



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Ambassador Network

Purpose: To develop authentic, redemptive relationships between Bible-believing pastors and elected officials who serve in statewide and local offices. We want the pastors in our state to view our Capitol in Madison and their local seat of government as mission fields.

Rationale: Recognizing that government is ordained of God and that its primary functions are to reward those who do right and punish those who do evil (Romans 13; I Peter 2:13-17); believing that elected officials are ministers of God who are given to us for our good (Romans 13:4); remembering that God's standard for rulers is that they must be just, ruling in the fear of God (II Samuel 23:3); mindful that rulers and all that are in authority are to be a special focus of prayer by God's people (I Timothy 2:1-2); believing that God would have all men to come to saving faith (I Timothy 2:4) and that our witness must include our own Jerusalems (Acts 1:8; cf. Jeremiah 29:7); recognizing that pastors have unique spiritual authority (Hebrews 13:17; cf. I Samuel 9:6); and believing that those who govern need the spiritual authority and influence of pastors in their lives, just as David needed a Nathan, Nebuchadnezzar needed a Daniel, etc.

Proposal: Wisconsin Family Council will initiate and facilitate the engagement of Bible-believing pastors¹ from all over our state to meet on a regular basis with elected officials in our state Capitol and/or in their home districts. While the legislature is in session, our goal is ultimately to have pastors in the Capitol at least three days each week—*e.g.*, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, legislative schedule permitting—with some pastors being there once or twice during the legislative session, some once a month, and some weekly; that every pastor seek out at least one opportunity per year to meet with his state representative and state senator in their home district when the legislature is not in session; and that pastors also seek to connect with their local officials several times a year.

¹ For the purposes of this ministry we will understand "Bible-believing pastor" to be one who subscribes at a minimum to the National Association of Evangelicals Statement of Faith: *"We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ."* [As adopted by the National Association of Evangelicals.]

The goals of these meetings are:

1. Establish a relationship with one or more legislators;
2. Discover how to pray for the legislator and his/her family, and his/her work in the legislature, and his/her staff;
3. Pray for the legislator one on one, if possible, while at the capitol, and commit to praying for the legislator privately and as a church family on a regular basis, preferably at least weekly;
4. Be prepared to offer the legislator appropriate biblical counsel or guidance, if/when asked for, and as opportunity allows;
5. Offer guidance on issues of interest to the pastor or where the pastor has special expertise (*e.g.*, sanctity of life, drug addiction, racial reconciliation, etc.), again, if/when asked for.
6. In all of this, our intention is that pastors focus on developing authentic relationships with our state legislators **apart from any political or policy agenda.**

The primary goal of the Church Ambassador Network (CAN) is to demonstrate the love of Christ and to share the light of the gospel. If this established redemptive relationship opens the door and/or lays a foundation for giving input on the moral issues of the day (sanctity of life, gambling, transgender ideology, the nature of marriage, addictions, racial reconciliation, immigration, etc.), that will be viewed as a blessing and welcomed opportunity. However, this must always be viewed as a secondary (though positive) outcome.

The primary purpose is to develop as much as possible authentic, redemptive relationships with the legislator; pray with and for the legislator, his/her family and his/her staff; ultimately, share the gospel with the legislator who is not a Christian; encourage the legislator who is a Christian. As it relates to coming to the Capitol, we want pastors to view that as similar to taking a short-term missions trip.

We cannot emphasize too strongly that this endeavor is non-partisan, non-political, non-policy in nature and that the party currently “in power” is irrelevant to this initiative. Our challenge is for the Bible-believing pastors in our state to view the Capitol as a mission field. Our assumption is that pastors care about the lost and will be excited about this opportunity to personally connect with, pray with and for elected officials and will earn the right to share the gospel with them as a result of developing authentic redemptive relationships. There is no hidden political agenda here. If policy or political issues arise as a natural consequence of an established relationship, that is fine. But that is explicitly not the goal and intent of this initiative.

Addressing the issues of the day should only be done after a relationship is established and when such input is appropriate or sought.

While we want pastors to connect with the state representative and state senator representing his community, they certainly are not limited to connecting only with their own elected officials. Further, we encourage pastors to intentionally plan to meet with their representatives and senators in their home districts when the legislature is not in session.

While the focus of the CAN is on developing redemptive relationships with state legislators, we further hope (as touched on above) that an outgrowth of the CAN is pastors/churches initiating and developing redemptive relationships with their local elected officials (Mayor, alders, county supervisors, etc.)