



Dear Pastor:

Citizenship was once considered a nearly sacred heritage in the United States of America. Samuel Adams, a dedicated Christian often referred to as “The Father of the American Revolution”, admonished the people to be faithful in voting. *“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual--or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”*

John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court said that, *“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”*

The convicting truth is that many Christians and local churches today do not measurably influence the moral direction of our culture, promote responsible and consistent voting, or defend our God-given freedoms. We believe that the responsibility for these things does rest with the church. For example, since God has ordained the governing authorities, and since “We the People” ARE the government in this country, God’s people carry the responsibility of governing more than all other citizens.

*We believe in the critical role of Pastors and the local church in serving as the primary source of righteousness and justice to the community and to civil institutions. We urge you to strongly consider joining or starting a Pastor Council in your community to unite likeminded pastors and congregations across racial and denominational lines to stand, speak and act together as the body of Christ!*

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "W".

Dave Welch  
Executive Director, U.S. Pastor Council

(All information available at [www.uspastorcouncil.org/resources](http://www.uspastorcouncil.org/resources))

# 1

## SECTION ONE – THE “WHY”

*Why Involve Pastors and churches in the “Culture War”?*

### *Scripturally We Must*

The great prophets of the Old Testament boldly spoke the word of the Lord to Kings and to the people; three young Israelites refused to bow to Baal – in defiance of the King; John the Baptist literally gave his life holding the King accountable to a higher law of morality, and the apostle Paul demanded that the civil rulers respect his rights as a citizen. Joseph, David, Daniel and other key Biblical figures served God as civil leaders.

Biblical leaders and many whom God has raised since the birth of the New Testament church have understood the “Cultural Mandate”<sup>1</sup> to charge the followers of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with the responsibility of complete stewardship of the whole creation. *It is clear scripturally, that this mandate includes serving in and influencing the God-ordained institution of civil government.*

Moses was instructed by his wise father-in-law to, “...provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.”<sup>2</sup> The qualification criteria for civil leaders and the principle of decentralization and delegation of authority are evident in this passage.

We clearly understand that, as Dr. D. James Kennedy has stated, “There is no cultural restoration without spiritual regeneration.” Evangelism and discipleship are always “front burner” personally and corporately. *However, Dr. Kennedy and many other Christians throughout the ages recognize that our duty does not stop with caring for a man’s eternal destination and his spiritual condition*<sup>3</sup>. Does this not also include a duty to assure that my brother is not treated with injustice and unrighteousness by the very institution that God ordained to be “... not a terror to good works, but to the evil?”<sup>4</sup>

We believe it does and that it therefore is a legitimate topic on which to preach as well as to equip the believers whom God has entrusted to us to train, equip and send out to be Biblically-grounded “salt and light.”

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<sup>1</sup> “Led By A Carpenter” - D. James Kennedy, Thomas Nelson

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 18:21

<sup>3</sup> James 2:14-17

<sup>4</sup> Romans 13:3

## **Historically We Did!**

This history of the New Testament church is filled with examples of how “men of the cloth” served as instruments of change both in reforming a corrupt church institution to serving as the prophetic voice of truth to rulers who led justly as well as those who were tyrants. Pastor and nineteenth-century historian J. Wingate Thornton wrote that, “*To the pulpit, the Puritan Pulpit, we owe the moral force which won our independence.*”<sup>5</sup> Historian Alice Baldwin stated that, “*...the Constitutional Convention and the written Constitution were the children of the pulpit.*”<sup>6</sup> The British army referred to the patriot clergy of during the War for Independence as the “Black Regiment”, referencing the color of their robes and the moral and spiritual influence they had in support of liberty and independence. Some examples:

**St. Patrick** – Converted King Loeghaire of Ireland and served as his counselor, or “annchara”, and wrote “Book of the Law of Moses” (432 A.D.) that was used as civil law by chieftains and kings throughout Ireland and emphasized the rule of law and self-government.<sup>7</sup>

**Martin Luther** – By nailing his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517, he was used by God to facilitate the Reformation grounded in the “Sola Scriptura” or “Scripture alone” position that placed all earthly authorities – including the church – under and accountable to God and His Word.

