



Re: 01-057

DOMESTIC RELATIONS: MARRIAGE GENERALLY  
CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNTY AND CITY  
OFFICERS)

There is requirement that circuit court clerks investigate proof of facially valid ordinations or certificates to determine the authenticity of a given religious society or denomination. Clerks have discretionary authority to make orders authorizing ministers to celebrate the rites of matrimony.

1 April 2010

Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, II  
Office of the Attorney General  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-2071

Dear Mr. Cuccinelli:

Almost a decade ago, your predecessor sent his opinion to Thomas M. Moncure Jr., Clerk, Circuit Court of Stafford County on 29 November 2001; The court clerk inquired whether individuals issued "credentials of ministry" by the independent Universal Life Church of *Modesto, California*, may qualify as ministers pursuant to § 20-23 of the Code of Virginia. They were told, "[c]onsequently, it is my opinion that it is within the discretion of the clerk of the circuit court to make an order authorizing such minister to celebrate the rites of matrimony".

Universal Life Church Monastery Storehouse in Seattle, WA. is a legally separate entity from the Universal Life Church of Modesto, Ca.—the two organizations are entirely independent of one another although we do have similar belief systems. Consequently, various state circuit court clerks have invoked an impermissible flawed policy to deny all of our Universal Life Church Monastery ministers in the performance of their sacerdotal role of performing weddings. Your office is in contravention of established constitutional and federal law. We here at The Monastery, hold that Virginia Court clerks are individually and unjustly exposed to legal suit. I had a discussion with one the clerks wherein I warned that if this egregious violation of federal law continues we will file suit against each. As individually named co-defendants, such could adversely affect their credit records, mortgages, etc.





Herein is our demonstration of reasonable good-faith through this informal appeal to have your office reverse. Mr. Moncure's opinion letter of 2001. Such would settle this matter more amicably than leaving our minister no other choice then to being forced to bring our arguments before a federal judiciary above.

We believe that any individual clerk, who participated or continues to participate after this notice, violates federal statutes listed below. It is a crime for one or more persons using power given to him or her by a governmental agency (local, state or federal), to willfully deprive or conspire to deprive another person of any right protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States. Enforcement of 'color of law' does not require that any racial, religious, or other discriminatory motive existed

Please review *42 U.S.C 21 §1981 et seq.* and:

***Title 18, U.S.C., Section 241  
Conspiracy against Rights***

This statute makes it unlawful for two or more persons to **conspire to injure**, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person of any state, territory or district in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him/her by the Constitution or the laws of the United States, (or because of his/her having exercised the same).

It further makes it unlawful for two or more persons to go in disguise on the highway or on the premises of another with the intent to prevent or hinder his/her free exercise or enjoyment of any rights so secured.

Punishment varies from a fine or imprisonment of up to ten years, or both; and if death results, or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for any term of years, or for life, or may be sentenced to death.

***Title 18, U.S.C., Section 242  
Deprivation of Rights under Color of Law***

This statute makes it a crime for any person acting under color of law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom to willfully deprive any person or cause any person to be deprived of those rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the laws and constitution of the United States government.





This statute further prohibits a person acting under color of law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom from willfully subjecting any person or causing any person to be subjected to different punishments, pains, or penalties, from those prescribed for punishment of citizens on account of such a person's race, color, or nationality.

**Acts under "color of any law" include not only acts committed by federal, state, or local officials within the bounds or limits of their lawful authority, but also acts committed without and beyond the bounds of their lawful authority;** provided that, in order for unlawful acts of any official to be committed under "color of any law," the unlawful acts are committed while such official is purporting or pretending to act in the performance of his/her office. **This definition includes, in addition to law enforcement officials, mayors, councilors, judges, magistrates, nursing home proprietors, security guards, etc., any other person bound by the same laws, statutes, ordinances, or customs.**

Punishment varies from a fine or imprisonment of up to one year, or both, and if bodily injury results or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire shall be fined or imprisoned up to ten years or both, and if death results, or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death.

