



LEGACY

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

On Friday, April 5, 570 Legacy supporters joined together at a new venue, the Heritage Center, for a compelling evening of fellowship and hearing God's call on Legacy Christian Academy.

Attendees were given the opportunity to participate in funding the mission of Legacy, and an astounding **\$329,700** was raised that evening. This total was almost double our original goal of raising **\$175,000** toward the Legacy Fund. This remarkable achievement stemmed from the generosity of friends of Legacy who made **\$75,000** available as a matching gift for the evening, and through the generosity of all participants 100% of that match was secured, for a matching dollar total of **\$150,000**.

Thank you for the support and generosity you have given to move our mission forward not only this year but for years to come. It is so clear that God's hand is on Legacy. Thank you for trusting Him to increase your faith through your giving.

Part of the night was dedicated to recognizing the reality of where Christian education stands in the state of Minnesota. I addressed the current legislation with a clear call to action for YOU to take TODAY. Please, read this important information below:

Minnesota Human Rights Act Revisions Threatening Religious Freedom

Many of you have been following the recent legislative changes to the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA), which has taken away religious freedom and is detrimental to all faith based organizations, including Legacy. It is important for you to be aware of these developments and act now. Below is a summary of these developments from Renee Carlson of True North Legal.

Last year the legislature amended the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) by adding explicit legal protections for people based on "gender identity". Previously protections extended to "sexual orientation" and were interpreted to apply to gender identity. The MHRA also included protections for religious organizations via a religious exemption established in 1993 when sexual orientation was added to the list of protected groups in the MHRA. This exemption prohibited the state from forcing religious organizations to comply with the anti-discrimination law provisions with respect to protected categories like sexual orientation when those provisions are inconsistent with a religious organization's sincerely held beliefs. (See Minn. Stat. 363A.20, 363A.26).

The religious exemption statute was not amended last year [to include gender identity] to make clear that the legislature intended to maintain protections for religious organizations. The words "gender identity" should have been included in the exemption as well. While we had hoped it was an oversight, last month the House Judiciary Chair stated on the record that the omission of those words was intentional. A discussion ensued during the committee where legislators not only refused to accept an amendment to protect religious organizations, but also called the amendment to protect religious organizations "disturbing" and "disgusting." This despite hearing reasoned testimony from members of different faith communities, including Christians, Catholics, and Muslims.

Due to this development, **Legacy no longer has religious protection when making hiring, admissions, or curricular decisions in light of our Christian beliefs around the topic of gender identity.** The lack of religious exemption could result in claims of gender identity discrimination.

Please know that over the past few years, our Board and Leadership Team have already been working with lawyers and preparing for a situation where our religious rights would be challenged. We knew this day would come; it should come as no surprise.

Be assured, we will stand on Truth! We will continue to teach our students God's Truth about men and women. We will continue to hire staff that hold beliefs and teach according to God's Word. As Peter said in Acts 5, "We must obey God rather than men."

The time for being quiet is behind us. It is time for courageous faith. We must, as a faith community, be actively engaged in this battle.

Three Action Steps: Please Act Now!

We strongly encourage you to take the following steps to ensure that churches, Christian schools, and other faith-based organizations can continue to teach and adhere to our religious beliefs about God's design for humanity.

Contact the members of the Majority Leadership (listed below) and advocate for the restoration of the MN Humans Rights Act's Religious Exemption regarding gender identity.

Melissa Hortman, House Speaker rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn.gov
651-296-4280

Jamie Long, House Majority Leader rep.jamie.long@house.mn.gov
651-296-5375

Jamie Becker-Finn, House Judiciary Chair rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn.gov 651-296-5375

Please consider [signing this petition](#) created by the MN Catholic Conference. The petition is written in a generic way to engage people of all backgrounds.

Contact your legislators and urge them to restore the MN Humans Rights Act's religious exemption regarding gender identity. The following [action alert](#) is provided for your convenience. However, we encourage you to consider emailing your representatives directly as this would likely have more impact.

In addition to this specific call to action, at the Gala we celebrated who we are as a school, and the position we take when it comes to helping our students take ownership of their faith in Jesus - it is supremely important. Educating the whole child is not merely academics at Legacy; it includes spiritual formation that shapes the mind, heart, and habits of each student for Christ-like living. Take a look at the video shared at the Gala, which expresses the importance of our goal as an organization.



Members of our community also shared the impact that this countercultural living has had on their families and their children at the Gala. Christine Mehrer, a Legacy mother of a current senior, shared her appreciation for the Legacy community as a parent, how Legacy has directly impacted the heart and mind of her son, and why she invests in Legacy financially. Click on the video below to watch her testimony from the Gala.



If you would still like to participate with a donation, it is not too late. Our [giving site](#) is still open and available to accept online gifts! Thank you for your generosity. Excellence in Christ-centered education beyond what tuition alone can provide is possible because of your gifts. It is a joy to partner with you in this journey with our eyes set on Who matters most.

Thankful for the hope we have in Christ,
Jake Mulvihill

