



Erika E. Cole, Esq.

THE CHURCH ATTORNEY®

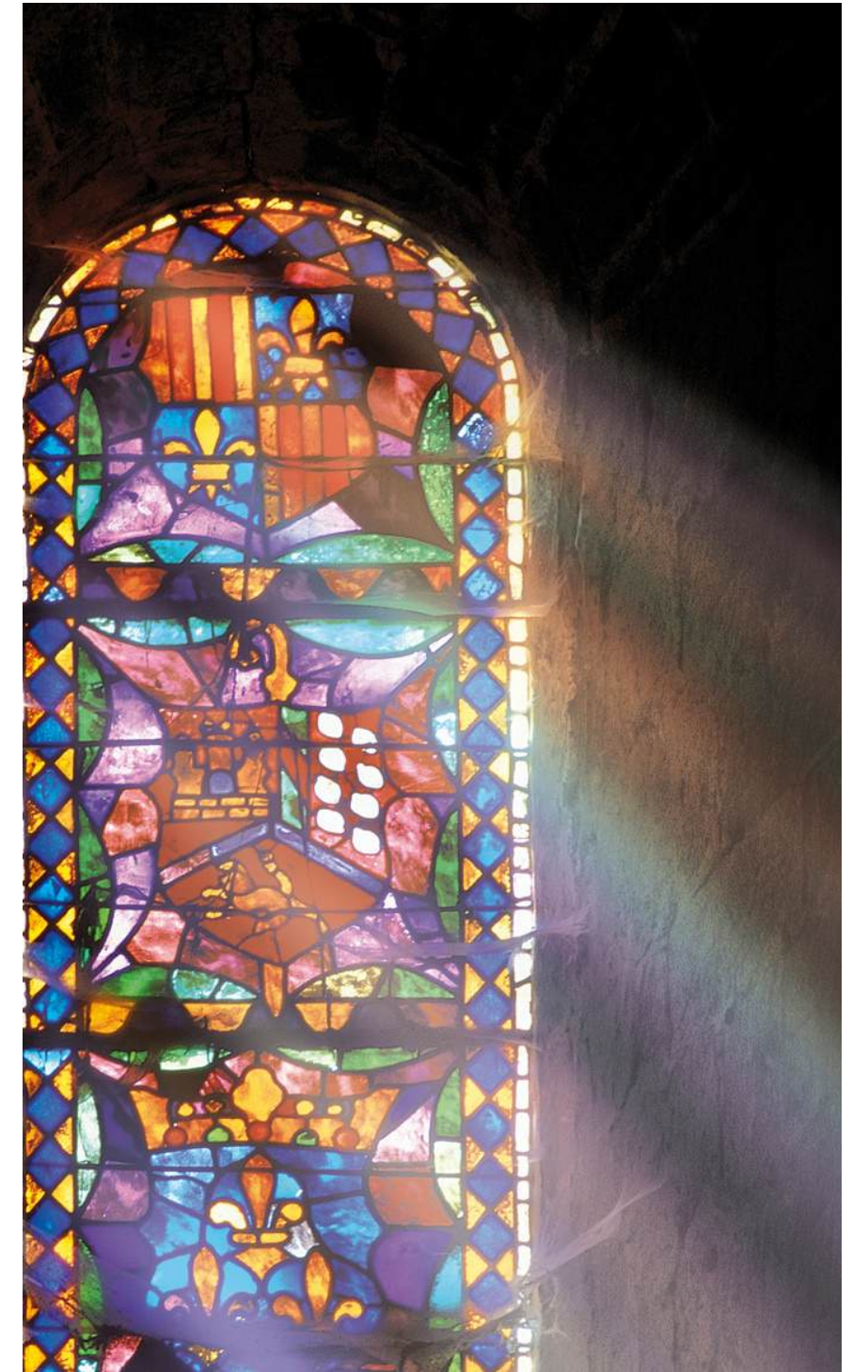
Top 5 Hidden Legal Risks in Ministry *and How to Prevent Them*



Welcome!

