

Sanctuary Tax Exemption Bill Starts Its Way Through Nevada Legislature



Michael Hillerby, Rebecca Wilis, Pat Hickey, and Gene Savoy Jr. In front of the Nevada Legislature building after the Nevada Assembly Taxation Committee hearing. PHOTO: Ted Staver

Bishop Gene Savoy Jr., Head Bishop of the International Community of Christ and President of the Nevada Clergy Association, has been working diligently for the past several months to prepare a piece of legislation that would not only provide full tax exemption for Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary, an event that Church members have been awaiting for over three decades, but also provide protection to all properties devoted to religious purposes.

Nevada Assembly Bill AB391 revises provisions governing the exemption from property taxes of certain property used for religious worship. The bill is a very important piece of legislation that expands the scope of religious property tax exemption in Nevada and will benefit all religions in the state of Nevada, was introduced in the Nevada Assembly on March 17, 2015.

Currently, if any religious organization in Nevada purchases a piece of property to build on, it would be taxed until fully developed. Under the proposed amendment to NRS 361.125, it would be exempt from the time it was acquired.

Bishop Savoy sought support for the bill from members of the Nevada Clergy Association and received it from 13 members, with letters of endorsement from the Muslim Community, Hindu Community, Jewish Community, Divine Mission and Satyachetana International, Catholic Community, and others.

The bill was introduced in the Assembly on March 17, 2015 by Michael Hillerby of the firm Kaempfer Crowell. However, Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. And Michael's father, Fred Hillerby, now retired, had been working on the bill for nearly two-and-one-half years. The 2013 Nevada legislature was already in session when the two began their collaboration. And since the Nevada legislature meets for 120 days every two years, 2015 was the earliest the bill could be introduced.

The Nevada Assembly Taxation Committee hearing on the bill took place on Tuesday, March 24th. Present at the meeting to represent the Church were Church members Gene Savoy Jr., Rebecca Willis, Ted Staver, Michael Hillerby and Nevada Assemblyman Pat Hickey.

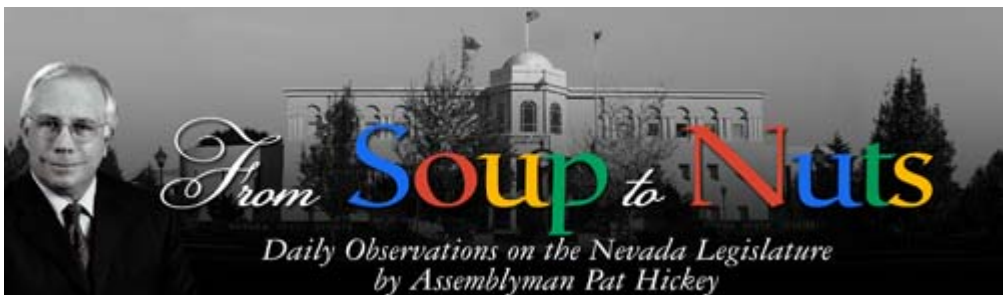
Following the hearing, Bishop Savoy personally thanked the members of the committee and requested their support of the bill, which assures equitable treatment for all recognized religious organizations in Nevada without denominational

preference.

Voting by the committee is scheduled for next week.

< [To read the text of Assembly Bill 391 as it was introduced, CLICK HERE.](#) >

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Nevada Assemblyman, and daily political commentator, Pat Hickey posted this article on the bill on his web site shortly before the bill was introduced on March 17th.

When it comes to paying taxes, the tension between church and state has been around for a long time. Jesus made the point pretty well some 2,000 years ago when he said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." Problems arise when the jurisdiction of one infringes upon the rights of the other.

A case in point:

A local Northern Nevada church, the International Community of Christ (ICC), owns 1,300 acres of land off Pyramid Highway where they worship and practice their faith. The "problem" is that their sanctuary is not your classic cathedral or house

of worship, but rather a desert hillside overlooking Spanish Springs. Central to their worship practice and their communion with God is being outdoors surrounded by nature.

An issue arose in the 1980s when Washoe County tax assessors began sending them property tax bills for the undeveloped portions of their land. The basis for this demand was NRS 361.125, which provides an exemption for “churches, chapels, other than marriage chapels, and other buildings...and the lots of ground on which they stand.” The county did exempt the portions of the property that were actually developed, but taxed the undeveloped areas.

The ICC pastor has asked members of the Washoe delegation to help with his pay-unto-Caesar problem. I and a few others have therefore introduced a bill, AB 391, that would add language to NRS saying that the current church exemption in the law would apply to parcels of land used exclusively for religious purposes and would include both developed and undeveloped portions of the parcel.

The Church is not saying that if they build timeshare condominiums on the lovely hillside in Sparks, they shouldn't be taxed. They're just saying that if your congregation gathers up on a hill to worship like Jesus did while delivering the Sermon on the Mount above the Sea of Galilee, you shouldn't have to “render” to the local tax assessor.

