



**MANUAL**  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
2005-2009



# MANUAL/2005-2009

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



HISTORY  
CONSTITUTION  
GOVERNMENT  
RITUAL



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## FOREWORD

“The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to respond to the Great Commission of Christ to ‘go and make disciples of all nations’” (Matthew 28:19). “The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God’s kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures.”

“The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are ‘holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.’” (25)

The Church of the Nazarene exists to serve as an instrument for advancing the kingdom of God through the preaching and teaching of the gospel throughout the world. Our well-defined commission is to preserve and propagate Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures, through the conversion of sinners, the reclamation of backsliders, and the entire sanctification of believers.

Our objective is a spiritual one, namely, to evangelize as a response to the Great Commission of our Lord to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19; cf. John 20:21; Mark 16:15). We believe that this aim can be realized through agreed-upon policies and procedures, including doctrinal tenets of faith and time-tested standards of morality and lifestyle.

This 2005-2009 edition of the *Manual* includes a brief historical statement of the church; the church Constitution, which defines our *Articles of Faith*, our understanding of the church, the Covenant of Christian Character for holy living, and principles of organization and government; the Covenant of Christian Conduct, which address key issues of contemporary society; and policies of church government dealing with the local, district, and general church organization.

The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating and lawmaking body of the Church of the Nazarene.

This *Manual* contains the decisions and judgments of ministerial and lay delegates of the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, which met in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A., June 26-30, 2005, and is therefore authoritative as a guide for action. Because it is the official statement of the faith and practice of the church and is consistent with the teachings of the Scriptures, we expect our people everywhere to accept the tenets of doctrine and the guides and helps to holy living contained in it. To fail to do so, after formally taking the membership vows of the Church of the Nazarene, injures the witness of the church, violates her conscience, and dissipates the fellowship of the people called Nazarenes.

The government of the Church of the Nazarene is distinctive. In polity it is representative—neither purely episcopal nor wholly congregational. Because the laity and the ministry have equal authority in the deliberative and lawmaking units of the church, there is a desirable and effective balance of power. We see this not only as an opportunity for participation and service in the church but also as an obligation on the part of both laity and ministry.

Commitment and clear purpose are important. But an intelligent and informed people following commonly agreed-upon practices and procedures advance the Kingdom faster and enhance their witness for Christ. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our members to acquaint themselves with this *Manual*—the history of the church and the doctrines and ethical practices of the ideal Nazarene. Adherence to the injunctions of these pages will nurture loyalty and faithfulness both to God and the church and will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our spiritual efforts.

With the Bible as our supreme Guide, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and the *Manual* as our official agreed-upon statement of faith, practice, and polity, we look forward to the new quadrennium with joy and unswerving faith in Jesus Christ.

*The Board of General Superintendents*

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PART I

# **Historical Statement**

## HISTORICAL STATEMENT

### **Historic Christianity and the Wesleyan-Holiness Heritage**

*One Holy Faith.* The Church of the Nazarene, from its beginnings, has confessed itself to be a branch of the “one, holy, universal, and apostolic” church and has sought to be faithful to it. It confesses as its own the history of the people of God recorded in the Old and New Testaments, and that same history as it has extended from the days of the apostles to our own. As its own people, it embraces the people of God through the ages, those redeemed through Jesus Christ in whatever expression of the one church they may be found. It receives the ecumenical creeds of the first five Christian centuries as expressions of its own faith. While the Church of the Nazarene has responded to its special calling to proclaim the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification, it has taken care to retain and nurture identification with the historic church in its preaching of the Word, its administration of the sacraments, its concern to raise up and maintain a ministry that is truly apostolic in faith and practice, and its inculcating of disciplines for Christlike living and service to others.

*The Wesleyan Revival.* This Christian faith has been mediated to Nazarenes through historical religious currents and particularly through the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century. In the 1730s the broader Evangelical Revival arose in Britain, directed chiefly by John Wesley, his brother Charles, and George Whitefield, clergymen in the Church of England. Through their instrumentality, many other men and women turned from sin and were empowered for the service of God. This movement was characterized by lay preaching, testimony, discipline, and circles of earnest disciples known as “societies,” “classes,” and “bands.” As a movement of spiritual life,



its antecedents included German Pietism, typified by Philip Jacob Spener; 17th-century English Puritanism; and a spiritual awakening in New England described by the pastor-theologian Jonathan Edwards.

The Wesleyan phase of the great revival was characterized by three theological landmarks: regeneration by grace through faith; Christian perfection, or sanctification, likewise by grace through faith; and the witness of the Spirit to the assurance of grace. Among John Wesley's distinctive contributions was an emphasis on entire sanctification in this life as God's gracious provision for the Christian. British Methodism's early missionary enterprises began disseminating these theological emphases worldwide. In North America, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784. Its stated purpose was "to reform the Continent, and to spread scriptural Holiness over these Lands."

*The Holiness Movement of the 19th Century.* In the 19th century a renewed emphasis on Christian holiness began in the Eastern United States and spread throughout the nation. Timothy Merritt, Methodist clergyman and founding editor of the *Guide to Christian Perfection*, was among the leaders of the holiness revival. The central figure of the movement was Phoebe Palmer of New York City, leader of the Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness, at which Methodist bishops, educators, and other clergy joined the original group of women in seeking holiness. During four decades, Mrs. Palmer promoted the Methodist phase of the holiness movement through public speaking, writing, and as editor of the influential *Guide to Holiness*.

The holiness revival spilled outside the bounds of Methodism. Charles G. Finney and Asa Mahan, both of Oberlin College, led the renewed emphasis on holiness in Presbyterian and Congregationalist circles, as did revivalist William Boardman. Baptist evangelist A. B. Earle was among the leaders of the holiness movement within his denomination. Hannah Whitall Smith, a Quaker and popular holiness revivalist, published *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* (1875), a classic text in Christian spirituality.

In 1867 Methodist ministers John A. Wood, John Inskip,

and others began at Vineland, New Jersey, the first of a long series of national camp meetings. They also organized at that time the National Camp Meeting Association for the Promotion of Holiness, commonly known as the National Holiness Association (now the Christian Holiness Partnership). Until the early years of the 20th century, this organization sponsored holiness camp meetings throughout the United States. Local and regional holiness associations also appeared, and a vital holiness press published many periodicals and books.

The witness to Christian holiness played roles of varying significance in the founding of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1843), the Free Methodist Church (1860), and, in England, the Salvation Army (1865). In the 1880s new distinctively holiness churches sprang into existence, including the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) and the Church of God (Holiness). Several older religious traditions were also influenced by the holiness movement, including certain groups of Mennonites, Brethren, and Friends that adopted the Wesleyan-holiness view of entire sanctification. The Brethren in Christ Church and the Evangelical Friends Alliance are examples of this blending of spiritual traditions.

### **Uniting of Holiness Groups**

In the 1890s a new wave of independent holiness entities came into being. These included independent churches, urban missions, rescue homes, and missionary and evangelistic associations. Some of the people involved in these organizations yearned for union into a national holiness church. Out of that impulse the present-day Church of the Nazarene was born.

*The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.* On July 21, 1887, the People's Evangelical Church was organized with 51 members at Providence, Rhode Island, with Fred A. Hillery as pastor. The following year the Mission Church at Lynn, Massachusetts, was organized with C. Howard Davis as pastor. On March 13 and 14, 1890, representatives from these and other independent holiness con-

gregations met at Rock, Massachusetts, and organized the Central Evangelical Holiness Association with churches in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. In 1892, the Central Evangelical Holiness Association ordained Anna S. Hanscombe, believed to be the first of many women ordained to the Christian ministry in the parent bodies of the Church of the Nazarene.

In January 1894, businessman William Howard Hoople founded a Brooklyn mission, reorganized the following May as Utica Avenue Pentecostal Tabernacle. By the end of the following year, Bedford Avenue Pentecostal Church and Emmanuel Pentecostal Tabernacle were also organized. In December 1895, delegates from these three congregations adopted a constitution, a summary of doctrines, and bylaws, forming the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

On November 12, 1896, a joint committee of the Central Evangelical Holiness Association and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America met in Brooklyn and framed a plan of union, retaining the name of the latter for the united body. Prominent workers in this denomination were Hiram F. Reynolds, H. B. Hosley, C. Howard Davis, William Howard Hoople, and, later, E. E. Angell. Some of these were originally lay preachers who were later ordained as ministers by their congregations. This church was decidedly missionary, and under the leadership of Hiram F. Reynolds, missionary secretary, embarked upon an ambitious program of Christian witness to the Cape Verde Islands, India, and other places. *The Beulah Christian* was published as its official paper.

*The Holiness Church of Christ.* In July 1894, R. L. Harris organized the New Testament Church of Christ at Milan, Tennessee, shortly before his death. Mary Lee Cagle, widow of R. L. Harris, continued the work and became its most prominent early leader. This church, strictly congregational in polity, spread throughout Arkansas and western Texas, with scattered congregations in Alabama and Missouri. Mary Cagle and a coworker, Mrs. E. J. Sheeks, were ordained in 1899 in the first class of ordinands.

Beginning in 1888, a handful of congregations bearing

the name The Holiness Church were organized in Texas by ministers Thomas and Dennis Rogers, who came from California.

In 1901 the first congregation of the Independent Holiness Church was formed at Van Alstyne, Texas, by Charles B. Jernigan. At an early date, James B. Chapman affiliated with this denomination, which prospered and grew rapidly. In time, the congregations led by Dennis Rogers affiliated with the Independent Holiness Church.

In November 1904, representatives of the New Testament Church of Christ and the Independent Holiness Church met at Rising Star, Texas, where they agreed upon principles of union, adopted a *Manual*, and chose the name Holiness Church of Christ. This union was finalized the following year at a delegated general council held at Pilot Point, Texas. The *Holiness Evangel* was the church's official paper. Its other leading ministers included William E. Fisher, J. D. Scott, and J. T. Upchurch. Among its key lay leaders were Edwin H. Sheeks, R. B. Mitchum, and Mrs. Donie Mitchum.

Several leaders of this church were active in the Holiness Association of Texas, a vital interdenominational body that sponsored a college at Peniel, near Greenville, Texas. The association also sponsored the *Pentecostal Advocate*, the Southwest's leading holiness paper, which became a Nazarene organ in 1910. E. C. DeJernett, a minister, and C. A. McConnell, a layman, were prominent workers in this organization.

