LEGAL PRIVILEGES AND CHALLENGES TO MINISTERS

And ANYONE Who Has Ever Been Ordained or Is Considering It

New Earth Restoration Ministries aka Vero Essene Yahad June 28, 2019

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This is an *important, important letter* to those the Yahad have ordained in the last couple years, and who have lapsed in their commitment. *It is important* because there are *changes in the law that you should know about immediately* that may very well affect YOU. I am sending this as a courtesy because, though we see little of you, we love the memory of you, and we hope to help you avoid the pitfalls that are spelled out here. Please do take the time to read the whole thing - it is an education in itself - and whether you reply or not, you will be enlightened about several matters that may intimately effect you in the coming year.

From

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Introduction

Greetings in the Mighty Name from the Yahad Leadership. I am writing first to those the ministry has ordained since its inception (January 2017) and chartering (April 2017). As you know, while fellowship with an organization can be broken at any time, ordination is a one-time occurrence. You are ordained in the Apos-

tolic Succession (whether you believe in it or not), yet you have virtually lapsed or quit the fellowship of the Yahad. There are new rulings from the courts throughout the nation regarding the privileges of ordination (which I have just become aware of) and we as a body feel that those who have been ordained through us need to know about them. YOU need to know about them because you might find that you have choices. Please read on as we describe the benefits and new court-ordered rules for ordained ministers.

Privileges and Benefits of Ordination

The privileges of ordination have to do with the acts of ministry that are reckoned by governments and the vast majority of people; namely, the right to legally marry others (and thus sign the marriage license). Often the greater privilege is to bury people, for you, as an ordained minister in the Apostolic Succession are viewed by many as well-qualified to minister those left behind in personal counseling as well as the official funeral / memorial service. The Yahad now provides free training in planning and officiating these acts of ministry so that our ordained will not be unprepared when they are called on to perform such. We also offer a short course on how an ordained minister without a church may work their ministry skills in these arenas in their geographical area so as to become experienced and obtain a source of ready and continuing income. The worker deserves to be paid! In addition, ministers are still esteemed in communities, and once it is made known that someone is an ordained minister, opportunities abound in providing those who are in need of such, again, in the community. In many states, no other license is necessary to provide pastoral or marital counseling, spiritual or mental health advice and/or clinical follow-up. Also, the greatest joy a minister can have is the baptizing of infants or those who have newly given their lives to Messiah and the service of the Kingdom, especially since the church baptism is not a sufficient gate, as you already know. Perhaps you have already experienced others - sometimes strangers - approaching you for ministry of these types - an as an ordained minister, you have most probably consented to helping.

The benefits of ordination are often entirely overlooked. The first of these benefits is the right of privileged communication. You may usually say what you want to whom with immunity, especially if you are speaking as a mouthpiece of the Father, which you should already be doing. You may glean the tithe legally in starting a fellowship, gain generous honorariums for the services you render - and conduct religious services ANYWHERE, in any state with no restrictions (with the exception of Nevada - special rules there!). Regarding taxes - ministers are taxed completely differently that the common lay-person. Your income tax from other jobs may be greatly offset by claiming your right to a housing allowance for your ministerial role. This housing allowance runs into thousands that are not taxable. In addition, with the submission of a form (which we have), your personal expenses as well as anything you expend for the ministry (virtually anything, even

food) is tax deductible. Further, you may easily (in most states) obtain a "grand-fathering in" to the 501(c)3 IRS tax program without even applying so as to offer tax-exemption receipting to those who pay you for ministries - counseling, preaching, teaching, donations, really whatever. (I am not a tax attorney, your situation may be different - but I have claimed these benefits for my entire career with all success). I might add one more very interesting benefit - have you paid social security tax all your life and yet know you will never get even a fraction of the amount you paid in back? And are you still paying social security? You may, under some circumstances, OPT OUT of paying it anymore. I did this successfully in 1993, after I had already paid in enough to be vested. And though I opted out, they must, at 62 or 65, give you back the benefits you paid for. As I hope you can now see, being an ordained minister allows you many benefits, privileges and blessings unavailable to most people in this nation and world. Why not get what you deserve? Check into these yourself and see.