**John Calvin** – Wrote “Ecclesiastical Ordinances”, which included policies for jails, education, and the physical health and safety of citizens such as sanitation requirements. He stated that, “...in order to become free outwardly, man must first succeed in being free inwardly.”<sup>8</sup>

**William Tyndale** – Was burned at the stake by King Henry VIII as a heretic for translating the Bible into English for the common man. His translation was later authorized by the king (unaware that he was approving The Heretic’s version!) as part of his separation from the Catholic Church and used to launch the Church of England – a critical link in the chain of civil liberty and freedom.

**John Robinson** – Pastor to the Pilgrims who landed at Cape Cod in 1620, and described by historian Marshall Foster as a clergyman who, “More than any other man...prepared a people to take dominion over the wilderness to the glory of God. Through his godly wisdom, he taught the Pilgrims individual Christian unity.”<sup>9</sup>

**Jonathan Mayhew** – Minister of West Church in Boston and a major influence in opposing King George on a variety of issues; was called “*The Father of Civil and Religious Liberty in Massachusetts and America*” by Declaration of Independence signer, Robert Treat Paine. After the passage of the Stamp Act in Parliament he

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<sup>5</sup> “America’s Providential History” – Beliles and McDowell, Providence Press

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> “Pastors and American Independence” - McDowell

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> The American Covenant and the Untold Story – Marshall Foster and Mary-Elaine Swanson

preached that, *“The king is as much bound by his oath not to infringe the legal rights of the people, as the people are bound to yield in subjection to him. From whence it follows that as soon as the prince sets himself above the law, he loses the king in the tyrant. He does, to all intents and purposes, un-king himself.”*<sup>10</sup>

**Samuel Davies** – Pastor, Ambassador to England and President of Princeton College; he was one of the greatest orators in colonial America and served as mentor for the man Jefferson called “the greatest orator who ever lived” – Patrick Henry.<sup>11</sup>

**Peter Muhlenberg** – Lutheran Pastor who one Sunday preached *“In the language of the Holy Writ, there is a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times have passed away...there is a time to fight – and that time has now come!”* He removed his robe revealing the uniform of a Continental officer and called for recruits, rising to the rank of Major General.

**Jonas Clark** – Pastor at Lexington who stood with his men when “The Shot Heard Around The World” was fired on the green. He was one of the pastors and church leaders who recruited and served as “The Minutemen”. A British general was asked what he feared most during the war, and he said, *“The thing I feared most during the war was the Minutemen. Those crazy soldiers were improperly armed and barely clothed, but the American Minutemen did not know the meaning of the word ‘retreat.’ If you every wanted to gain victory over the Minutemen you had to kill them all because they never quit.”*<sup>12</sup>

**Charles G. Finney** – Renowned evangelist who was an outspoken abolitionist and a key figure in the Second Great Awakening stated that, *“The church must take right ground in regards to politics.... The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them.... God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground. Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God.... God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.”*<sup>13</sup>

**Henry Ward Beecher**- New York pastor, son of theologian Lyman Beecher and brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe who wrote “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”, he spoke strongly against civil corruption, supported women’s suffrage and preached against slavery. *“It was said that if you wanted to hear him take on New York’s corrupt judges, ‘Just take the ferry to Brooklyn and follow the crowd.’”*<sup>14</sup>

**Martin Luther King Jr.** – Pastor and Civil Rights leader who was assassinated for his role in leading cultural and political change regarding racial discrimination, he said, *“We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights.... One may well ask, “How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?” The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I agree with St. Augustine that “an unjust law is no law at all.”...”*<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> “One Nation Under God” – David Gibbs, Christian Law Association

<sup>11</sup> McDowell

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> “America’s God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations” – William J. Federer

<sup>14</sup> “Sounding Forth The Trumpet” – Peter Marshall, David Manuel, Revell

<sup>15</sup> Federer

**Dr. D. James Kennedy** – Senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, creator of Evangelism Explosion and founder of the Center For Reclaiming America, he said that, “*The solution to the desperate problems of our world is for us to become involved in our culture and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If Christians would do those two things, our nation - and ultimately our world - would be transformed almost overnight.*”<sup>16</sup>

### **Other Related Quotations:**

*The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.*

**(President John Quincy Adams)**

*First, it is their judgment, and that from Scripture taught them, that those who are chosen to a place in government, must be men truly fearing God, wise and learned in the truths of Christ...*

**(Rev. Jonathan Edwards, 1654)**

*It is hoped that but few will think the subject of it an improper one to be discoursed in the pulpit, under a notion that this is preaching politics instead of Christ. However, to remove all prejudices of this sort, I beg it may be remembered that "all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

