- **12. Parliamentary Procedure**
- **13. Security Issues**
- **14. S.C. Immigration Law**
- **15. S.C. “Redneck Shop”**
- **16. Unexpected Laws Nationwide**

# Bldgs and Property (Land Use)

- What to consider before building and expanding;
- A) Palm Beach Baptist Church v. City of Port St. Lucie
- B) NYC Churches Equal Access Battle



# Bldgs and Prop. (Land Use) cont'd

- What should be considered before leasing or renting property;
  - Tax considerations;
  - Zoning laws;
  - Insurance;
  - Leases;
  - Use Agreements
  - Establishment of separate corporation

# Caring for Financial Assets



- Financial Contingency Planning
- Accountable Reimbursement Policies
- Congregational Audit Guide
- Record Retention Policy

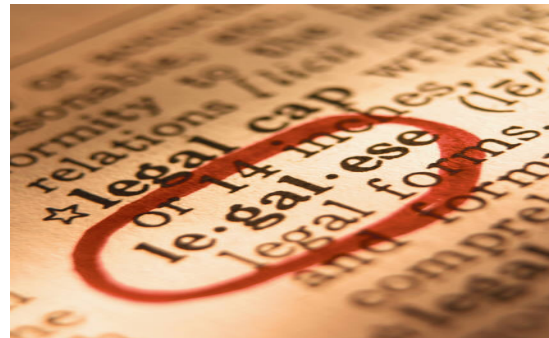
# Protecting Children and Adults from Abuse

- UCJC Polices – Section 7 : Zero Tolerance Policy
- Developing a sexual misconduct policy:
  - A written policy statement is an important first step toward preventing sexual misconduct or harassment. Make sure all persons concerned are aware of the policy and understand the content. When misconduct occurs, the entire congregation suffers emotionally, spiritually and financially.
  - Instruct all adults who work with children and youth in what is, and is not, appropriate behavior.
  - Make it clear to the staff, volunteers, and members that following the guidelines you have established are to protect the children and youth of your congregation.
  - [Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church](#), by Joy Thornburg Melton



# Ethics Policies

- UCJC Policies – Section 5: Clergy
- UCJC Policies – Section 7: Ministerial Counseling



- Congregational Ethics Policy

# Overview 3, 7, 8, 10 and 11

- Employees and Volunteers – Social Media
- Confidentiality
- Use of Computers and the Internet
- Copyright and Intellectual Property
- Protecting Members from Fraud

# Security Issues

- What to do when violence strikes
- Managing your risks



# Last but Not Least

- S.C. Immigration law issues
- S.C. “Redneck Shop”
- Unexpected Laws Nationwide



*The End*