

MidSouth District Great Commission Award

Form to be completed by each pastor in preparation for the District Assembly

The Great Commission...

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

– Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV)

Perspective...

The effectiveness of a church must be measured in light of the mission to which Jesus has called His followers.

The mission of the MidSouth District is *Resourcing Local Churches for Effective Participation in the Great Commission*. In order to measure the effectiveness of the district RESOURCING ministries should be evaluated.

The mission of the local church is found in the Great Commission, so to measure the effectiveness of a local church ministries that target components of the GREAT COMMISSION should be evaluated.

Therefore, the things measured for indications of effectiveness in the local church must emerge from the GREAT COMMISSION.

1. Live under the LORDSHIP/AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ

This expresses itself in allegiance to the Church. One of the ways the congregations on the MidSouth District express the Lordship of Jesus is through partnership with each other, the MidSouth District, the Southeast Region, and the Global Church of the Nazarene.

In addition, discipleship is all about following the Rabbi/Teacher. Disciples were always tied to the One in Authority. They (Disciples) followed HIM. So, implied in the Great Commission is the reality of following Jesus where *He* goes — to the poor, disenfranchised, widows, orphans, grieving, those suffering injustice and discrimination, the lost, the lonely, the least, and the left out.

One of the measurements of effectiveness for the church focus on how the church enfleshes/incarnates the Word — becomes the hands and feet of Christ. This is expressed in ministries related to righteousness and justice, the poor, widows, orphans, foreigners, and immigrants.

Engaged in Compassionate Ministries through...

☐ Participation in Compassionate Ministries

Contribution to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries \$ _____

Partnership with a Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Center (Name: _____)

What are the compassionate ministries with which your church engages (list them)?

What percentage of family units have participated in Compassionate Ministries? _____

How many hours have people from the church served in a Compassionate Ministry? _____

☐ P&B Allocation Paid in Full (Widows, Widowers, Orphans)

Finance – What percentage of family units tithe? _____ (use best judgement to determine if a person's giving constitutes a "tithe")

2. GO and make disciples of ALL NATIONS

This is the missional heart of the God who reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has a heart for the world and for all creation.

One of the ways churches GO to ALL NATIONS in the Church of the Nazarene is through World Evangelism Fund and Work and Witness Trips.

Remember, the "nations" also includes the USA.

- ☐ WEF Allocations paid in full
- ☐ W&W Participants (at least 1 participant or contribute to the District W&W Project or that of another MidSouth District church)
- ☐ Contributed to Alabaster Offering
- ☐ TNU Allocations paid in full
- ☐ P&B Allocations paid in full
- ☐ Prayed for Missions, including LINKS Missionaries
- ☐ Educated Children and Youth in missions ministries
- ☐ Participation in Children's Ministries (local and district)
- ☐ Participation in Youth Ministries (local and district)
- ☐ Representation from the church at the Mission Zone Tour
- ☐ Family Camp Support (Offering)

3. Go and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations

Making disciples involves *Evangelism*. Wesleyan theological perspectives and methods of evangelism flow from an affirmation of the Nature of God — I.E. Holy Love. God pursues us.

Evangelism is based on this belief — one can even use the word assumption — in the Prevenient Grace of God. The Holy Spirit is already at work in the lives of people who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Making disciples involves *Developing Christlikeness* in all Followers of Jesus. This includes Teaching/Learning ("teaching them") and Christian Practice ("...to obey everything that I have commanded you").

An additional way to make disciples is through *Partnering* with the denomination and other local churches to care for one another. This is facilitated in large part by supporting the District.

Measurements of Effectiveness include...

- ☐ Conversions (at least 1; this does not necessarily include those who join, but does include people who we lead into a personal relationship with Jesus) _____
- ☐ Baptisms (at least 1) _____
- ☐ New Nazarenes (at least 1) _____
- ☐ Sponsor/Plant an expression of church or satellite _____
- ☐ Attendance (an increase in worship attendance of at least 1 (Increase # _____)

- And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:24-25)

4. And remember, I AM WITH YOU always, to the end of the age.

All Christianity is relational. The heart of that relational DNA is a relationship with Jesus. This is intrinsic to Christianity. A relationship with Christ and one another is what transforms Christianity from a religion to a relationship.

Share a story of how Jesus worked in and/or through the people of your church.