Further, circuit court clerks have no right to make arbitrary and/or capricious decisions regarding who may or may not perform a religious wedding. Nor can we find any compelling state interest to prevent our ministers from their right to officiate their sacerdotal rituals of marriage in your jurisdiction. see <http://www.ulccaselaw.com/ulc-legal-cases.php>.

We here at Universal Life Church Monastery Headquarters would like to provide you, your fellow judiciary, and the court clerks with several federal rulings that have set a precedence to which your state is compelled to adhere, as mandated by the US Supreme Court. *Stare decisis et non quieta movere* ("Maintain what has been decided and do not alter that which has been established").



For your edification, please review the following resolutions:

“...an Honorary Doctor of Divinity is a strictly religious title with no academic standing. Such titles may be issued by bona fide churches and religious denominations, such as plaintiff, as long as their issuance is limited to a course of instruction in the principles of the church or religious denomination... The statute is silent as to recognize honorary titles conferred for some meritorious recognition.”

“...Certainly the ordination of ministers and the chartering of churches are accepted activities of religious organizations... The fact that the plaintiff distributed ministers’ credentials and Honorary Doctor of Divinity certificates is of no moment. Such activity may be analogized to mass conversions at a typical revival or religious crusade.”

“...neither this court nor any branch of this government will consider the merits or fallacies of a religion. Nor will the court compare the beliefs, dogmas, and practices of a newly organized religion with those of an older, more established religion. Nor will the court praise or condemn a religion, however excellent or fanatical or preposterous it may seem. Were the court to do so, it would impinge upon the guarantee of the First Amendment.”

*Universal Life Church, Inc. vs. United States, 372 F. Supp.*  
770, 776 (E.D. Cal 1974)

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." *The First Amendment to the United States Constitution*

Additionally, see; *Universal Life Church v. Utah, 189 F. Supp. 2d 1302 (D. Utah 2002)*

The Universal Life Church Monastery serves as a clear voice of Heaven’s new mandate to all: to integrate all human belief systems into a common ecumenical principle under which "we are all children of the same universe". We here at the Monastery, through our ecclesiastical teachings and rationalist doctrine, instruct our congregants "to do the right thing", whatever they believe this to be, insofar as it does not impinge on the rights of others and is within the law. If we as a united people, fail in this endeavor and continue with the



# UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH HEADQUARTERS



## MONASTERY STOREHOUSE

Presiding Chaplain, Br. Martin

existing cornucopia of elitist religious dogmas, religious condemnation, reliance on archaic religious pretexts for violence,... myriads "divinely inspired" books which encourage segregated Sunday services, death to infidels, killing non-virgins, sacrificing animals, stoning rape victims to death, executing homosexuals, inculcating guilt, and, finally, instructing innocent children that they are born with defective souls immersed in sin--in short, if our world continues to embrace such mayhem and sanctioned insanity--we surely will arrive at Armageddon's door.

It is our mission to dispel this myth and welcome everybody into the Universal Life Church Monastery fold. We recommend that you visit our online [minister's network](#), [blog](#), [forum](#), and [bookshop](#) to review our reading materials; it is both enlightening and liberating. Our sincere hope is that you will join us in our effort to allow all citizens to be the minister of his or her own family, friends, and conscience...be it in a time of joy or a time of sorrow. That is the fundamental principle on which this church and country was forged upon.

This letter will act as our church's *Official Notice for the Record*, asking that you desist in any further denials regarding our ministers' right to officiate sacerdotal duties in your jurisdiction. We are sending a copy of this letter to each of your associates, asking that all Court Orders that have been issued thus far be Remanded and Rescinded via *sua sponte notice*. Further, we ask that this Court Decree *en banc* that the Universal Life Church Monastery is a recognized church and entitled to all privileges under the law.

Sincerely,

G. Martin Freeman, Presiding Chaplain.  
Universal Life Church Monastery Storehouse  
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Seattle, WA 98122  
206-478-9500

*A religion old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the universe as revealed by modern science, might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths. Sooner or later, such a religion will emerge.... Carl Sagan*



We are all children of the same universe

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