Should be an interesting hearing today at 1:00 p.m. in the Assembly Taxation Committee in room 4100. Both “Caesar's” and “God's” people are expected to be in attendance. It's not expected that the “sermons” given in testimony will match those referenced above, but they may be worth a listen nonetheless.

Services for the Week of March 28, 2015



Saturday, March 28, 2015

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RC Robert Petrovich

Cantor: Rev. Barbara Whitney

Reader: Rev. Harold Boulette

Sunday, March 29, 2015

6:40 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

JUBILEE SUNRISE

Church of New Epiphany

Leave: 5:45

Gate: 6:25

Sunrise: 6:55
RR Gene Savoy Jr.
Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy
Assistants: RC Roger Weld
RC Robert Petrovich
Rev. Barbara Whitney
Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of the Christian Churches RC Gary Buchanan
Church of the Americas Rev. Amanda Buchanan

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

Rev. Amanda Buchanan

Thursday, April 2, 2015

6:00 PM HOLY THURSDAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Chapel of the Holy Child

R.R. Gene Savoy Jr.

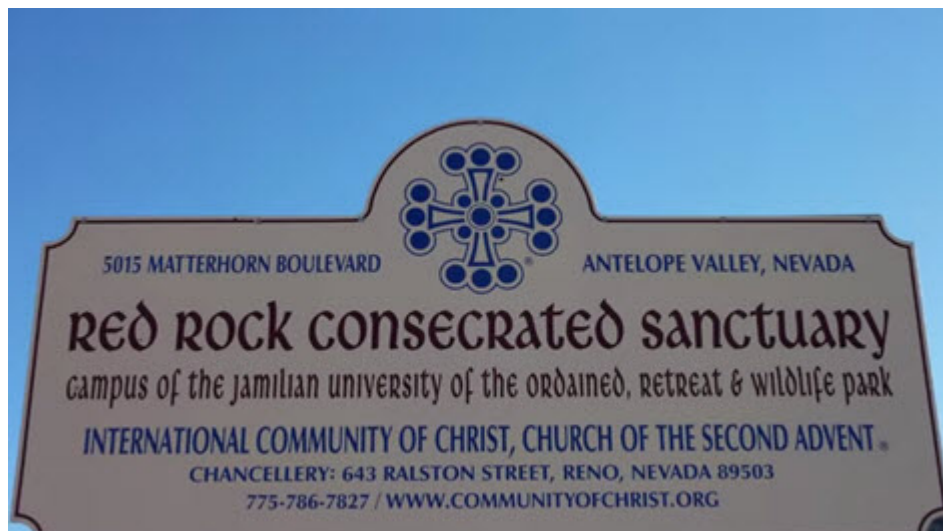
Friday, April 3, 2015

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

Rev. Rebecca Willis

**Scenes of Red Rock Sanctuary
on YouTube**



Scenes of Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary, Retreat, and Wildlife Park, located at Antelope Valley, Nevada, north of Reno, are collected in this beautiful video and set to music.

The video was produced by Michael McIntyre and Gary Buchanan, and uses photographs taken by Michael's son Matthew Aaron Madonna.

< [Watch the video on YouTube on CosolargyICC channel.](#) (6 minutes) >

Bishop Gene Invited to 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions



First Parliament of the World's Religions held
in Chicago 1893

Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. has been invited to be part of the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions to be held October 15-19, 20125 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The theme of the 2015 Parliament is Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity: Working Tgether for a World of Compassion, Peace, Justice, and Sustainability. The discussion at the Parliament in 2015 will focus on climate change, violence, and wasteful consumption.

Bishop Gene has been invited to speak on the topic "Pathways to Peace: Different Perspectives" as part of the panel organized by Balwant S. Hansra, a Sikh leader and a former member of the Parliament Board. The invitation to speak was accepted by Bishop Gene with these words: "Yes, of course I am very interested in being on your panel. My religion (which is not restricted to Christianity) has a very unique perspective on what the path to peace is. We teach a very specialized practice using natural and cosmic energies by which any individual, regardless of culture, race or tradition may employ. By so doing, the individual harmonizes him/herself with natural and supranatural energies of the universe. In this way, that person becomes an awakened spiritual Being on Earth, as well as in Heaven. I would very much like to discuss

this within the guidelines you lay out.”

The guiding principles of the Parliament of the World's Religions are respectful dialogue, non-proselytizing, and willingness to explore a wide variety of topics.