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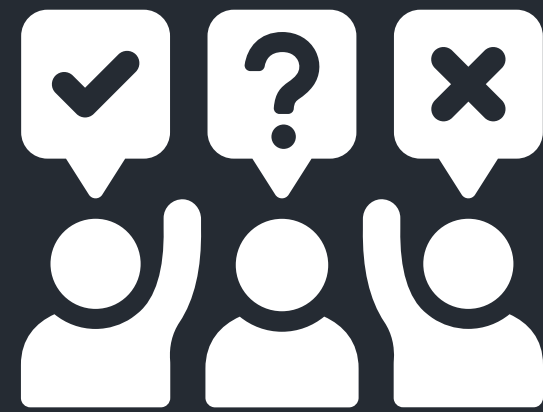
About Erika Cole, Esq. —

Founder of The Annual Church Law & Leadership Summit (formerly Church Compliance Conference) bringing together church leaders for over 18 years & Faithful Foundations Membership

Creator of The Church Attorney Legal Audit® System- A proprietary 4-Step process to ensure church operations are in order

Host of The Church Law Podcast, conference speaker

LET'S TAKE A QUICK POLL!



How would you describe your
organization?

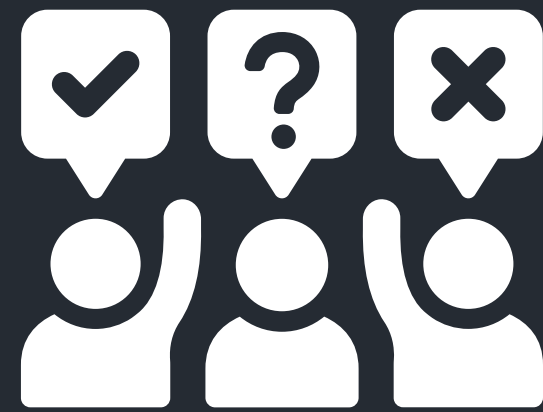
Overview



THE KEY POINTS

- ➔ Discussion of Top 5 Legal Risks
- ➔ Importance of law and leadership in safeguarding church operations
- ➔ Overview of Challenges: staff management, budgets, AI, etc.
- ➔ Goal: Equip Leaders with Practical tools for governance, legal insights, and decision-making

LET'S TAKE A QUICK POLL!



What do you see as the biggest legal challenges to ministries today?