*Why, then, should not those parts of Scripture which relate to civil government be examined and explained from the desk, as well as others?...*

**(Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, 1749)**

*It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.*

**(Patrick Henry)**

*“ I often hear it said, ‘Do not bring religion into politics.’ This is precisely where it ought to be brought... We have had enough of clever men without conscience. Now let us see what honest, God-fearing men will do.”*

**(Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon)**

*(Source of quotes: America’s God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations, William Federer)*

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<sup>16</sup> “The Cultural Mandate”

## Legally We Can!

Activist courts and militant secularist organizations have helped create an environment in which pastors and churches have been intimidated into believing that they must violate their god-given responsibilities as the prophetic voice of righteousness and remain silent on the issues of our day. The two-prong attack by groups like the ACLU and Americans United for Separation of Church and State have successfully used The “Separation” myth and The 501 (c) (3) political restrictions to silence most churches in regard to current moral and policy issues.

**“Separation of Church and State”** – The Founding Fathers’ desire to assure religious freedom by keeping the institutions of church and government separate and the government out of the church has been turned on its head by liberal revisionists in recent years. There is a myriad of materials produced by respected historians, legal scholars and Theologians (*as listed in the “Suggested Reading” section*) that clearly prove the vital role that Biblical principles, Christian leaders and clergy played in the development of Western Civilization, republican form of government and specifically, our Constitutional Republic. “We the People” ARE the government and “We the People” ARE the church. Moreover, the church pre-existed the state and in a Biblical worldview supersedes it in authority. Why then should churches be prohibited from speaking to and influencing the direction of policy and our elected leaders?

**“Tax-Exempt Status of the Church”** - “Do’s and Don’ts” information in the attached “*Guidelines For Political Action by Pastors and Churches*”, produced by one of the nation’s leading legal scholars on this subject, clearly shows what pastors and churches CAN do in regard to activities regarded as “political”. *The bottom line – even within the parameters of the 501 (c) (3) non-profit regulations, the church has great latitude to assure that her members are active, informed, involved and voting according to Biblical principles. Most importantly, nowhere in Scripture or in the Constitution is government vested with the authority to interfere with the free exercise of religion.* The current restrictions on politically related speech in churches were imposed as recently as 1954, and legislation is currently being considered in Congress (The Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act) to repeal them. As the appendix shows, the IRS has given us a mile and we have only taken an inch. **(For the complete document describing churches’ rights go to [www.uspastorcouncil.org](http://www.uspastorcouncil.org) and click on “resources”.)**

# 2

## SECTION TWO – THE “HOW”

### Citizenship as Ministry

Para-church ministries have served vital and needed functions in many ways, from evangelism training, missions support, providing food, clothing and shelter to those in need and mobilizing Christians to be good citizens as well as many other areas of need. *Arguably, however, all of those ministries described are responsibilities of the church in general and each local church in particular.* A nationally known Pastor and parachurch ministry leader said at a luncheon in Houston, Texas, “*Any parachurch organization that does not have as its central purpose to empower the local church is a fraud.*” As both a pastor and leader of such an organization he feels strongly that God’s ordained institution to spread the Gospel and disciple the believers is the local church.

How does that overlay into citizenship? If it is indeed a responsibility of each church equip its members for effective Christian service, it follows that a necessary element of that equipping must be godly citizenship. As the spiritual head of each congregation, we believe that the Pastor must provide active, visible and consistent leadership in this area to validate it within the church, as well as to provide a prophetic voice of truth, integrity, justice and compassion to the world. We have Foreign Mission Committees, Youth Ministries, Outreach Ministries, Music Ministries, Discipleship Ministries, etc.; we are suggesting that each church that has not already simply add Citizenship Ministry, Community Impact Ministry or whatever name they are comfortable with as another pastor-approved and church supported facet of church affairs.

