

# CHRISTIANS ENGAGED AREA LEADER TOOLKIT

The overarching goal of our efforts at Christians Engaged is to assist fellow Christians in forming a lifestyle habit of **Prayer, Voting and Engagement** by connecting them to **The Pledge** and then plugging them into our **Educational Seminars (On-Demand Video Curriculum and In-Person Seminars)**. Our Area Leaders are an integral part of attaining this goal.

This Area Leader Tool Kit will give you all the information and tools you will need to become an effective and active Area Leader with Christians Engaged (CE).

## AREA LEADERS | REQUIREMENTS

1. Fill out the [Volunteer Form](#) on our website and make a note on it that you would like more information about becoming an Area Leader with Christians Engaged.
2. Be a Christian who lives and follows Jesus according to the Bible.
3. [Take the Pledge to Pray, Vote & Engage](#)
4. Read through and sign off on our organization's [Doctrinal Statement](#) and our [Code of Conduct](#). Please send your agreement to these by simply emailing [shelly@christiansengaged.org](mailto:shelly@christiansengaged.org) with these words, *"I agree with the doctrinal statement and the Code of Conduct to be an area leader with Christians Engaged."*
5. Go through our On-Ramp to Civic Engagement Class either online or in person. *(See below for a way for you to take this class for free.)*
6. Be approved by the CE leadership via a telephone or Zoom interview.
7. We request that you *attend the monthly Area Leader Zoom meeting* as often as possible. Email reminders will be sent out each month for these meetings with the Zoom meeting link included. Typically, these meetings are on the first Thursday of each month and last an hour.
8. We ask that you complete an activity with Christians Engaged at least once every 6 months.
  - For example, host a class, network for the ministry, host an in-home meet-and-greet, work a CE table at a community event, write a blog post, or volunteer at our annual conference.
9. We ask that you be faithful to what you say you will do and represent the organization with honor and integrity.

## HOSTING A CHRISTIANS ENGAGED VIDEO COURSE

Our **Area Leaders Program** empowers individuals to take the ministry of Christians Engaged into their community by **hosting our video classes for free**. *(For our Area Leaders we waive the small group fee of \$99 per course.)*

### How do you host a Christians Engaged class?

1. Find a venue *(your home, a friend's home, your church, a group room at your favorite bookstore or library, etc.)*



2. Book it once a week for 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 8 weeks, or 12 weeks, depending on the class
3. Reach out to CE to set up a registration web page for your event. We will need the venue name, address, dates, times, and your contact information.
4. Grab some friends!! Invite people. (*Aim for 20-30 commitments. Only half are likely to stay committed.*)
5. Get the registration list from CE leadership. Also print off a hard-copy registration sheet for those who show up without pre-registering.
6. Print off the handouts for the videos you are playing. (*Have 5 more than the number of people you are expecting.*)
7. Create a welcoming environment:
  - a. Greet everyone as they arrive
  - b. Provide simple snacks or beverages (*maybe allot 15 minutes at the beginning for visiting/fellowship*)
  - c. Introduce yourself quickly
  - d. Introduce the video(s) that you will be playing
  - e. Start on-time and end on-time
  - f. Host the class, even if only 2-3 people show up. Stay consistent and energetic! Invest in everyone that God brings to your group!
8. Make sure you have the registration sheet CE provides for your event, and be sure to get the name, address, phone number, and email of everyone who did not pre-register. *This contact info is important!*
9. Press PLAY on the provided CE video of your choice. (*You will access through the hidden website page that we will send you via a computer or you can copy the direct links of the hidden YouTube videos into your YouTube app on your smart TV*)
10. Ask one or two of the discussion questions after each video; listen to what people have to say.
11. Don't feel like you must know the answer to all the questions. You can always say, "I don't know the answer to that – let's research that this week, and I will reach out to CE."
12. Thank them for coming and learning – "So honored that you would do this course with us! Let me know if you have any questions. See you next week!!"
13. During the first class — Explain the mission of Christians Engaged to the students; ask them to take the **PLEDGE** to pray, vote, and engage.
14. After each class:
  - a. Make sure to enter the contact information for all the people who were not pre-registered for your event registration page on the CE website.
  - b. Send your weekly report to Christians Engaged
    - i. What video(s) did you cover in your class this week?
    - ii. How many people attended?
    - iii. Can we help answer any questions that came up or what was something that happened that you want to share with us?
15. During the last class — Explain the mission of Christians Engaged again, and let the participants know that we need their help in order to give away these classes. "A donor gave us the funds to do this class for free — would you pay it forward and sponsor the next class? Would you please consider becoming a monthly donor or making a one-time gift to Christians Engaged?" Guide them to the CE website ([christiansengaged.org](http://christiansengaged.org)) and the **DONATE PAGE**



and you can also collect checks for us. Mail all checks to Christians Engaged, P.O. Box 472655, Garland, TX 75047. If you receive any cash, you can turn it into a money order or cashier's check and send it to the ministry. *(If you can plan ahead, reach out to Shelly and see if Bunni Pounds or Shelly Grandpre can address the class on a phone or a Zoom connection during the final class)*

16. During the last class – Ask the students if they would consider becoming an Area Leader themselves and hosting this class or another one. Then the cycle can repeat! This is how we reach the world. *(// Timothy 2:2 & Matthew 28:18-20)*

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOSTING A COURSE

We have created an information flyer for each class, sample invitations (for email and text messages), and a registration sheet. All classes that are available On-Demand on our website are classes you can lead in your group. We will provide you with a special link to all the videos, handouts, and discussion questions.

