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## Commandments for Parents

Give your children unconditional love, a love that is not dependent on report cards, clean hands, or popularity.

Give your children a sense of whole-hearted acceptance, acceptance of their human frailties as well as their abilities and virtues.

Give your children your permission to grow up to make their own lives independent of you.

Give them a sense of truth; make them aware of themselves as citizens of a universe in which there are many obstacles as well as rewards.

Bestow upon your child the blessing of your faith.

These are the laws of honoring your son or your daughter. Our foundations of these laws will be the declaration of independence for the coming generation, a spiritual and emotional independence that, in turn, will make the world free, democratic, safe, creative.

Joshua Loth Liebman

# **What is the LOGOS System and Ministry?**

The LOGOS System and Ministry is a dynamic ministry of Christian nurture, the goal of which is to nurture youth and children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live as his disciples.

The LOGOS System and Ministry is found in approximately 4,000 churches in the United States, representing over 25 denominations. The Ministry is also found in Russia, Japan, and Canada. Invitations to the national staff have been received from Cameroon, Nigeria and India. As part of this large family we receive the benefit of excellent resources, training, and a wealth of shared experience.

The LOGOS System and Ministry (all persons in local churches engaged in the LOGOS System and Ministry) believe that nurturing youth and children into right relationships of faith with God through Jesus Christ is the most important thing the church ever does.

## **The System**

The LOGOS System of Christian Nurture involves the entire congregation. It is only when everyone makes a significant commitment of time, energy and ability to the nurture of young people that the LOGOS Ministry is most effective. Parents, single adults, grandparents, couples without children, pastors, all join together sharing their talents and gifts.

The LOGOS System unites the efforts of all programs of Christian nurture in the church. Christian Education, Youth Fellowship Groups, Mission and Outreach Programs, Vacation Bible School and the LOGOS Ministry work together to bring a comprehensive experience of Christian nurture to our young people.

## **The Ministry**

The LOGOS Ministry is a four-part program. All youth and children are encouraged to participate in all four parts of the LOGOS Ministry. Adult leaders participate in the part of the Ministry in which they have agreed to share their gifts.

The four parts of the LOGOS Ministry are designed to create an arena in which everyone can practice, through their relationships, the theological concepts learned in Bible Study. The Ministry enables youth and children to experience God's unconditional love, and to learn to share that love with their peers, adult leaders, and their families.

## **The Four Parts**

The four parts are designed to reflect the life of the early church as expressed in Acts 2.42:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

"Apostles' teaching" = Bible Study

"Fellowship" = Recreation

"Breaking of bread" = Family Time

"Prayers" = Worship Skills

## **1. Bible Study**

The Bible study portion of the LOGOS Ministry provides the foundation upon which the rest of the Ministry is designed. To build Christian relationships, and to create an arena in which a Christian community can be experienced, everyone must come to know and understand the Bible. Along with regular attendance in Church School and other church programs, the LOGOS Ministry strives to create biblically literate youth and children who apply what they have learned in Bible study to all aspects of their lives.

## **2. Worship Skills & Choir**

The experience of corporate worship is at the center of our life together as a Christian community. To prepare youth and children to participate regularly in worship with the congregation each Sunday, the Worship Skills portion of the LOGOS Ministry not only teaches about worship, but also provides ways for our young people to lead the congregation in worship.

## **3. Recreation Time**

A variety of activities are offered to provide the opportunity for self discovery as young people participate in playing together, doing crafts, or exploring special interests with members of the congregation. In a non-competitive environment, we learn to play and have great fun at the expense of no one.

## **4. Family Time**

During the dinner hour a unique sense of the family of God develops as LOGOS members and adult table parents share a meal every week. The meal is served family style giving everyone the opportunity to serve one another. A caring "family" is created at each table as table members share important events in their lives and enjoy Family Fun time together.

## The Oasis

The LOGOS Ministry believes that High School is where the accumulated effects of the LOGOS System reach their fullest potential. Statistics show that church involvement of Senior Highs drops off dramatically at a time in their lives when there are countless difficult challenges that face the teenager of today. Because of this, Senior Highs are considered the culmination of the structure of the LOGOS Ministry.



The Oasis mission statement defines the direction and mission of this program. ***“Building a life-long bond with God through our relationships with each other, our church, our LOGOS family and those in need.”***

We meet on Wednesday evenings just like the rest of LOGOS but The Oasis is carefully designed to respond to the specific needs of our Senior Highs. Our programming follows a more flexible schedule than the elementary and middle school program. The complete adult leadership team remains with the students all night long affording the opportunity to build valuable relationships between the students and the adult leaders.

Throughout the year, we balance participation in all of the four parts listed below but will not adhere to a strict four-part scheduled evening each week. This allows us some flexibility in planning our time together and enables us to participate in some off-site activities.

