



Response to Anonymous Letter Attacking Classical Conversations

It has recently been brought to our attention that a number of churches that host a Classical Conversations homeschool community have received an anonymous letter from a group calling themselves Concerned Christian Citizens. We have received some inquiries related to that letter.

Most people are able to quickly discern that the purpose of that unsigned letter is not to educate and inform, but to sow discord and to attempt to undermine the efforts of homeschool communities that utilize the curriculum and program standards of Classical Conversations.

We of course are saddened that a few individuals, whoever they may be, feel compelled to try and sabotage the work of others. Although we can only speculate, it appears that the individuals behind this letter are most likely feeling troubled from a past interaction that was never resolved to their satisfaction.

We certainly regret our lack of attentiveness if that is indeed the case. Whatever the reason, we are praying that hurting hearts will be healed and that reconciliation will eventually be realized.

Following are the most common questions that we have received as a result of that letter.

Is Classical Conversations a nonprofit organization?

Classical Conversations is a private for-profit company.

However, churches have a relationship with the director of the homeschool community, and not with Classical Conversations, Inc. The director is usually set up as a sole proprietor, but some may choose to incorporate as a nonprofit (whatever works best for them).

Classical Conversations establishes a licensing agreement with the director, who agrees to uphold our Statement of Faith and other program standards. In return, the director receives extensive training on the Classical Conversations curriculum, which follows the classical education model and biblical worldview.

What kind of business is Classical Conversations?

Classical Conversations is a homeschool support organization whose mission is “To know God and to make Him known.”

As a business, we stock and sell products that support our curriculum. In addition, we provide extensive training for all of the individuals that direct a Classical Conversations program. We also provide supplemental content online that can be accessed by families for a nominal subscription fee.

Will a church risk their nonprofit tax status if they host a Classical Conversations homeschool community?

We are not aware of any risk to a church’s nonprofit status for simply allowing a homeschool community to use their facility.

More than 2,000 churches host Classical Conversations homeschool communities across the country every year, and there has never been an issue or concern ever reported because of these homeschool groups.

Churches are a popular meeting location for Classical Conversations homeschool groups for many reasons. To begin with, they are a safe and welcoming place for children and families, but also because our mission aligns with most churches’ beliefs and stated organizational purpose as a religious organization.

Most churches rarely charge for the use of their space, but when they do it is usually a nominal amount to simply cover the extra electricity and water usage on the day that the group meets. Host churches have been incredibly generous and as a result have blessed thousands of homeschool families.

This generosity of churches is also extended to many other organizations such as scouting groups, public schools that may need additional space for end-of-year testing, and state/county election boards that need a polling location.

Where can ministers and other leaders find more information about tax laws that apply to churches and religious organizations?

A popular and useful resource is IRS Publication 1828 Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations, which can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>.

A review of this publication will show that there isn’t a single example of a situation where the use of a church’s facility by a homeschool group would ever come close to jeopardizing its nonprofit status or cause it to incur a tax liability.

Thank you for your ministry.

Many churches across the country have been a rich source of encouragement for thousands of homeschool families during their once-a-week community day.

Churches not only provide a location where families can come together to review and strengthen the academic learning of their students, but it also provides an opportunity for Christian fellowship for parents as they encourage and minister to each other in their homeschool journey.

Again, thank you for all that you do!

We invite you to learn more about Classical Conversations at www.ClassicalConversations.com. Let us know if you have other questions. Please don't hesitate to contact us anytime at customerservice@classicalconversations.com.

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