*The Church of the Nazarene.* In October 1895, Phineas F. Bresee, D.D., and Joseph P. Widney, M.D., with about 100 others, including Alice P. Baldwin, Leslie F. Gay, W. S. and Lucy P. Knott, C. E. McKee, and members of the Bresee and Widney families, organized the Church of the Nazarene at Los Angeles. At the outset they saw this church as the first of a denomination that preached the reality of entire sanctification received through faith in Christ. They held that Christians sanctified by faith should follow Christ's example and preach the Gospel to the poor. They felt called especially to this work. They believed that unnecessary elegance and adornment of houses of worship did not represent the spirit

of Christ but the spirit of the world, and that their expenditures of time and money should be given to Christlike ministries for the salvation of souls and the relief of the needy. They organized the church accordingly. They adopted general rules, a statement of belief, a polity based on a limited superintendency, procedures for the consecration of deaconesses and the ordination of elders, and a ritual. These were published as a *Manual* beginning in 1898. They published a paper known as *The Nazarene* and then *The Nazarene Messenger*. The Church of the Nazarene spread chiefly along the West Coast, with scattered congregations east of the Rocky Mountains as far as Illinois.

Among the ministers who cast their lot with the new church were H. D. Brown, W. E. Shepard, C. W. Ruth, L. B. Kent, Isaiah Reid, J. B. Creighton, C. E. Cornell, Robert Pierce, and W. C. Wilson. Among the first to be ordained by the new church were Joseph P. Widney himself, Elsie and DeLance Wallace, Lucy P. Knott, and E. A. Girvin.

Phineas F. Bresee's 38 years' experience as a pastor, superintendent, editor, college board member, and camp meeting preacher in Methodism, and his unique personal magnetism, entered into the ecclesiastical statesmanship that he brought to the merging of the several holiness churches into a national body.

*The Year of Uniting: 1907-1908.* The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America, the Church of the Nazarene, and the Holiness Church of Christ were brought into association with one another by C. W. Ruth, assistant general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, who had extensive friendships throughout the Wesleyan-holiness movement. Delegates of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene convened in general assembly at Chicago, from October 10 to 17, 1907. The merging groups agreed upon a church government that balanced the need for a superintendency with the independence of local congregations. Superintendents were to foster and care for churches already established and were to organize and encourage the organizing of churches everywhere, but their authority was not to interfere with the indepen-

dent actions of a fully organized church. Further, the General Assembly adopted a name for the united body drawn from both organizations: The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. Phineas F. Bresee and Hiram F. Reynolds were elected general superintendents. A delegation of observers from the Holiness Church of Christ was present and participated in the assembly work.

During the following year, two other accessions occurred. In April 1908 P. F. Bresee organized a congregation of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at Peniel, Texas, which brought into the church leading figures in the Holiness Association of Texas and paved the way for other members to join. In September, the Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church, after receiving a release from its General Conference, dissolved itself and under the leadership of H. G. Trumbaur united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

The second General Assembly of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene met in a joint session with the General Council of the Holiness Church of Christ from October 8 to 14, 1908, at Pilot Point, Texas. The year of uniting ended on Tuesday morning, October 13, when R. B. Mitchum moved and C. W. Ruth seconded the proposition: "That the union of the two churches be now consummated." Several spoke favorably on the motion. Phineas Bresee had exerted continual effort toward this proposed outcome. At 10:40 A.M., amid great enthusiasm, the motion to unite was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

*Denominational Change of Name.* The General Assembly of 1919, in response to memorials from 35 district assemblies, officially changed the name of the organization to Church of the Nazarene because of new meanings that had become associated with the term "Pentecostal."

### **Later Accessions**

After 1908 various other bodies united with the Church of the Nazarene:

*The Pentecostal Mission.* In 1898 J. O. McClurkan, a Cum-

berland Presbyterian evangelist, led in forming the Pentecostal Alliance at Nashville, which brought together holiness people from Tennessee and adjacent states. This body was very missionary in spirit and sent pastors and teachers to Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and India. McClurkan died in 1914. The next year his group, known then as the Pentecostal Mission, united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

*Pentecostal Church of Scotland.* In 1906 George Sharpe, of Parkhead Congregational Church, Glasgow, was evicted from his pulpit for preaching the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian holiness. Eighty members who left with him immediately formed Parkhead Pentecostal Church. Other congregations were organized, and in 1909 the Pentecostal Church of Scotland was formed. That body united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in November 1915.

*Laymen's Holiness Association.* The Laymen's Holiness Association was formed under S. A. Danford in 1917 at Jamestown, North Dakota, to serve the cause of Wesleyan-holiness revivalism in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. This group published a paper, *The Holiness Layman*. J. G. Morrison was elected president in 1919 and led an organization with over 25 other evangelists and workers. In 1922 Morrison, together with most of the workers and more than 1,000 of the members, united with the Church of the Nazarene.

*Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association.* This missionary body, centered in Tabor, Iowa, organized in 1893 by Elder George Weavers, subsequently sent over 80 workers to more than a half dozen countries. Around 1950 the work at Tabor, the South African mission, and other parts of the organization united with the Church of the Nazarene.

*International Holiness Mission.* David Thomas, businessman and lay preacher, founded The Holiness Mission in London in 1907. Extensive missionary work developed in southern Africa under the leadership of David Jones, and the church was renamed the International Holiness Mission in 1917. It united with the Church of the Nazarene on October 29, 1952, with 28 churches and more than 1,000 constituents

in England under the superintendency of J. B. Maclagan, and work led by 36 missionaries in Africa.

*Calvary Holiness Church.* In 1934 Maynard James and Jack Ford, who had led itinerant evangelism (or “trekking”) in the International Holiness Mission, formed the Calvary Holiness Church. On June 11, 1955, union took place with the Church of the Nazarene, bringing about 22 churches and more than 600 members into the denomination. The accession of the International Holiness Mission and the Calvary Holiness Church came about largely through the vision and efforts of Nazarene District Superintendent George Frame.

*Gospel Workers Church of Canada.* Organized by Frank Goff in Ontario in 1918, this church arose from an earlier group called the Holiness Workers. It united with the Church of the Nazarene on September 7, 1958, adding five churches and about 200 members to the Canada Central District.

*Church of the Nazarene (Nigeria).* In the 1940s a Wesleyan-holiness church was organized in Nigeria under indigenous leadership. It adopted the name Church of the Nazarene, deriving its doctrinal beliefs and name in part from a *Manual* of the International Church of the Nazarene. Under the leadership of Jeremiah U. Ekaidem, it united with the latter on April 3, 1988. A new district with 39 churches and 6,500 members was created.

### **Toward a Global Church**

The Church of the Nazarene had an international dimension from its beginning. By the uniting assembly of 1908, Nazarenes served and witnessed not only in North America but also as missionaries in Mexico, the Cape Verde Islands, India, Japan, and South Africa—living testimony to the impact of the 19th-century missions movement upon the religious bodies that formed the present-day Church of the Nazarene.

Expansion into new areas of the world began in Asia in 1898 by the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. The Pentecostal Mission was at work in Central America by



1900, in the Caribbean by 1902, and in South America by 1909. In Africa, Nazarenes active there in 1907 were recognized as denominational missionaries at a later date.

Subsequent extension into the Australia-South Pacific area began in 1945 and into continental Europe in 1948. In these instances, the Church of the Nazarene entered by identifying with local ministers who already preached and taught the Wesleyan-holiness message: A. A. E. Berg of Australia and Alfredo del Rosso of Italy.

In developing a global ministry, the Church of the Nazarene has depended historically on the energies of national workers who have shared with missionaries the tasks of preaching and teaching the word of grace. In 1918 a missionary in India noted that his national associates included three preachers, four teachers, three colporteurs, and five Bible women. By 1936 the ratio of national workers to missionaries throughout the worldwide Church of the Nazarene was greater than five to one.

The world areas where the church has entered reached a total of 150 by 2005. Thousands of ministers and lay workers have indigenized the Church of the Nazarene in their respective cultures, thereby contributing to the mosaic of national identities that form our international communion.

*Distinctives of International Ministry.* Historically, Nazarene global ministry has centered around evangelism, compassionate ministry, and education. The evangelistic impulse was exemplified in the lives of H. F. Schmelzenbach, L. S. Tracy, Esther Carson Winans, Samuel Krikorian, and others whose names symbolize this dimension of ministry. Around the world, Nazarene churches and districts continue to reflect a revivalistic and evangelistic character.

The international roots of Nazarene compassionate ministry lie in early support for famine relief and orphanage work in India. This impulse was strengthened by the Nazarene Medical Missionary Union, organized in the early 1920s to build Bresee Memorial Hospital in Tamingfu, China. An extensive medical work has developed in Swaziland, and other compassionate ministries have developed around the world.

Education is an aspect of world ministry exemplified early

by Hope School for Girls, founded in Calcutta by Mrs. Sukhoda Banarji in 1905 and adopted the following year by the Church of the Nazarene. Outside North America, Nazarenes have established schools for primary education and for specialized ministerial training. There are graduate seminaries in Costa Rica, the Philippines and the United States; liberal arts institutions in Africa, Canada, Korea, and the United States; one junior college in Japan; one education college in Africa; three nursing schools in Africa, India and Papua New Guinea; and thirty-seven Bible/theological institutions around the world.

The church has prospered as these components of its mission have developed. In 2005 the Church of the Nazarene had an international membership of 1,496,296, distributed in over 13,600 congregations.

