

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

July—Aug. 2024★ Vol. 34, Number 04

Calendar

Tuesday, August 13th
State Primary Elections

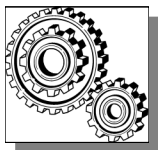
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Call to Action for
American Pastors

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If you would like to be
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(see back page)



*In the
Works*

Cultural Judo

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at camnetVT@gmail.com.

Proposition 4

By
Lauston Stephens

Proposition 4 was introduced in the Vermont Senate in May of 2023. It reads in part, “This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person’s race, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.”

It was quickly noticed that “religion” was not included in this list, and that drew the attention of many Vermont Christians and others. One explanation that was offered was that religion was already protected elsewhere in the Vermont Constitution and the U. S. Constitution. None of these other classes are mentioned in either the U.S. or Vermont Constitution except for the Nineteenth Amendment recognizing voting rights for women.

Short of a constitutional

amendment, there *are* federal laws protecting people against unequal treatment based on race, ethnicity, sex, disability, and national origin. Amending the Vermont Constitution does not seem to promise much in these areas unless there is fear of a reversal of federal law. However, there is not universal agreement on whether “sex” should be understood to include sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

As various state legislatures pass differing laws and state courts render differing decisions, it seems some Vermonters want to do the same thing here that was done after the U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision. Article 22 was added to our constitution with the stated intent to provide the most protection possible for “personal reproductive autonomy.”

Will Proposition 4 do the same for “sexual orientation, gender identity, [and] gender

expression”? Is that the true intent of the sponsors of Proposition 4?

The First Amendment declares, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” Proposition 4 uses the word, “government.” This doesn’t just mean that the legislature shall not pass any laws that “deny equal treatment.” It also dictates how Vermont courts will rule. Putting specific classes of people in the constitution seems to lay the groundwork for affirmative action and equity legislation and lawsuits.

Proposition 4 will also dictate how the executive branch of government will operate. This includes the Agency of Education.

Since public education is included in the state constitution, public schools are regarded as a branch of government. The most certain effect of Proposition 4

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The Pressing Need for Pastoral Leadership: Call to Action for American Pastors

by

Leo Benjamin, Reprinted by permission from MyFaithNews.org



Tim Throckmorton Speaking at the Vermont Pastors and Christian Leaders Meeting

During a recent address at the Vermont Pastors and Christian Leaders monthly meeting held at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury Center, Vermont, Tim Throckmorton, the National Director for Church Engagement and Community Impact from the Family Research Council, passionately outlined the crucial role of Watchman Pastors in America's religious and societal landscape. Throckmorton's message underscored their duties' spiritual and historical importance, drawing compelling parallels to the vigilant watchmen of ancient times.

Throckmorton vividly recounted episodes from American history, emphasizing the influential role of faith leaders in spiritual realms and as active participants in the nation's founding. He invoked stories of notable figures such as George Washington and Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, who seamlessly integrated their religious responsibilities with civic involvement.

At the heart of his discourse was an urgent commentary on the current cultural milieu, marked by various worldviews, including nihilism, post-modernism, and a dominant trend towards moralistic therapeutic deism. Highlighting unsettling research by George Barna, Throckmorton pointed out that a tiny percentage of Americans maintain a biblical worldview, underscoring the pressing need for pastoral leadership in steering cultural conversations.

Moreover, Throckmorton detailed the proactive initiatives undertaken by the Family Research Council to bolster pastors and churches in amplifying their community impact. He elaborated on the array of resources available to pastors to enhance their capacity to address societal issues effectively, from civic education initiatives to voter mobilization and advocacy for Israel.

The address concluded on a deeply personal note, with Throckmorton sharing a touching interaction with his granddaughter, who inquired about his efforts to 'save America.' This poignant moment linked his professional endeavors to a personal crusade, resonating with his audience and reinforcing that pastoral duties extend far beyond church boundaries into the essence of national identity and the shaping of its future.

Throckmorton's stirring call to action was unequivocal: pastors must rise beyond passive observation and spiritual guidance to actively engage as watchmen, combining prayer with decisive action. Thus, they will shape the nation at a pivotal crossroads, akin to the ancient watchmen who safeguarded their communities with vigilance and foresight.

Leo Benjamin is pastor of the Church of the Crucified One in Moretown and publisher of MyFaithNews.org

Proposition 4

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will probably be in school athletics. If children who are biologically male are allowed to compete against children who are biologically female, there will be fewer girls choosing to participate in sports and fewer winning athletic scholarships. What some will hail as a great step of progress will prove to be a setback for girls and young women.



Some years ago, a family from Massachusetts moved in next door to us. They were hoping for an athletic scholarship for their oldest son and the competition was less daunting in Vermont. They were successful; their son won an athletic scholarship. Will people move out of Vermont to states where the athletic competition recognizes biological reality and is not forced to ignore that reality?

You may be happy to know that “religion” was added to the list in the version of Proposition 4 as it was officially adopted by the state senate, although against the objection of at least one of the sponsors. Perhaps more importantly, the

word, “respect,” was removed from the proposition. Can you legislate the attitudes of government employees? Including “respect” in the language would set the stage for many lawsuits based on the perception of the plaintiff.

Many readers probably never heard of gender dysphoria until a few years ago. Suddenly, it seems to be everywhere. This writer has heard that the “in thing” among some elementary school children is to claim to be transgender. They get special attention from school staff and their parents are not told anything about it. We can’t go back to “the good old days” when we were less aware of the fallen state of humanity.

Individual people make contributions to society in every possible field, regardless of their “race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin” or whatever will come next. Their contributions and their desire to contribute should be acknowledged and appreciated. This does not mean we should approve of anything that works against the continuation of society or humanity.

To be adopted as part of the Vermont Constitution, Proposition 4 must obtain a simple majority vote in both branches of the legislature in the next biennium and then obtain a simple majority approval by the general voters. There are many incumbents not seeking to return to office. With widespread dissatisfaction with many laws being passed in Montpelier, the makeup of the legislature could change significantly. However, Proposition 4 has already passed the most difficult hurdle, the initial two thirds vote in the Senate. Now is the time to ask candidates where they stand on this proposed change and to let them know your view.

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you be secure. Psalm 122:6

We are here encouraged in our prayers for Jerusalem's peace: “*Those shall prosper that love thee.*” We must pray for Jerusalem, not out of custom, nor for fashion's sake, but out of a principle of love to God's government of man and man's worship of God; and, in seeking the public welfare, we seek our own, for so well does God love the gates of Zion that he will love all those that do love them, and therefore they cannot but prosper; at least their souls shall prosper by the ordinances they so dearly love. — Matthew Henry

“At the heart of his discourse was an urgent commentary on the current cultural milieu, marked by various worldviews, including nihilism, post-modernism, and a dominant trend towards moralistic therapeutic deism. Highlighting unsettling research by George Barna, Throckmorton pointed out that a tiny percentage of Americans maintain a biblical worldview, underscoring the pressing need for pastoral leadership in steering cultural conversations.”

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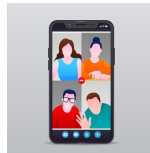
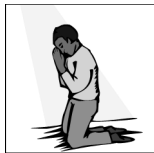
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What Can I Do?



*Faith without
works is dead
James 2:17*

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>



CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

July 9, 7:00 pm
Zoom
Aug. 13, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, VT

camnetvt@gmail.com
Email to confirm date and
location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**