- ❖ B.I.B.L.E. (Basis Instruction Before Leaving Earth)
- ❖ Worship Skills
- ❖ Raucous Recreation
- ❖ Fun Food and Scrumptious Dessert

During Bible study, we'll delve into practical ways that we can live our faith while dealing with the kinds of issues teens face everyday. We then hope to put the concepts we learn in Bible Study into practice during Recreation events and service projects where students can have a blast at the same time as they deepen their relationship with God and do another. In Worship Skills, while there may be some vocal opportunities for participation in a youth choir, there will be a strong focus on preparing our Senior Highs to plan and present parts of the liturgy. The students will have an opportunity to participate in Sunday worship with activities such as writing and reading prayers, reading Scripture lessons, giving the children's message and ushering. This Worship Skills vision is intended to help our Senior Highs build a loving appreciation for and comfort with corporate worship during their high school years which we pray will foster a commitment in them to continue worshiping in their adult life.

*Note: Throughout the handbook, any reference to the LOGOS Ministry includes The Oasis unless otherwise noted.*

## LOGOS Preschool Ministry



We provide a structured Pre-LOGOS Ministry for some of our littlest children (aged 2-3). We meet each Wednesday evening from 5:00-7:30pm with activities that nurture children's concepts of God, Jesus, and the church. *It is important to note that Nursery, Toddler and Preschool children may only participate while their parents are serving in the FPCP LOGOS Ministry on a Wednesday evening. This Pre-LOGOS Ministry is designed to be a meaningful program for children of parents who are participating in another area within LOGOS or The Oasis. If the parent of a Nursery, Toddler or Preschool age child must leave the building, the child must accompany them.*

### **Toddler Program:**

Children ages 2-3 years by December 1, 2009 will be registered in the Toddler Class. The Toddler Program will utilize the same theme each week as the rest of the LOGOS Ministry and will be divided into the following components:

5:00-5:55 pm Welcome, Craft, Snack/Bible Story/Activity

5:55-6:50pm Dinner (*Parents must accompany their child unless volunteering in another area during Dinner.*)

6:50-7:30pm Free play and Story time/Video

### **Pre-K Program:**

Children 4 years of age by December 1, 2009 will be registered in the PreK Class. The PreK Program will also follow the LOGOS theme of each week and will follow a similar format to the Toddler Program with the addition of their participation in the Cherub Choir.

### **Nursery/Infant Care:**

Childcare is available for children too young (under 2 years of age by December 1, 2009) to participate in the LOGOS Ministry, on Wednesdays during the time their parents are fulfilling their commitment to serve in the Ministry. Please contact the Registrar if you have a child you would like to register in the nursery/infant care. There is no fee for this service; however, we need a count of those participating so that adequate staffing can be obtained.

## The Importance of Family Members

The LOGOS Ministry is an integral part of the Christian Education and Nurture system of our church. It works because of people like you who recognize the importance of the faith development of the young people in our congregation and our community. By registering a young person for the LOGOS Ministry, you have made a commitment to participate in the LOGOS Ministry with the young people of our church.

It is expected that one adult from every family with one or more children registered in the LOGOS Ministry will support their young person(s) and the LOGOS and The Oasis Ministry by:

- facilitating and encouraging the regular attendance of your young person(s) in the weekly Ministry, as well as worship and Church School on Sunday morning.
- identifying your gifts, and using them to participate in the LOGOS Ministry. Refer to the “Sharing Your Gifts” List for a list of ways you may participate.
- paying a nominal fee that helps the church cover the costs of the Ministry. See page 13 for more details about registration and enrollment fees.
- praying for individual young people and adults in the Ministry. Prayer is essential and central to the Ministry. The adults, youth, and children in the LOGOS Ministry are held up in prayer by prayer partners, members of the LOGOS Board, and the congregation. Family members are encouraged to pray daily for those participating in the Ministry.

In some situations, there is not an adult family member who can assume these commitments. In such cases permission is asked of the family for a member of the congregation to take on the commitment and responsibilities related to registration and participation in the Ministry.

## The Importance of Adult Volunteers

A key part of the foundation of the LOGOS Ministry lies in the adult volunteers that participate in the Ministry. Without the adult volunteers, the Ministry would not exist. In order to reap the full benefits of the LOGOS system of ministry, it is important that there is cross-generational involvement from the entire congregation. Adult volunteers must *not* be limited to parents of children participating in the Ministry.

Children and youth "catch" the Christian faith by entering into relationships with adults who live their Christian faith, and who treat every person as a child of God. Whether you are leading a game, washing dishes, parenting a table, or driving a car-pool, you are demonstrating to children and youth in the LOGOS Ministry that you love them, and you want them to know God and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. They will know by your participation that you believe the LOGOS Ministry to be a high priority for them.

