

Pastor Whose Christian Organization Was Labeled Hate Group by Southern Poverty Law Center Pledges to 'Stand For Truth'

Pastor Rob Pacienza, president and CEO of D. James Kennedy Ministries (DJKM), says his ministry will push forward and continue to “stand for truth” after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review his organization’s legal challenge against an organization that labeled DJKM a hate group.

Pacienza said the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a group deemed progressive by many conservative organizations and activists, “blindsided” DJKM when it applied the hate-group label.

“Back in 2017, the Southern Poverty Law Center—which ironically, historically has stood to defend the most vulnerable, to exhibit justice in society—actually labeled us, a ministry that has been attempting to stand for truth for 50 years ... a hate group,” he said.

Pacienza, who is also senior pastor at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said his organization was lumped in with other groups that fit the SPLC’s “definition of hate” and that DJKM was placed on the SPLC’s map that tracks “hate groups across the U.S.”{eo}

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