

2. What kinds of responses are appropriate for a Christian church?

(again referring back to page 56 -- VII. B.)

a. What means are lawful for Christian churches?

Is it lawful for churches to engage in political action? Is it lawful for churches to seek to elect particular candidates, to function as PAC's (political actions committees), to take partisan stands on political issues?

b. "Christian churches can faithfully witness"

They can do this primarily through their preaching and teaching, but also through the agencies they support (especially financially). Can their support of some agencies be counterproductive, by actually weakening or rendering ineffective a church's witness? Should Christian churches ever support non-religious organizations that are working to combat particular social evils?

c. "Christian churches can take stands on moral issues, and let those stands be known"

Is it appropriate for a church to take a corporate stand on such issues as abortion, homosexuality, capital punishment, etc.?

Is it appropriate to make a church's position known through resolutions reported publicly, through newspaper articles, through radio and television, through distribution of literature, through seminars and rallies open to the public?

d. "Christians churches can seek to influence the centers of intellectual endeavor to move back to a position of moral and intellectual absolutes"

Is it appropriate for churches, acting together, to attempt to influence schools in their area (public schools, community colleges, private colleges and universities)? Is it appropriate for this influence to extend to policies, personnel, and textbooks in these schools?