As a result of this historical development, the denomination is poised today with an unfinished agenda of moving from “international presence” to an “international community” of faith. Recognition of this fact led the 1976 General Assembly to authorize a Commission on Internationalization, whose report to the 1980 General Assembly led to the creation of a system of world-region areas. The number and boundaries of the original world regions have since changed. The current ones are: the Africa Region, the Asia-Pacific Region, the Canada Region, the Caribbean Region, the Eurasia Region, the Mexico and Central America Region, the South America Region, and eight regions in the United States.\*

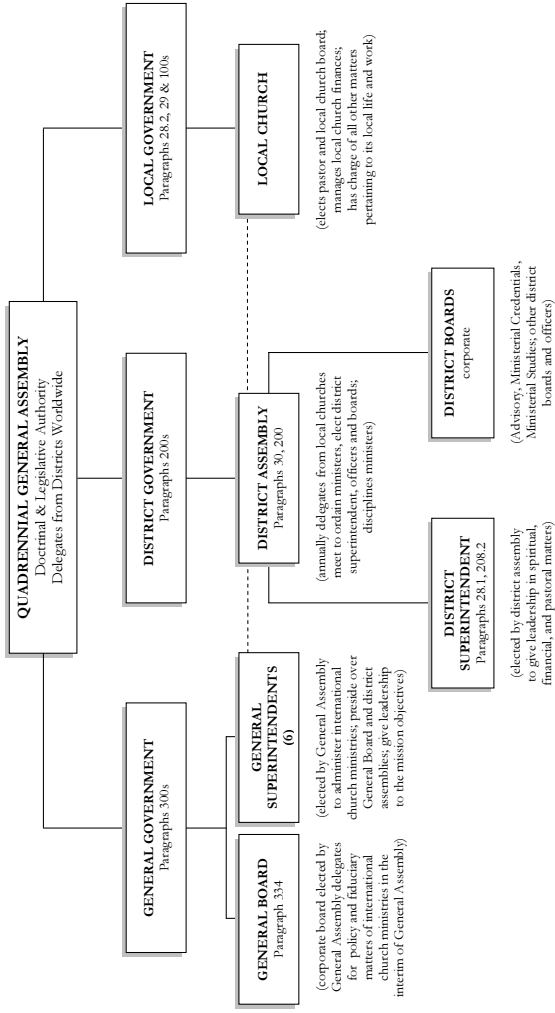
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\*A more complete history of the Church of the Nazarene may be found in Timothy L. Smith, *Called unto Holiness, Vol. 1: The Formative Years* (1962); W. T. Purkiser, *Called unto Holiness, Vol. 2: The Second 25 Years* (1983); and J. Fred Parker, *Mission to the World* (1988).

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT FLOW CHART

(with detail)

♦ International Church of the Nazarene ♦ Constitution & Articles of Government – *Manual* Paragraphs 28-32 ♦







PART II

# **Church Constitution**

**ARTICLES OF FAITH**

**THE CHURCH**

**ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND  
GOVERNMENT**

**AMENDMENTS**

### **PREAMBLE**

In order that we may preserve our God-given heritage, the faith once delivered to the saints, especially the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification as a second work of grace, and also that we may cooperate effectually with other branches of the Church of Jesus Christ in advancing God's kingdom, we, the ministers and lay members of the Church of the Nazarene, in accordance with the principles of constitutional legislation established among us, do hereby ordain, adopt, and set forth as the fundamental law or Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene the *Articles of Faith*, the Covenant of Christian Character, and the Articles of Organization and Government here following, to wit:

### **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

#### **I. The Triune God**

1. We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign of the universe; that He only is God, creative and administrative, holy in nature, attributes, and purpose; that He, as God, is Triune in essential being, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:6-27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-18)<sup>1</sup>

#### **II. Jesus Christ**

2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Triune Godhead; that He was eternally one with the Father; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures,

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1. Scripture references are supportive of the *Articles of Faith* and were placed here by action of the 1976 General Assembly but are not to be considered as part of the Constitutional text.

that is to say the Godhead and manhood, are thus united in one Person very God and very man, the God-man.

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that He truly arose from the dead and took again His body, together with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven and is there engaged in intercession for us.

(Matthew 1:20-25; 16:15-16; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-18; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 8:3, 32-34; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:12-22; 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Hebrews 1:1-5; 7:22-28; 9:24-28; 1 John 1:1-3; 4:2-3, 15)

### **III. The Holy Spirit**

**3.** We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, that He is ever present and efficiently active in and with the Church of Christ, convincing the world of sin, regenerating those who repent and believe, sanctifying believers, and guiding into all truth as it is in Jesus.

(John 7:39; 14:15-18, 26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:33; 15:8-9; Romans 8:1-27; Galatians 3:1-14; 4:6; Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 3:24; 4:13)

### **IV. The Holy Scriptures**

**4.** We believe in the plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, by which we understand the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith.

(Luke 24:44-47; John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

### **V. Sin, Original and Personal**

**5.** We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin.

**5.1.** We believe that original sin, or depravity, is that corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam by reason of which everyone is very far gone from original righteous-

ness or the pure state of our first parents at the time of their creation, is averse to God, is without spiritual life, and inclined to evil, and that continually. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the new life of the regenerate, until the heart is fully cleansed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

**5.2.** We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected.

**5.3.** We believe that actual or personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. It is therefore not to be confused with involuntary and inescapable shortcomings, infirmities, faults, mistakes, failures, or other deviations from a standard of perfect conduct that are the residual effects of the Fall. However, such innocent effects do not include attitudes or responses contrary to the spirit of Christ, which may properly be called sins of the spirit. We believe that personal sin is primarily and essentially a violation of the law of love; and that in relation to Christ sin may be defined as unbelief.

(Original sin: Genesis 3; 6:5; Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-25; 5:12-14; 7:1—8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 1:7-8)

Personal sin: Matthew 22:36-40 (with 1 John 3:4); John 8:34-36; 16:8-9; Romans 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9—2:4; 3:7-10)

## **VI. Atonement**

**6.** We believe that Jesus Christ, by His sufferings, by the shedding of His own blood, and by His death on the Cross, made a full atonement for all human sin, and that this Atonement is the only ground of salvation, and that it is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race. The Atonement is graciously efficacious for the salvation of the irresponsible and for the children in innocency but is efficacious for the salvation of those who reach the age of responsibility only when they repent and believe.

(Isaiah 53:5-6, 11; Mark 10:45; Luke 24:46-48; John 1:29; 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corin-



ans 5:14-21; Galatians 1:3-4; 3:13-14; Colossians 1:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9; 9:11-14; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:19-25; 1 John 2:1-2)

### **VII. Prevenient Grace**

7. We believe that the human race's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong, and that thus human beings were made morally responsible; that through the fall of Adam they became depraved so that they cannot now turn and prepare themselves by their own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God. But we also believe that the grace of God through Jesus Christ is freely bestowed upon all people, enabling all who will to turn from sin to righteousness, believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin, and follow good works pleasing and acceptable in His sight.

We believe that all persons, though in the possession of the experience of regeneration and entire sanctification, may fall from grace and apostatize and, unless they repent of their sins, be hopelessly and eternally lost.

(Godlikeness and moral responsibility: Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 8:3-5; Isaiah 1:8-10; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1-4; Micah 6:8; Romans 1:19-20; 2:1-16; 14:7-12; Galatians 6:7-8

Natural inability: Job 14:4; 15:14; Psalms 14:1-4; 51:5; John 3:6*a*; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20*a*; 7:14-25

Free grace and works of faith: Ezekiel 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6*b*; Acts 5:31; Romans 5:6-8, 18; 6:15-16, 23; 10:6-8; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 10:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philipians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Timothy 4:10*a*; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; James 2:18-22; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2:20-22)

### **VIII. Repentance**

8. We believe that repentance, which is a sincere and thorough change of the mind in regard to sin, involving a sense of personal guilt and a voluntary turning away from sin, is demanded of all who have by act or purpose become sinners against God. The Spirit of God gives to all who will repent the gracious help of penitence of heart and hope of mercy, that they may believe unto pardon and spiritual life.

(2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 32:5-6; 51:1-17; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 3:12-14; Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:14-16; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31; 26:16-18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9)

### **IX. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption**

**9.** We believe that justification is the gracious and judicial act of God by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

**10.** We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that gracious work of God whereby the moral nature of the repentant believer is spiritually quickened and given a distinctively spiritual life, capable of faith, love, and obedience.

**11.** We believe that adoption is that gracious act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer is constituted a son of God.

**12.** We believe that justification, regeneration, and adoption are simultaneous in the experience of seekers after God and are obtained upon the condition of faith, preceded by repentance; and that to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

(Luke 18:14; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26, 28; 4:5-9, 17-25; 5:1, 16-19; 6:4; 7:6; 8:1, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:16-21; 3:1-14, 26; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:1, 4-5; Philippians 3:3-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:9; 3:1-2, 9; 4:7; 5:1, 9-13, 18)

### **X. Entire Sanctification**

**13.** We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus, is

wrought instantaneously by faith, preceded by entire consecration; and to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as “Christian perfection,” “perfect love,” “heart purity,” “the baptism with the Holy Spirit,” “the fullness of the blessing,” and “Christian holiness.”

**14.** We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the impulse to grow in grace. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. Without such purposeful endeavor, one’s witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; John 7:37-39; 14:15-23; 17:6-20; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Romans 6:11-13, 19; 8:1-4, 8-14; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:14-21; 5:17-18, 25-27; Philippians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 4:9-11; 10:10-17; 12:1-2; 13:12; 1 John 1:7, 9)

(“Christian perfection,” “perfect love”: Deuteronomy 30:6; Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-40; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13; Philippians 3:10-15; Hebrews 6:1; 1 John 4:17-18)

“Heart purity”: Matthew 5:8; Acts 15:8-9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3

“Baptism with the Holy Spirit”: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9

“Fullness of the blessing”: Romans 15:29

“Christian holiness”: Matthew 5:1—7:29; John 15:1-11; Romans 12:1—15:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:17—5:20; Philippians 1:9-11; 3:12-15; Colossians 2:20—3:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:7-8; 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:19-25; 12:14; 13:20-21; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:1-11; 3:18; Jude 20-21)

## **XI. The Church**

**15.** We believe in the Church, the community that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, the covenant people of God made

new in Christ, the Body of Christ called together by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

God calls the Church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the Spirit; in worship through the preaching of the Word, observance of the sacraments, and ministry in His name; by obedience to Christ and mutual accountability.

The mission of the Church in the world is to continue the redemptive work of Christ in the power of the Spirit through holy living, evangelism, discipleship, and service.