We are asking you for a time commitment of 3-4 hours/week:

- 1½ to 2 hours for the class
- ½ hour before and ½ hour after class for set up and clean up
- ½ hour to follow up with attendees, send out reminder messages during the week, and check in with CE staff on how the class is going/attendance/registration

### Sample email or text messages:

- “Hi [Name], I'd like to personally invite you to join me for an exciting class I'll be facilitating! It's a video course by Christians Engaged called [*On-Ramp to Civic Engagement — or whichever course you're scheduling*], and we'll learn how we can apply Biblical principles to civics! It's a great way to love our neighbors, and I'd love for you to join us! The course will start on [*Date and Time*] and will be facilitated every week until [*Ending Date*]. This class is usually \$29 per student, but as an Area Leader with Christians Engaged, I can put this class on for FREE, and I would love for you to come! Check out all the information on the class here [*link to webpage with all the information on the class and registration link*]. What do you think? Do you think you can come?” [*Sign your name*]
- “Hi [Name] – so great having you at our class on [*Wednesday — or whichever day you met!*] Thanks for coming, and for your input in the discussion. Looking forward to seeing you next week!! See you then.”

### Available Courses

- *On-Ramp to Civic Engagement* (Host for 6 weeks in a 2-hour to 1 ½ time frame; or host for 12 weeks in a 1-hour time frame)
- *Salt & Light: How to Impact our Local Communities* (Host for 8 weeks in a 1½-hour time frame)
- *Austin 101 (Covers Texas Legislature only - Host for 3 weeks in a 1-hour time frame)*
- *More Coming Soon...*

**Final encouragement: Hosting a group is such a great opportunity!**



- You get to make a difference by sharing these powerful classes
- You get to develop relationships with those in the classes
- You get to represent Christians Engaged
- You get to help us raise support and find new leaders

*“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” (II Timothy 2:2)*

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

## **ADDITIONAL WAYS AREA LEADERS CAN LEAD AT CHRISTIANS ENGAGED**

1. **PLANNING:** Develop a plan to reach more Christians in your Community. Share your plan with CE Leadership by emailing [info@christiansengaged.org](mailto:info@christiansengaged.org)
2. **OUTREACH:** Develop a list of festivals and events in your community or county where we could have a booth and talk to people. Help plan CE’s involvement.
3. **MENTORING:** Help us by recruiting, organizing, and training volunteers to engage Christians in our mission and also share the gospel when needed. Find other interested young activists and volunteers and mentor and disciple them in Christians Engaged. Connect them to our [website](#) to (1) [TAKE THE PLEDGE](#), (2) [VOLUNTEER](#). Be sure you also get their information as well to keep on file. Make plans to gather them around your kitchen tables or have them volunteer at your side at your local city festival or Christian gathering to get them activated.
4. **NETWORKING:** Help us network with churches and church leaders with whom you may have connections. Help us bring Christians Engaged Leadership Board members and Area Leaders into these churches to motivate and educate them on *prayer, voting and engagement*.
5. **MONDAY MORNING CONVERSATIONS WITH CHRISTIANS ENGAGED:** Participate in our weekly podcast show by joining, commenting and sharing from your own social media account with the CE community online each Monday at 8:30am CST. This helps increase CE’s reach on these social media platforms by positively affecting the algorithms. It’s also a special way to fellowship with other CE supporters and be encouraged in our own lives as we walk with Jesus in our sphere of influence.
6. **BLOGS:** You may write and submit blogs for the Christians Engaged website.
  - a. 300-700 words on a subject related to prayer, voting or engagement (or any combination thereof). These can be devotionals, issues from a biblical perspective, practical instruction for churches or individuals.
  - b. Include at least 2 Scripture references in each post.
  - c. Remember we are a Christian, NON-PARTISAN, non-profit.
  - d. Feel free to vet subjects with us before you start writing them.
  - e. Submit to [info@christiansengaged.org](mailto:info@christiansengaged.org) and we will let you know status within a week or so. They will be put into order based on needs of each month.



