

## POLICY STATEMENT: STATE COMPLIANCE

For the past year or so, we have investigated or attempted to investigate all the various state laws regarding operating a college or school of ministry. Each State normally has a Higher Education Commission or a Private, Post Secondary and Vocational Education or Training Commission that oversees colleges and vocational training programs, from Bible colleges to Barber schools. Our search has lead us to require, excepting in states which we know already does/does not have favorable laws (see present but ever changing list below), that the church wanting to start a VISION INTERNATIONAL Program verify with the state their legal status to operate. With that in mind, here are the questions you will need to ask your state prior to beginning VISION INTERNATIONAL.

- We (as the church) are contemplating starting a school of ministry/Bible College in our church for our church community. What laws regulate this? Can we...
- Offer courses, degrees, certificates, advertise, say we are a college or not, charge fees, etc.?

Once you have ascertained this, we can then determine how we can work together. For example, in some states, it is perfectly ok to offer courses, charge fees, even advertise, but you cannot say you are a college or University. Other states state you can be a college, but only after completing some paperwork with the state (which we can assist you with). Other states say you cannot be anything; however, you can purchase materials for the enrichment of your congregants without regulation.

At all times, VISION INTERNATIONAL attempts to operate in accordance with the various laws of the land, while providing every opportunity for our students at your church to study to prepare for a life of effective Christian Service.

Sincerely in Christ,



Stan E. DeKoven, Ph.D.  
*President*

## APPENDIX A: VARYING STATE LAWS

### **Alaska:**

Institutions such as VISION INTERNATIONAL (as approved by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education) are exempt from the State of Alaska authorization requirements.

### **Florida**

The degree programs of this college are designed solely for religious vocations.

### **Oklahoma**

VISION INTERNATIONAL cannot award college credit or grant degrees. Transfer of courses from VISION INTERNATIONAL to other institutions is at the discretion of the receiving institution.

### **Louisiana**

VISION INTERNATIONAL is exempt from Licensure provisions of R.S. 17:1808 because it is an institution offering only religious degrees in the state of Louisiana.

### **Oregon:**

VISION INTERNATIONAL degrees are, under Oregon law, sectarian church credentials that cannot legally be used in a secular job application, as qualification for a secular job or for any other purpose as a public credential. Use of an VISION INTERNATIONAL degree for a secular purpose in Oregon is a Class B Misdemeanor and can result in both criminal and civil action against the degree user.

### **Virginia**

Religiously exempt schools such as VISION INTERNATIONAL may operate as long as the institution's primary purpose remains to provide religious training or theological education and the institution complies with the provisions of 8 VAC 40-30-50 in the approval regulations of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Council of Higher Education.

### **Washington:**

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board has determined that institutions such as VISION INTERNATIONAL qualify for religious exempt status from the Degree Authorization Act for the following programs: Diploma in Theology (Dip.Th.), Associate of Theology (A.Th.), Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.), Master of Theology (M.Th.), Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). Any person desiring information about the requirements of the Act or the applicability of those requirements to the institution may contact the Board at P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430.

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*Note: At the present time VISION INTERNATIONAL does not meet the state regulations in Idaho, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas. Therefore, VICU cannot offer courses through any local site in the aforementioned states. Please refer to the VICU National Office for further information about a specific state.*