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# Ministry Points:

## A Way To Offer The Opportunity For Ministry To Catechumens



By

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## Ministry Points: An Introduction

### Addressing The Confirmation Conundrum

*“How can I get my confirmands to attend worship and Sunday School without forcing them?”*

Pastors and catechists often look for positive ways to encourage growth in service as well as knowledge during confirmation.

Ministry points is a totally different approach to encourage growth in personal ministry.

At times Pastors feel they must force confirmands to attend worship, Sunday School and other ministry events. As a result, confirmation policies sadly become exercises in coercion and legalism.

### An Invitation To Ministry

The concept behind Ministry Points is to give confirmands the opportunity to select ways to become involved in ministry during confirmation. Instead of being “forced” to go to church, confirmands can select from a smorgasbord of opportunities to earn “ministry points.”

### The Goal: 100 Ministry Points/Year

The goal for each year is that each confirmand earn a *minimum* 100 ministry points for each year of confirmation. Items eligible for “Ministry Points” are determined by those responsible for confirmation (e.g. Pastor, Elders, Confirmation Parents, Confirmands, etc). The same group also assigns a point value to each activity.

Items selected will likely include...

- 1) Core desired ministry involvement: Worship, Sunday School, Youth Group, etc.
- 2) Service areas appropriate for confirmands
- 3) Opportunities for individuals to encourage youth to utilize their God-given talents (e.g. music, art, leading devotions, going on mission trips, assisting the altar guild, etc.)

### Strategically Assigning—And Skewing—Point Values

One of the best things about Ministry Points is that they can be selected strategically to help facilitate the congregation’s vision, mission and values.

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Pastors and confirmation leaders should select which activities best serve the Church and the confirmands. After these are listed on the Ministry Point sheet, point values should be given to encourage those activities which best reflect the vision, mission and values of the congregation.

Don't hesitate to skew the point values toward specific ministry needs and opportunities! For example, a church which has a strong emphasis on children's ministry may "skew" the Ministry Points to encourage confirmand involvement in various areas of children's ministry. Churches with a strong emphasis on social ministry may "skew" the Ministry Points to encourage involvement in various aspects of social ministry. In this way, Ministry Points invite confirmands to share the congregation's vision by their personal involvement.

What areas of your church's ministry would benefit from additional resources of confirmands? What opportunities can your church provide to help confirmands experience the joy of ministry? (BTW, don't be surprised if parents accompany their confirmands as they fulfill their Ministry Point quota!).

### Procedure

Each month Confirmands are given a "Ministry Points" form (See below). During the month, they list the activities in which they participated and tally the points earned. Each month, the Ministry Points Form is returned by the students with a Parent/Guardian signature attached.

Students are required to have earned at least 100 points at the time determined by the instructor. The instructor, of course, must keep record of the points.

Not surprisingly, I have found that many students *will* exceed the minimum 100 points each year...and find joy to do more. It is not unusual to have students who earn 150, 175 or over 200 points during the course of catechism.

### The Response

Since I developed this program in 2002, confirmands and parents have responded very positively. They know that confirmation is a time of growth. Parents and confirmands—especially those families affected by divorce, weekend work schedules, etc.—appreciate the flexibility the "100 Points" program offers.

### Try It Today!

[www.SmallCatechism.org](http://www.SmallCatechism.org) offers this resource *free of charge* as a gift to the church at large. Simply edit the Ministry Point form below, print it, and begin helping your confirmands to grow in worship and ministry through your confirmation ministry.

*Thomas F. Fischer*

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# Ministry Points

Your Church Name

“Ministry Points” are intended to encourage confirmation-aged youth to begin exploring one or more areas of ministry service. A minimum of 100 Ministry Points are required for each confirmand each year:

Ministry Opportunity	Points
Acolyting (training to be scheduled in September or as needed)	1 point/service
Sermon Reports (or bulletin from another church): Requires church attendance	1 point each
Attend Sunday School	3 points/time
Attending Youth Events (Includes 3:16 Octane Events)	2 points/time
Reading Scriptures In Worship Services	2 points/time
Serving As Ushers	1 point/time
Praise Team (regular participant)	10 points
Bell/Chime Choir (regular participant)	10 points
Music Performance ( <i>Vocal or instrumental solo</i> )	3 points 1 <sup>st</sup> time/ 1 point each after
“Kid’s Night Out” (Meets 2x/month)	3 points each
Visits to Hospitals/Shut-ins/Nursing home with Pastor Or An Elder	2 points/time
Yard Work/Gardening	2 points/time
Highway Clean-up	3 points
Family Night Attendance	1 points/time
Develop <i>PowerPoint</i> Presentation For Worship	3 points each
Bring A Friend To Church	4 points/friend
Mission Activity (Alaska, Mexicali, Regional Missions)	10 points
Other Areas Of Special Interests/Gifts/Service: Sound System, Multi-Media System, Cleaning, Assisting With Church Events/Setup, Etc.	Requires <i>Prior</i> Pastoral approval

Parents are responsible for having their youth complete their *Ministry Points Record Form* below.

Successful completion of at least 100 points per year is required for confirmation.

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**Monthly Ministry Points Record**

**Month:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Parent Initials (When Completed)</b>
1	Sept. 2	Acolyting—8:00 am service	1	
2	Sept. 9	Attend Youth Event	4	
3	Sept. 10	Sermon Report	1	
4	Sept. 17	PowerPoint Presentation	3	
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to Pastor at the end of each month.*