

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 › MADISON, WI 53701 › (608) 256-8900 › WWW.FFRF.ORG

June 28, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY:

eoclass@irs.gov

IRS EO Classification

1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20224

Re: Illegal Politicking by Religious Organization

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to report concerns of potential illegal political campaigning by Charis Bible College in Woodland Park, Colorado. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 37,000 members across the country, including 1,100 members and two local chapters in Colorado. Our purposes are to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.

It is our understanding that Charis Bible College has recently been involved in electioneering. In September of 2021, Charis Bible College hosted the Truth and Liberty Coalition Conference. At this conference, Pastor Andrew Wommack openly endorsed U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert and allowed her to speak to the audience.¹ The Pastor even went as far as to help her fundraise for her campaign.

A lot of the Democrats are pouring a tremendous amount of money in to try and silence this woman. And so what I'd like to ask you to do, how can they contribute if they want to be a part of your deal? [Boebert answers] laurenforfreedom.com.²

You know we have over 1000 people here and if everybody gave 20 bucks that would be a good honorary [...] And if you could give more that would be great.

Let's support her and help her.

During the conference, Charis Bible College also played a video of Colorado Representative for the Fifth Congressional District Doug Lamborn, and allowed him to address the audience to promote his campaign.³

IRS regulations specify that 501(c)(3) organizations, which include churches and other religious organizations, are prohibited from “[participating in or intervening in] . . . any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.” Rev. Rul. 2007-41, 2007-25 I.R.B. (June 28, 2007). Because Charis Bible College has invited multiple political candidates to speak to its members

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qUnnSu1Dno&t=1s>.

² *Id.* at one hour and seven minutes.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2yToWgN7ew>.

and endorsed those candidates, it should no longer receive the benefits of 501(c)(3) recognition, including tax exempt status.

FFRF respectfully requests that the IRS commence an immediate investigation into Charis Bible College. The IRS should take appropriate action to remedy any violations of 501(c)(3) regulations that occurred or which continue to occur.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Line". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher Line
Staff Attorney
Freedom From Religion Foundation

CAL:cg