



EFCA

**ALLEGHENY DISTRICT
DISCIPLEMAKING
STRATEGY**

John 20:21

**“As the Father has sent Me,
I also send you”**

Our Mission Statement

“Honoring God by advancing the passion and priorities of Great Commission Living in and beyond the Allegheny District”

One of the values of the Free Church is the affirmation of the authority of God's Word. It is in that belief that we are committed to carrying out the command and commission of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission found in

Matthew 28:18-20 defines the mission, vision and values that our Lord has for His Church. We believe that to minimize the great calling of Christ to make disciples is disobedience to His Lordship and His Word.

This document is designed to identify our district's commitment to carrying out the Great Commission. Without a clear vision for carrying this out, we will find ourselves being tossed to and fro by the cultural winds of change. We believe that a Great Commission Church is one who functions with intentional ministry in 5 areas. These five areas of ministry compose the acronym M.O.D.E.L.. Thus, we believe an Allegheny District Church should evaluate their ministry emphasis based on the MODEL set forth by Christ.

M = Mission

The leadership of the church has a clear understanding of Great Commission mission and vision for their church.

1. The church understands the meaning and implications of the Great Commission for ministry.
2. The church has a written Great Commission vision document.
3. The church demonstrates a passion and priority for Great Commission Ministry in members lives, church activities and leadership focus.

O = Outreach

The church emphasizes the importance of intentionally developing relationships with lost peers and equips members to reach their friends for Christ.

1. The church intentionally designs ministry in a way that prioritizes the importance of members to develop solid relationships with non-Christians.
2. The church regularly and intentionally equips it's members to present the Gospel in loving and practical ways.
3. The leadership of the church is demonstrating the importance of outreach by developing and modeling relationships with non-Christians.

D = Discipleship

The church is committed to and emphasizes the importance of maturing disciples.

1. The church has a written and intentional method of making disciples.
2. The church has a healthy balance of individual, small group and corporate discipleship experiences.
3. The church measures their effectiveness in making disciples yearly.

E = Equipping

The church has a planned an intentional strategy to equip believers for ministry.

1. The church regularly holds events to help believers identify their spiritual gifts.
2. The church understands and supports the primary role of the pastor to “equip the saints” for ministry.
3. The church intentionally holds training events to help believers fulfill ministry opportunities.

L = Leadership

The church has a proven an intentional method of multiplying Great Commission Leaders.

1. The church identifies potential leaders and invests time and resources to equip them.
2. The church empowers leaders to fulfill their leadership potential.
3. The church leadership is released to invest in current and future leaders.
4. The church constantly reinforces and teaches the mission, vision and values of Great Commission living both individually and corporately.

Acts 1:8

**“ And you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”**

The Great Commission given in Matthew 28, is also reinforced in the three other gospels and in Acts 1:8. The mission of the church to be the witness of Christ and to make disciples is the command. The areas this is to be carried out in is universal. The emphasis upon where and to what extent is given in Acts 1:8. This passage carries the same emphasis to make disciples, but also gives specific direction to not neglect any area. This exact statement by Christ must fuel our disciplemaking effort by giving attention to our vision. We are to make disciples in every area of the world, leaving none without our witness. This provides us with a very specific direction about setting the vision of making disciples.

We acknowledge that to eliminate any portion of Acts 1:8 from our disciplemaking strategy would miss the mark established by Christ for His Church. Using Acts 1:8, we will identify three areas of fulfilling the Great Commission that the Allegheny District will assist district churches in.

Your Jerusalem

The first area addressed in Acts 1:8 is in Jerusalem. We are to make sure we are witnesses in our own local setting. An Allegheny District Church needs to have a concentrated effort in disciplemaking. The first area of focus is the local church setting. It is in this context that disciples are not only multiplied but also matured. We believe it is the district's responsibility to assist churches with implementing their disciplemaking strategy locally. We believe it is our obligation to serve local churches by helping them fulfill the Great Commission in their Jerusalem. We are committed at the district level to provide training, tools and resources to assist local churches in this endeavor.

