

= Kim Davis ( county clerk ) =

Kimberly Jean Davis ( née Bailey ; born September 17 , 1965 ) is the county clerk for Rowan County , Kentucky who gained international attention in August 2015 when she defied a U.S. federal court order to issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples , following the June 26 , 2015 , U.S. Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges . Kim Davis reacted to the decision by denying marriage licenses to all couples , saying she was acting " under God 's authority " . Her defiance led to her jail sentence , while both supporters and detractors hotly debated her stance in the national media . Marriage licenses in Rowan County are now being issued to all citizens as required by law .

Davis was born in Jackson , Kentucky . By 1991 , Davis was serving as chief deputy clerk of Rowan County , reporting to her mother , the Rowan County clerk . Davis ' first three marriages ended in divorce in 1994 , 2006 , and 2008 ; she then remarried her second husband in 2009 . She became an Apostolic Christian in 2011 . A court found her salary to be higher than expected and therefore cut her wages in 2012 . Despite complaints of nepotism , Davis was elected county clerk in 2014 and promised to follow the statutes of the office .

A few months later , Obergefell v. Hodges was decided and all county clerks were ordered to issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples . Davis refused , citing her religious opposition to same @-@ sex marriage . Couples represented by the American Civil Liberties Union who had been denied marriage licenses from Davis filed and won a lawsuit against her , Miller v. Davis , and she was ordered to comply with the decision of the U.S. District Court and start issuing marriage licenses . Her lawyers tried to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court , but the application to appeal was denied . Davis continued to defy the court order , refusing to issue marriage licenses , and was ultimately jailed for contempt of court . She was released from jail five days later , under the condition that she not interfere with the efforts of her deputy clerks , who had started issuing marriage licenses to all couples . Davis then modified the Kentucky marriage licenses to no longer mention her name . The Attorney General of Kentucky said that because the matter was already being handled by the federal court , there would be no appointment of a special prosecutor to pursue charges of official misconduct against her . Several weeks later , Davis announced she had met with Pope Francis in Washington , D.C. ; the Vatican press office clarified that the Pope met with many others and that the meeting was not a form of support for her actions .

Attorney and author Roberta A. Kaplan described Davis as " the clearest example of someone who wants to use a religious liberty argument to discriminate " , yet law professor Eugene Volokh suggested that an employer must try to accommodate religious employees ' beliefs , pointing out that Davis wished only to remove her name from the marriage licenses of same @-@ sex couples . Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee said that Davis ' imprisonment was part of the " criminalization of Christianity " , while columnist Jennifer Rubin compared Davis ' refusal to follow the direction of the U.S. Supreme Court to Alabama Governor George Wallace 's " Stand in the Schoolhouse Door " in 1963 . Popular culture has satirized Davis ; after the same @-@ sex marriage license controversy , she was characterized in a Funny or Die video parody and on Saturday Night Live .

= = Career = =

= = = Chief deputy clerk : 1991 ? 2015 = = =

Kim Davis was born in Jackson , Kentucky . By 1991 , she was serving as chief deputy clerk of Rowan County , Kentucky , reporting to her mother , Rowan County clerk Jean W. Bailey . Davis ' 2011 compensation was an annual wage of \$ 51 @,@ 812 and an additional \$ 11 @,@ 301 in overtime and other compensation . Chief Deputy Clerk Davis earned more than other chief deputies in the county : Chief Deputy Sheriff Joe Cline received \$ 38 @,@ 000 annually and Deputy Judge @-@ Executive Jerry Alderman \$ 36 @,@ 000 annually ; neither position qualifies for overtime pay .

County residents complained about Davis ' high wages . After the County Fiscal Court reviewed the compensation of clerks in the office , they voted unanimously to cut the county clerk 's office salary budget by one @-@ third for 2012 .

= = = County clerk : 2015 ? present = = =

After her mother announced she would not run for re @-@ election in 2014 , Davis filed as a Democratic candidate for county clerk . At a candidates ' forum , Davis stated she felt she was best qualified for the position because of her 26 years of experience in the clerk 's office .