## Volunteer Enrichment

LOGOS is a "high expectations" program. It advocates having high expectations for our children and youth so that they may develop into responsible and loving Christian disciples. In turn, it is necessary to have high expectations for our adult volunteers. Since the quality of our LOGOS ministry depends on the enthusiasm and expertise of our volunteers, it is important to provide ongoing training and support.

### **Leadership Training:**

LOGOS System Associates provides a spiritually enriching multi-day seminar for training pastors, church educators, and lay persons in every aspect of the LOGOS System and Ministry. Continuing to educate the volunteers of our LOGOS Ministry about the theology and the full scope of the LOGOS system of ministry is vital for sustaining an effective and exciting program within our church. All adult participants are encouraged to attend a LOGOS Experience.

### **Periodic Training & Support:**

One of the goals of the LOGOS board is to provide Periodic Training and Support sessions for adult volunteers. We believe it is important to provide volunteers with a forum to share their successes and seek solutions for their challenges as we work toward our common goal of providing the highest quality LOGOS Ministry for our youth. Topics for training could include such issues as discipline, parenting, tips for encouraging family worship, first aid, etc. Watch the [LOGOS Link](#) for the next adult volunteer training date.

## Our Commitment

The skeletal strength of the LOGOS Ministry is provided by taking seriously several commitments which we call the "bones" of the LOGOS Ministry. Without them following the Ministry becomes weak and does not accomplish the goals which we have set for ourselves. We are committed to keeping these bones in place:

- Everyone participates in all four parts.
- Everyone attends congregational worship every week.
- The pastor(s) will participate and provide leadership in the Ministry.
- An adult family member will make a commitment to attending the annual Orientation Meeting and to offering their gifts in service to support the Ministry.
- The Ministry will be offered midweek.
- There will be financial participation by families.
- The Ministry will be offered to High School youth.
- People will be called to ministry according to their gifts.

Refer Appendix B for more details about the "bones" of LOGOS.

## Communication

It's vital for the smooth operation of this program to have a healthy flow of communication between students, parents and adult volunteers. In order to accomplish this, a brief weekly newsletter called the LOGOS Link is distributed at the end of each LOGOS evening. The LOGOS Link summarizes all the most newsworthy LOGOS information such as upcoming themes, fundraiser updates, and worship service choir dates. Be sure to watch the LOGOS Link as well as the FPCP order of service bulletins and monthly FPCP newsletters for the latest LOGOS news. Refer to [www.fpcp.net](http://www.fpcp.net) for future postings.

# LOGOS/The Oasis Discipline Policy

## One Rule in the LOGOS Ministry:

**Everyone is to treat everyone else as a Child of God.  
No one has the right to treat anyone as if they do not matter.**

All relationships in the LOGOS Ministry are guided by this rule. In the LOGOS Ministry we believe that nothing is more important to God than our relationships with others and with our God. Every aspect of theology has to do with relationships.

The word *Discipline* comes from the word *Disciple*. Christian discipline is the teaching of self control and how to respond as Jesus would respond to unacceptable behavior. This requires risking and making ourselves vulnerable, but it is only in this approach that we can teach what Christian love is all about.

We learn from our conflicts. Discipline situations are opportunities for teaching and for the students to take responsibility for their actions. Adult's model resolutions that build self-esteem and help young people understand what it means to treat each other as Children of God. We give them tools to build healthy Christian relationships.

## One Exception to the One Rule:

**A person can elect "self-exclusion" by not remaining within appropriate behavioral boundaries.**

## **Step-up Policy for Discipline:**

Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with as quickly, creatively, lovingly and firmly as possible. Courtesy is expected at all times regardless of the part of the Ministry in which the student is engaged. We ask that the family support our approach to discipline, and that cooperation with others in the Ministry and staff be stressed.

A congregational approach to discipline is the most effective. This means that we hope that all adults will notice and stop unacceptable behavior as they see it.

1. Verbal Warning
2. One-on-one meeting with Comforter
3. Consultation with Minister and Parents
4. Removal from the Ministry for rest of night.

## Registration

*Registration* for new and returning families is not complete until a parent, or a sponsoring adult, has attended an Orientation Meeting and has provided the following:

- All registration forms completed.
- Enrollment fees paid.
- A commitment to share his or her gifts in the Ministry is made.
- A Ministry with Minors form has been submitted.

## Student Fees

### **Students (Age 4 – Grade 12):**

The following fees have been set to help the church pay for the LOGOS Ministry. The annual cost per participant (Age 4-Grade 12) is \$95, which covers meals, a Bible Study Workbook, Craft, Recreation and Family Time supplies, and the Mission Member fee. The fees represent an excellent value for our children and youth in that the \$95 annual fee is equivalent to a modest \$3.52 per night.

