



Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

May—June 2025★ Vol. 35, Number 03

Faithful In Their Generation

By
Lauston Stephens

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Christian Action Ministry (CAM) membership has been in a long decline. Also, newsletter readership has been in a long decline. Many other sources of information and news were unavailable when this ministry began. We lack the workforce and resources to conduct other activities that we have undertaken in the past.

The board of Directors has voted to dissolve this 501(c)3 ministry. There are federal regulations governing the dissolution of such a ministry. We have notified our regular financial supporters.

We take this occasion to thank them for their many years of support. We especially mention Vibrant Church in South Burlington, Ignite Church in Wiliston, and Roadside Chapel in Rutland. We are confident that stewardship of the Christian’s civic duties and privileges will continue to be recognized and cultivated in their congregations.

In review, our mission statement reads in part,

“The Christian Action Ministry Network is a group of laymen and women dedicated to informing and involving Christians in issues that affect the spiritual and moral well-being of our communities. The function of the ministry is primarily educational.

“The ministry identifies and researches current issues and trends affecting the family and the Church to develop Christian options and responses. This information is summarized and distributed through the network to other Christians, encouraging individuals to become involved with the issues presented. The ministry recognizes the authority of pastors and priests over their assemblies to use or reject material provided to their Churches.”

Preaching in Antioch, the apostle Paul stated that King David “had in his own generation served the counsel of God.” – Acts 13:36. Several members who were part of CAM when I joined have passed on. They were active in

this ministry as long as they were able, and we can say that they, too, had, in their own generation, served the counsel of God.

Our first newsletter was published in May of 1991. That was a generation ago. This was the very beginning of the popularity of the Internet. Researching issues online was a new thing that very few people attempted. In that sense, CAM was pioneering. When our mailing list was built, only physical mailing addresses were included. Very few people had email addresses, and CAM’s goal was to keep the larger Christian community informed. One newsletter every two months seemed to be sufficient. We stuck with that ministry model while the world continued to change.

Today, nearly everyone has access to more information than they want and can be instantly updated via email or various social media platforms. A newsletter every two months cannot keep pace with the current rate of



Final Articles

change. A younger generation may arise who will attempt a similar ministry specifically to Vermont Christians and how people are living today.

One of the requirements of dissolving a 501(c)3 ministry is that any remaining funds be contributed to another 501(c)3 with a similar purpose. Our dissolution plan is not to have any remaining funds. We are unaware of any other ministry with a mission sufficiently similar to ours, so we will not recommend any particular ministry to replace us in your life. Our website has twenty-three links to other, primarily national, websites. Ours will remain up until November.

Let me close with reflections on my involvement and observations for the next generation.

I do not remember how I got on the mailing list for the newsletter, but every two years, there would be a candidate survey. Twenty questions were asked of candidates for the Vermont legislature. It was all fascinating but useless to me because it was only done for candidates in a few other counties. I joined CAM to provide that for Christians in my county.

I liked that the survey was on a broad range of issues. Legislators face many problems. My view is that citizens should grow beyond being one-issue voters. Christians are told that we are a “royal priesthood” – 1 Peter 2:9. “Noblesse oblige” is a French phrase meaning “the inferred responsibility of privileged people to act with generosity and nobility toward those less privileged.” All Christians, regardless of their social or economic status, are members of the eternal

royal family. In a democracy or democratic republic, civic service can be one avenue of serving the general public. “Do good unto to all...” – Gal. 6:10.

“Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to Yahweh for it; for in the peace of it shall you have peace.” -Jeremiah 29:7 WEB.

Many years ago, a Christian with no previous experience in public service decided to run for Congress. He asked me to be his cam-



paign manager. The center plank of his platform was his opposition to deficit spending. He took out a loan to fund his campaign, so he wasn't practicing what he was preaching. We parted ways. Christians who jump into running or voting are usually reactionary and not acting out of an ethic of public service. Many churches have neglected to teach that. Serving others must go beyond teaching a Sunday school class, ushering, or cleaning the church. We need to think outside of the box with a steeple.