Davis won the Democratic primary election , advancing to the general election against Republican John Cox . Although Cox made complaints of nepotism during the campaign , Davis prevailed . After winning the race , Davis told The Morehead News , " My words can never express the appreciation but I promise to each and every one that I will be the very best working clerk that I can be and will be a good steward of their tax dollars and follow the statutes of this office to the letter . "

Davis took the oath of office as the county clerk of Rowan County on January 5 , 2015 , beginning a four @-@ year term slated to end on January 7 , 2019 . As clerk , Davis receives an annual salary of \$ 80 @, @ 000 .

= = Same @-@ sex marriage license controversy = =

= = = Background = = =

On June 26 , 2015 , the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark case of Obergefell v. Hodges , 576 U.S. \_ \_ \_ ( 2015 ) , holding that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same @-@ sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution . Fourteen counties in three Southern states continued to deny marriage licenses for same @-@ sex marriage . The Alabama Supreme Court allowed the probate judges of ten counties in Alabama to deny such marriage licenses , the clerk of one Texas county chose to resign rather than issue such licenses , and the clerks of two counties in Kentucky were not issuing licenses due to paperwork delays . Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear ordered all Kentucky county clerks to begin issuing same @-@ sex marriage licenses immediately .

= = = Davis ' reaction to same @-@ sex marriage ruling = = =

Kim Davis , county clerk of Rowan County , contacted Beshear , asking for an executive order to protect clerks who have moral objections against personally issuing such marriage licenses , as Kentucky law requires county clerks to issue marriage licenses in their names . She began turning away gay couples from her county office who were seeking marriage licenses . David Ermold and David Moore , a same @-@ sex couple from Morehead , Kentucky and alumni of Morehead State University , released video footage on July 7 , 2015 , of Davis refusing to issue them a marriage license and ordering them to turn off their camera . The video went viral overnight .

On August 22 , 2015 , a protest rally against the ruling at the State Capitol in Frankfort , organized by the Family Foundation of Kentucky in support of Davis and other clerks who refused to issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples , was attended by several thousand people . The clerks of the two other Kentucky counties declined to speak to the rally crowd , but Davis spoke briefly , saying , " I need your prayers ... to continue to stand firm in what we believe . " At a competing event several blocks away organized by the Fairness Campaign in Louisville , attendees celebrated the Supreme Court 's decision and called upon government officials to uphold the law .

Rather than issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples , Davis began denying marriage licenses to all couples , same @-@ sex or mixed @-@ sex .

= = = Lawsuits against Davis = = =

Six couples who were denied marriage licenses from Davis sued her in her official capacity as county clerk . Four couples were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union ( ACLU ) of Kentucky and two couples each had separate legal representation . The four couples represented by the ACLU , two same @-@ sex couples and two mixed @-@ sex couples , filed the first lawsuit against Davis ( Miller v. Davis ) on July 2 , 2015 . On July 10 , 2015 , David Ermold and David Moore ( who had shot the viral video ) next filed suit against Davis , represented by Joseph Buckles and Thomas Szczygielski ( Ermold v. Davis ) ; James Yates and William Smith Jr . , represented by Rene Heinrich of the Heinrich Firm PLLC and Kash Stilz of Roush & Stilz PSC , filed a suit against Davis on August 25 , 2015 ( Yates v. Davis ) .