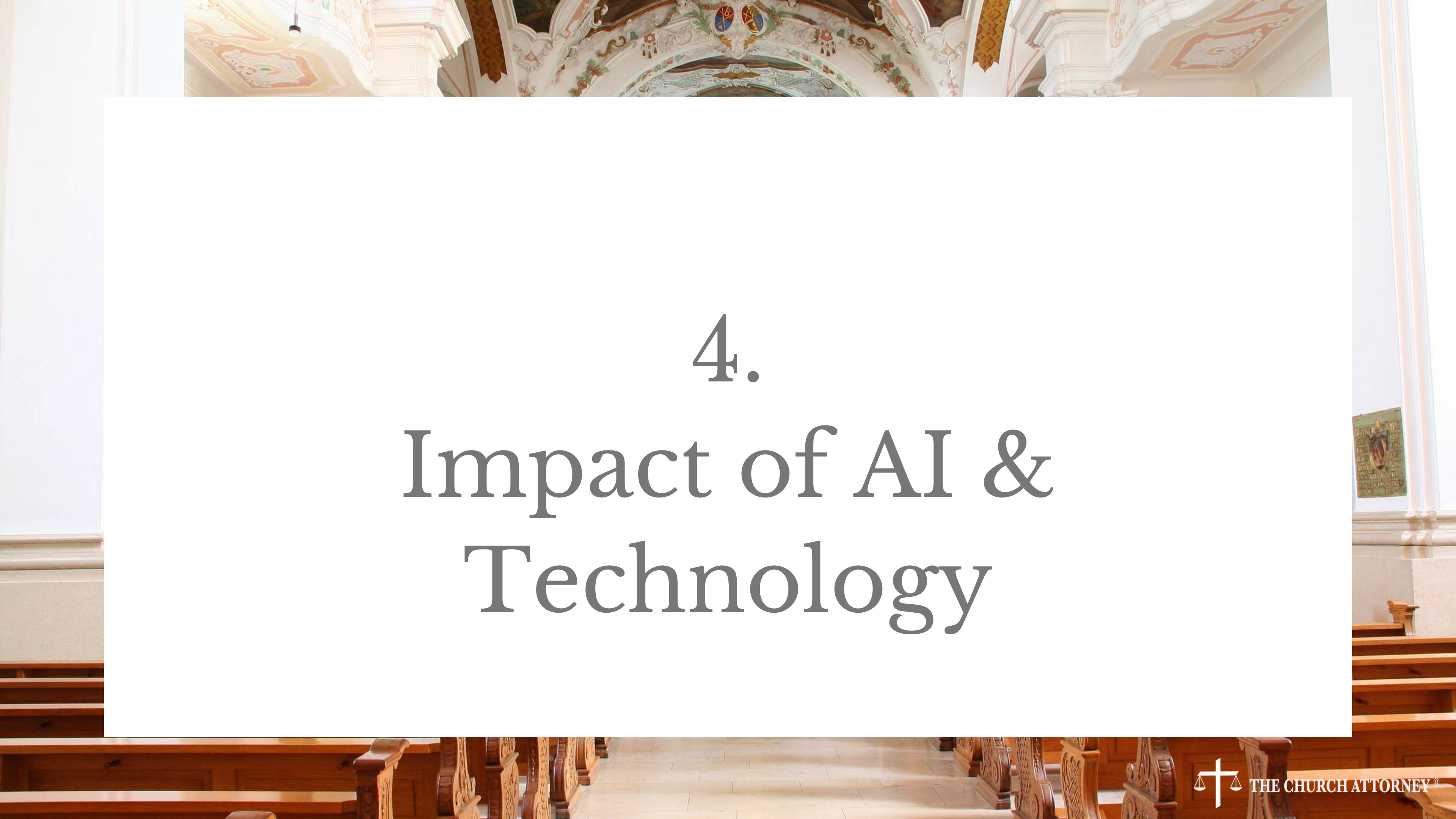
1. IRS Warns of 2025 Audit Areas

2. Proper Legal Status

3. Management of Fiscal Obligations



4. Impact of AI & Technology



5. Increased Litigation

Securing Your Church's Legal Foundation is an Act of Good Stewardship!!



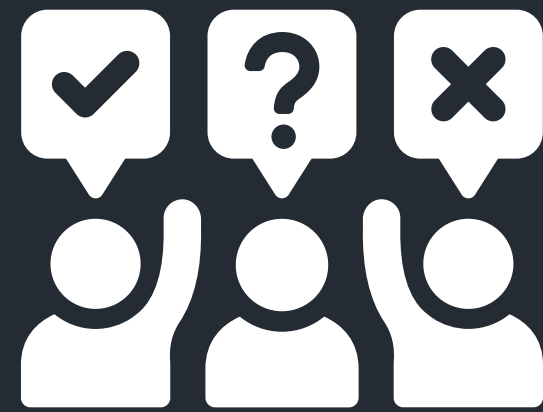
If you are a pastor, board member, or church leader, **YOU** are responsible for your church doing the right thing!