The Church is a historical reality, which organizes itself in culturally conditioned forms; exists both as local congregations and as a universal body; sets apart persons called of God for specific ministries. God calls the Church to live under His rule in anticipation of the consummation at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 19:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 8:11; 10:7; 16:13-19, 24; 18:15-20; 28:19-20; John 17:14-26; 20:21-23; Acts 1:7-8; 2:32-47; 6:1-2; 13:1; 14:23; Romans 2:28-29; 4:16; 10:9-15; 11:13-32; 12:1-8; 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 7:17; 11:1, 17-33; 12:3, 12-31; 14:26-40; 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:1; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; 6:1-5, 15; Ephesians 4:1-17; 5:25-27; Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 13; 2:4-12, 21; 4:1-2, 10-11; 1 John 4:17; Jude 24; Revelation 5:9-10)

## **XII. Baptism**

**16.** We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

### **XIII. The Lord's Supper**

17. We believe that the Memorial and Communion Supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is essentially a New Testament sacrament, declarative of His sacrificial death, through the merits of which believers have life and salvation and promise of all spiritual blessings in Christ. It is distinctively for those who are prepared for reverent appreciation of its significance, and by it they show forth the Lord's death till He come again. It being the Communion feast, only those who have faith in Christ and love for the saints should be called to participate therein.

(Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:28-58; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-32)

### **XIV. Divine Healing**

18. We believe in the Bible doctrine of divine healing and urge our people to seek to offer the prayer of faith for the healing of the sick. We also believe God heals through the means of medical science.

(2 Kings 5:1-19; Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 4:23-24; 9:18-35; John 4:46-54; Acts 5:12-16; 9:32-42; 14:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-16)

### **XV. Second Coming of Christ**

19. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will come again; that we who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus; but that, if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord.

(Matthew 25:31-46; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:26-28; 2 Peter 3:3-15; Revelation 1:7-8; 22:7-20)

### **XVI. Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny**

20. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, that the bodies both of the just and of the unjust shall be raised to life and united with their spirits—"they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

**21.** We believe in future judgment in which every person shall appear before God to be judged according to his or her deeds in this life.

**22.** We believe that glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who savingly believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ our Lord; and that the finally impenitent shall suffer eternally in hell.

(Genesis 18:25; 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; 20:27-38; John 3:16-18; 5:25-29; 11:21-27; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:1-16; 14:7-12; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:1-15)

## **THE CHURCH**

### **I. The General Church**

**23.** The Church of God is composed of all spiritually regenerate persons, whose names are written in heaven.

### **II. The Churches Severally**

**24.** The churches severally are to be composed of such regenerate persons as by providential permission, and by the leadings of the Holy Spirit, become associated together for holy fellowship and ministries.

### **III. The Church of the Nazarene**

**25.** The Church of the Nazarene is composed of those persons who have voluntarily associated themselves together according to the doctrines and polity of said church, and who seek holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

### **IV. Agreed Statement of Belief**

**26.** Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

**26.1.** In one God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**26.2.** That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

**26.3.** That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

**26.4.** That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

**26.5.** That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

**26.6.** That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**26.7.** That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

**26.8.** That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

## **V. The [General Rules] *Covenant of Christian Character*<sup>2</sup>**

**27.** To be identified with the visible Church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. It is required of all who desire to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, and thus to walk in fellowship with us, that they shall show evidence of salvation from their sins by a godly walk and vital piety; and that they shall be, or earnestly desire to be, cleansed from all indwelling sin. They shall evidence their commitment to God—

**27.1. FIRST.** By doing that which is enjoined in the Word of God, which is our rule of both faith and practice, including:

(1) Loving God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself (Exodus 20:3-6; Leviticus 19:17-18; Deuteronomy 5:7-10; 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-31; Romans 13:8-10).

(2) Pressing upon the attention of the unsaved the claims of the gospel, inviting them to the house of the Lord, and trying to compass their salvation (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

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2. Constitutional changes adopted by the 2005 General Assembly are in the process of ratification by the district assemblies at the time of printing. Where changes are being made, words in italics are new words and words in brackets [ ] are words being deleted.



(3) Being courteous to all men (Ephesians 4:32; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 3:18).

(4) Being helpful to those who are also of the faith, in love forbearing one another (Romans 12:13; Galatians 6:2, 10; Colossians 3:12-14).

(5) Seeking to do good to the bodies and souls of men; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and ministering to the needy, as opportunity and ability are given (Matthew 25:35-36; 2 Corinthians 9:8-10; Galatians 2:10; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17-18).

(6) Contributing to the support of the ministry and the church and its work in tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Philippians 4:15-19).

(7) Attending faithfully all the ordinances of God, and the means of grace, including the public worship of God (Hebrews 10:25), the ministry of the Word (Acts 2:42), the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-30); searching the Scriptures and meditating thereon (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-16); family and private devotions (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Matthew 6:6).

**27.2. SECOND.** By avoiding evil of every kind, including:

(1) Taking the name of God in vain (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; James 5:12).

(2) Profaning of the Lord's Day by participation in unnecessary secular activities, thereby indulging in practices that deny its sanctity (Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13-14; Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10).

(3) Sexual immorality, such as premarital or extramarital relations, perversion in any form, or looseness and impropriety of conduct (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7).

(4) Habits or practices known to be destructive of physical and mental well-being. Christians are to regard themselves as temples of the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 20:1; 23:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:18).

(5) Quarreling, returning evil for evil, gossiping, slandering, spreading surmises injurious to the good names of

others (2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:15; Ephesians 4:30-32; James 3:5-18; 1 Peter 3:9-10).

(6) Dishonesty, taking advantage in buying and selling, bearing false witness, and like works of darkness (Leviticus 19:10-11; Romans 12:17; 1 Corinthians 6:7-10).

(7) The indulging of pride in dress or behavior. Our people are to dress with the Christian simplicity and modesty that become holiness (Proverbs 29:23; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; James 4:6; 1 Peter 3:3-4; 1 John 2:15-17).

(8) Music, literature, and entertainments that dishonor God (1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; James 4:4).

**27.3. THIRD.** By abiding in hearty fellowship with the church, not inveighing against but wholly committed to its doctrines and usages and actively involved in its continuing witness and outreach (Ephesians 2:18-22; 4:1-3, 11-16; Philippians 2:1-8; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

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## **ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT**

### **Article I. Form of Government**

**28.** The Church of the Nazarene has a representative form of government.

**28.1.** We are agreed on the necessity of a superintendency that shall complement and assist the local church in the fulfilling of its mission and objectives. The superintendency shall build morale, provide motivation, supply management and method assistance, and organize and encourage organization of new churches and missions everywhere.

**28.2.** We are agreed that authority given to superintendents shall not interfere with the independent action of a fully organized church. Each church shall enjoy the right to select its own pastor, subject to such approval as the General Assembly shall find wise to institute. Each church shall also elect delegates to the various assemblies, manage its own finances, and have charge of all other matters pertaining to its local life and work.

## **Article II. Local Churches**

**29.** The membership of a local church shall consist of all who have been organized as a church by those authorized so to do and who have been publicly received by those having proper authority, after having declared their experience of salvation, their belief in our doctrines, and their willingness to submit to our government. (100-107)

## **Article III. District Assemblies**

**30.** The General Assembly shall organize the membership of the church into district assemblies, giving such lay and ministerial representation therein as the General Assembly may deem fair and just, and shall determine qualifications of such representatives, provided, however, that all assigned ordained ministers shall be members thereof. The General Assembly shall also fix the boundaries of assembly districts, and define the powers and duties of district assemblies. (200-5.6)

## **Article IV. The General Assembly**

**31.1. How Composed.** The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers, elected thereto by district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; such ex-officio members as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct; and such delegates of districts under the administration of the World Mission and USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism committees of the Church of the Nazarene as may be provided for by the General Assembly.

**31.2. Election of Delegates.** At a district assembly within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary, an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates to the General Assembly shall be chosen as may be provided by the General Assembly, and provided that the ministerial delegates shall be assigned ordained ministers of the Church of the Nazarene. Each Phase 3 assembly district shall be entitled to at least one ministe-

rial and one lay delegate, and such additional delegates as its membership may warrant on the basis of representation fixed by the General Assembly. Each assembly district shall elect alternate delegates not exceeding the number of its delegates. (203.23, 301-1.1)

**31.3. Credentials.** The secretary of each district assembly shall furnish certificates of election to the delegates and alternates severally elected to the General Assembly, and shall also send certificates of such elections to the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene immediately following the adjournment of the district assembly.

**31.4. Quorum.** When the General Assembly is in session, a majority of the whole number of delegates elected thereto shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum has once been had, a smaller number may approve the minutes then remaining unapproved, and adjourn.

**31.5. General Superintendents.** The General Assembly shall elect by ballot from among the elders of the Church of the Nazarene as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall constitute the Board of General Superintendents. Any vacancy in the office of general superintendent in the interim of General Assemblies shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene. (305.2, 316)

**31.6. Presiding Officers.** A general superintendent appointed thereto by the Board of General Superintendents shall preside over the daily meetings of the General Assembly. But if no general superintendent be so appointed or be present, the General Assembly shall elect one of its members as temporary presiding officer. (300.1)

**31.7. Rules of Order.** The General Assembly shall adopt rules of order governing its manner of organization, procedure, committees, and all other matters pertaining to the orderly conduct of its business. It shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. (300.2-0.3)

**31.8. General Court of Appeals.** The General Assembly shall elect from among members of the Church of the Nazarene a General Court of Appeals and shall define its jurisdiction and powers. (305.7)

**31.9. Powers and Restrictions.**

(1) The General Assembly shall have power to legislate for the Church of the Nazarene, and to make rules and regulations for all the departments related to or associated with it in any respect, but not in conflict with this Constitution. (300, 305-5.9)

(2) No local church shall be deprived of the right to call its pastor, subject to such approval as the General Assembly shall find wise to institute. (115)

(3) All local churches, officers, ministers, and laypersons shall always have the right to a fair and orderly trial and the right to make an appeal.

**AMENDMENTS**

**32.** The provisions of this Constitution may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of [all the members of] the General Assembly *members present and voting*, and when concurred in by not less than two-thirds of all the Phase 3 and Phase 2 district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene. Either the General Assembly or any Phase 3 or Phase 2 district assembly may take the initiative in the matter of proposing such [alterations or] amendments. As soon as such [alterations or] amendments shall have been adopted as herein provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the Board of General Superintendents, whereupon such [alterations or] amendments shall have full force and effect.<sup>3</sup>

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3. Constitutional changes adopted by the 2005 General Assembly are in the process of ratification by the district assemblies at the time of printing. Where changes are being made, words in italics are new words and words in brackets [ ] are words being deleted.



