

September 9, 2015

Great Commission Formula

The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee

Introduction:

The wisdom of our founding fathers, although stated in the language of the time, is still driving our vision, even as the generations before us may have focused on different purposes. That vision, then and now, is—**Sharing Jesus, Shaping Lives, and Developing Leaders**. Our founding fathers did this with great courage and great sacrifice. That inspiration has caused us to boldly step forward and deliver that same message to an increasingly hostile world by proclaiming, “**We Teach Truth**” because “**Jesus makes all the difference**”.

Our Challenge:

Our Association congregations are facing changing demographics. This is evident to many of our founding congregations, as they struggle with diminishing membership and influence in their communities. In addition, many of the outlying congregations are also experiencing these effects as the demographics and morality continue to change around them.

Our Future:

We, walking in Synod with each other, have been given a clear directive from our Lord—
Matt 28: 18-20,

“And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and 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”. NKJ

Our mission could not be more honorable or God pleasing—reach and teach the next generation the Good News. Our Schools are an excellent platform to help our congregations accomplish the Lord’s **Great Commission**.

The Board of Directors is requesting our Association to name the new formula the **Great Commission Formula**.

- The future of the LCMS is dependent on today’s young people becoming the church leaders and community leaders of tomorrow;

- The Christian education of our youth should be one of the most important missions of a Lutheran congregation and is a critical step to discipling;
- God is bringing the unchurched to us. Approximately 21 percent of our student population is un-churched or has no church affiliation.

The Great Commission Formula

The foundation of the Great Commission Formula is to “*Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.*” Congregations will use the high schools to “teach and disciple”—not just educate—while working together with the LHSAGM to integrate these unchurched families into the church’s community. The LHSAGM becomes a part of each congregation’s outreach and mission.

The LHSAGM will walk with its member congregations as follows:

- The LHSA commits to providing superior education through “We teach Truth” because “Jesus makes all the difference” with proactive curriculum that focuses on purpose, values, and the internalization of faith.
- The LHSA will continue to model sound stewardship and will operate under a balanced budget.
- The LHSA will, regularly, train LHSAGM teachers and staff to recognize and consistently guard against Spiritual warfare as found in Ephesians 6:10-20 (Full Armor of God).
- The LHSA will report, regularly, on the mission outreach that the LHSAGM is doing.
- The LHSA will provide materials for Lutheran High Sundays: bulletin inserts; choir or band, if available; and preaching, if available.
- The LHSA will send out scholarship / mission commitment reminders to the congregations.
- The LHSA will use the money, given by the Association Churches, to provide a scholarship to their member students, provided the churches are current in their mission dollar giving. The scholarship amount will be determined by the board and delegates in the yearly budget.

The member congregations will walk with the LHSAGM as follows:

- Congregations would view the High Schools as an important mission and consider supporting the LHSAGM in their mission budgets.
- Congregations will be encouraged to hold annual meetings with parents of children, from infant through high school age, to encourage them to participate in a Lutheran elementary and LHSAGM high school, even if the congregation does not have an elementary school.
- Congregations will be encouraged to hold, a minimum of once a year, meetings for parents and grandparents with Thrivent or LCEF underwriters, to discuss a “student tuition savings plan” that will assist with student tuition in the future.
- Congregations will hold a minimum of one Lutheran High School/Lutheran school Sunday per year.
- Congregations will commit to providing the Association with mission dollars equivalent to \$33.25 per baptized member.
- Congregations will invite an LHSAGM representative to report, to the governing councils of the congregation, how their joint mission and ministry of the schools is proceeding each year.

Congregations are able to maintain their Association voting rights by providing mission support dollars equivalent to a minimum of \$33.25 per Baptized member.

Governance

The governance of the association will stay the same with the current member congregations, in good standing, continuing as the voting body.

Association voting members will commit to supplying a minimum of \$33.25 per baptized member.

Key voting rights include approval of LHSA budgets, Association membership, determining the members of the Board of Directors, article and governance changes, and disposition of properties.

Grandfathered Circumstances

Congregations that will have their formula based on worshipping attendance are: Benediction; Bethany; Hope; Mission of Christ; St. Peter Immanuel; and Berea.

Trinity, Friestadt, will continue to contribute 1/3 of the formula to the Association. St Paul's, Oconomowoc, will continue to be a tithing congregation. All others will be based on Baptized membership.

Special Circumstances

There will be no special circumstances.

If a congregation cannot maintain a minimum of \$33.25 per baptized member for a three month period of time, they will be put on probationary status. The church on probationary status will lose its voting rights until they have brought themselves current.

If, after six months, the church has not been able to bring itself current, it will be withdrawn from the Association.

If a congregation is 30 days in arrears at the end of a semester, the student's church scholarship will be removed from the upcoming semester until the congregation is current.

Implementation Timeline

Model is to be implemented on July 1, 2016. Each congregation's mission dollars will be calculated on June 1st of each year.