

ORGANIZING A SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY TEAM (COMMITTEE) IN YOUR CHURCH OR ASSOCIATION

Initial steps:

- Follow procedures for establishing ministry teams (committees) in your individual church or association.
- Write a description of the purpose and responsibilities of this ministry team. [*You may use the qualities and responsibilities listed below for this step.*]
- Recruit individuals who feel a call to this ministry and who share the church's/association's foundational beliefs concerning political issues. (Pray, seek advice from the pastor, staff and other church leaders, or Director of Missions and associational staff, and be prepared to deal with individuals who may be "overly zealous.")
- Have your pastor's vocal support for the ministry team (committee) and his encouragement to church members to participate.
- Select a key individual who is knowledgeable about the issues and enthusiastic about the goals of the team to serve as the chairperson.

Qualities of ministry team members:

- Love for the Lord and His Church, and a strong desire to reach people for Christ.
- Interested in current political and ethical issues, as well as having a knowledge of relevant historical facts that may impact current issues.
- Possess a clear understanding of biblical principles related to current events.
- Passionate about fulfilling Christ's call to be "salt & light" in our culture without being an angry person.
- Not argumentative, but willing to stand up for biblical principles. Is respectful of people with differing views.

Responsibilities of the ministry team (committee):

- Study the moral and ethical issues confronting the local community, state, nation and world. Utilize all available resources, such as the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, ALCAP, the Family Research Council, the Southeast Law Institute and other similar state and national organizations.
- Keep the church/associational staff and members of the local congregation(s) informed. This can be done through church/association publications (printed and electronic), email (Constant Contact or similar mass email systems), social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and personal sharing within the church/association (speaking to classes and small groups, handouts, bulletin inserts, etc.).
- Develop a strategy for calling staff and church members to action. Work with the pastor/DOM and other staff to establish guidelines for when and how the ministry team (committee) will ask the congregation(s) to take action (make calls to law-makers, petitions, etc.).
- Provide training opportunities for members. Teach small group classes on the importance of Christians and churches being involved in the culture through active engagement, using the arts, writing editorials, running for office, speaking to civic clubs, etc.
- Pray for the local community, the state, the nation and the world. Pray specifically for public leaders and pray in times of crisis. Lead church members in special prayer meetings (i.e., National Day of Prayer, local elections, legislative session, etc.). Make sure that issues and leaders are placed on the church prayer list.
- Look for opportunities to share Christ through cultural involvement. Ask, "How can we take this opportunity to share the Gospel with individuals?"
- Sponsor a voter registration drive prior to every election.