PART III

# **The Covenant of Christian Conduct**

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE AND/OR  
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE**

**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

**HUMAN SEXUALITY**

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

**RULES OF ORDER**

**AMENDING THE COVENANT  
OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

### **A. The Christian Life**

**33.** The church joyfully proclaims the good news that we may be delivered from all sin to a new life in Christ. By the grace of God we Christians are “to put off the old self”—the old patterns of conduct as well as the old carnal mind—and are to “put on the new self”—a new and holy way of life as well as the mind of Christ. (Ephesians 4:17-24)

**33.1.** The Church of the Nazarene purposes to relate timeless biblical principles to contemporary society in such a way that the doctrines and covenants of the church may be known and understood in many lands and within a variety of cultures. We hold that the Ten Commandments, as reaffirmed in the New Testament, constitute the basic Christian ethic and ought to be obeyed in all particulars.

**33.2.** It is further recognized that there is validity in the concept of the collective Christian conscience as illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Church of the Nazarene, as an international expression of the Body of Christ, acknowledges its responsibility to seek ways to particularize the Christian life so as to lead to a holiness ethic. The historic ethical standards of the church are expressed in part in the following items. They should be followed carefully and conscientiously as guides and helps to holy living. Those who violate the conscience of the church do so at their own peril and to the hurt of the witness of the church. Culturally conditioned adaptations shall be referred to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

**33.3.** In listing practices to be avoided we recognize that no catalog, however inclusive, can hope to encompass all forms of evil throughout the world. Therefore it is imperative that our people earnestly seek the aid of the Spirit in cultivating a sensitivity to evil that transcends the mere letter of the law; remembering the admonition: “Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)



**33.4.** Our leaders and pastors are expected to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental biblical truths as will develop the faculty of discrimination between the evil and the good.

**33.5.** Education is of the utmost importance for the social and spiritual well-being of society. Public schools have a mandate to educate all. They are limited, however, as to their scope and, in fact, are prohibited by court rulings from teaching the basic tenets of Christianity. Nazarene educational organizations and institutions, such as Sunday Schools, schools (birth through secondary), child care centers, adult care centers, colleges, and seminaries, are expected to teach children, youth, and adults biblical principles and ethical standards in such a way that our doctrines may be known. This practice may be instead of or in addition to public schools, which often teach secular humanism and fall short of teaching principles of holy living. The education from public sources should be complemented by holiness teaching in the home. Christians should also be encouraged to work in and with public institutions to witness to and influence these institutions for God's kingdom. (Matthew 5:13-14)

**34.** We hold specifically that the following practices should be avoided:

**34.1. Entertainments that are subversive of the Christian ethic.** Our people, both as Christian individuals and in Christian family units, should govern themselves by three principles. One is the Christian stewardship of leisure time. A second principle is the recognition of the Christian obligation to apply the highest moral standards of Christian living. Because we are living in a day of great moral confusion in which we face the potential encroachment of the evils of the day into the sacred precincts of our homes through various avenues such as current literature, radio, television, personal computers, and the Internet, it is essential that the most rigid safeguards be observed to keep our homes from becoming secularized and worldly. However, we hold that entertainment that endorses and encourages holy living and affirms scriptural values should be affirmed and encouraged. We especially encourage our young people to

use their gifts in media and the arts to influence positively this pervasive part of culture. The third principle is the obligation to witness against whatever trivializes or blasphemes God, as well as such social evils as violence, sensuality, pornography, profanity, and the occult, as portrayed by and through the commercial entertainment industry in its many forms and to endeavor to bring about the demise of enterprises known to be the purveyors of this kind of entertainment. This would include the avoidance of all types of entertainment ventures and media productions that produce, promote, or feature the violent, the sensual, the pornographic, the profane, or the occultic, or which feature or glamorize the world's philosophy of secularism, sensualism, and materialism and undermine God's standard of holiness of heart and life.

This necessitates the teaching and preaching of these moral standards of Christian living, and that our people be taught to use prayerful discernment in continually choosing the "high road" of holy living. We therefore call upon our leaders and pastors to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental truths as will develop the principle of discrimination between the evil and good to be found in these media.

We suggest that the standard given to John Wesley by his mother, namely, "whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over mind, that thing for you is sin," form the basis for this teaching of discrimination. (33.2-33.4, 903.12-3.14)

(Romans 14:7-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Ephesians 5:1-18; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 Peter 1:13-17; 2 Peter 1:3-11)

**34.2.** Lotteries and other forms of gambling, whether legal or illegal. The church holds that the final result of these practices is detrimental both to the individual and society.

(Matthew 6:24-34; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 John 2:15-17)

**34.3.** Membership in oath-bound secret orders or societies. The quasi-religious nature of such organizations dilutes the

Christian's commitment, and their secrecy contravenes the Christian's open witness.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1; Ephesians 5:11-16; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)

**34.4.** All forms of dancing that detract from spiritual growth and break down proper moral inhibitions and reserve.

(Matthew 22:36-39; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 3:1-17)

**34.5.** The use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, or trafficking therein; giving influence to, or voting for, the licensing of places for the sale of the same; using illicit drugs or trafficking therein; using of tobacco in any of its forms, or trafficking therein.

In light of the Holy Scriptures and human experience concerning the ruinous consequences of the use of alcohol as a beverage, and in light of the findings of medical science regarding the detrimental effect of both alcohol and tobacco to the body and mind, as a community of faith committed to the pursuit of a holy life, our position and practice is abstinence rather than moderation. Holy Scripture teaches that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. With loving regard for ourselves and others, we call our people to total abstinence from all intoxicants.

Furthermore, our Christian social responsibility calls us to use any legitimate and legal means to minimize the availability of both beverage alcohol and tobacco to others. The widespread incidence of alcohol abuse in our world demands that we embody a position that stands as a witness to others. (903.12-3.14)

(Proverbs 20:1; 23:29—24:2; Hosea 4:10-11; Habakkuk 2:5; Romans 13:8; 14:15-21; 15:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:9-12, 19-20; 10:31-33; Galatians 5:13-14, 21; Ephesians 5:18)

(Only unfermented wine should be used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.) (413.11, 427.7, 428.2, 429.1, 802)

**34.6.** The unprescribed use of hallucinogenics, stimulants, and depressants, and the misuse and abuse of regularly prescribed medicines. Only on competent medical advice and under medical supervision should such drugs be used.

(Matthew 22:37-39; 27:34; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:24-27)

### **B. Marriage and Divorce and/or Dissolution of Marriage<sup>1</sup>**

**35.** The Christian family, knit together in a common bond through Jesus Christ, is a circle of love, fellowship, and worship to be earnestly cultivated in a society in which family ties are easily dissolved. We urge upon the ministry and congregations of our church such teachings and practices as will strengthen and develop family ties. In particular, we urge upon the ministry the importance of teaching and preaching clearly the biblical plan of the permanence of marriage.

The institution of marriage was ordained by God in the time of man's innocence, and is, according to apostolic authority, "honourable in all;" it is the mutual union of one man and one woman for fellowship, helpfulness, and the propagation of the race. Our people should cherish this sacred estate as becomes Christians, and should enter it only after earnest prayer for divine direction, and when assured that the contemplated union is in accordance with scriptural requirements.

They should seek earnestly the blessings that God has ordained in connection with the wedded state, namely, holy companionship, parenthood, and mutual love—the elements of home building. The marriage covenant is morally binding so long as both shall live, and breaking of it is a breach of the divine plan of the permanence of marriage.

(Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:21-24; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; Ephesians 5:21—6:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4)

**35.1.** In biblical teaching, marriage is the commitment of male and female to each other for life, reflecting Christ's sacrificial love for the Church. As such, marriage is intended to be permanent, and divorce an infraction of the clear teaching of Christ. Such infractions, however, are not beyond

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1. The meaning of divorce in this rule shall include "dissolution of marriage" when it is used as a legal substitute for divorce.

the forgiving grace of God when this is sought with repentance, faith and humility. It is recognized that some have divorce thrust upon them against their will or are compelled to resort to it for legal or physical protection.

(Genesis 2:21-24; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 7:36-50, 16:18; John 7:53—8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 7:10-16; Ephesians 5:25-33)

**35.2.** Ministers of the Church of the Nazarene are instructed to give due care to matters relating to solemnizing marriages. They shall seek, in every manner possible, to convey to their congregations the sacredness of Christian marriage. They shall provide premarital counseling in every instance possible before performing a marriage ceremony including proper spiritual guidance for those who have experienced divorce. They shall only solemnize marriages of persons having the biblical basis for marriage. (107-7.1)

**35.3.** Members of the Church of the Nazarene are to seek prayerfully a redemptive course of action when involved in marital unhappiness, in full harmony with their vows and the clear teachings of the Scripture, their aim being to save the home and safeguard the good name of both Christ and His Church. Couples having serious marital problems are urged to seek counsel and guidance of their pastor and/or any other appropriate spiritual leaders. Failure to comply with this procedure in good faith and with sincere endeavor to seek a Christian solution, and subsequent obtainment of divorce and remarriage, makes one or both parties subject to possible discipline as prescribed in 504-4.2 and 505-5.12.

**35.4.** Through ignorance, sin, and human frailties, many in our society fall short of the divine plan. We believe that Christ can redeem these persons even as He did the woman at Samaria's well, and that sin against God's design for marriage does not place one beyond the forgiving grace of the gospel. Where a marriage has been dissolved and remarriage has followed, the marriage partners are enjoined to seek the grace of God and His redemptive help in their marriage relation. Such persons may be received into the membership of the church at such time as they have given evidence of their regeneration and an awareness of their understanding of the sanctity of Christian marriage. (27, 107.1)

### C. Sanctity of Human Life

**36.** The Church of the Nazarene believes in the sanctity of human life and strives to protect against abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, and the withholding of reasonable medical care to handicapped or elderly.

**Induced Abortion.** The Church of the Nazarene affirms the sanctity of human life as established by God the Creator and believes that such sanctity extends to the child not yet born. Life is a gift from God. All human life, including life developing in the womb, is created by God in His image and is, therefore, to be nurtured, supported, and protected. From the moment of conception, a child is a human being with all of the developing characteristics of human life, and this life is dependent on the mother for its continued development. Therefore, we believe that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. We oppose induced abortion by any means, when used for either personal convenience or population control. We oppose laws that allow abortion. Realizing that there are rare, but real medical conditions wherein the mother or the unborn child, or both, could not survive the pregnancy, termination of the pregnancy should only be made after sound medical and Christian counseling.

