

Hear How Pastor Hernan Castano Handled a Challenge to His Religious Freedom

It's no secret – fellow church leaders have been experiencing religious freedom threats for years.

Let's take a look at one shocking example: The City of Houston demanded that several area pastors turn over their sermons, e-mails, text messages, and other communications with their congregants.

Why?

The officials wanted to see if the pastors had opposed or criticized a city ordinance that, in part, allows members of the opposite sex into each other's restrooms. Clearly, this was a violation of the pastors' First Amendment rights.

Watch this [video](#) to hear a first-hand account of the City's attempt to intimidate church leaders for standing firm in their biblical beliefs about males and females.



While the Houston city ordinance was ultimately rejected, government officials continue attempts to pass similar laws. Under the guise of equality, these laws add sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as protected classes in the law.

SOGI laws undermine religious freedom across the country. The government has no right to meddle in the internal operations of churches and ministries or to tell them what to believe. And you can be confident that Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) will continue to advocate for the religious freedom rights of churches across the country.

If your church is seeking ways to protect its religious freedom to the greatest extent possible, you can access religious freedom legal help through membership in ADF Church Alliance.

ADF Church Alliance acts as a hub for churches like yours to gain access to experienced First Amendment lawyers who are available to answer religious liberty questions, conduct document reviews and provide advice, and even represent your organization in court if necessary and appropriate – it's virtually all-inclusive for religious freedom issues.

Northern Illinois District LCMS has teamed up with ADF Church Alliance so your church can become a member at a discounted rate. Visit www.adfchurchalliance.org/NIDLCMS to learn more and use promo code **NIDLCMS20** when you apply.