Federal district judge David L. Bunning of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky , the judge assigned to the cases , held hearings with Davis in Ashland , at which she was the only witness . Davis argued tearfully that issuing licenses under her name violated her beliefs , citing her religious rights under the First Amendment : " It wasn 't just a spur @-@ of @-@ the @-@ moment decision " , she said . " It was thought out , and I sought God on it . " Davis had already decided against resigning from her post , as doing so , she said , would only leave the matter to her deputies : " If I resign , I solve nothing . It helps nobody . " Governor Beshear stated that he would not call a special session of the General Assembly to address Davis ' concerns , while other state legislators believed that such a session could accommodate Davis with possible new legislation . Davis ' attorneys , from the Orlando , Florida @-@ based law firm Liberty Counsel , stated that the plaintiffs were free to drive to other counties to obtain their same @-@ sex marriage licenses , with one adding , " This case is not about these plaintiffs ' desires to get married , the case is about [ their ] desire to force Kim Davis to approve and authorize their marriage in violation of her constitutionally protected religious beliefs . " Davis and her attorneys then sued Governor Beshear for ordering her to violate her religious beliefs instead of trying to accommodate them , arguing that Beshear , not Davis , should be held accountable for any legal damages from the ACLU lawsuit .

On August 12 , Judge Bunning issued a temporary stay barring Davis from " applying her ' no marriage licenses ' policy to future marriage license requests " . Before the stay expired , the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit refused to extend that ruling for an appeal . " It cannot be defensibly argued that the holder of the Rowan County clerk 's office ... may decline to act in conformity with the United States Constitution " , the three @-@ judge panel wrote unanimously in their refusal , continuing , " There is thus little or no likelihood that the clerk in her official capacity will prevail on appeal . "

= = = Appeal = = =

Liberty Counsel and Davis filed an emergency application to appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court . On August 31 , 2015 , in a one @-@ line order , the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal , preventing Davis from legally continuing to deny marriage licenses . In response to the U.S. Supreme Court 's refusal to grant her stay request , Davis stated :

" I never imagined a day like this would come , where I would be asked to violate a central teaching of Scripture and of Jesus Himself regarding marriage . To issue a marriage license which conflicts with God 's definition of marriage , with my name affixed to the certificate , would violate my conscience . "

Davis continued to defy Bunning 's court order after the Supreme Court upheld it . Less than a day after the court rejected her request , several couples sought to obtain marriage licenses , but Davis turned them away , saying she was acting " under God 's authority " . Some in the media questioned whether Davis , having been married four times and only recently converted , was acting hypocritically in the application of her beliefs .

= = = Contempt of court and jailing = = =

Bunning ordered Davis and her six deputy clerks to appear before him on September 3 after the six

couples sought to have her held in contempt of court . The ACLU asked the court to fine Davis . Bunning ruled in the plaintiffs ' favor and held Davis in contempt , remanding her to custody after the hearing . The judge said Davis would remain there until she complied with the court 's order to issue marriage licenses . Bunning reportedly said that fines were not an option " because outsiders would pay them for her " . Bunning then spoke with each of the deputy clerks who reported to Davis . Only her son , Nathan Davis , told the judge he refused to comply with the court 's order to start issuing marriage licenses ; Bunning declined to hold him in contempt . After the hearing , U.S. Marshals transported Davis to the Carter County Detention Center in Grayson .

On Friday , September 4 , the first day her office was open during her incarceration , Davis ' deputy clerks began issuing marriage licenses to all couples . James Yates and William Smith Jr . ( independently suing Davis ) were the first couple in Rowan County to receive a marriage license since Obergerfell . The couple were soon followed by several other plaintiff couples .

Through her Liberty Counsel attorneys , Davis filed an appeal of the order holding her in contempt of court , asking that she be released immediately from jail and that her name be removed from marriage licenses , allowing her deputies to issue them . Separately , Davis asked Governor Beshear to free her . The governor 's office said that the conflict was a " matter between her and the courts " and added that the governor had no power to grant her release . Rowan County Democratic Judge @-@ Executive Walter Blevins stated that he did not believe he would need to appoint a replacement for Davis , and that he believed the Attorney General of Kentucky and " the General Assembly will pass something where marriage licenses don 't have anyone 's name on them " .

At this point , the Oath Keepers ? an armed right @-@ wing group variously described as a vigilante or militia group ? offered to provide a " security detail " to Davis in an effort to prevent U.S. Marshals from re @-@ arresting her for contempt . Davis declined the offer .