Responsible opposition to abortion requires our commitment to the initiation and support of programs designed to provide care for mothers and children. The crisis of an unwanted pregnancy calls for the community of believers (represented only by those for whom knowledge of the crisis is appropriate) to provide a context of love, prayer, and counsel. In such instances, support can take the form of counseling centers, homes for expectant mothers, and the creation or utilization of Christian adoption services.

The Church of the Nazarene recognizes that consideration of abortion as a means of ending an unwanted pregnancy often occurs because Christian standards of sexual responsibility have been ignored. Therefore the church calls for persons to practice the ethic of the New Testament as it bears upon human sexuality and to deal with the issue of abortion

by placing it within the larger framework of biblical principles that provide guidance for moral decision making.

(Genesis 2:7, 9:6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12-16, 22-25; Leviticus 18:21; Job 31:15; Psalms 22:9; 139:3-16; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15, 23-25, 36-45; Acts 17:25; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:16; 7:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6)

The Church of the Nazarene also recognizes that many have been affected by the tragedy of abortion. Each local congregation and individual believer is urged to offer the message of forgiveness by God for each person who has experienced abortion. Our local congregations are to be communities of redemption and hope to all who suffer physical, emotional, and spiritual pain as a result of the willful termination of a pregnancy.

(Romans 3:22-24; Galatians 6:1)

**Genetic Engineering and Gene Therapy.** The Church of the Nazarene supports the use of genetic engineering to achieve gene therapy. We recognize that gene therapy can lead to preventing and curing disease, and preventing and curing anatomical and mental disorders. We oppose any use of genetic engineering that promotes social injustice, disregards the dignity of persons, or that attempts to achieve racial, intellectual, or social superiority over others (Eugenics). We oppose initiation of DNA studies whose results might encourage or support human abortion as an alternative to term live birth. In all cases, humility, a respect for the inviolable dignity of human life, human equality before God, and a commitment to mercy and justice should govern genetic engineering and gene therapy.

(Micah 6:8)

**Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Other Medical/Scientific Endeavors that Destroy Human Life after Conception.** The Church of the Nazarene strongly encourages the scientific community to aggressively pursue advances in stem cell technology obtained from sources such as adult human tissues, placenta, umbilical cord blood, animal sources, and other nonhuman embryonic sources. This has the righteous end of attempting to bring healing to many, without violating the sanctity of human life. Our stand on human embryonic stem cell research flows from

our affirmation that the human embryo is a person made in the image of God. Therefore, we oppose the use of stem cells produced from human embryos for research, therapeutic interventions, or any other purpose.

As future scientific advances make new technologies available, we strongly support this research when it does not violate the sanctity of human life or other moral, biblical laws. However, we oppose the destruction of human embryos for any purpose and any type of research that takes the life of a human after conception. Consistent with this view, we oppose the use, for any purpose, of tissue derived from aborted human fetuses.

**Human Cloning.** We oppose the cloning of an individual human being. Humankind is valued by God, who created us in His image, and the cloning of an individual human being treats that being as an object, thus denying the personal dignity and worth bestowed on us by our Creator.

(Genesis 1:27)

**Euthanasia (Including Physician Assisted Suicide).** We believe that euthanasia (intentionally ending the life of a terminally ill person, or one who has a debilitating and incurable disease that is not immediately life-threatening, for the purpose of ending suffering) is incompatible with the Christian faith. This applies when euthanasia is requested or consented to by the terminally ill person (voluntary euthanasia) and when the terminally ill person is not mentally competent to give consent (involuntary euthanasia). We believe that the historic rejection of euthanasia by the Christian church is confirmed by Christian convictions that derive from the Bible and that are central to the Church's confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Euthanasia violates Christian confidence in God as the sovereign Lord of life by claiming sovereignty for oneself; it violates our role as stewards before God; it contributes to an erosion of the value the Bible places on human life and community; it attaches too much importance to the cessation of suffering; and it reflects a human arrogance before a graciously sovereign God. We urge our people to oppose all efforts to legalize euthanasia.

**Allowing to Die.** When human death is imminent, we



believe that either withdrawing or not originating artificial life-support systems is permissible within the range of Christian faith and practice. This position applies to persons who are in a persistent vegetative state and to those for whom the application of extraordinary means for prolonging life provide no reasonable hope for a return to health. We believe that when death is imminent, nothing in the Christian faith requires that the process of dying be artificially postponed. As Christians we trust in God's faithfulness and have the hope of eternal life. This makes it possible for Christians to accept death as an expression of faith in Christ who overcame death on our behalf and robbed it of its victory.

#### **D. Human Sexuality**

**37.** The Church of the Nazarene views human sexuality as one expression of the holiness and beauty that God the Creator intended for His creation. It is one of the ways by which the covenant between a husband and a wife is sealed and expressed. Christians are to understand that in marriage human sexuality can and ought to be sanctified by God. Human sexuality achieves fulfillment only as a sign of comprehensive love and loyalty. Christian husbands and wives should view sexuality as a part of their much larger commitment to one another and to Christ from whom the meaning of life is drawn.

The Christian home should serve as a setting for teaching children the sacred character of human sexuality and for showing them how its meaning is fulfilled in the context of love, fidelity, and patience.

Our ministers and Christian educators should state clearly the Christian understanding of human sexuality, urging Christians to celebrate its rightful excellence, and rigorously to guard against its betrayal and distortion.

Sexuality misses its purpose when treated as an end in itself or when cheapened by using another person to satisfy pornographic and perverted sexual interests. We view all forms of sexual intimacy that occur outside the covenant of heterosexual marriage as sinful distortions of the holiness and beauty God intended for it.

Homosexuality is one means by which human sexuality is perverted. We recognize the depth of the perversion that leads to homosexual acts but affirm the biblical position that such acts are sinful and subject to the wrath of God. We believe the grace of God sufficient to overcome the practice of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We deplore any action or statement that would seem to imply compatibility between Christian morality and the practice of homosexuality. We urge clear preaching and teaching concerning Bible standards of sexual morality.

(Genesis 1:27; 19:1-25; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10)

## **E. Christian Stewardship**

**38. Meaning of Stewardship.** The Scriptures teach that God is the Owner of all persons and all things. We, therefore, are His stewards of both life and possessions. God's ownership and our stewardship ought to be acknowledged, for we shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of our stewardship. God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving that acknowledges His ownership over all human resources and relationships. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel. (140)

(Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:24-34; 25:31-46; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 12:13-24; 19:11-27; John 15:1-17; Romans 12:1-13; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Hebrews 7:8; James 1:27; 1 John 3:16-18)

**38.1. Storehouse Tithing.** Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and the local Church of the Nazarene shall be regarded by all of its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of the Church of the Nazarene are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them for

the support of the whole church, local, district, educational, and general. The tithe, provided to the local Church of the Nazarene, shall be considered a priority over all other giving opportunities which God may lay upon the hearts of His faithful stewards, in support of the whole church.

**38.2. Fund-raising and Distribution.** In the light of the scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel, and for the erection of church buildings, no Nazarene church should engage in any method of fund-raising that would detract from these principles, hinder the gospel message, sully the name of the church, discriminate against the poor, or misdirect the people's energies from promoting the gospel.

In disbursing to meet the requirements of the local, district, educational, and general programs of the Church of the Nazarene, local churches are urged to adopt and practice a financial apportionment plan, and to pay general, educational, and district apportionments monthly. (130, 154, 155-55.2, 413.21)

**38.3. Support of the Ministry.** "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14). The church is obligated to support its ministers, who have been called of God, and who, under the direction of the church, have given themselves wholly to the work of the ministry. We urge therefore that the members of the church voluntarily commit themselves to the task of supporting the ministry by gathering money weekly for this holy business and that the pastor's salary be paid regularly every week. (115.4)

**38.4. Life Income Gifts, Planned and Deferred Giving.** It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one's income and possessions over which the Lord makes the Christian a steward during this life. The Church of the Nazarene, recognizing the need for faithful stewardship in this life and the God-given vision to leave a legacy for the future, has established the Church of the Nazarene Foundation to enhance Christian stewardship through planned and de-

ferred giving. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give attention to the preparation of a last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and the Church of the Nazarene through its various ministries of missions, evangelism, education, and benevolences—local, district, educational, and general—is recommended for consideration.

### **F. Church Officers**

**39.** We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (113.9-13.10, 127, 145, 146)

### **G. Rules of Order**

**40.** Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (113, 203, 300.3)

### **H. Amending the Covenant of Christian Conduct**

**41.** The provisions of the Covenant of Christian Conduct may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting of a given General Assembly.

PART IV

# **Government**

**THE LOCAL CHURCH**  
**THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**

### PREAMBLE

The task of the Church of the Nazarene is to make known to all peoples the transforming grace of God through the forgiveness of sins and heart cleansing in Jesus Christ. Our mission first and foremost is to “make disciples,” to incorporate believers into fellowship and membership (congregations), and to equip (teach) for ministry all who respond in faith. The ultimate goal of the “community of faith” is to present everyone perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28) at the last day.

It is in the local church that the saving, perfecting, teaching, and commissioning takes place. The local church, the Body of Christ, is the representation of our faith and mission. These churches are grouped administratively into districts and regions.

The bases of unity in the Church of the Nazarene are those beliefs, polity, definitions, and procedures as articulated in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

The core of this unity is declared in the *Articles of Faith* of the *Manual*. We encourage the church in all regions and languages to translate—widely distribute—and teach these beliefs to our constituency. This is the golden strand that is woven into the fabric of all we are and do as Nazarenes.

A visible reflection of this unity is represented by the General Assembly, which is the “supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene.” (300)

A second reflection is the international General Board, which represents the entire church.

A third reflection is the Board of General Superintendents, who may interpret the *Manual*, approve cultural adaptations, and ordain to the ministry.

The government of the Church of the Nazarene is representative, and thus avoids the extremes of episcopacy on the one hand and unlimited congregationalism on the other.

