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“O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States.”
Jacob Duché, Opening Prayer of the First Continental Congress

Colorado Bill Dies that Would Have Restricted Participation in EFTC

The Colorado General Assembly has tabled a bill that would have discriminated against faith-based schools with students who would use the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) scholarships. As the AACCS has reported, donors can donate up to \$1,700 to a scholarship-granting organization (SGO) in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar nonrefundable federal tax credit starting January 1, 2027. The SGOs can bundle donations and provide scholarships for qualified educational expenses, such as private school tuition. The [Colorado bill](#) would have prevented any school whose students use “tax-favored funding” for scholarships, such as the EFTC, from retaining its religious distinctives. The bill would have required the schools to abide by Colorado’s “nondiscrimination” laws that include sexual orientation or gender identity ideology. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis pushed back against the bill. Polis was one of the first Democratic governors to opt his state into the EFTC. He opposed the bill because he believed it would prevent the state from raising money for scholarships for Colorado students. He even intends to travel to California to raise money for Colorado scholarships if Gov. Gavin Newsom refuses to opt his state into the EFTC. Polis argued that Colorado cannot apply its “nondiscrimination” laws to the EFTC scholarships because the donations are all privately funded. “There are some that think you shouldn’t get any deduction for giving to certain non-profits,” [said](#) Polis. “I think it’s a very dangerous road to go down because then you have the government determining what’s worthy.” Thanks in part to Polis’s opposition, state legislators eventually postponed the bill. However, the legislation could come back in the next legislative session.

Vermont Principals Association Agrees to Settlement with Christian School

The Vermont Principals Association (VPA) has [agreed to pay](#) \$566,000 to Mid Vermont Christian School as part of a settlement after a judge ruled in favor of the Christian school that took a stand against males playing in female sports. The case, *Mid Vermont Christian School v. Saunders*, dates back to 2023 when Mid Vermont Christian School forfeited a girls’ basketball game because the opposing team had a male identifying as a female on their team. The VPA, which oversees athletics for the state, responded by barring Mid Vermont Christian from all VPA-sponsored events, including debate tournaments and science fairs in addition to athletic competitions. The school filed suit and charged that the state was excluding it based on its religious beliefs. Last September, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled](#) that Vermont must allow the Christian school to participate and cannot discriminate against them based on their religious beliefs. Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel David Cortman [stated](#), “The government cannot punish religious schools – and the families they serve – by permanently kicking them out of state-sponsored sports simply because the state disagrees with their religious beliefs. For more than two years, state officials denied Mid Vermont Christian School a public benefit available to all other schools in Vermont just because it stood by the widely held, biblical belief that boys and girls are different.” While this settlement points to a victory for the school, the case is still in litigation as

Vermont officials have again denied access for religious schools, including Mid Vermont Christian School, to participate in the state's [town tuitioning program](#) and other public benefit programs.

Supreme Court to Hear Title IX Case

The Supreme Court has [agreed](#) to hear a [case](#) on whether college employees can personally sue based on claims of sex discrimination under Title IX. Several appellate courts have ruled that employees can personally sue. Then, in 2024, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals broke from the other courts and held that employees are not entitled under Title IX to sue. In *Thomas Crowther v. Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia*, the Supreme Court will decide whether two university employees could argue under Title IX that they were discriminated against based on their sex. The 11th Circuit Court [found](#) that the employees did not have a right to sue because nothing in Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination "indicates congressional intent to provide a private right of action to employees of educational institutions." Solicitor General John Sauer submitted an [amicus brief](#) in the case on behalf of the United States, supporting the universities in the 11th Circuit's decision but arguing that the Supreme Court should take up the case to settle the circuit court split. The government's brief argues that employees can sue under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the federal law that bars discrimination in employment, not Title IX. The Supreme Court will hear the case in its next term, starting in October 2026.

Church Attendance Is Up

A new [report](#) released by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research shows that church attendance is on the rise, with an increase since the pandemic. The study, titled "Signs of Rebound Amid Uneven Recovery: The Changing Congregational Landscape," was conducted as part of the Faith Communities Today research collaborative that has been analyzing congregational trends since 2000. This study [analyzed surveys](#) from 7,453 churches, received between September and December 2025, and shows an average congregation of 70 attendees, up from 45 in 2021. "This growth not only represents a post-pandemic rebound, but also is the first positive gain in median attendance in 25 years," according to the [report's analysis](#). Volunteering is also up 40% from 15% in 2021. A majority of congregational leaders (58%) report that their congregations are stronger today than they were prior to the pandemic, up from 51% in 2021. Measurements of clergy well-being also show improvement in the areas of physical health, mental health, spiritual life, relationships, and financial stability. The highest average attendance was reported by Catholic and Orthodox congregations at 200, followed by evangelical Protestant congregations at 75, mainline Protestant congregations at 50, and other religious congregations at 22. The report also noted that smaller congregations in more rural areas tend to be shrinking, while urban areas are seeing congregations growing. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, noted in a recent [podcast](#) that this decline "is largely tied to the decline of rural populations." Mohler's analysis of the whole report explained that the data does not necessarily reflect a revival but rather a renewed interest in spiritual things, and this interest brings "a gospel opportunity ... a continued opportunity for Christian influence and for the authority of Christianity in the larger society."

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Can a Court Weigh In on a Church Elder Election?](#)

[The High Court Confronts Biological Reality](#)