Very little happens without effective leadership, and we suggest starting with the leaders whom God has called – the Pastors, Shepherds, or as we refer to them, God’s Generals. *The primary reason for forming a council is that without a team of Senior Pastors committed to working together toward specific and measurable objectives, very little if anything will change in the involvement level of the churches.*

*There are some essential steps to developing and sustaining an effective area Pastor Council that are very important. The greatest challenge is simply overcoming the “herding cats” syndrome that keeps pastors in our separate “mini-kingdoms. This is not a “cookie cutter”, one-size fits all approach, but rather some guidelines that will help avoid snares and maximize your possibility of building a strong team.*

# ***Forming a City/Community Pastor Council***

## **1. Identify at least six to a twelve Senior Pastors who have displayed willingness to speak out and lead publicly on key moral issues.**

### ***a. Pastors***

- i. It is vital that the pastors are well respected among their peers and have a strong circle of influence in one or more denominational, racial and geographical circles in the community.
- ii. The pastor and his church (not necessarily the denomination) must be firmly grounded in the belief that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God.
- iii. There must be a diversity of denominational and racial backgrounds represented.
  1. Involvement at the leadership level by African-American, Asian, Anglo and Hispanic Pastors is very important – adhering to the criteria in 1 (a) (ii) above and the demographic makeup of the community. *Remember, the objective is that this council is as broadly representative as possible.*
- iv. Start with the Pastors who have been involved and visible in standing for Biblical righteousness and justice in the community.
  1. It is certainly desirable to have the larger-church pastors involved, however character, courage and commitment to this type of ministry is most often found in pastors of midsize and smaller churches – again relative to the size and demographics of the community.

### ***b. Non-Pastoral leaders (i.e. Salt & Light Council)***

- i. At the introductory/formational stage, you should involve leaders who have distinguished themselves first as honoring God in their lives, families, careers and ministries.
- ii. They must be active and in good standing with a local Bible-believing church.
- iii. He or she should be “seasoned” with a respectable amount of involvement in the moral/cultural/political arenas and have a reputation above reproach (i.e. passes the Biblical qualifications to serve as deacon).
  1. Experience could include organizing and/or leading others in pro-family issues, organizations or political party activities.

## 2. Set up a formational meeting

- a. **Coordinate** a breakfast, lunch or evening meeting at a time and location that is conducive to maximum attendance from your leadership prospects.
  - i. As a general rule, lunch works best for most pastors and business leaders. That may vary so simply do what works best for your area and team.
  - ii. Venue suggestion – *it is ideal that you have a private setting, meaning a separate room rather than a corner of a restaurant. You want freedom to discuss issues and objectives openly without distraction or exposure.*
- b. **Personally call** each participant and communicate the meeting information to him after mail, fax and/or e-mail communications have gone out – confirm his attendance.
  - i. NOTE: Regarding pastors, this level must have Senior Pastors ONLY! The only exception would be a retired pastor who has good community standing or is a pastor emeritus. Allowing other staff positions to serve on the steering/executive committee level will dilute the body's credibility with other pastors.

### c. Meeting logistics

- i. Have all materials completed the day before so you have packets ready well before start time.
- ii. Make sure the seating is arranged so that every participant can be seen and heard adequately.
- iii. Follow a prepared agenda to assure efficient use of time and effective communication of the mission.
  1. Good management of the time and agenda are essential to convincing these leaders to commit time and credibility to this effort.
  2. *Starting on time is very important, and including time for fellowship before and after you should go no more than 90 minutes.*
  3. *Either the person who facilitated the meeting or a designee should take thorough minutes of the meeting.*
- iv. Casting a clear, concise vision of what you are asking of them is vital, which means walking through the mechanics of how the council will operate regarding education, communication and public action.
  1. *Present the mission; flow chart and AMERICA plan for consideration, adoption or revision (see appendix).*

2. *The most important thing to emphasize and clarify is the need to restore godly citizenship training as a vital and legitimate ministry of the local church.*
- v. *Close with asking each pastor and leader to serve on the formational Executive Committee and to prepare a list of pastors whom they believe would be interested in joining the council, and would be willing to help enlist.*
- vi. *Set a follow up meeting date and location, and adjourn on time.*

### **3. Follow up activities**

- a. *A follow up letter with a copy of the summary/ minutes should be mailed within 48 hours to each participant.*
- b. *Personally call each participant to get his feedback and thoughts.*
- c. *Contact prospects who were unable to attend or whose names were given at the meeting; provide summary of meeting and arrange meeting.*

### **4. Short term goals**

- a. *Formalize the Executive Committee*
- b. *Schedule a kickoff area pastor luncheon*
- c. *Acquire a list of churches for the surrounding area (normal drive radius for your community/ city/ region).*
- d. *Establish a schedule and venue for regular luncheons/ workshops/ fellowships for the next twelve months*

### **5. Sample Long term goals (3 –5 years)**

- a. *Involve at least ten percent of the identified likeminded churches on your area church list as participants on the pastor council.*
- b. *Impact the spiritual, social, moral and political climate of the community, state and nation with a Biblical Worldview.*
- c. *Increase the regular turnout of Biblically-thinking, informed voters in each election by twenty percent.*

