

My brothers and sisters,

Today, I want to speak to you about something that is not simply a project, not merely an event, and not a temporary program. It is a ministry—a ministry of stewardship, service, and faithful engagement with the community God has entrusted to our care.

The work of voter registration and voter turnout must become a ministry within the life of this church.

Programs come and go. They have beginning dates and ending dates. But ministries are expressions of our calling. Ministries are sustained by prayer, commitment, leadership, and a conviction that what we do matters to God and to future generations.

Throughout Scripture, God's people were called not only to worship within the walls of the temple but to seek the welfare of the city where they lived. The decisions that affect our schools, our neighborhoods, our healthcare, our safety, and our opportunities are shaped by those who show up and participate. Therefore, civic engagement is not merely a political act; it is an act of stewardship and responsibility.

First, this ministry begins with us.

Every eligible member of this congregation should be registered and prepared to vote. We cannot ask our neighbors to do what we are unwilling to do ourselves. We must lead by example. We must teach our children and grandchildren that faithful citizenship is part of loving our neighbor and seeking the common good. Our voices matter, and our participation matters.

Second, this ministry must move beyond the walls of the church and into the streets of our community.

Jesus told His servants in Luke 14:23, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

The spirit of that command is clear. We are called to go where the people are. We are called to invite, encourage, and compel, not by force, but through love, relationship, and conviction. Just as we carry the Gospel into the highways and byways, we must also carry the message of civic responsibility into our neighborhoods, helping our brothers and sisters understand that their voices and their votes have value.

This becomes a form of street ministry where we go where people live, listening to their concerns, helping them overcome fear and apathy, and encouraging them to participate in shaping the future of their families and communities.

Third, this ministry cannot stand alone.

The Body of Christ is larger than any one congregation or denomination. We must work with other churches, other pastors, and other denominations, recognizing that our unity is one of our greatest strengths. We must also partner with community organizations that share a commitment to voter education, registration, and participation. Together, our collective influence is greater than what any single church could accomplish alone.

Builders build together.

When the Church unites with faithful partners and serves the community with one voice, we become a powerful witness, not only of spiritual truth but of responsible stewardship and love for our neighbors.

So today, we are not launching a program. We are establishing a ministry, where we will pray, teach, register, mobilize, encourage, and

serve. A ministry that honors God by loving our neighbors and investing in the future of our children and our children's children.

May we be found faithful, not only in what we believe, but in how we serve the community God has called us to influence.

And let the Church say, Amen.