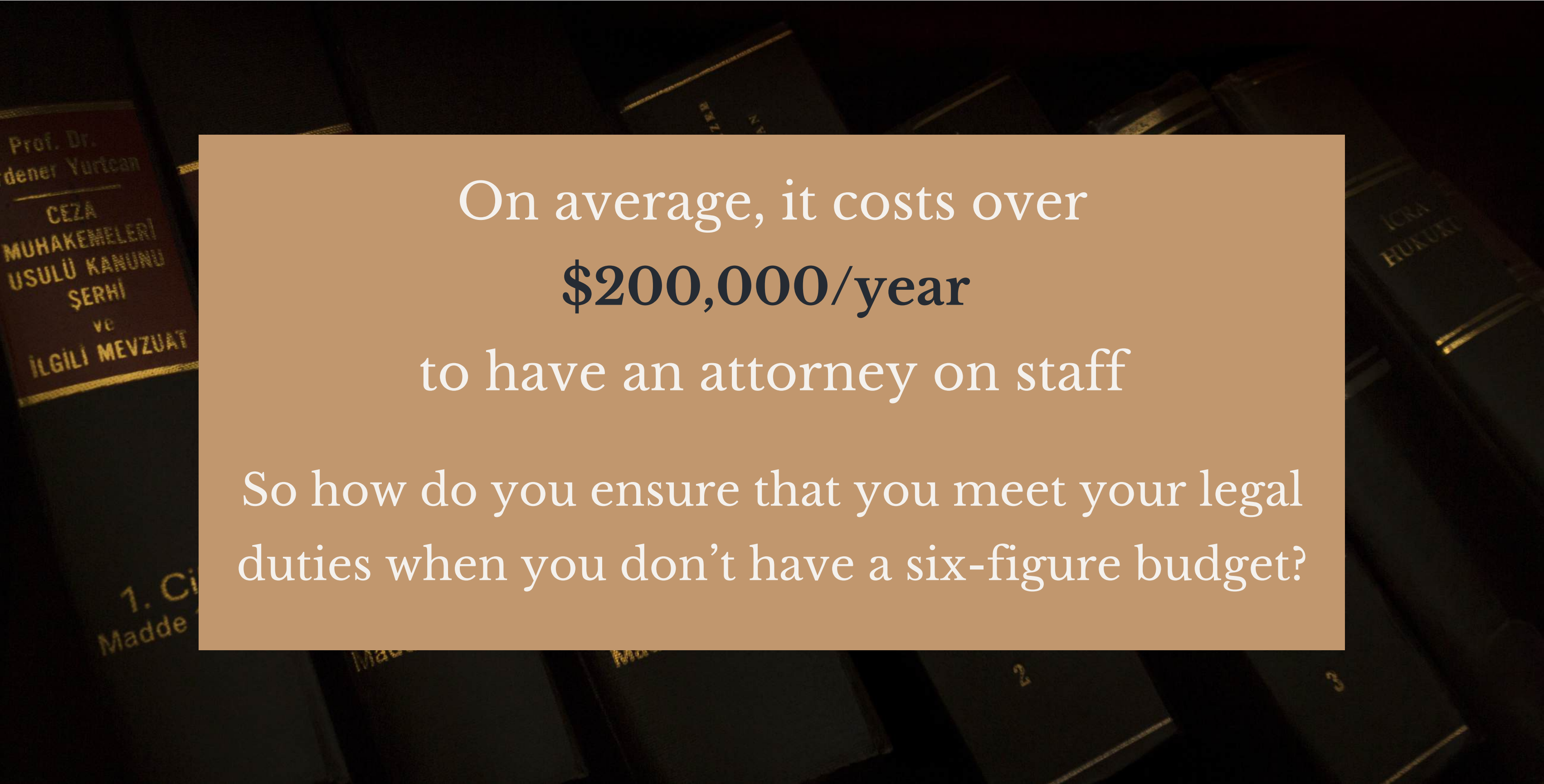
Get The Church Attorney®
Legal Audit Checklist FREE
For Attending This Session



LET'S TAKE A QUICK POLL!



Does your ministry have a full-time
attorney on staff that focuses on
church law?



On average, it costs over
\$200,000/year
to have an attorney on staff

So how do you ensure that you meet your legal duties when you don't have a six-figure budget?

It's Okay to Have Help...