- f. You are submitting them to be posted as is, or with edits or changes (with your final approval), or to be sent back if it is not a topic that we want shared on. (Again, feel free to vet topics before you spend a lot of time on a subject.)
7. **VIDEOS:** You may record and submit videos on topics related to prayer, voting or engagement for us to post on our social media accounts.
  - a. Please keep these between :30 and 1 minute in length max.
  - b. Record in HD on your phone or a high-quality camera.
  - c. Be authentic, helpful, and happy!
8. **MINISTRY CONNECTIONS:** On an ongoing basis, be on the lookout for opportunities to build relationships with ministry leaders, pastors, or any group or forum where we can share our mission of prayer, voting and engagement. Our leadership or board members can be speakers or we can back up the pastor by providing our tool – THE PLEDGE – to be used within their church service.
9. **PRAYER CALLS:** If you would like to begin a recurring monthly or weekly prayer conference call with other CE leaders, volunteers, or prayer warriors, feel free to organize this—i.e. praying over your elected officials every Tuesday at 8:00 am. Remind everyone in these groups to make sure they have TAKEN THE PLEDGE and are connecting with us in other ways as well.
10. **SHARING:** As you are led, please share Christians Engaged’s social media posts on your own feed, forward our emails, etc. (Make sure to remove the bottom of the emails, so people don’t UNSUBSCRIBE you.) We are on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Here are some of our promo videos to share with your friends. You can copy and paste them into an email easily from this document:

- [Christians Engaged Mission & Vision Promo Video](#)
- [On-Ramp Promo Video](#)
- [Salt & Light Promo Video](#)

11. **BECOME A VDR:** By being a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) in your county, you can register voters at any gathering. Getting registered to vote is the first step all residents must take to Vote in EVERY election. Click this link to learn more about how to become a [VDR in Texas](#). If you live in another state, google Deputy Voter Registrar for your state and follow their guidelines.

#### HELPFUL VIDEO INSTRUCTION TO TRAIN AREA LEADERS

- [Volunteer / Area Leader Training](#)
- [Information Meeting](#)

**TAKE CREATIVE INITIATIVE:** We want you to take these tools and RUN with them! We welcome new ideas and suggestions and rely on your and the Holy Spirit’s creativity and guidance. There are no dumb ideas!

### A COUPLE OF THINGS TO AVOID AS AN AREA LEADER

- **GOING ROGUE - Speaking:** While we would love to have you represent us by speaking in a public forum, church service, etc., you may NOT speak on behalf of Christians Engaged without prior approval from the GOVERNING BOARD of DIRECTORS – Bunni Pounds, Scott Jones, or



David Halvorson. We want to develop people into these roles and are open to having that conversation with you.

- **GOING ROGUE - Representation:** Because Christians Engaged as an organization does not endorse specific candidates, political parties, or legislation, you may not do so while representing us in an official capacity (i.e., if you're working a Christians Engaged booth at a festival or are on a panel at a church). You of course remain free to do so as an individual in your own time (i.e., on your Facebook page, workplace, with your friends, family, etc.)

**Note:** Because you will be affiliated with us and we seek to foster a culture of honor within the political realm, we ask that you remain mindful of your conduct on your social media pages, with elected officials and candidates, and within party politics. (Keep it Christ-like!). A good guide is "What would Jesus do if he was engaging in politics?"

## TRAINING SCENARIOS FOR WORKING AN EVENT FOR CE

Someone approaches the Christians Engaged tent/table...

-[After greeting them] ASK: "Would you consider yourself a Christian?"

- **If NO**, they are not a Christian, ask: "Is there anything that we can pray with you about?"
  - If YES they want prayer - pray with them (keep it short and to the point) and then share the Time to Revive Gospel Presentation with them
    - SIN, Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
    - DEATH, Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
    - LOVE, Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
    - FAITH, Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
    - LIFE, Romans 10:9-10 – "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
  - If NO - they don't want prayer: do not force, argue, or confront. Just be kind and move on.
- **If YES**, they consider themselves a Christian, ask:
  - "As a Christian, do you believe that we have a responsibility to our culture?"
  - Do you believe that we should pray for our government leaders?"
  - "Are you registered to vote?"
  - "Do you vote?"
  - "Have you considered that EVERY election is important – not just the Presidential elections?"
  - "Can we assist you in any of these areas (with voting, registering, etc.)?"
    - \*Only ask these questions if they are comfortable with a dialogue.*





**Reminder:** We are here to walk with God in prayer, study His Word, and stir each other up to be salt and light in our culture. We are coming from different theology backgrounds and levels of involvement in politics so always be respectful and ask God for love for each other to walk together in the work we are called to do. This CALL that we have in this area is deep, important, and can be full of misunderstandings, so within our groups let's encourage each other to stand firm and keep fulfilling the call of God on our individual lives as it relates to government and the Kingdom.

Contact Shelly Grandpre with any questions: [shelly@christiansengaged.org](mailto:shelly@christiansengaged.org) - 605-216-0699

**CHRISTIANGAGED.ORG**

