



Missouri Ethics Commission

Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 25-0029-I, Senator Joseph Nicola and New Covenant Ministries

Date: July 18, 2025

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Senator Joseph Nicola and New Covenant Ministries, at its July 18, 2025, meeting.

The complaint alleged New Covenant Ministries accepted contributions from parishioners totaling more than \$500, making it a continuing committee (PAC) but failed to register that committee with the MEC. The complainant contends because New Covenant Ministries is a PAC and Joseph Nicola is the president of New Covenant Ministries, Joseph Nicola, a candidate at the time, was controlling the PAC.

The complaint alleged New Covenant Ministries gave the contributions it accepted from its parishioners to Truth and Light PAC, a PAC organized for the purpose of supporting Joseph Nicola's candidacy for senate. Truth and Light PAC then reported contributions received from New Covenant Ministries, rather than from the individual contributors. The complaint alleged that in doing so, New Covenant Ministries attempted to conceal the source of the contributors.

Finally, the complaint alleged if contributions were accepted at church in the collection plate it is likely there were also violations of cash contribution statutes.

The investigation found that New Covenant Ministries did not accept contributions. Rather, it accepted donations, which became the church's personal funds, and the church's financial board then decided how that money would be spent. Mr. Nicola recused himself from the decision to make the contribution to Truth and Light PAC. Additionally, there was no proof that the donations were earmarked to support Mr. Nicola or that the donations were given after solicitations to support Mr. Nicola. Because New Covenant Ministries is not a committee, it had no obligation to register with the MEC or disclose the source of its donations. Finally, because the church did not accept contributions, there cannot be a violation that they accepted cash contributions in excess of limits.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to support one or more violations of Chapter 130 RSMo., and dismiss.

Stacey Heislen
Executive Director