On July 13 , 2016 , her appeal to get her contempt of court judgment vacated was rejected by a Federal appeals court , so the contempt ruling remains on her record .

= = = Release and return to work = = =

Five days later , on Tuesday , September 8 , Bunning ordered Davis released from jail . The order stated : " Defendant Davis shall not interfere in any way , directly or indirectly , with the efforts of her deputy clerks to issue marriage licenses to all legally eligible couples . If Defendant Davis should interfere in any way with their issuance , that will be considered a violation of this order and appropriate sanctions will be considered . "

Bunning 's order also stated that Davis ' deputy clerks must continue to comply with his earlier order to issue marriage licenses and to submit status reports to him every fourteen days confirming their compliance . The deputy clerks released statements pledging to continue issuing licenses after Davis ' release and to ignore any order from her to do otherwise , complying with the federal judge 's order . Licenses issued since Davis ' refusal state that they are authorized by " the office of the Rowan County Clerk " but no longer bear her name . Davis ' supporters , gathered at the Rowan County Courthouse since her first day in custody , said that her deputies were unlawfully issuing licenses and should resign or be fired .

Davis returned to work a week later , on September 14 , 2015 . She said that , while she would not interfere with any deputy clerk who issues marriage licenses , she would not personally issue or authorize any of the forms . She created several altered versions of the Kentucky marriage license form and instructed her deputy clerks to use only these forms , which had her name and any reference to the clerk 's office removed . The ACLU sued Davis separately for these form alterations , which they found to be of questionable legality . Governor Steve Beshear was asked by Bunning to brief the court on the validity of the licenses . Governor Beshear acknowledged that Kentucky would recognize the licenses being issued , but he could not verify the legality of the licenses issued or the means by which the marriage licenses were altered . Bunning ultimately denied the ACLU 's separate suit , stating the altered forms were likely legal and that Davis was now abiding by the court 's order .

While Davis remained inside her personal office , same @-@ sex couples successfully walked out

of the Rowan County clerk 's office with their marriage licenses . One of the applicants said , " My license is valid , and it 's valid because of the court order that 's in effect ... It doesn 't have to have her signature . "

= = = Reactions to controversy = = =

Davis gained international attention after her refusal to issue marriage licenses and the ensuing controversy her actions caused . Many legal experts spoke out against Kim Davis . Columbia Law School professor Katherine Davis said , " Kim Davis has all sorts of religious liberty rights secured under the First Amendment and under other laws , but they are not at stake in this case . All she 's asked to do with couples that come before her is certify that they 've met the state requirements for marriage , so her religious opposition to same @-@ sex marriage is absolutely irrelevant . " Professor Steve Vladeck of American University 's Washington College of Law said that Davis " waived any right to have an objection to issuing same @-@ sex marriage licenses when she ran for the job " . Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin and others compared Davis ' refusal to follow orders of the U.S. Supreme Court to Alabama Governor George Wallace 's futile " Stand in the Schoolhouse Door " protest of desegregation in 1963 . The Human Rights Campaign , a national LGBT civil rights group , said , " Ms. Davis has the fundamental right to believe what she likes ... but as a public servant , she does not have the right to pick and choose which laws she will follow or which services she will provide . " Attorney and author Roberta A. Kaplan , who argued for the plaintiffs in *United States v. Windsor* , wrote that " Kim Davis is the clearest example of someone who wants to use a religious liberty argument to discriminate , yet she swore an oath to uphold the Constitution . It is laughable that she can then decide which laws to enforce , which is why every decision in her case has gone against her . "

Opposition to the federal ruling came from political columnists William McGurn of *The Wall Street Journal* and Ray Nothstine of *The Christian Post* . Law professor Eugene Volokh suggested that the Kentucky 's state religious freedom restoration act might compel the state to accommodate Davis ' religious beliefs and argued that state courts have the authority to order the removal of Davis ' name from marriage licenses . Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers also came to Davis ' defense ; he stated , in an amicus brief filed in federal court , that the " Supreme Court ruling has completely obliterated the definition of marriage " . Liberty Counsel , the law firm defending Davis , stated , " Kim Davis is being treated as a criminal because she cannot violate her conscience . " They also said she refused to accept a proposed compromise where she would no longer be found in contempt if she agreed not to interfere with her deputies issuing licenses to same @-@ sex couples .

