



Community Impact

A TEAM PLAYBOOK & RESOURCE MANUAL

IGNITE

BUILD TO SUSTAIN

HOW TO ESTABLISH A MINISTRY AT YOUR CHURCH

INFORM | IGNITE | IMPACT

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Organize the Members

Team structure is first determined by size. In a small church, the Team may not be much larger than you; but if there are many interested people, the group may decide to organize either functionally or topically. If folks have general concerns and specific skills, you may divide labor functionally with roles such as team leader, researcher, communicator, event coordinator, and intercessor. If you have more people with specific concerns and general skills, you may divide labor topically under issue categories, such as abortion, sex education, religious freedom, etc.

Most groups incorporate both function and topic into their organization. Because three of your four fundamental responsibilities entail gathering and disseminating information, it makes sense that you have people with gifts in those areas. Someone must have the duty of leading the group and serving as a liaison to the pastor or one the pastoral staff. Someone needs to keep up to date on the issues. There also ought to be someone with writing skills in the group, since you will often need to present your information in written form (social media, bulletin announcements, webpages, newsletters, etc.).

Specifically, this section includes some suggestions toward establishing team roles and job descriptions for team members.

Leadership
Information Management
Communication
Mobilization
Strategy
Prayer Support

Sample Team Member Job Descriptions

Leadership: Under the leadership of the pastor, the Team leader will be responsible for directing the team to accomplish the Community Impact Team's mission of defending and advancing faith, family, and freedom. The Team leader will prioritize mission tasks, administrate team personnel, and oversee allocation of budget resources.

Skill Set: Must be able to see the big picture, good communicator/vision caster, organizer, and encourager.

Information Management: These Team members will primarily do research on local, state, and national moral issues and share information with Team members in strategy meetings for further dissemination to the congregation and community. They will also assist the pastor by providing essential data regarding key issues and submitting written recommendations regarding key issues that might warrant public (i.e., pulpit) exposure. The goal is to provide the pastor with concise, brief, and well-written information about the issues for prayerful consideration.

Skill Set: Must be tech savvy, conversant with movement websites, and able to prioritize multiple issues.

Communications: These Team members will handle e-mail and text network and social media messaging as well as statements, releases, articles, editorials, interviews, and advertising. They will also assist the pastor with coordinating and executing local and/or regional events, conferences, rallies, keynote addresses, campaigns, etc.

Skill Set: Must be good at written and verbal communication.

Mobilization: These team members will encourage grassroots participation and involvement in general mission tasks, such as signing up for the e-mail or text networks, petition drives, church-based, non-partisan voter registration, etc. However, there will also be encouragement toward involvement in pregnancy support centers, school board meetings, community prayer emphases, civil government gatherings, public office, service projects that show the love of Jesus in practical ways, etc. This will not only include enlistment of local church members, but also reaching out to other like-minded churches and Christian leaders in the area.

Skill Set: Must be a people person, good communicator, and not afraid to ask, enlist, delegate, and manage.

Strategy: All team members will be expected to help develop creative strategies for equipping the local church both to understand the critical moral issues and to engage their culture and community with biblical values.

Regarding the formal relationship of the Team to the church, a lot depends on your type of church government. In general, these committees tend to fall under the umbrella of Christian Education/Adult Ministries (since education and discipleship are essential) or Missions/Outreach (since social action is so closely related to evangelism). Discussion with the pastor should provide direction on how the Team is to fit into the organization of the church.

Prayer Support: This team member will be responsible for leading the team in prayer for their efforts as well as recruiting a team of intercessors to pray. If the church does not have a prayer room or dedicated prayer ministry, this would be a good person to lead that effort. Of course, praying for government would be a vital part of this ministry (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Skill Set: Feels called as an Intercessor and demonstrates that calling.

DEVELOP A BUDGET

Ministry takes money. Churches launching a CIT should consider committing a budget line item to facilitate the ministry. Basically, entry level churches may want to start with 1% of undesignated receipts or a set amount. Intermediate level churches may want to add another 1% for the state Family Policy Council (or like-minded state-wide group). Advanced level churches could add yet another 1% designated for the national Family Research Council.

In other words, a model formula would be as follows:

- 1% for the local church Community Impact Team
- 1% for the state Family Policy Council (or Comparable Group).
- 1% for the national Family Research Council

Again, these are only suggestions. Churches may want to designate a dollar amount or even give higher percentages. It is up to each local church as to what investment they are willing to make in order to make a positive impact on the community and culture.

BEGIN STRATEGY MEETINGS

Again, size and structure play a large role in how your strategy meetings will be handled. In general, you may wish to start with a meeting every other week. Some CITs might meet as often as once a week, but at least once a month. The internet has made group communication without physical meetings more possible than in the past. The Lord's blessing and guidance should be invoked at the beginning of every gathering, and the essence of what takes place should be recorded by someone acting as secretary. These minutes should be kept on file for future reference, and a report should be sent to the pastoral staff.

Prepare an agenda beforehand in respect for your own time and that of your fellow Team members. It should always allow time for prayer, review of the minutes from the previous meeting, updates on current issues and projects, discussion of pending issues, and prayerful planning of action items for the church. In discussing information brought to the meetings, small groups may wish to proceed informally. However, larger groups may find it helpful to consult a meeting guideline, such as the popular *Roberts' Rules of Order*.



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