

1973 WL 27013 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

December 27, 1973

***1 re: Direct or indirect county assistance to churches.**

Richard N. Booth, Esquire
Acting County Attorney
Horry County
300 Elm Street
Conway, South Carolina 29526

Dear Mr. Booth:

Your letter of October 19, 1973, requesting an opinion of this office as to whether or not a county may directly or indirectly aid local churches has been referred by Attorney General McLeod to me. As you suggested in your preliminary opinion to the Board of Commissioners of Horry County, the use of public funds or materials for assistance to local churches is prohibited first in that county funds may only be used for public purposes and second in that Article 11, § 9 of the State Constitution expressly prohibits the use of state, county or municipality funds for the benefit of any sectarian institution.

Enclosed you will find three earlier opinions written by the Attorney General and an order of Judge Robert ?? Meyer which provide further clarification on the matter. I do apologize for the delay in answering your letter. If this office may be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

E. Elizabeth Crum
Staff Attorney

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