Reactions against Davis also came from the White House , from Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear , and from candidates in the race for the 2016 presidential election . White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said , " No public official is above the rule of law . Certainly not the president of the United States , but neither is the Rowan County clerk . " Governor Beshear said the judge 's decision " speaks for itself " , while his attorneys called the legal arguments in her suit against him " absurd " . Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said , " Officials should be held to their duty to uphold the law ? end of story . " Several Republican presidential candidates also called on Davis to comply with court orders . Donald Trump said , " the decision 's been made , and that is the law of the land . " Jeb Bush , former governor of Florida , said Davis " is sworn to uphold the law " , but also suggested that some sort of accommodation be made for her . Republican presidential candidates Carly Fiorina and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina both suggested that Davis should comply with the court order or resign . Members of the Westboro Baptist Church protested against Davis for her multiple divorces and marriages , saying she is living in adultery . Westboro also stated " God hates oath breakers " , therefore Davis is obligated to follow the nation 's law .

Several national Republican politicians supported Davis . Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee , the former governor of Arkansas , said that the Kim Davis affair was part of a " criminalization of Christianity " and organized a rally for Davis outside the jail where she had been held . Senator Ted Cruz of Texas , another Republican presidential candidate , said that Davis was

a victim of " judicial tyranny " and attended the same rally . Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky , also presidential candidates , both voiced their support for Davis . Matt Bevin , the Republican nominee for Kentucky governor in the 2015 election , said a simple solution to Davis ' plight is for the government to stop providing marriage contracts .

A survey of American adults conducted by YouGov in September 2015 found that 56 % supported Judge Bunning 's decision to jail Davis for contempt of court , while 31 % of Americans opposed the decision . When asked what Davis should do , 65 % said that Davis should resign from office ; 23 % said that Davis should stay in office and continue to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples ; and 4 % said that Davis should remain in office but issue licenses to all persons legally entitled to one .

= = = Opposition by other court clerks = = =

Other court clerks in the U.S. have also refused to issue marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples . The probate judges of several counties in Alabama have stopped issuing marriage licenses to anyone . Probate Judge Nick Williams of Washington County , Alabama , said he stopped issuing licenses altogether to avoid discrimination and said , " I completely disagree with the authority the Supreme Court has . " Probate Judge John Enslin of Elmore County , Alabama , said the federal government , not state probate offices , should be the entity issuing same @-@ sex marriage licenses . Casey Davis ( unrelated to Kim Davis ) , a clerk in Casey County , Kentucky , said , " We 've not tried to prevent same @-@ sex marriages , we 've only tried to exercise our First Amendment rights " , adding that such applicants could apply in other counties . Kay Schwartz , a clerk in Whitley County , Kentucky , felt oppressed : " There 's a law against bullying ... Why take away the majority 's right [ just ] to give the minority their rights ? " She suggested the possibility of other options to meet the needs of same @-@ sex applicants , such as an online service . The ACLU plans no legal action against other court clerks or probate judges . National attention has not been on them as the ACLU brought no case against them , speculated University of Kentucky political science professor D. B. Riggle : " The action in Rowan County may be in part due to the availability of plaintiffs for a case . "

= = = Pending decisions and issues = = =

Under Kentucky law , a commonwealth 's attorney has the power to indict various local officials including " judges @-@ executives , justices of the peace , sheriffs , coroners , surveyors , jailers , county attorneys and constables " for " malfeasance in office or willful neglect in the discharge of official duties " ( an offense punishable by removal from office and a fine of up to \$ 1 @, @ 000 ) , " but for some reason lost to history , the statute doesn 't include county clerks . " Because Davis is an elected official , she cannot simply be fired . For Davis to be removed from the office of county clerk , impeachment proceedings must be initiated by the Kentucky House of Representatives and charges for impeachment brought to the Kentucky Senate .