In world regions served by the church where cultural and political differences may necessitate, adaptations of local, district, and regional church government procedures contained in Part IV, Chapters I, II, and III, may be made. Re-

quests for all such adaptations shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

## CHAPTER I

### THE LOCAL CHURCH

#### **A. Organization, Name, Incorporation, Property, Restrictions, Mergers, Disorganization**

**100. Organization.** Local churches may be organized by the district superintendent, or by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or by an elder authorized by either of them. Official reports of new churches shall be filed with the General Secretary's office through the respective jurisdictional office. (29, 107, 208.1, 433.12)

**100.1. The Multicongregational Church.** Organized local churches may enlarge their ministry by establishing Bible classes in various languages using the facilities of these churches. These Bible classes may develop into church-type missions or fully organized churches (100). This may result in more than one congregation existing under one church name, with the approval of the district superintendent. In such multicongregational churches where not all the individual congregations are fully organized churches, the District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may grant to such congregations the rights and privileges of an organized local church subject to the following conditions:

1. Such congregations may not be incorporated separate from the organized local church.
2. Such congregations shall not hold title to property separate from the organized local church.
3. Such congregations shall not incur indebtedness without the approval of the district superintendent, the church board of the organized local church, and the District Advisory Board.
4. No such congregation may withdraw as a body from the organized local church or in any way sever its rela-

tion thereto except by the express permission of the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor of the local church.

**101. Name.** The name of a newly organized church shall be determined by the local church in consultation with the district superintendent and with the approval of the District Advisory Board. (102.4)

**101.1. Change of Name.** A local Church of the Nazarene may change its name by a majority ballot vote in an annual or special meeting of the church membership. Processes for the change shall be: (a) The local church board submits the proposed change to the district superintendent who shall obtain the written approval of the District Advisory Board; (b) the local church votes; (c) the District Advisory Board reports the change to the district assembly, and the district assembly votes approval of the same. (102.4)

**102. Incorporation.** In all places where the statutes will permit, the trustees shall have the local church incorporated, and the said trustees and their successors shall be the trustees of the said corporation. Where not inconsistent with civil law, the Articles of Incorporation shall set forth the powers of the corporation, and provide that the corporation shall be subject to the government of the Church of the Nazarene, as from time to time authorized and declared in its *Manual* by the General Assembly of said church. All the property of this corporation shall be managed and controlled by the trustees subject to the approval of the local church.

**102.1.** Where property is purchased and developed by the District Advisory Board for a local church or where a new church is formed, upon the repayment by the local church of the money invested by the District Advisory Board, it is deemed advisable that the District Advisory Board transfer the title to the local church.

**102.2.** When a local church is incorporated, all property acquired shall be deeded directly to the church in its corporate name when it is possible to do so. (102.6)

**102.3.** The pastor and the secretary of the church board shall be the president and secretary of the church, incorporated or not incorporated, and shall execute and sign all con-



veyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents of the church not otherwise provided for in the *Manual* and subject to the restrictions set forth in 104-4.3.

**102.4.** The Articles of Incorporation of each local church shall include the following provisions:

1. The corporate name shall include the words "Church of the Nazarene." The name "Church of the Nazarene" shall appear on church signs, official stationery, and church publications.
2. The bylaws of the corporation shall be the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
3. The Articles of Incorporation shall not contain any provision that might prevent the local church from qualifying for any tax exemption available to churches in the same area.
4. Upon dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to the District Advisory Board.

The Articles of Incorporation may contain additional provisions when appropriate under local law. No provision, however, shall be included that can cause the property of the local church to be diverted from the Church of the Nazarene. (101-1.1, 104.3, 106.1-6.3)

**102.5.** In multicongregational churches, where more than one organized church shares the same facility, incorporation may take place in partnership where local laws allow.

**102.6.** In localities where incorporation is not possible, the church name shall include the words "Church of the Nazarene" on all legal documents including, but not limited to the property deed(s) and deed(s) of trust. (102.2)

**103. Property.** The local church considering the purchase of real estate, the erection of churches or church-related buildings, a major remodeling of either, or leasing real property for any reason, shall submit its proposal to the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board for their consideration, advice, and approval. No indebtedness, whether involving a mortgage or not, shall be incurred in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings or a major remodeling of either, without the written approval

of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. (233-34.5)

**103.1.** In case agreement cannot be reached between the church board and the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board, the issue may be submitted to the general superintendent having jurisdiction, for a decision. Either the church or the district superintendent may appeal such decision to the Board of General Superintendents for a final decision. All such appeals, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto, whether to the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents, shall be in writing. A copy of the appeal, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto by either the church board or the district superintendent shall be sent to the other party involved. The minute record of a church board appeal shall include the appeal resolution, arguments sustaining it, and the record of the vote taken.

**104. Restrictions.** The local church may not purchase real estate, nor sell, mortgage, including refinance, exchange, or in any other way encumber real property, or otherwise dispose of real estate except by two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose, except the church board may approve by two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, properties donated for the specific purpose of providing funds for the local church, and except upon the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. (113.3-13.4, 113.7, 113.14, 234.3)

**104.1.** The real estate of the local church shall not be mortgaged to meet current expenses.

**104.2.** A local church which mortgages or sells real estate, or receives insurance claims on real estate, shall use the proceeds only for the purchase or capital improvement of real estate, or to reduce other real estate indebtedness. Only with the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board shall any proceeds be used for other purposes.

**104.3.** Trustees and/or a local church may not divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. (113-13.1)

**104.4. Withdrawal of Churches.** No local church may withdraw as a body from the Church of the Nazarene, or in any way sever its relation thereto, except by provision of the General Assembly, and upon agreed conditions and plans. (106.2-6.3)

**105. Mergers.** Two or more local churches may be merged upon two-thirds favorable vote by ballot of the members present and voting at specially called meetings of the churches involved, provided: the merger shall be recommended by a majority vote by ballot of all the members of the respective church boards, and the merger shall have been approved in writing by the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

The merger shall be finalized in a special meeting of the new congregation for the purpose of electing officers and making pastoral arrangements. The district superintendent, or an elder appointed by the superintendent, shall preside.

The organization thus created shall combine the total membership of the former churches, the membership of all departments of those churches, and may combine part or all of the assets and liabilities of those churches subject to the approval of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The merger will also combine the general, educational, and district apportionments.

Upon the notification by the district superintendent, the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene is authorized to remove the names of the inactive churches from the roll of churches.

**106. Declaring Churches Inactive/Disorganized.** Churches may be declared inactive for a period of transition by action of the District Advisory Board.

**106.1.** A local church may be disorganized on recommendation from the district superintendent and a two-thirds vote of the District Advisory Board. Such action shall be taken only after the district superintendent has consulted with and received an affirmative response from the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

**106.2.** In case a local church becomes disorganized, or in the event of withdrawal or attempted withdrawal from the Church of the Nazarene (as certified by the District Advisory Board), any church property that may exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but title shall pass to the District Advisory Board acting as agent for said district where such has been incorporated, or other authorized agents, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the district assembly shall direct; and trustees holding property for the disorganized church shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the District Advisory Board or other appointed agent of the district assembly, with the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction; either conveying said property or delivering the proceeds from the sale thereof as directed by the district assembly or its District Advisory Board. (104.4, 222.17)

**106.3.** No trustee or trustees of a disorganized church, or a church that withdraws or attempts to withdraw from the Church of the Nazarene, may divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. (104.4, 141-44, 222.17)

**106.4.** Only those churches officially disorganized may be dropped from the records of the general secretary.

**106.5.** When a local church has been declared inactive, the signatories on all church monetary and/or security accounts must transfer the proceeds of the same to the District Advisory Board for deposit. Refusal to comply authorizes the District Advisory Board by resolution to close all accounts and assume jurisdiction of all assets where the law allows.

## **B. Membership**

**107. Full Membership.** All persons who have been organized into a local church by those authorized so to do, and all who have been publicly received by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the general superintendent, after having declared their experience of salvation, and their belief in the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene, and their willingness to submit to its government, shall compose the full membership of the local church; however, only church

members who are active members and have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in annual or special church meetings. (29, 35.4, 111, 113.1, 413.3, 417, 427.8, 433.8-33.9)

**107.1.** When persons desire to unite with the church, the pastor shall explain to them the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the church, the *Articles of Faith*, the requirements of the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, and the purpose and mission of the Church of the Nazarene.

After consulting with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee, the minister shall receive acceptable candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members (801). (27, 33-39, 110-10.4, 225)

**107.2. Members of a Church-Type Mission.** Where the organization of a local church has not been effected, a church-type mission shall receive and report church members according to 107 and 107.1 in the annual statistics.

**108. Associate Membership.** Where a district makes provision, a local church may have associate members who shall have all the privileges of church members, with the exception of voting and holding church office. (203.24)

**108.1.** Associate members may be received into full membership or dropped at any time, at the discretion of the pastor and Evangelism and Church Membership Committee.

**109. Inactive Membership.** A local church may designate persons as "inactive members" for the reasons stated in 109.1 and 109.2. (112.3, 133)

**109.1.** A member of a local church who has moved to another community and ceases to be active at his or her church of membership should be urged to attend the Church of the Nazarene there and to request a transfer of membership to that church.

**109.2.** When a member of a church has been absent from all religious services of the church for six successive months without a reason deemed justifiable by the church board, and attempt has been made to encourage him or her to become active when possible, that person's membership may

be declared inactive upon recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board. The person shall be informed by a redemptive letter from the pastor within seven days of the action of the church board. After such action of the church board, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name "Placed on the Inactive Membership Roll by the church board (date)." A 120-day waiting period including prayer and supplication shall follow these actions, during which an inactive member may request in writing that the church board return his or her name to the active roll of the church. The request must include a reaffirmation of the vows of membership and renewed participation in the worship activities of the local church. The church board shall respond to the request within 60 days. Full membership may be restored to such a person by recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board.

**109.3.** Inactive members shall be included in the full membership of the local church with active members. Membership shall be reported to the district assembly in separate categories, namely (1) active and (2) inactive members.

**109.4.** Inactive members shall not be eligible to vote in annual or special church meetings or hold office.

### **C. Evangelism and Church Membership Committee**

**110.** The church board shall provide an Evangelism and Church Membership Committee of not fewer than three persons acting in an advisory capacity to the pastor, who shall be the chairperson. Its duties shall be:

**110.1.** To promote evangelism in the local church and seek to conserve the fruits of evangelism. (107-7.1, 129.24)

**110.2.** To study and recommend to the church board and departments ways to emphasize evangelism in the whole life of the church.