**For model bylaws, 501 (c) (3) applications, and other organizing documents please call 832-688-9166 or request by email at [info@uspastorcouncil.org](mailto:info@uspastorcouncil.org).**

## Summary

Many people and even national leaders say that this cannot be done and pastors will not stand together and get involved. It **is** being done and they **are** responding. In addition, the consequences of that premise are unacceptable and therefore we have no alternative but to simply press forward with firm conviction that if the Lord wills and He stirs hearts it can succeed. Doing what we have always done will get us what we have always gotten – and few think that we are going in the right direction. **WHAT IF... just ten percent of pastors and churches in every major community/city participated in and implemented this plan?**

# Forming a Christian Citizenship Ministry

## A. Senior Pastor

Since you have been called to serve as the shepherd of your congregational "flock" and in most cases are the proper authority to approve ministry activities, it is important that a prospective Citizenship Ministry (CMD) Director be **appointed** and **approved** by you personally. We suggest the following criteria in choosing a leader for this ministry:

1. A leader who is highly respected in the congregation (could be a staff member, deacon, elder or other lay leader) and whom you personally respect and trust to be accountable to you.
2. He or she should be **Called** (*has a conviction and passion that we must be godly citizens*), **Capable** (*has leadership skills, people skills and experience in the "battle"*) and **Committed** (*will make this a priority ministry to assure its effectiveness*).
3. He or she will communicate with you regularly as you direct to serve as your "eyes and ears" for what is happening in the community, culture and government that is relevant to the mission of the ministry.
4. He or she will agree to participate in training and educational workshops sponsored by the area Pastor Council for Citizenship Ministry leaders.

PLEASE NOTE: *Pastor, this ministry will only be as effective as its visible, regular support by you from the pulpit. If it operates as an "unwanted stepchild" ministry it will flounder and become a frustration to you and to those serving in it.*

## B. Recruit a Team – (Facilitated by Ministry Director)

Regardless of the size of your church, enlisting help from a team of believers who share interest in this ministry will accomplish many things faster and more efficiently, **however one committed person can accomplish much of this**. Delegating elements of the plan to others (with follow up of course!) spreads the load of the various tasks to minimize the problem of overload and burnout by a dedicated volunteer! We recommend you proceed as follows:

1. Make a list of men and women who you believe would be interested in being involved with this ministry. Request that an announcement be made from the pulpit and in the weekly bulletin to enlist volunteers.
2. Form a nucleus of people who are also called, capable and committed to serve as your "steering committee".
3. Establish a date for a formational meeting at the church (preferable) or a home to launch the ministry.
4. See **Appendix A** for sample agenda for the formational meeting.

## C. Establish Mission and Goals

1. A sample mission statement would be as follows:

*"The (Church) Citizenship Ministry exists to serve this church and its pastor by helping disciple its membership toward a fuller expression of Christian faith in the public square. In this effort, the committee endeavors to foster the biblical virtues of love, mercy, truth and justice on behalf of its neighbors through prayer, citizenship education and organized social action within local, state, national and international communities. It further serves as a resource to the church's pastor by providing any relevant research or information on social and community issues." (From Focus on the Family's Community Impact Manual w/revision)*

2. Establish goals for the following activities in this order of priority:
  - a. Voter registration (i.e. percentage of church registered by target date)
  - b. Voter turnout (i.e. percentage that vote in each election)
  - c. Issues and voter awareness (i.e. methods to keep church informed)
  - d. Education and training (See **Appendix B**, Citizenship Education Outline)
  - e. Community Service Projects (i.e. neighborhood renovation, cleanup, etc.)

## D. Assign Tasks

It is best to have one person specifically responsible for each category of activity that the Citizenship ministry decides to engage in. For example, the ideal would be to have a separate coordinator for each task listed in section C (2) as a subcommittee, depending on available manpower. Plans and timelines should be developed and approved for each activity.

## E. Track Activities and Results

It is very important to take the time during each project to record the date, location, people involved and results. For example, during the voter registration drive you would want to record in a database the following information for each newly registered voter:

1. Type of project (i.e. match & mail, registration table, individual contact)
2. Date registered
3. Issues survey response
4. Number of eligible voters in household

For voter turnout activities you should track the following information:

1. Commitment to vote
2. Request for voter information
3. Transportation needs
4. Voting fulfillment

The key is keeping complete and thorough records that will enable you to develop a comprehensive database of the various citizenship activities by individual for your congregation.