False Info on the Internet (Unfortunately, there are many companies with web sites intentionally counsel you wrongly about such things because they want you to PAY THEM exorbitant amounts of money to provide the forms and writing them up for you. They INSIST that a IRS 501(c)3 or other is necessary for you to receive the benefits of your ministry, costing you in excess of \$500 for the privilege of using them to get what you already have. Also, there are a number of "churches" online who would ordain you and keep you in good standing without any remuneration. The largest one of these is "The Universal Life Church," which has freely ordained millions of unprepared people. And it is because of this company that the rules have changed, as outlined by the courts in recent decisions, It is for the secondary purpose of why I am writing you now - to let you know precisely what is happening to people who are ordained by shady or flaky means, and their fly-by-night ministries.)

<u>Trending Now in the Courts Regarding Ministry</u>

The plethora of ordained ministers created by the Universal Life Church (requiring absolutely no training or affiliation) and others has brought on a major change in course in the court systems. For instance, marriages performed by such ministers have been annulled on account of the court findings that such ministers are neither qualified to be arbiters of the law (in the case of officiating marriages and consequently signing marriage licenses). Even the "Universal Life" web site (which appears more like a life insurance company) has small print warnings about this now, that their ordinations are not adequate for "ministers" to officiate marriages or claim other privileges (as described above - tax, testimony, etc.). This is a good thing - as the courts are once again recognizing the traditional qualifications for being an ordained minister, among them: proper education and training, the ability to cogently and lawfully speak on the behalf of a crowd or congregation and having been tested by an official body in order to assess such skills

necessary to subsequently adequately serve in this important capacity.

What this Means for You as an Ordained Minister

The ramifications are quite obvious, and lawful authorities conclude that certain new / old restrictions now be placed upon those *acting* in ministerial-type situations. Such organizations have recently put out documentation regarding what a minister may now do to rest assured that his / her ministry is lawful and adequate. StartChurch.com (in particular) now includes a document entitled "Ten Steps to Ensure Legal Ordination," and a few of these steps are important for you as a minister to see to before doing any more *official* work as an ordained minister. Case laws are therein summarized based on case law in certain states, among them Tennessee and Virginia. Let me summarize what I see there for you:

States are tending toward only allowing ministers to do this job if they are considered full-time. I have always said that there should be no part-time ministers; that is, in every occupational situation, a minister must be a minister first. And that we, no matter if we have other jobs to help support us, need to make it clear that one's ministry always comes first. Then we can rightly claim that we are full-time ministers without having anyone consider that we are not.

The Supreme Court is looking for a minister's deliberate decision to enter ordained ministry. Those ordained in the Yahad, active or not, did indeed make a decision on this. You were asked to state your intention, then called on to answer the appropriate questions to thus judge your seriousness in this matter.

The States are looking into whether one who claims to be in the ministry has been duly ordained by a body established legally. The organization that ordained you must be a lawfully established institute recognized as such by the state. The Vero Essene Yahad has been chartered in Florida and Tennessee. Extensive paperwork and several calls to state taxing authorities were required to receive this notoriety - it was not just the routine of filling out an online form then sending in some cash. The Yahad has also been grandfathered into the 501(c)3 tax code by the virtue of having the states recognize us a viable ministry and a not-for-profit entity. If you are ordained in the Vero Yahad, we have taken care of this qualification for you. However, there is a final requirement that is not found in this publication that will affect you if you are now doing ministry as an ordained minister, or you ever wish to do so in the future:

The ordained minister must *continue affiliation* with the ordaining body so as to obtain a "Letter of Clergy in Good Standing," else *your ordination and ministry will be considered INVALID and whatever you have done may be successfully challenged in court.* Brother, sister - do not assume that you won't be challenged. Ministers out of Good Standing are

being challenged all the time. One need only to look at the state's docket to see what I am saying is fact, and this goes especially for marital and taxation purposes.

