

## PURPOSE

The purpose of these parameters and guidelines for social, political and legislative issues is to validate that our primary purpose is teaching God's Word, sharing the salvation message, discipling believers, worshipping Jesus Christ and mobilizing the church to actively serve Him. It is essential that our primary purpose not be diluted in the pursuit of secondary activities—large or small. In the spirit of the "What would Jesus do?" philosophy, we need to be wise leaders as we are prompted to consider non-essential activities on campus without distracting worship or diluting the message.

## GOAL

Recognizing that God wants His disciples to be good citizens and to be salt and light in our world, it is our goal to encourage every believer to honor Christ as good citizens.

1. To EDUCATE all disciples in a Christian worldview and a biblical understanding of key moral issues being faced in today's culture.
2. To INFORM our members concerning legislative issues which clearly relate to the major moral issues.
3. To ENCOURAGE the church to speak when our government is considering such issues.
4. To TEACH our members how to respond with an attitude of respect, gentleness and an uncontentious spirit as called for by Titus 3:1–7 and 1 Peter 2:13–17.
5. To FACILITATE and support ministries of compassion, good works and evangelism in the arena of moral and social concerns, including but not limited to:
  - a. Pro-life
  - b. Prison Ministry
  - c. Food Fund and Clothes Closet
  - d. Teen Mom Program

## PARAMETERS

The consequence of the current review of social, political and legislative activities is that our primary purpose dictates that some moral issues demand our pro-active involvement while most should remain off campus. With this basic understanding, the following generic lists define what are considered appropriate and inappropriate on-campus activities.

## CURRENT APPROVED ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

1. Utilizing a portion of the facility as a polling place for elections.

2. Allowing voter registration to be conducted for a few weeks prior to election dates. (A non-partisan atmosphere must be maintained throughout the process.)
3. Certain moral issue-based petitions can be circulated on the Plaza or in adult fellowships following Elder Board or appointed committee approval. Certain issues will dictate a high profile or pro-active position and may receive churchwide notification (based on elder/pastor decision) in *Newsbreak* or via a PowerPoint announcement on Sunday mornings. A firm limit on how often the church will take a pro-active position (less than 12 weeks per year) is necessary to refrain from inundating the church with distractions. Full endorsement will be limited to only the most demanding and moral issues.
4. Guidelines encourage presentations (classroom setting, non-Sunday morning timing) to provide Scripture-based teaching on the Christian worldview in context with current activities. These could and should include such topics as:
  - a. Sanctity of life
  - b. Sanctity of marriage
  - c. Abstinence regarding pre- or extra-marital sex
  - d. Ethics
  - e. Bio-ethics
  - f. Homosexuality
  - g. Other topics approved by the elders or committee

The Elder Board and senior staff reserve the option to review other topics and assign an appropriate status.

## ACTIVITIES THAT ARE NOT APPROVED

1. Petitions are not to be circulated on the campus or on the Plaza without prior elder/committee approval.
2. Distribution of voter tabloids or presentations of candidates' positions or voting records for purposes of influencing church members' voting patterns are prohibited due to:
  - a. The focused agenda of most of these materials.
  - b. FEFC's current lack of resources to validate the presentations.Distributing them on campus leaves the congregation with the false or misleading impression that the church leaders fully endorse the candidates or issues consistent with the tabloid. Voters are encouraged to complete an independent analysis.
3. Aggressive pursuit of signatures from worshipers coming to or leaving the worship center is prohibited, as it does not respect the prayerful preparation of worshipers prior to the service nor how the Lord may be speaking to them as they leave.



4. On-campus forums or debates for active social, political or legislative issues are viewed as inappropriate. As the resources are not available to review and “referee” such forums or debates, they are not appropriate for on-campus activities, because they would carry the perception of “church approved or endorsed” regardless of their actual content. This form of presentation is best suited for a college campus or an environment other than a church.

The Elder Board and senior staff reserve the option to review other topics and assign an appropriate status.