## **F. Execute an ongoing education program**

Over the years we have discovered something profound but simple. *If people do not have a compelling "why", then it is fruitless to attempt to teach them "how"!* The following outline describes a suggested series of topics that will provide a solid Biblical and historical foundation upon which to build our citizenship responsibilities. These topics can be covered in whatever setting is practical for your situation, ranging from Sunday School classes to home fellowship studies. Sources of materials and curriculums are available through HACP.

### **Biblical worldview –**

- How we apply Biblical principles to culture, community and government
- Practical applications on current issues, citizenship, culture and faith

### **Religious Heritage –**

- The role of Christianity in the formation of our nation
- The role of Biblical principles in the development of our government
- The governing philosophy of our founding fathers.
- The role that pastors and churches have played in shaping our culture and government

### **Constitutional government –**

- Learn the U.S. Constitution
- The Bible as foundation of the U.S. Constitution
- The original philosophy of limited government – why and how
- The role that “morality and religion” have in preserving Constitutional government
- What government should and should not do.

### **Grassroots community involvement –**

- How to impact local, state and federal policies
- How to organize effectively
- How to effectively communicate a message to the public
- How to impact the community in relation to moral issues
- Voter registration drives and tracking
- Get-Out-The-Vote activities

## ***Suggested Resources:***

This is but a sampling of the many excellent resources available to become better informed about our role as Christians in our culture and government.

### **Biblical Worldview**

- **A Christian Manifesto** – Francis Schaeffer
- **Mind Siege** – Tim LaHaye, David Noebel
- **How Now Shall We Live?** – Charles Colson, Nancy Pearcey
- **Think Like Jesus** – George Barna

### **American Christian Heritage**

- **The Light and the Glory** – Peter Marshall, David Manuel
- **The American Covenant and the Untold Story** – Marshall Foster
- **America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations** – William Federer
- **Original Intent** – David Barton
- **America's Christian Heritage** – Gary Demar
- **America's Providential History** – Mark Beliles, Stephen McDowell

### **Understanding the Times**

- **The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail** – D. James Kennedy
- **Liberating The Nations** – Stephen McDowell & Mark Beliles
- **One Nation Under God** – David Gibbs
- **Growing True Disciples** – George Barna
- **America: A Call to Greatness** – John Chalfant

### **Additional Resources**

[www.nehemiahinstitute.com](http://www.nehemiahinstitute.com)

[www.reclaimamerica.org](http://www.reclaimamerica.org)

[www.family.org](http://www.family.org)

[www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org)

[www.wallbuilders.com](http://www.wallbuilders.com)

[www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net)

[www.mayflowerinstitute.com](http://www.mayflowerinstitute.com)

[www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)

[www.uspastorcouncil.org](http://www.uspastorcouncil.org)

[www.providencefoundation.org](http://www.providencefoundation.org)

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Mission and Purpose Statement**

#### **1. Mission**

The mission of the \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Council is to empower pastors and their congregations across racial and denominational lines to impact the culture and community through concerted prayer, to equip our congregations for effective citizenship and to provide a Biblically-based, unified voice on spiritual, cultural, social and moral issues.

#### **2. Purpose**

- a. The seven-fold purpose can be called the AMERICA plan\*:
  - i. **A**rticulate Biblical positions on important moral issues from the pulpit and to the community.
  - ii. **M**otivate congregates to be godly, responsible citizens.
  - iii. **E**ducate congregates on Scriptural, historical and legal foundations for responsible Christian citizenship by forming a permanent Citizen Action Ministry.
  - iv. **R**egister every eligible adult in each participating church to vote.
  - v. **I**nforn congregates on a regular basis in regard to important local, state and national policy issues of concern.
  - vi. **C**oordinate Pastors and churches of like mind throughout the greater \_\_\_\_\_ area to pray, stand and speak together.
  - vii. **A**ctivate members to effective prayer, service and civic action in the community to promote Biblical righteousness and justice.

#### **3. General Plan**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Council will meet quarterly (or other interval as determined) to discuss the progress of activities, receive updates on items in the community that may need to be spoken to and make decisions regarding mission implementation.
- b. Citizenship Ministry Directors will be appointed by each participating pastor and would meet regularly for training and networking, as well as to facilitate activities as directed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Council.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Council will sponsor regular (possibly also quarterly to coincide with council sessions) general pastor luncheons, workshops, etc. to increase involvement by the pastoral community and to build closer relationships with community leaders, including elected officials.