After being denied a license four times , one couple asked the Rowan County Attorney 's Office to investigate Davis for official misconduct , a misdemeanor under Kentucky law . Official misconduct in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor and is punishable with imprisonment not to exceed 12 months and fines of \$ 500 . Official misconduct in the second degree is a Class B misdemeanor and carries a potential punishment of up to 90 days ' imprisonment and fines of \$ 250 . Rowan County Attorney Cecil Watkins referred the official misconduct complaint to the Kentucky Attorney General 's office , led by Attorney General Jack Conway , for it to decide whether to file charges against Davis . The Kentucky Attorney General 's office conducted a review , and Conway issued a statement saying , " We are a nation of laws , and no one can defy an order from a federal judge . " Conway then issued a one @-@ sentence statement saying that he would not appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Davis . Conway has noted that the statute of limitations for a charge to be laid against Davis does not expire for a year .

Months after Davis ' office was forced to begin issuing same @-@ sex marriage licenses , Davis '

lawyers filed a motion asking the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit to overturn four of Bunning 's decisions , calling them a " rush to judgment " that " imposed direct pressure and substantial burden on Davis , forcing her to choose between her religious beliefs and forfeiting her essential personal freedom on one hand , or abandoning those beliefs to keep her freedom on the other hand " . The court denied the motion on November 5 . Davis ' lawyers filed their last appeal the next day , requesting a delay in issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples , arguing that previous decisions should apply only to the four couples to whom Davis ' office was initially ordered to issue licenses . The appeal also asked the sixth circuit court of appeals to overturn a previous ruling that had sent Davis to jail for failure to comply . This final appeal was denied two days later by the court .

One of the first acts of newly elected Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin was an executive order to remove clerks ' names from the state marriage licenses . Bevin expressed his hope on November 6 , 2015 , that the executive order will protect the religious beliefs of officials who are opposed to gay marriage . Kim Davis has since asked her appeal be dismissed to end the case , because the new regulation removes clerks ' names , which provides for a religious accommodation and makes the case moot .

= = = Kentucky Attorney General 's finding that Davis violated state Open Records Act = = =

In March 2016 , the Campaign for Accountability ( CfA ) , a Washington , D.C.-based nonprofit group , made a request to Davis for access to public records under the Kentucky Open Records Act , seeking copies of retainer agreements and lawyer @-@ client engagement agreements between Davis and Liberty Counsel , the religious advocacy organization that represented Davis in the marriage @-@ license dispute . Liberty Counsel , which responded to the request on Davis ' behalf , refused to comply , arguing that the documents were preliminary and private records not subject to the Act . CfA appealed to the Office of the Kentucky Attorney General , which under Kentucky law has the authority to make binding rulings on the Open Records Act , and resubmitted its request to Davis ' office in April 2016 .

In May 2016 , the Attorney General 's Office sought to privately review the records at issue to determine if an exemption applied , but Liberty Counsel refused to make most of the documents available for a private review . In an opinion issued on June 30 , 2016 , the Attorney General 's Office determined that Davis had violated the Open Records Act , saying that her conduct had the effect of " intentionally frustrating the attorney general 's review of an open records request " which " would subvert the General Assembly 's intent behind providing review by the attorney general . " Davis and Liberty Counsel may challenge the AG 's decision in Kentucky Circuit Court , but have not indicated whether they will do so .