Next generation, is it not true that throughout history, whenever the Bride of Christ goes a-whoring after temporal power, she invariably soils her garments and sullies the gospel? Are you looking back

to consider how to go forward? What are the best goals?

I liked that CAM was a network of Christians from several different congregations and denominations. It has been a privilege to become friends with others across those lines. However, this ministry model has a structural weakness. Our experience has been that when one CAM member died, we did not just lose a member but, in some ways, a whole congregation. Each member used to distribute the newsletter in their home congregation, or it became an insert in the church bulletin. Many congregations have gone digital and no longer have a printed bulletin.

In four of last year's issues, we mentioned the Association of Churches & Ministries sponsored by the Family Research Council. In their ministry model, responsibility for the continued existence of a congregation's “Community Impact Team” resides with the church leadership. Most of the founders of CAM were entrepreneurs, people accustomed to taking initiatives outside the church. That may still be the case, but it is incumbent upon church leaders to see that it is done and that it is done with the right attitudes and goals.

We are planning two more newsletters after this one. If you would like to express how this ministry has served you in some way, please send an email to CAM-netVT@gmail.com. As space allows, we will include them in our final issue.

Lauston Stephens is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland, VT.

Legislative Update & “Tutorial”

by
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The official crossover date for bills introduced in one chamber of the Vermont Legislature was March 14th for general bills and March 21st for “money bills.” All five of the bills discussed in our last issue remain in committee as we go to press. This does not mean that we will never hear of them again.

This is the first year of the legislative biennium. If a bill has been tabled in a committee and there is still a perceived need for the bill, the committee could work on it next year and release it for a second and third reading and a vote. The sole sponsors for bills 75 and 108 are both members of the committees to which the bills were referred after the first reading. They may well speak up for “their” bill next year.

New bills are still being introduced in April, despite being well past the official crossover date by which bills must be passed to the other legislative chamber. We will not be reporting on any of this next year. Perhaps you would like to keep an eye on these or other bills yourself. Here some pointers on how you can do this for yourself.

In a web browser, go to <https://legislature.vermont.gov/> and select the “Bills and Resolutions” drop-

down menu. There are several options. Currently, over 600 bills have been introduced this year. If you know what you are looking for, you can select either [House Bills](#) or [Senate Bills](#). There are fifty bills listed per page. You can index through the pages at the bottom or select “Show All entries.”



When you select the bill you are interested in, it will display the bill's sponsor(s) and status, as well as a link to the text as it was introduced, and possibly as it was passed by one or both chambers.

When reading a bill, a summary of the bill's intent is typically provided at the beginning. This isn't always enough to determine whether you should continue reading. For example, if it reads, “various changes to healthcare payment statutes,” you may want to review the entire bill carefully.

If the bill amends existing statutes, it will display the statute as it currently reads, with a line through

any words to be removed, and any new words will be underlined.

Occasionally, public hearings are held for important or controversial bills. If you choose to participate in public testimony, be prepared for a long day. Depending on where you live, you may drive for hours to get to Montpelier. You may sit for hours waiting for your turn to speak. You may have only two minutes to speak. Leave them with a written copy of your remarks. The legislators also will have had a long day. Some may be just going through the motions, but many will really want to hear from the general public

To contact an individual bill sponsor or a legislator serving on the committee that has possession of the bill, their email addresses can be found by selecting the legislator's name or the committee's name. The legislators are very busy during the session. I would not expect a response.

On the other hand, prayer is always heard.

Lauston Stephens is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland, VT.

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.”

- Pericles, “First citizen of Athens”

Christian Action Ministry (CAM) membership has been in a long decline. Newsletter readership has also been in a long decline. Many other sources of information and news were unavailable when this ministry began, but are now readily available.

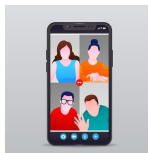
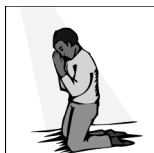
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More details inside.

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Information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

What Can I Do?



***Faith without
works is dead***
James 2:17

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>

✉ **CAM Network, Inc.**
PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

May 13, 7:00 pm

Zoom

June 10, 7:00 P.M.

Zoom

camnetvt@gmail.com
**Email to confirm date and
location**

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**