

# **‘Ministerial exception’ to employment discrimination laws upheld**

January 11, 2012

A unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled Jan. 11 that churches can fire their ministers for reasons that for other employers would be job discrimination.

---

# **Evangelical group links climate change and poverty**

January 11, 2012

The National Association of Evangelicals released a document Dec. 14 about changes to the environment and how they affect the poor.

---

# **School district settles suit with Tennessee ACLU**

January 11, 2012

A Tennessee school district has settled a lawsuit over the proper role of

religion in public schools. The Sumner County Board of Education voted Dec 6 to accept an agreement with the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee ending a lawsuit filed against school officials May 2.

---

## **Candidates asked to sign pledge to give priority to religious freedom**

January 11, 2012

An advocacy organization for persecuted Christians has asked the 2012 presidential candidates to sign a pledge stating they would make religious freedom a priority in the United States and overseas if they win the White House.

---

## **Religious & political leaders call for AIDS-free generation**

January 11, 2012

A star-studded array of political and religious leaders — from President Obama to rock legend Bono to AIDS activist Kay Warren — came together Dec. 1 for World AIDS Day to call for an entirely AIDS-free generation by

2015.

---

## **Some abusive predators hide in plain sight in trusted institutions**

January 11, 2012

The abuse allegations at Penn State seem unthinkable—revered assistant coach and prominent community activist Jerry Sandusky preying on eight children. But such abuses of trust play out across the country over and over again.

---

## **Lynn: Minorities face biggest threats to religious liberty**

January 11, 2012

An advocate for the separation of church and state told a House panel Oct. 26 that what some Americans regard as imminent threats to religious liberty are in fact attempts to maintain a favored status for the majority.

---

# **Three in four pastors say Mormons aren't Christian**

January 11, 2012

As a prominent evangelical pastor and supporter of Texas Gov. Rick Perry is taking heat for calling Mormonism a "cult," a newly released poll says most Protestant pastors in U.S. agree Mormons are not Christians.

---

# **Todd Mitchell tapped to lead cowboy churches' fellowship**

January 11, 2012

Todd Mitchell, a 41-year-old Alabama pastor and regional strategist for the American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches, is the organization's new executive director.

---

# **Fred Shuttlesworth, civil rights pioneer, dies at 89 (Revised)**

January 11, 2012

Fred Shuttlesworth, the last of the “Big Three” of the civil rights movement with Ralph Abernathy and Martin Luther King, died Oct. 5. He was 89.

---

# **Supreme Court hears arguments in important church-state case**

January 11, 2012

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments Oct. 5 in a closely watched case involving a church’s right to hire or fire ministers for reasons like religious doctrine that in other settings would be job discrimination.

---

# **High court says World Vision**

# **can hire only Christians**

January 11, 2012

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a lower-court ruling that the Christian humanitarian organization World Vision can fire employees over religious doctrine.