= = Meeting with Pope Francis controversy = =

Within a few weeks of Davis ' release from jail , Davis announced she and her husband had met with Pope Francis on September 24 , 2015 , at the Apostolic Nunciature to the United States in Washington , D.C. , during the Pope 's U.S. visit in September 2015 . According to Davis and her lawyer , the pope told Davis to " stay strong " and gave her two rosaries . Vaticanist John L. Allen , Jr. said that " there 's no way to view the encounter other than as a broad gesture of support by the pope for conscientious objection from gay marriage laws " and that the gesture strengthened the hand of those who defend religious freedom .

Two days later , the Vatican press office issued a statement saying that " the Pope did not enter into the details of the situation of Mrs. Davis and his meeting with her should not be considered a form of support of her position in all of its particular and complex aspects " . According to Vatican spokesman Father Thomas Rosica , the Pope met with several dozen other people , and rosaries were also given to others in attendance ; Davis was not invited by the Pope to the Nunciature and " the meeting may have been manipulated by her and her lawyer " . The only audience given by the Pope while in Washington was with a former student of his , an openly gay Argentine named Yayo

Grassi and Grassi 's same @-@ sex partner of 19 years .

Observers wondered if the Pope had not been informed of Davis ' controversy or if the Vatican had underestimated the media storm that a meeting with Davis would provoke . Five months later , the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had replaced the retiring diplomat who had arranged the Pope 's meeting with Davis : Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò , Vatican 's ambassador to the United States and an outspoken opponent of same @-@ sex marriage .

= = Personal life = =

Davis has been married four times to three different men . The first three marriages ended in divorce in 1994 , 2006 , and 2008 . Davis is the mother of twin sons , who were born five months after her divorce from her first husband . Her third husband is the biological father of the twins who were adopted by her second husband , Joe Davis , who is also her fourth and current husband ; he supports her stance against same @-@ sex marriage . One of Davis ' sons , Nathan , works in her office as a deputy clerk and has taken the same position of denying marriage licenses to same @-@ sex couples .

Davis experienced a religious awakening in 2011 , following her mother @-@ in @-@ law 's dying wish that she attend church . Since then Davis has identified herself as an Apostolic Christian , belonging to the Apostolic Pentecostal denomination known as " Oneness Pentecostalism , " which favors a literal interpretation of the Bible . She worships three times a week at the Solid Rock Apostolic Church near Morehead .

Following her conversion , Davis let her hair grow long , stopped wearing makeup and jewelry , and began wearing skirts and dresses that fall below the knee , in keeping with Apostolic / Oneness tenets regarding external holiness and modest dress . She held a weekly Bible study for female inmates at the local jail . In an interview in January 2016 , Davis said that she believed that " we are living in end times . " Davis also expressed her view that the Bible is infallible .

Shortly after the same @-@ sex marriage license controversy , Davis said she and her husband switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party . While speaking with reporters , Davis expressed confidence in the way marriage licenses were now being issued by her office in Morehead , Kentucky . However , Davis warned that should the current situation become an issue , she was prepared to return to jail .

= = In popular culture = =

Davis was the subject of numerous satirical works following her burst of media attention in 2015 . Books , social media profiles , and videos have been created that parody Davis ' refusal to issue marriage licenses in Kentucky . A Twitter account with more than 90 @, @ 000 followers and run by comedian Dave Colan mocks Davis with humorous tweets supposedly from a woman who " Sits Next to Kim Davis " . Funny or Die made a Mashup video featuring characters from Parks and Recreation in video clips that spoof Davis ' refusal to issue marriage licenses , and a parody video of her meeting with Pope Francis . Author Lilith St. Augustine wrote Kim Goes To Jail : An Erotic Story , an erotic novella featuring Davis in a fictional role . La Strega Entertainment created a satirical music video sung to the tune of " Major @-@ General 's Song " from Gilbert and Sullivan 's Pirates of Penzance . Saturday Night Live cast member Aidy Bryant portrayed Davis during the show 's season 41 premiere . Actress Jennifer Lawrence , in the December 2015 issue of Vogue , told Jonathan Van Meter that Kim Davis is a " lady that makes me embarrassed to be from Kentucky . "

= = Electoral history = =