



African American Faith Leader

“In It to Win It”

Prophetic Voices, Prophetic Partnerships,
Prophetic Victories!!



African American Ministers Leadership Council (C3) and African American Ministers In Action (C4)

- Since 1994 represents African American men and women faith leaders – clergy, pastors, theologians, seminarians, ministers
- Represents the 8 major African American denominations and mainstream religious bodies such as UCC and United Methodist
- Represents 21st Century Liberation/Transformative Theology
- Represents a revived prophetic voice for the progressive movement
- Represents true faith in action

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A Project of People For the American Way Foundation

Exodus 17: 8-13

Moses said to Joshua,
*“Choose us some men and go out,
fight with Amalek...”*(v9)

REALIZE

At election time, our relationship with those in office or considering a run for office as Pastors and Ministry Leaders is about knowing your IRS tax status. Your church or worship center is NOT a:

- 527 - A group is permitted to accept contributions in any amount from any source. They are exempt from federal income tax on contributions received but they are required to report their funding and expenditures to the Internal Revenue Service. These unregulated contributions are frequently referred to as soft money. Because 527 organizations are not regulated by the Federal Elections Commission, they may not make expenditures to directly advocate the election or defeat of any candidate for federal elective office. They also may not coordinate their activities with any candidate's campaign. 527s are permitted to undertake non-prohibited political activities such as voter mobilization efforts and issue advocacy.

(source: IRS.gov)

Your church or worship center is NOT a 501 (C) 4:

- Many of the most visible and politically active nonprofit organizations in the United States are classified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as 501(c)(4) social welfare groups. The National Rifle Association, the National Organization for Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Sierra Club, for example, are classified as 501(c)(4) organizations and are active participants in the nation's public policy process. They lobby for and against legislation, get issues on policymakers' radar screens, and educate and mobilize the public around election time as long as campaigning is not the organization's primary purpose. Contributions to 501(c)(4) organizations are not deductible as charitable contributions.

Your church or worship center IS a 501 (c) 3:

- 501(c)(3) tax exemptions apply to corporations, and any community chest, fund, or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, educational purposes, to foster national or international amateur sports competition, promote the arts, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. It provides a deduction, for federal income tax purposes, for some donors who make charitable contributions. 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

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“...Tomorrow I will take my stand with the rod of God in my hand ...” (v9)

EMBRACE

Being:

- “Trusted Voices”
- Tax Payers, Parents, Voters
- Positioned for Influence
- Important to the Community
- Gifted With Discernment
- Motivated by Values
- Intellectually Informed



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“And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed” (v11)

SEEK



- Public Policy (Issue) opportunities to provide voter education, not voter direction
- Pulpit opportunities to encourage VOTING (not who to vote for, but to VOTE)
- Pew opportunities to connect with evangelism, outreach, missions ministry through distribution of flyers announcing time for polls opening, rides, election watch events
- People opportunities to engage the community through a GOTV rally, prayer vigil on Monday, November 1
- Poll, precinct turn out goal of 100% of voting age members
- Power through support and participation

*“...and when he let down his hand, because they became heavy, the enemy prevailed.”
(v11)*



PREPARE

To relieve “heaviness” :

- “Do not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

Source: DC Bar Pro Bono Program (January 2008)



Also to relieve heaviness...

- Do not speak in your “official” capacity
- Do not speak as a representative “on behalf of” your church (photo op, letters, flyer, Facebook)
- Invite ALL legally qualified candidates to your events





The IRS Advises ...

- that “ministers and others who commonly speak or write on behalf of religious organizations should clearly indicate, at the time they do so, that public comments made by them in connection with a political campaign are strictly personal and are not intended to represent their organization.”

Lastly, to relieve heaviness ...



- “Religious leaders (pastors, deacons, trustees, etc.) cannot use the pulpit to advocate a certain message on behalf of a political candidate (or party) during an official religious service.”
- Cannot say who to vote for, but can say **VOTE!**

*“so they took a stone and put it under him,
and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur
supported his hands, one on one side, and
the other on the other side ...” (v12)*

ENCOURAGE

On Sunday before Election Day, **DO** bring forth church unity in a non-partisan voter participation atmosphere with messages Of support for/from:

- Youth Ministry (1st Time Voters)
- Family Life Ministry (Family Values Voters)
- Mothers/Seniors Ministry (Legacy Builders)
- Adult/Young Adult Ministry (Early Voters)
- Outreach/Evangelism Ministry (Election Day Volunteers)
- Transportation Ministry (Election Day Road Trips)
- Discipleship Ministry (VESSELS Voting)



V.E.S.S.E.L.S.

- **V**ote with a vision and values in mind for the environment, schools, families, jobs, a better city, a better county, a stronger state!
- **E**quip self and others with a spirit of “light to shine out of darkness”!
- **S**trengthen the presence of church and community at every precinct!
- **S**tand and support the democratic process!
- **E**ncourage and embrace power to make wise decisions about who should represent in the state house, the Governor’s mansion and the halls of Congress.
- **L**eave excuses and apathy at home - know vote does count in every election!
- **S**tep into the voting booth, pause, pray, give thanks for the opportunity to speak with clarity, cast vote and give praise for good stewardship of one of God’s many blessings – the right to vote!

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*“... and his hands were steady until the going down
of the sun.” (v13)*

CELEBRATE

- Purpose
 - Equip and Empower
- Provisions
 - Information and Education
- Process
 - From Fear to Fearless
 - All Things Are Possible
- Problems Solved
 - Election Protection
 - From Powerless to Powerful
- Product
 - Full Church Participation
 - Prophetic Voices, Prophetic Partnerships, Prophetic Victories



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“So Joshua defeated the Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.” NKJV (v13)

Tell Others

A SAMPLE PRAYER FOR COURAGE

- Father, let nothing I have done or said get in the way of hearing my prayer for courage on election day to get up, get out, and go vote. Lord I pray that You will grant me the courage to stand in the voting booth for those who can't, with those who are, for my values and speak with my vote. Sometimes I feel cast down in times like these, "but we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power maybe of You and not of us ... We are hard pressed... not crushed... perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed." My hope and my trust is in You. I am a vessel filled with power . Thank You for leading the way from the pulpit to the pews to the people to the polls, for the victory of this day, in Jesus name. Amen.

TAKE NOTE

Realize

Embrace

Support

Prepare

Encourage

Celebrate

Tell Others: When “In It to Win It” RESPECT

Prophetic Voices (Policy - Pulpit), Prophetic Partnerships (Pew-People) in order to have Prophetic Victories (Polls – Power)!!



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merican Religious Affairs
A Ministry of Civic Engagement & Social Justice