

# **New statement âfirst-ever consensusâ on religious expression and the law**

January 12, 2010

A diverse group of leaders who often find themselves on opposite sides of the contentious battles at the intersection of church and state joined forces Jan. 12 to unveil an unprecedented [consensus statement](#) aimed at advancing public understanding of — and preventing needless controversy over — the legal issues around religious expression in the public square.

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# **Study says larger churches hit harder by economy**

January 12, 2010

The economic recession has hit larger churches harder than it has smaller ones, according to a new survey by the Barna Group.

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# **Scholar says faith-based initiative failed to increase churches' role**

January 12, 2010

Eight years of President George W. Bush's faith-based agenda to increase religion's role in providing social services had little impact on day-to-day ministries of local congregations, according to scholar at Duke Divinity School.

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# **Report says use of death penalty on decline in United States**

January 12, 2010

Fewer death sentences were imposed in 2009 than in any year since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976, according to year-end statistics compiled by the Death Penalty Information Center.

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# **In 2010 predictions, Pat Robertson says America under God's wrath**

January 12, 2010

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson said God's wrath is looming over a nation headed for economic ruin in his annual predictions for the coming year Jan. 4 on "The 700 Club."

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# **Evangelical leaders support abortion compromise in health-care plan**

January 12, 2010

Thirty-nine pro-life Christian pastors and leaders released a statement Dec. 18 applauding alternative language aimed at preventing health-care reform from being derailed by debate over abortion.

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# **Supreme Court to deal with rights of religious groups at state schools**

January 12, 2010

The Supreme Court agreed Dec. 7 to hear a case dealing with sticky questions about whether religious groups at state schools can be forced to either comply with non-discrimination policies or forego the access to funding and other benefits that go along with official school recognition.

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# **No more imprecatory prayers; now Drake wants treason trial for Obama**

January 12, 2010

A former Southern Baptist Convention officer who made headlines in June when he said on national radio that he was praying for Barack Obama to die now says he wants to see the president live long enough to stand trial for treason.

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# **Group says proposed prison likely unconstitutional**

January 12, 2010

A church-state watchdog group says a faith-based prison being proposed in Oklahoma would likely be unconstitutional.

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# **Texas textbook battles have national impact**

January 12, 2010

Battles in the Texas State Board of Education over social studies textbooks really amount to a conflict over what kind of nation the United States was founded to be—and what it may become in the future, a nationally recognized authority on religious liberty issues told an interfaith gathering in Dallas.

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# **Commission hopes religious**

# **freedom report will serve as âcall to actionâ**

January 12, 2010

An independent government panel that monitors global religious-freedom conditions thanked the State Department for its latest comprehensive report on the subject Oct. 26, but said the administration could move more boldly to protect freedom of conscience in some places.

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# **Advisers urge caution on religious/federal partnerships**

January 12, 2010

White House advisers recommended federal officials do more to ensure that government partnerships with faith-based groups are constitutional, transparent and support religious liberty.