**“Without guidance, a people will fall, but
there is victory with many counselors.”
– Proverbs 11:14 CEB**

*Your focus is on leading and supporting
your church, mine is on knowing the
intricacies of the law affecting churches.*



Three Ways The Church Attorney® Can Serve You —



**FRACTIONAL GENERAL
COUNSEL SERVICES**



**THE CHURCH ATTORNEY
LEGAL AUDIT® SYSTEM**



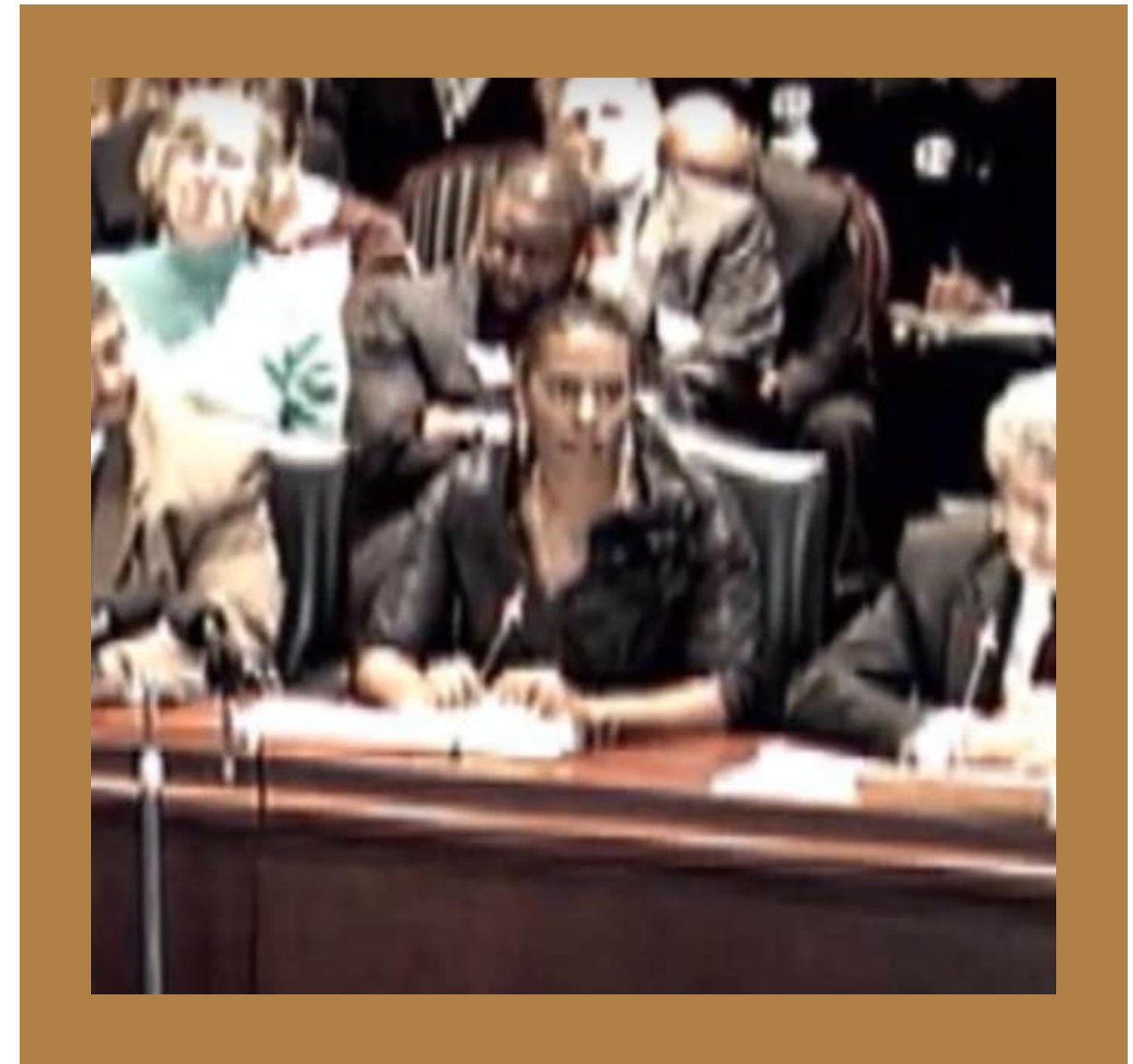
**FAITHFUL FOUNDATIONS
MEMBERSHIP**

My Story

WHY I CREATED THE SUMMIT

As an attorney in touch with churches across denominations, I'm on the front end of changes that impact churches.