Our Judea and Samaria

The second area addressed in Acts 1:8 is regional. The church is not only to be focused on disciplemaking locally but also regionally. It is in the true Free Church spirit that we function interdependently to fulfill the Great Commission regionally. We believe that the command to be witnesses in Judea and Samaria stresses the importance for us to work together in reaching our district for Christ. The emphasis in accomplishing this will be in the area of Church Planting. We believe that one way of fulfilling this is to join together as district churches to intentionally plant churches that will reach all people groups represented within our district.

The remotest part of the earth

The third and final area mentioned in Acts 1:8 is a global emphasis. A complete discipleship strategy will also include a focus on national and international disciplemaking efforts. We believe it is important for Allegheny District Churches to partner with other Evangelical Free Churches and Districts on the national and international levels. We also believe it is important to form strategic alliances with other likeminded ministries who share the same passion and vision for disciplemaking. One way of fulfilling this portion of Acts 1:8 is for the Allegheny District to intentionally be involved in church planting nationally and internationally. We believe it is important for the Allegheny District to champion Church Planting abroad by targeting areas globally for Church Planting.

The following pages are designed to provide insight into our commitment as a district to fulfilling the Great Commission. As a district we will continue to provide leadership in Great Commission vision and values for our district. We believe that we exist to help Allegheny District churches fulfill the Great commission in their Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the remotest part of the earth. It is our desire to serve local churches by providing leadership, training, resources and the tools necessary to see this come to fruition in our district.

Fulfilling the Great Commission in your Jerusalem

We desire to see Allegheny District Churches function with Great Commission Vision fulfilled in a Great Commandment way. We will serve Allegheny District Churches by providing leadership and resources in healthy church values. The following items are offered to assist local churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.

1. Healthy Church Pastor's Gatherings

These groups are structured and designed to engage, support and challenge pastors to stay focused on Great Commission vision.

***We will provide geographically placed groups led by district Pastors that require minimal travel.**

2. 10 Healthy Indicators Survey

These are designed to assist district churches in evaluating their balance in Great Commission values.

*** We desire to see 70% of district churches doing an annual health check, and 50% of district churches measuring above midline in each of the 10 Leading Indicators.**

3. Next Step Workshops

This workshop uses the 10 Healthy Indicators Survey as the basis to begin evaluating your discipling effectiveness as a church. The workshop is held on a Friday night and Saturday morning and concludes with a ministry action plan that addresses areas for discipleship attention.

*** Our goal is to see 50% of district churches doing a Next Step Workshop or one of the following workshops yearly.**

4. L.I.F.E. Check

This workshop involves evaluating four key areas in your discipling strategy. This process will take a minimum of 1/2 day to look at key areas of discipleship in the church.

L = Leading lost People to Christ Matthew 4:19

I = Investing in new believers Ephesians chapters 1-2

F = Fully equipping servants to serve 1 Corinthians 12

E = Empowering leaders to lead John 17

5. Mission, Vision and Values Workshop

This workshop is designed to help you evaluate your current mission, vision and value documents and how you communicate them. This also may be used to begin the process of developing documents.

6. Evangelism Workshops

These workshops are designed to create momentum in churches and provide training in the area of evangelism.

*** We encourage all district churches to target a 10% conversion growth rate in their church.**

7. M.O.D.E.L. Evaluation

This workshop is designed to help church leadership evaluate their Great Commission effectiveness based on the 5 areas of a Great Commission Church.

Fulfilling the Great Commission in our Judea and Samaria

We believe that making disciples outside the local church is one of the elements of fulfilling the Great Commission. We believe that the command to be witnesses in Judea and Samaria stresses the importance for us to work together in reaching our district for Christ. We believe that one way of fulfilling this is to join together as district churches to intentionally plant churches that will reach all people groups represented within our district.

The way this will be accomplished is for each church to do their **P.A.R.T.** This acronym represents four ways that each church in the Allegheny District can be involved in church planting to be witnesses in our Judea and Samaria.

