

## **Practical Initiatives a Church Christian Citizenship Ministry Can Do**

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Gal 6:9-10)*

The following is a short list of actions a church Christian Citizenship group can pursue to make a difference. It is roughly in chronological (growth) order, moving from an internal perspective (organization and oversight) to reaching outside and collaborating with other fellowships.

It's important that commitments not exceed the ability to accomplish. Once a church organizes, there's a tendency to think everything must be done immediately. This can breed frustration and disappointment. Prayerfully consider what your group is gifted at, and pace yourself with a long term perspective so that difficulty in gaining “success” doesn't completely dishearten efforts. Remember, the Lord calls us to be faithful in our service to Him, the results are dependent upon Him (1 Cor 3:6).

### **Relative to Church Leadership**

- Ensure church leadership provides oversight of all activities and significant decisions. They ensure the name of Christ remains honored in all that's done
- Ensure there is a firm understanding of all legal issues involved. Seek legal counsel if uncertain
- Develop a formal church policy towards Christian Citizenship (if necessary)
- Define modest (realistic) goals for a specified time period and assess periodically
- Identify a mature, experienced church point of contact to coordinate all activities, lead meetings, report to church leadership and be the spokesman

### **Providing for Believer Education**

- Prepare for and conduct specialized training classes (topical) or retreats
- Work with the pastor to outline an appropriate topical sermon series
- Generate a Sunday School Christian Citizenship class series
- Conduct a Home Fellowship Group Bible study on citizenship issues
- Create a permanent Citizenship library or set up a table or bulletin board during worship times with information of current interest
- Publish or route fact sheets, booklets etc. on specific topics
- Create a Christian Citizenship budget line within the church annual budget for education materials (books, videos, tapes, periodicals, etc.)

- Subscribe to election and legislation alerts from reputable Christian organizations and post in conspicuous place to increase awareness
- Educate church membership on success stories with inserts in bulletins
- Create a group E-mail distribution capability for interested members
- Encourage voter registration and provide materials to facilitate
- Invite political leaders to give their personal testimony and/or to discuss issues of concern with the membership
- Conduct voter awareness evenings on any number of general or specific items of interest as a continuing education and equipping ministry
- Develop a phone directory for all members listing the districts they are located in, all elected representatives and contact information
- Encourage school children to write school reports on the Christian roots and influences in our nations history

### **Direct Outreach**

- Build an advertising campaign (radio, billboards, other?) to address local issues from a Biblical perspective
- Organize and conduct writing classes to equip members on how to write effective letters to public officials, newspapers, corporations, etc.
- Organize and conduct letter writing workshops to produce letters to the editor, elected officials, TV executives, industry executives, etc.
- Develop and build Web sites containing reasoned positions on topics of particular interest. Use hot links to trusted Christian sites for easy access
- Encourage pastoral mentoring of current and future community leaders
- Organize visitation of elected representatives to voice opinions on topics of interest and concern to the Christian community
- Organize picketing, demonstrations, boycotts if needed (however, conduct all within legal constraints)
- Develop a publications and pamphlet ministry to produce and deliver reasoned positions on moral issues to the community

### **Possible Joint Church Activities**

- Conduct joint church coordination/awareness meetings on current issues of interest to the wider Christian community
- Sponsor joint church seminars or workshops for specific topics
- Pursue a vigorous information exchange and collaboration process
- Host candidate forums during election years to allow all candidates for an office to: speak on issues, give their personal testimony, answer questions
- Develop joint church resolutions on moral issues
- Form an advisory group to express concerns and encouragement to public leaders
- Pool financial resources to support ad campaigns if needed
- Identify specific expertise (e.g., geneticist) to provide reasoned answers to all collaborating churches when questions arise in that area