Chances are, if you are getting this letter, that you are not in good standing at the present with the Yahad. After the ordination ceremony of 2016 & 2017, many of you just disappeared, and we have made various attempts through the years to keep in contact with you without adequate response. I am now taking all this time to inform you of what's coming down the road for ministers, and what is already here. And I leave it to you to make a decision on whether you want to again retain good standing or not. Perhaps this will be the only chance you will have, as our leadership is stable, and we are achieving goals and receiving the affirmation of the people in our charges daily, as you know if you have been keeping up with us.

How to Reacquire Good Standing in 2019

For the last 2 years, we have required our members, clergy and lay, to pay dues to the organization and file a periodic ministry report form (online). This act of the Leadership has brought us into a sound financial position and given us the ability to host wonderful feasts in attractive places, help the poor in other countries and acquire the means of ministering better to more people. I am a full-time minister, and all day every day, ministry via the internet is my occupation as I await the next festival and the fun, relaxation and devotion that comes with it. We just finished a little Pentecost Bootcamp in the Smoky Mountains geared to new ordinands. It was wonderful. I hope you will take the time to look at a short clip at this link.

We do not generally receive tithes, considering that Biblically tithes are for the ministers' personal use, while the Temple organization required a "tax," which we now call "dues." There are currently two levels of monthly dues: Ordained \$20 per month. Lay \$17 per month. This system has revolutionized our ministry, is entirely Torah-based and is assented to by every member. A second requirement is that all ordained members are requested to be in leadership and attend two decision-making meetings per month. The third requirement is that ministers are to submit an internet form of their acts of ministry each month. As you know, we are attempting to be a *professional organization*, and as such, we must be able to leave an *audit trail* of our doings in order to justify our ministry.

Specifically What Is Required

In order for you to once again attain your "Good Standing" in this organization and receive your Letter in Good Standing to cover your ministry, the Yahad requires you to also remit your monthly dues of \$20 with 6 months up front (\$120). In addition, you will need to take 5 minutes out of your month to complete the online ministry report. These, according to the counsel of StartChurch - a report and

a financial commitment - are the least of the requirements for you to retain your legal right to do what you may already do. When you consider the tax exemptions offered the ministers in Good Standing, you can easily make this amount up, plus you will again be helping a BODY MOVEMENT to go forth as salt and light in this ever-darkening world.

We will also offer you a place at the table in leadership along with the rest, but unlike the rest, we will not require you to be in leadership - it is a privilege extended to every member in good standing.

If you do not wish to take advantage of this opportunity and you have your own business or charity and wish to be able to receipt donations for tax purposes, this can be arranged through the Yahad as an *affiliate organization member*. You may indeed take advantage of our standing within the tax code as an affiliate. For this, please contact us for further information at www.yahad.me.

Finally, we hope you will indeed take up your stake (in this case, your obligation) and follow *or lead*.

So if you have read this far - let me offer you one more perk. Did you know that YOU can get chartered in your state as an authorized, legal ministry, ordain others and enjoy the tax benefits of your own organization? Get back in good standing and I will, upon request, send you the easy, fill-in-the-blanks forms to do just that, including information on where to send them in in your state.

And understand (if you know me) - I didn't take all this time to write this up because I thought the Yahad would have an influx of cash! Hardly. I don't expect ANYONE to whom I send this letter to comply. If you haven't responded to any of my communications in the last three years, why would you now? But rather to give you an opportunity to rejoin, get legal, receive fellowship in his lovely name, and get on with you ministry, whatever it is, without the fear of Big Brother coming down on you, as he is even now coming down (through the courts and IRS) on hundreds if not thousands of ministers with less than ample credentials.

So please let me know if you are interested in Good Standing or not. If you have moved, drop me a line so as to correct your contact information. You may reach me (Jackson) at www.yahad.me for more information. You will get through there.

And so these words I write to you in hope of renewing cherished fellowship and love. May YHWH be with you, and may YHWH continue to guide you along the narrow way (that leads to ageless life). -Jackson (author)