P = Parent Churches

A parent church is a church that intentionally plans a daughter church plant. The daughter church will intentionally be planted to reach a new area or people group for Christ. The daughter church will usually be made up of members of the parent church. We will intentionally promote and assist district churches by providing “Reproducing Church Clinics” throughout the Allegheny District.

*** Our goal is to see 10% of district churches planting a daughter church each year.**

A = Adoption Churches

An adoption church is a church that intentionally adopts a church plant to become a parent church or a form of a parent church. The adoption church will assume the responsibilities of a parent church in nurture and care of the church plant. The adoption church will intentionally invest themselves in the adoptive church plant and be committed to provide resources necessary.

*** Our goal is to see 25% of district churches participating as an “Adoption Church.”**

R = Resource Churches

Resource churches provide a vital need to church plants. Resource churches partner with a church plant to provide them with needed resources. These churches provide materials, people, funds or support in essential areas to assist the church plant in becoming established. The resource church commits themselves to this support until the church plant can operate on their own.

*** Our goal is to see 50% of district churches participating as “Resource Churches.”**

T = Team Churches

Team churches are churches that intentionally partner with the district in church planting by providing teams members for the planting effort. The team church provides people support in the areas of assessors, coaches, planting team, revolving fund and other areas as needed.

*** Our goal is to see 50% of district churches participating as “Team Churches.”**

Fulfilling the Great Commission in the Remotest Part of the Earth

The final area of the district discipling plan is the national and international arena. We believe that partnering with other EFCA Districts and the EFCA Church Planting Team to fulfill the Great Commission is true to the Free Church spirit. We will actively pursue opportunities both nationally and internationally to make disciples. We encourage Allegheny District Churches to participate with global discipling in the following areas.

1. Adopt A Country

The Allegheny District will adopt a country with which to partner and develop a discipling relationship. We will encourage all district churches to participate in this discipling effort in reaching the remotest part of the earth. This country will partner with our district to plant churches and implement a discipling strategy. This is in no way meant to replace a district church's current missions emphasis. The "Adopt A County" program is meant to create a team effort in global discipling for our district, thus impacting an area outside our district with the Gospel of Christ.

*** Our goal is to see 50% of district churches in the district partnering in the "Adopt A Country" ministry.**

2. EFCA Missions

We encourage district churches to actively participate in EFCA Missions by supporting one or more Evangelical Free Church missionaries.

*** Our goal is to see 100% of district churches supporting one or more EFCA Missionaries.**

3. National Ministries

We encourage district churches to be involved in EFCA National Ministries efforts. There are numerous ways to become involved in national ministry efforts through the EFCA. We also encourage all Allegheny District Churches to participate in "Fair Share." Our support as a district enables our national and district offices to provide the needed ministries to help churches fulfill the Great Commission.

*** We desire to see 100% of district churches participating in "Fair Share."**

What Should Our Church Do?

1. Objectively and prayerfully look at your disciplemaking strategy based on the Acts 1:8 model.
2. **Your** Jerusalem:
 - Do an annual Health Check using the 10 Healthy Indicators Survey.
 - Be involved in a Healthy Church Regional Pastor's Gathering.
 - Annually hold one of the workshops listed on page 4.
 - Evaluate your church each year by the **M.O.D.E.L.** example given on page 2.
3. **Our** Judea and Samaria
 - Commit to do your **P.A.R.T.** by participating in one or more areas of church planting.
 - Attend a "Reproducing Church Clinic" that is held in the district.
 - Give regularly to the "Revolving Fund" church planting fund.
 - Make plans now to plant a daughter church within 5 years.
 - Partner with one or more district churches to plant a church.
 - Be a prayer partner for district church planting and church planters.
4. **The** remotest part of the earth
 - Be a "Fair Share" contributor by giving 1-3% of your budget to the National Ministries and District Ministries.
 - Be involved in the "Adopt A Country" district ministry.
 - Support one or more Evangelical Free Church Missionaries.
 - Stay connected to National and District ministries by serving on a team or hosting an event.