Erika E. Cole testifies at the Maryland State House Committee Hearing on same-sex marriage Bill impacting church leaders (02/25/2011)



Who is Faithful Foundations Membership for?

- ✓ You're a church leader who wants to do your part to keep your ministry in compliance for the long haul
- ✓ You're tired of feeling overwhelmed by ever-changing legal regulations
- ✓ You want a clear path and professional guidance to navigate issues faced explicitly by churches
- ✓ You're committed to protecting your church's future

How Does the Membership Work?

Just the Basics

Standard Membership

- ✓ 12+ months of Access to Educational Content
- ✓ Monthly Video Lessons
- ✓ Useful Tools & Resources
- ✓ Ongoing Support
- ✓ Private Member Community

\$79/Month
\$790/Year

Full Benefits

All Access Membership

- ✓ 12+ months of Access to Educational Content
- ✓ Monthly Video Lessons
- ✓ Useful Tools & Resources
- ✓ Ongoing Support
- ✓ Private Member Community
- ✓ Monthly Live Q&A Sessions
- ✓ Free Admission to the 2026 Church Law & Leadership Summit
- ✓ Discounts, Bonuses & More!

\$169/Month
\$1690/Year

SCAN TO JOIN!



***Annual Members
get 2 Months Free**

Topics Covered in Year One Include

01.

Church Bylaws

02.

Record Keeping
Requirements

03.

Top IRS Audit
Issues

04.

Managing Youth
Activities

05.

LGBTQIA+ Matters

06.

Staff & Volunteer
Management

Some of the Resources Our Members Have Already Received

- **The Church Attorney® Legal Audit Checklist**
- **Sample Church Board Meeting Minutes**
- **Essential Year-End Checklist for Churches**
- **Sample IRS Giving Statement**
- **Sample Church Board Resolution**

All Access Members get These Amazing Bonuses

Past webinar replays, including:

- **Hidden Legal Risks: 7 Essential Insights Every Church Leader Needs to Know**
- **Readiness for 2025: A Guide for Church Leaders in Uncertain Times**
- **Essential Year End Checklist for Church Leaders & Ministries**
- **Shield your Church: Top 5 Legal Risks to Prepare for in 2025**

REALLYGREATSITE.COM

Get this three-page Bylaws Checklist as a bonus when you become an All Access Member by October 31st!



What Current Members have said about the value of the Faithful Foundations Membership Community

“The open candid yet easy to understand method is a winner. While we receive input from others, the ability to speak one on one face to face with Attorney Cole is a game changer. She has encouraged us not only to know what we should be doing but to actually do it. Her hands on approach and usable resources has positioned us to do and be legally compliant. ”

-B. Knight

“Faithful Foundations has helped KRM get our files and documents in better order and ready for an IRS Audit. We were able to make some things better in our Bylaws by utilizing the information that we learned (LGBTQ section, Indemnification, etc.)”

-D. Slaughter

“Excellent Training! I am so glad you have created such an Anointed and Excellent "Faithful Foundations Membership!" Our Leadership is excited about being part of such a like minded community!”

-R. Hannah

Thank You



SCAN

**JOIN FAITHFUL
FOUNDATIONS
MEMBERSHIP**

Let's Stay Connected!



erikacole.com



@thechurchattorney



SCAN

**DOWNLOAD THE FREE TCA
LEGAL AUDIT CHECKLIST
& JOIN OUR
NEWSLETTER**

