

3Ps of Ministering to Leaders in Your Community

BY STEVE WEAVER

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The 3Ps of Ministering to Leaders in Your Community

by Steve Weaver

It is accepted as a basic truism that we live in contentious times politically. Some have even argued that there has never been a more polarized time in our history. Historians of the political history of the United States will be quick to point out other periods that were similarly acrimonious. What if I were to tell you that there is a way to be involved in the political process in your local county that is non-combative and will produce far more important and lasting changes than any of our angry social media posts or protests?

When I began serving at the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort in October of 2015, I was immediately amazed at the open doors available for ministry. When I was appointed through Capitol Commission, I became convicted that I should have been doing this ministry even before the appointment. This conviction came as I realized that as a Christian, indeed as a pastor, in the city where the state

capitol exists, I should have considered that a part of my ministry anyway. I believe similar doors of ministry exist in our local cities and all our 120 counties in Kentucky. These open doors are in our local city and county governments. Let me share what I do in our state capitol and how I believe this can be replicated across our state by virtually anyone reading this article.

The ministry that I have in Frankfort is threefold; it is a ministry of presence, prayer, and proclamation.

A Ministry of Presence

First, the ministry that I do at our state capitol is a ministry of presence. This is, of course, foundational. In October 2015, I just started showing up—walking around the capitol and the annex building introducing myself and getting to know the people serving in these buildings. Then, I kept showing up—attending committee meetings, walking the halls, hanging out in the cafeteria, sitting in the galleries of the House and Senate, visiting offices, making appointments, etc. All of these helped

me to become known and to get to know the various individuals that work at the capitol. This was essential to have an effective ministry at the capitol. I had to be seen and they need to know why I was there—namely for the ministries of prayer and proclamation described below.

I believe this can be replicated in your city or county governments as well. Just start showing up to city council and county commissioner meetings. Go with absolutely no agenda but to get to know the people serving in local government. Introduce yourself to the elected officials and to the staff and let them know why you are there. Sadly, the only times that Christians usually show up at these meetings is when we are upset about something. By simply being there as a positive witness, you will make a huge impact already. They will learn your heart is to care for them and pray for them and they will appreciate that.

A Ministry of Prayer

One of the primary purposes of the ministry of presence is to have a ministry of prayer. As I

go around the capitol each week, I'm constantly asking people how I can pray for them. In a 30 minute span a couple of weeks ago I received prayer requests for three special needs from legislators and staff and had the opportunity to pray for those needs with the individuals. When the legislators see me in the halls or in the galleries of the House and Senate chambers, they know that I am there to pray for them.

Likewise, this ministry can be replicated in your local context. Just show up to your county and city meetings and pray. Purpose not to voice any opinions about any of the topics discussed. There is a place for Christians to be vocal about issues discussed in these meetings. It is an important civic duty, but if you take on this role that will not be your calling. Your calling will be to remain neutral on the political issues in order that you might minister to the spiritual needs of those serving. God will bless your discipline in this area with many opportunities to minister.

Ministry of Proclamation

Finally, the ministry that I do in Frankfort is a ministry of proclamation. I am there to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ in an uncompromising way. I have found that I can be amazingly bold on the trustworthiness of Scripture and the exclusivity of Jesus Christ when I do not muddy the waters with political issues. My goal is that if someone is to be offended it will be because of the gospel of Jesus Christ and not for my views on a political issue. I do a weekly Bible study with legislators and staff. I also minister and counsel to individuals regarding spiritual matters. I share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all.

You may not be a preacher, many of you are not, but this ministry can also be duplicated by you. You don't have to do a Bible study, but if you are faithful with the ministry of presence and prayer, there will be doors of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ opened for you. Instead of having to go to them, they will be coming to you with questions. When they ask a question about the biblical view on a particular issue, don't be afraid to share

with them and to give them resources to help them think through an issue. Always be charitable with how you deal with these issues, especially with those that are not crystal clear in Scripture.

Conclusion

I would love to see this ministry spread over our 120 counties in Kentucky. If that happened imagine the impact that we could have on the leaders of our state. Additionally, many of these city and county officials will go on to hold state and national offices. This ministry has the potential for ripple effects for decades to come. Please consider this valuable ministry to leaders.

You may also find the Capitol Commission, Inc. prayer tool very helpful. It is an interactive tool giving you prayer suggestions and providing information for all legislators in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

www.pray1tim2.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Since 2008, Steve Weaver has served as the senior pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Frankfort, KY. He and his wife, Gretta, have been married for twenty-five years and have been blessed with six children ranging in age from 9 to 21 years old.

Steve is a graduate of Liberty University (Bachelor of Science) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity, Doctor of Philosophy). Steve completed a PhD in Church History under the supervision of Dr. Thomas J. Nettles. His dissertation focused on the life and thought of the seventeenth-century English Particular Baptist pastor, Hercules Collins. During his time at Southern, Steve worked closely with Dr. Michael A.G. Haykin, serving as a teaching and administrative assistant with the Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies at Southern. He currently serves as a senior fellow for the Andrew Fuller Center.

Steve has served as an adjunct professor at California Baptist University, North Greenville University, Boyce College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has also served as a visiting instructor for the Center for Pioneer Church Planting. Steve also serves as a fellow for the Center for Baptist Renewal.

Steve is the author of *Orthodox, Puritan, Baptist: Hercules Collins (1647-1702) and Particular Baptist Identity in Early Modern England (Vandenhoek & Ruprecht, 2015)* and the co-author/editor of four other works. Steve is also the author of numerous articles published in books and journals. In his spare time, Steve enjoys watching baseball and reading.

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