\* - The AMERICA Plan was created by Dave Welch and is trademarked by Vision America



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## The AMERICA Plan

### **The seven steps of effective Christian citizenship for churches**

**A**rticulate a Biblical position on important issues of the day

- Address citizenship and current moral issues from the pulpit as appropriate
  - ◆ Speak to the crucial moral issues of the day from a Biblical perspective, and why Christians must be active citizens.

**M**otivate believers to begin taking their civic responsibilities seriously.

- Most Christians do not become involved in any ministry or take action related to cultural change unless inspired by their pastor and become well informed.

**E**ducate believers on the “Why” and “How” of civic involvement

- American Religious Heritage; Biblical Worldview; Understanding the Biblical role of Government; and Effective Community Involvement.

**R**egister EVERY eligible adult in the church to vote.

- If a person is 18 or older and an American citizen, this is not an option! The goal is 100% registered, 100% voting.

**I**nform the congregation about important policy and moral issues

- Pending legislation – local, state and national
- Current moral issues – sanctity of life, pornography, gambling, marriage, etc.
- Candidates’ positions on basic moral issues

**C**oordinate with other like-minded Pastors in the community by forming a Pastor Council

- Establish an ongoing team that will stand together, speak together and act together.

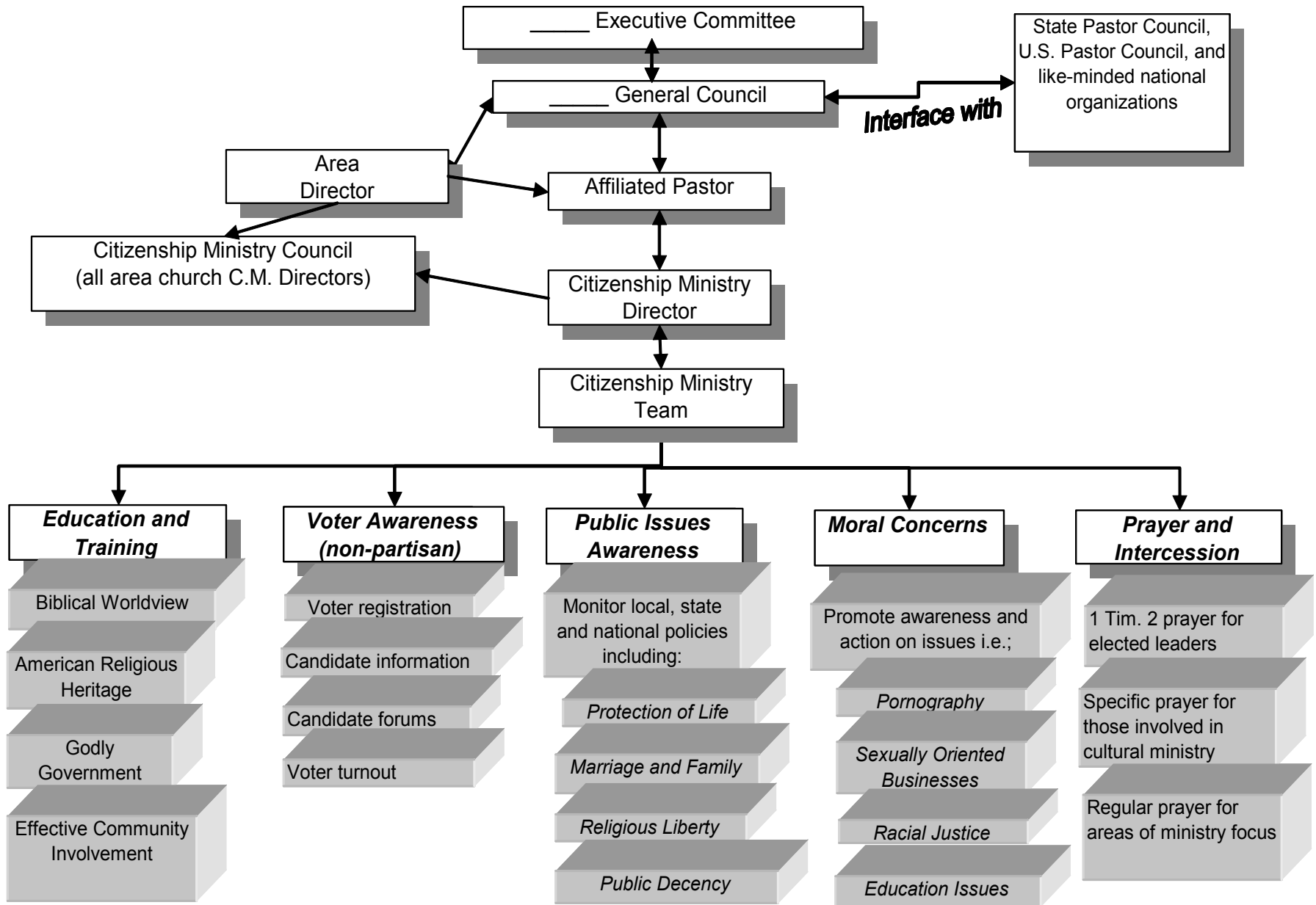
**A**ctivate members to effective prayer, service and civic action in the community to promote Biblical righteousness and justice.