The Mission Member fee is our contribution to the on-going mission of the International LOGOS System Associates to help them bring the LOGOS Ministry to as many churches as possible in our country and around the world.

The enrollment fee does not cover all program costs. In addition to your fees, the Ministry is funded by contributions from FPCP, fundraisers, sponsorships and donations as well as nominal field trip fees paid by students.

### **Preschool (2-3 years):**

A preschool Program is provided for children ages 2-3 years old. Refer to page 7 for more details about the Ministry format and activities. The annual fee for your child to participate in the preschool Program is \$65 (equivalent to \$2.41 per night) which covers a meal fee and weekly craft supplies.

### **Nursery/Infant Care (less than 2 years):**

There is no fee for childcare for children under the age of 2 years by December 1, 2009.

## **Dinner Fees**

In order to help cover food costs, *all* adult volunteers staying for dinner each week are asked to contribute an annual dinner fee of \$75 which represents a \$2.78 dinner fee per week or \$5.00 each night should you prefer a more flexible alternative.

## **Family Cap**

A family cap of \$300 has been instituted. No family will pay more than \$300, regardless of how many children they have in the Ministry.

## **Methods of Payment**

Payment of all annual fees at the time of registration is preferred. However, payment arrangements can be made upon request to pay 50% at the time of registration, 50% of the balance due in two installments on dates determined at the time of registration. Payment options are check, cash or credit card.

## **Scholarships**

No child or youth will be denied the rich Christian experience of LOGOS for financial reasons. Scholarship aid is available. Please contact the LOGOS Director or Treasurer (see page 17 for names and contact information) to make arrangements for financial aid. All requests and arrangements are strictly confidential.

## **Ministry with Minors**

All persons, age 18 and over, working with children and/or youth, under 18 years of age, must read, sign, and agree to abide by the current First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth Ministry with Minors Policy. In addition, information (including Social Security number) must be provided to complete a nation-wide criminal background check. All information will be kept confidential and seen only by FPCP Church Administrator.

## Policies

### **Sign-in/out Procedures:**

Each child fifth grade and younger, participating in the LOGOS Ministry, will need to be checked in and out by a parent or guardian upon arriving and departing the church. Youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older must check themselves in and out upon arriving and departing the church. A greeter will be located at the door of the church. Attendance, name tags, dinner fees (for guests), etc. will be handled at the greeter table.

### **Visitors:**

We encourage youth and children to bring their friends to visit the LOGOS Ministry. The person bringing the guest should pay for the meal for the guest (\$5.00/guest/night). Payment may be given to the greeter. When a guest has attended three times, the parents will be contacted and invited to register their youth or child in the Ministry at the next Registration meeting.

### **Absences:**

If your youth or child is going to be late or absent, please call the church office. It is important to note that if an adult volunteer must be absent, he/she is responsible for finding a replacement volunteer for the dates he/she will be absent. Please notify the appropriate Board member (see page 17 for Board contact information) of the temporary staffing change with 24 hrs advance notice.

### **Car Pools/Transportation:**

The LOGOS Ministry is committed to providing transportation for those children who need it in order to participate in the Ministry. If you would like to be involved in a car pool or need transportation, please contact the Registrar.

### **Snow Days:**

During inclement weather, please check the FPCP website by 2 pm to see if LOGOS is meeting. [www.FPCP.net](http://www.FPCP.net) LOGOS operations will be independent from the school closing schedules. Safety will remain the main concern in making a decision on whether to cancel the evening's activities.

## The 2009-10 LOGOS Board

The following persons meet regularly to plan, call persons to service, and administer the LOGOS and The Oasis Ministries. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board with questions or concerns you may have.

<u>Board Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Director	Heidi Herr	734.844.3145	<a href="mailto:gherr@wowway.com">gherr@wowway.com</a>
Associate Minister	Mary Jean Bird	734.453.6464	mjbird@fpcp.net
Bible Study Coordinator	Marie McCubbrey	734.844.8101	<a href="mailto:paulsmomakamarie@yahoo.com">paulsmomakamarie@yahoo.com</a>
Family Time Coordinator	Tami Rager (Temp/Open)	734.667.2442	<a href="mailto:trager@comcast.net">trager@comcast.net</a>
Preschool Coordinator	Open		
Publicity Coordinator	Open		
Recreation Coordinator	Open		
Registrar/Treasurer	Pamela Smith	734.513.5229	<a href="mailto:Kougar_family@hotmail.com">Kougar_family@hotmail.com</a>
The Oasis Coordinator	Kathy Bernard	248.305.8614	<a href="mailto:Bernards@wowway.com">Bernards@wowway.com</a>
Worship Skills Coordinator	Karen Danke	313.937.3247	karendanke@earthlink.net

**Appendix A -The “Bones” of the Logos Ministry**

**Appendix B - Nurturing Realities and LSA Convictions**