< [Read more about the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions at parliamentofreligions.org.](http://parliamentofreligions.org) >

< [Read about the history of the Parliament of the World's Religions at wikipedia.org.](http://wikipedia.org) >

February 2015 Intercessions & Memorial Services



FEBRUARY 2015

4

Suzanne
Diane Stewart
Eric Shaver †
Dennis Joseph McMullent

7

Suzanne
Diane Stewart
Eric Shaver †
Dennis Joseph McMullen †
Koren Youngman
Tiffany Youngman
Dorothy Kubiak

11

Dorothy Kubiak
Andreas Fuelling
Nadine Paxton

14

Andreas Fuelling
Nadine Paxton
Dorothy Kubiak

18

Terry Brady
The People of South Sudan

21

Terry Brady
The People of South Sudan

28

Emily Calvert †

† indicates Memorial Prayer

Services for the Week of March 21, 2015



Saturday, March 21, 2015

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RC Gary Buchanan

Cantor: Rev. Robert Roy

Reader: Dea. Dorothy Kubiak

Sunday, March 22, 2015

6:51 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

JUBILEE SUNRISE
Church of New Epiphany

Leave: 5:45

Gate: 6:35

Sunrise: 7:06

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy

Assistants: RC Roger Weld

RC Ted Staver

Rev. Barbara Whitney

Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of the Golden Age of Light

RC Roger Weld

Church of the Universal Theocracy

Rev. Vickie Hewlett

Church of the New Covenant

Rev. Karen Elliott

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

Rev. Michael McIntyre

Friday, March 27, 2015

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

Rev. Mike Tamburello

2015 Cosolargy Conference and

Tour Taking Shape



PHOTO Sean Savoy

The 2015 Cosolargy Conference and Tour, which will be held in Kyoto, Japan from May 22 – 28 is taking shape.

In addition to the conference and associated workshops, there will be a tour of Kyoto – Japan's ancient capital and one of its most beautiful cities. Kyoto is known for its beautiful Zen gardens, its wonderful cuisine, and is home to one of the most impressive Zen Buddhist temples, the Golden Pavilion.

There will also be a visit Mount Koya, the seat of Kobo-Daishi's esoteric school of Shingon (True Word) Buddhism where a replica of the so-called Nestorian Monument stands. There, the tour group will lodge overnight in a Buddhist monastery, which promises to be a very interesting and unique experience.

Please call our offices if you have any interest in attending this special event in the Land of the Rising Sun.

2015 Community Calendar Available



As a special gift for this time of year, the Church has sent out to all active Community members the Community Calendar for 2015.

For practical purposes, the calendar follows the traditional monthly format beginning with January, but it contains all the significant dates of The Community's Sacred Calendar, which

begins on February 2nd (refer to Jamil: Child of Light, chapter 27).

In addition to dates for liturgical observance or remembrance, the moon phases for the year are also included. In relation to these moon phases are indicated days to view sunrise or sunset according to the important Lunar/Solar Cycles Generative Technique familiar to Cosolargists who have advanced through The Cosolargy Papers.

Once again, thanks go to Deacon Dr. Stephan Fuelling for compiling and designing the calendar in consultation with the Publishing, Editing and Liturgical departments and with Bishop Gene. Thanks also go to the Reverend Ben Hubbard, who prints the calendar using our printing system at our production facilities located at the Steamboat Hot Springs.

A suggested donation of \$20.00 by active Community members would be greatly appreciated to help defray costs for producing the calendar. Corresponding members may contact the Church offices to request a calendar for the same suggested donation.

Services for the Week of March 14, 2015



Saturday, March 14, 2015

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RC Elizabeth Reece

Cantor: Rev. Bruce Kanzelmeyer

Reader: Dea. Shane Grady

Sunday, March 15, 2015

7:15 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

JUBILEE SUNRISE

Church of New Epiphany

Leave: 6:30

Gate: 7:00

Sunrise: 7:30

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy

Assistants: RC Roger Weld

RC Robert Petrovich

Rev. Barbara Whitney

Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of New Philadelphia
Church of New Qumran
Church of New Bethany

Rev. Robert Anderson
Dr. Tom Lee
Dea. Stephan Fuelling

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

RC Ted Staver

Friday, March 20, 2015

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

RC Ted Staver

January 2015 Intercessions & Memorial Services



JANUARY 2015

3

Toni De Salvo †
Cheryl Shafer

7

Tom Fee
Cheryl Shafer
Toni De Salvo †

10

Tom Fee
Cheryl Shafer
Chad Moore
Aaron Burtalmio

14

Beth & Charles Thorpe and Baby Noah
Tom Fee
Cheryl Shafer
Chad Moore

17

Beth & Charles Thorpe and Baby Noah
Jeanne Huston
Tom Fee
Cheryl Shafer
Chad Moore

21

Cheryl Shafer
Jeanne Huston
Tom Fee
Chad Moore
Evelyn Anderson
Beth & Charles Thorpe and Baby Noah

24

Cheryl Shafer
Evelyn Anderson

Ann Ferrentino Cunius
Chad Moore
Terry Brady

28

Cheryl Shafer
Terry Brady
Evelyn Anderson
Chad Moore
Ann Ferrentino Cunius
Children of the Pine Ridge Cheyenne River Sioux
Kathy Walczak

31

Cheryl Shafer
Zeke Oliver
Terry Brady
Ann Ferrentino Cunius
Children of the Pine Ridge Cheyenne River Sioux
Kathy Walczak
Doug Shafer
John Cunius
George Wooden

† indicates Memorial Prayer