

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are motivated in all facets by our faith in Jesus Christ, attempting to serve as a reflection of God's unconditional love for all people.[1] We seek to honor the Lord in all that we do by operating the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) in a manner consistent with Biblical principles.[2] Every activity and speech that the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) or its employees, representatives, volunteers, or members engage in shall be consistent with, and in furtherance of, the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s religious purposes, both publicly and privately.[3]

All activities in which the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) engages are for the religious purpose of furthering its Christian mission, message, and viewpoint. Whether the activity has an overt liturgical religious purpose (preaching, worship, Bible instruction, communion, baptism) or a related non-liturgical religious purpose (social service activities, weddings, primary and secondary schools, or events), all activities of the Church are intended to glorify God. (Colossians 3:17) the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) conducts all activities in a holistic manner in order to foster, repeat, advertise or express its Christian mission, message and viewpoint.[4] In this way, every church activity itself is infused with a religious purpose, as an act of worship, intending to further the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s religious beliefs and commitment to the faith as outlined in *What We Believe* (our Statement of Faith), the *Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and Sexuality*, the *Facility Use Policy*, the church *Constitution*, church *By-laws*, the *Commitment of Christ's Servant in the Local Church* service agreement, and the *Membership Matters* member handbook, which are incorporated herein by reference, as if fully set forth herein.[5]

Conveying the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s Christian message is at the heart of all that we do, in life, deed, word and expression. [6] the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) is dedicated to serving and providing for its community, not simply to engage in organized worship.[7] Provision of charity and community services, including but not limited to care for children, widows, and those in need, as well as evangelism, strengthening Christian leadership, discipleship and Biblical education, primary and secondary education, are means of fulfilling Christian duty and providing an example of the Christ-like way of life that the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) seeks to foster.[8] (James 1:27; Mark 16:15; Titus 1:7-9; Matthew 28:19-20) Therefore, all behavior of members, representatives, and volunteers of the church is communicative in nature, exemplifying the faith. Associating with like-minded Christians reinforces the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV)'s Christian purpose and is vital to the faith's perpetuation. [9] (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Finally, the primary, exclusive, and only purposes for which the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) is organized are religious in nature, including but not limited to conducting missions and services. Likewise the First Baptist Church of Wellsburg (WV) intends to disseminate, teach, and preach the Gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ, to encourage and aid the growth, nurture and spread of Christianity and to render Christian

service.[10] The recital of these purposes is intended to be exclusive of any and all other purposes, this church being formed for religious and charitable purposes only.[11]

[1] *Spencer v. World Vision, Inc.*, 633 F.3d 723, 735 (9th Cir. 2011).

[2] *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, 134 S.Ct. 2751, 2766 (2014).

[3] See *World Vision*, 633 F.3d at 434; *Univ. of Great Falls v. NLRB*, 278 F.3d 1335, 1343 (D.C. Cir. 2002); *Universidad Cent. de Bayamon v. NLRB*, 793 F.2d 383, 399-400, 403 (1st Cir. 1985) (en banc) (Breyer, J.).

[4] See *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay*, 515 U.S. 557, 581 (1995).

[5] See *Corp. of Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints v. Amos*, 483 U.S. 327, 344 (1987) (Brennan, J., concurring).

[6] See *World Vision*, 633 F.3d at 434.

[7] See *Amos*, 483 U.S. at 344 (Brennan, J., concurring)

[8] See *id.*

[9] See *HEB Ministries, Inc. v. Tex. Higher Educ. Coordinating Bd.*, 235 S.W.3d 627, 659-660, (Tex. 2007)

[10] See *World Vision*, 633 F.3d at 736.

[11] See *id.* at 726.; *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 628 (1971).