

Want to grow a Community Marriage Policy in your area?

Here's a handy check-list:

- **Prepare the soil**
 - Pray. Ask God to lead each step.
 - Build trusting relationships with a wide range of pastors.

- **Plant the idea**
 - Share the idea with pastors individually and in small groups.
 - Listen to their feedback. Shape your next steps.
 - Form a steering committee to bring area clergy together.
 - Invite area clergy to a luncheon or other meeting. Present the idea.

- **Cultivate the crop**
 - Form a representative committee to draft a policy.
 - Schedule follow-up meetings for the committee to report back to the others.
 - Come to consensus.

- **Harvest the results**
 - Set up a public signing ceremony. Invite the media.
 - Publicize community resources that help couples prepare for and strengthen their marriages.
 - Implement the policy. Examples: Train marriage mentors; offer workshops on how to administer relationship profiles; teach communications skills.
 - Network pastors and people for prayer, support, and on-going training.
 - Develop objective ways to measure the effectiveness of the policy.
 - Share what God has done in your community with others.