- Create or support a Christian Citizenship Ministry in the church to facilitate the above activities in an organized manner, and to serve as the church’s link to the community team.

### **FOUR STEPS TO COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION: 2 Chronicles 7:14**

- 1. Pray, fast and repent- get our spiritual "house" in order *first***
- 2. Serve our neighbor - meet needs, share the Gospel**
- 3. Raise the standard of righteousness - get involved culturally and politically**
- 4. Reap the harvest - transformed lives, transformed culture**

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	<i>Phase One</i>	<i>Phase Two</i>	<i>Phase Three</i>	<i>Phase Four</i>
<b>Leadership/Administration</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify Key Pastors</li> <li>2. Complete Corporate requirements</li> <li>3. Contact Pastor Council Executive Committee (EC) prospects, arrange meetings</li> <li>4. Schedule strategic planning session with Pastoral core group, prospective board</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct meeting with _____ executive committee prospects</li> <li>2. Present mission and organizational plan</li> <li>3. Solicit and confirm commitments from pastors for executive committee</li> <li>4. Schedule strategic planning session</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct strategic planning session with available board members and leaders.</li> <li>2. Prepare budget for plan implementation</li> <li>3. Present plan and budget to key donor prospects</li> <li>4. Secure office space and staff as funding is secured</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement initial strategic plan determined by board.</li> <li>2. Communicate short and long term goals and objectives</li> <li>3. Assess operational progress, establish weekly reporting process to EC and General Council.</li> <li>4. Establish schedule for EC conference calls, meetings.</li> </ol>
<b>Field Operations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire regional Church List</li> <li>2. Communicate with likeminded organizational leaders</li> <li>3. Prepare county/district map with church location overlay</li> <li>4. Identify prospects for Regional Coordinators</li> <li>5. Identify prospects for Prayer Coordinator and team</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement training procedures and timelines for Church Coordinators.</li> <li>2. Complete preparations for pro-family meeting.</li> <li>3. Prepare reporting and assessment materials for all levels of activity.</li> <li>4. Conduct _____ General Council formational luncheon</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Schedule conference call with EC and national leader</li> <li>2. Conduct summit with appointed church coordinators</li> <li>3. Train and support Regional and Church coordinators</li> <li>4. Prepare proposal for fall pastor/ leadership conference</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct contact/follow up with GC members/prospects</li> <li>2. Prepare schedule and process for kickoff pastor events</li> <li>3. Complete draft of church citizenship manual.</li> <li>4. Confirm date, location and agenda for fall pastor/leadership conference</li> </ol>
<b>Communications</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire or prepare Pastor Citizen Action Package</li> <li>2. Establish website, recruit webmaster</li> <li>3. Prepare formational letterhead and related materials</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate development of Web-based communications</li> <li>2. Update and expand Pastor informational materials.</li> <li>3. Prepare plan for weekly e-mail and/or fax communications to leadership.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete initial plan for web-based communications</li> <li>2. Prepare e-newsletter format and schedule</li> <li>3. Establish media parameters and objectives.</li> <li>4. Prepare list of linked ministries and organizations to use as resources and coordinated efforts.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have website online</li> <li>2. Complete and print Pastor/Leader promotional packet</li> <li>3. Test market updated pastor informational materials</li> <li>4. Implement calendar and promotional plan for pastor events.</li> </ol>

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**This plan was produced by:**



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