**110.3.** To serve as the local committee to implement both general and district denominational programs of evangelism.

**110.4.** To urge new converts to qualify for church member-

ship by a consistent devotional life, a study of the Bible and the *Manual*, individually and/or in a pastor's membership class, remembering that members received by profession of faith help to conserve the fruits of evangelism. (26-27, 35.4)

**110.5.** To endeavor to bring new members into total fellowship and service of the church.

**110.6.** To work with the pastor in developing a continuing program of spiritual guidance for new members.

**110.7.** To recommend to the church board, upon nomination by the pastor, the evangelists for local campaigns. It is recommended that at least one campaign each year be conducted by a tenured, commissioned or registered evangelist.

**110.8.** No person shall be received into full membership of the local church until the pastor first consults with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee concerning that person's reception. (107.1)

#### **D. Change of Membership**

**111. Transfer.** The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a transfer of church membership (see form in 813.4) to any local Church of the Nazarene that may be named, such transfer to be valid for three months only. When the reception of the transfer is acknowledged by the receiving local church, such person's membership in the former local church shall cease. (813.5)

**111.1. Commendation.** The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a certificate of commendation (see form in 813.2) to any evangelical church that may be named, after which such person's membership in the local church issuing the certificate shall cease immediately. (112.2)

#### **E. Termination of Membership**

**112. Ministers.** When a licensed or an ordained minister has united with the church membership or ministry of a church other than the Church of the Nazarene, the pastor of the local church in which the minister is a member shall immediately notify the District Ministerial Credentials Board of the fact. The Ministerial Credentials Board shall investigate and confirm the status of the member of the clergy. If

the District Ministerial Credentials Board determines that the member of the clergy will be removed from the roll of ministers, the pastor of the local church will also remove the person's name from the membership roll of the church and shall write opposite the name, "Removed by uniting with another denomination." (427.9, 433.10-33.11)

**112.1. Laypersons.** When a lay member of a local church has accepted membership, license to preach, or ordination from any other religious organizations, or is engaging in independent church or missionary work, his or her membership in the local church shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, except in case that person shall secure the annual written approval of the local church board of the church in which said membership is held, and the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board of the district in which that church is located.

**112.2. Release from Membership.** The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a letter of release (see form in 813.3), thus terminating such person's membership immediately. (111.1, 112)

**112.3.** After two years from the date when a person's membership was declared inactive, his or her name may be removed from the church roll by action of the church board. After such action of the church board, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name, "Removed by the church board (date)." (109, 133)

### **F. Church Meetings**

**113.** A meeting of the members of a local church for conference and for the transaction of business shall be known as a church meeting. Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40, 104, 113.7, 115, 415)

**113.1.** Only those persons who are active members and



have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in church meetings. (107, 109-9.4)

**113.2.** There is no provision for absentee voting in church meetings.

**113.3. Business Transactions.** Business, including elections, in harmony with the spirit and order of the church, and not otherwise specially provided for, may be transacted at any church meeting.

**113.4. Comply with Civil Law.** In all cases where the civil law requires a specific course of procedure in calling and conducting church meetings, that course should be strictly followed. (142)

**113.5. Presiding Officer.** The pastor, who shall be ex-officio president of the local church, or the district superintendent, or the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or someone appointed by the district superintendent or the general superintendent, shall preside at annual or special church meetings. (210.1, 307.9, 413.23)

**113.6. Secretary.** The secretary of the church board shall be the secretary of all church meetings; in his or her absence a secretary pro tempore shall be elected. (135.4)

**113.7. Annual Meeting.** An annual church meeting shall be held within 90 days prior to the meeting of the district assembly. Public notice of the annual meeting must be given from the pulpit on at least two Sundays before the meeting. This annual meeting may be conducted on more than one day or in more than one service upon approval by the church board.

**113.8. Reports.** Reports shall be given at the annual church meeting by the pastor (413.15), the Sunday School superintendent (146.6), the president of the Nazarene Youth International (151.4), the president of the Nazarene Missions International (153.2), the deaconesses (406), the local ministers (426.1), the secretary (135.2), and the treasurer (136.5) of the church board.

**113.9. Nominating Committee.** A nominating committee shall be used to nominate officers, boards, and district assembly delegates, whose nominations are not provided for elsewhere.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of not fewer than three nor more than seven members of the church, including the pastor, and shall be constituted by whatever method the church board shall propose. The pastor shall be chairperson of the committee. All persons nominated by this committee shall affirm that they fulfill the qualifications required of church officers in paragraph 39.

**113.10. Elections.** At the annual church meeting there shall be an election, by ballot, of the stewards (137), the trustees (141, 142.1), the Sunday School superintendent (146), and the members of the Sunday School Ministries Board (145), to serve for the next church year and until their successors are elected and qualified. All those elected as church officers shall be members of that same local Church of the Nazarene.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39, 127, 145, 146)

**113.11.** Where laws permit, and in churches where such procedure and the number to be elected are approved by a majority vote of the church members present, the church board may be elected, and then appropriate proportions designated as stewards and trustees, in harmony with 137 and 141. When a church board is elected in this manner, the board shall organize itself into committees to carry out assigned responsibilities. If a church has elected an education committee as part of its board in harmony with 145, that committee will constitute the Education Committee of the church board. (145-45.10) Alternative board and committee structure may be used by a local church in organizing itself for ministry and missional action, provided such alternatives are approved in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and such structure complies with civil requirements.

**113.12.** Where laws permit, and in churches where such

procedure is approved by a majority vote of the church members present at a duly called annual meeting, after receiving the written approval of the district superintendent, a church may elect one-half its church board members for two-year terms, or one-third of its church board members for three-year terms, in either case designating an equal number to be elected annually. When the church board is elected in this manner, the number of stewards and trustees chosen must comply with 137 and 141.

**113.13.** At the annual church meeting, there shall be an election, by ballot, of lay delegates to the district assembly, on the basis of representation fixed by the General Assembly according to 201-1.2.

**113.14.** Special church meetings may be called at any time by the pastor, or by the church board after having obtained the consent of the pastor or of the district superintendent or of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. (104)

**113.15.** Public notice of special church meetings shall always be given from the pulpit in at least two preceding regular services, or in such manner as meets the requirements of civil law. (115-15.1, 122, 137, 139, 142.1, 144)

### **G. The Church Year**

**114.** The administrative year shall run concurrently with the statistical year of the local church and shall be recognized as the church year.

**114.1.** The statistical year shall close within 90 days prior to the opening of the district assembly; and the new statistical year shall begin the day following its close. The exact date of the beginning and close of the statistical year within these bounds shall be set by the District Advisory Board. (222.1)

### **H. Calling of a Pastor**

**115.** An elder or licensed minister (412) may be called to pastor a church by two-thirds favorable vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting at a duly called annual or special meeting of the church, provided

that such elder or licensed minister shall have been nominated to the church by the church board, which, after having consulted with the district superintendent, made such nomination by two-thirds vote by ballot of all its members; and provided the nomination shall have been approved by the district superintendent. Any elder or licensed minister with membership in a local church may not be considered for pastor of that church without the approval of the District Advisory Board. This call shall be subject to review and continuance as hereinafter provided. (118, 121-23, 129.2, 160.8, 208.9)

**115.1.** Acceptance of a call to pastoral relations shall be given by the minister not later than 15 days from the date of the church meeting voting the call.

**115.2.** The church board and the pastor should clearly communicate their goals and expectations to each other in writing. (121, 129.3-29.4)

**115.3.** As soon as practical after a pastor begins serving, the pastor and the congregation may participate in an installation or bonding service. The objective of the service should be to celebrate unity and direction concerning the will of God. Where practical, the district superintendent shall preside.

**115.4.** Upon issuing a call, the local church will specify the proposed remuneration. The amount of this remuneration shall be determined by the church board. When agreement has been entered into between the church or the church board and the pastor, the payment of the pastor's salary in full shall be considered a moral obligation by the church. If, however, the church becomes unable to continue the payment of the salary agreed upon, such inability and failure shall not be considered a sufficient cause for civil action against the church by the pastor; and in no case shall the church be legally responsible in excess of funds raised during the term of the pastor's actual service, and not otherwise designated.

The local church should also make provision for the pastor's traveling and moving expenses. (38-8.3, 129.8-29.9)

**115.5.** The remuneration of the pastor shall commence on

the Monday preceding the first official Sunday of service to the local church.

**116.** The pastor of a church that has been organized for less than five years, or had less than 35 members voting in the previous annual church meeting, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, may be appointed or reappointed by the district superintendent, with the consent of the District Advisory Board. (208.1-8.3, 208.5, 208.16)

**117.** In case of disagreement between the church board and the district superintendent regarding pastoral arrangements, the church board or the district superintendent may submit the matter to the general superintendent having jurisdiction for his or her decision. From such decision either the church board or the district superintendent may appeal to the Board of General Superintendents. All such appeals, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto, whether to the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents, shall be in writing. A copy of the appeal, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto by either the church board or the district superintendent shall be sent to the other party involved. The minute record of a church board appeal shall include the appeal resolution, arguments sustaining it, and the record of the vote taken. If a minister under consideration withdraws his or her name, or if a pastoral candidate is found to be unavailable for consideration, the appeal process should terminate immediately, and the district superintendent and church board shall continue with pastoral arrangements.

**118.** The call of a pastor who is a licensed minister will terminate at the end of the district assembly if the minister's license is not renewed.

**119.** No pastor shall terminate the pastorate of a church without giving the church board and the district superintendent written resignation at least 30 days before the termination of the pastorate, and without having this resignation accepted by the church board and approved in writing by the district superintendent. When the resignation has been accepted, termination may be any time agreed upon within 30 days.

**119.1.** The pastor who resigns shall, in cooperation with the secretary of the church board, prepare a correct list of the church membership roll with current addresses. This roll must correspond numerically with the last published district minutes showing deletions and additions for the current year.

**120.** Upon the recommendation of the church board and approval of the district superintendent, a congregation may elect copastors to serve. In this case, the following stipulations will apply:

1. The copastors shall work with the church board, under the direction of the district superintendent, to develop a specific plan for the practical division of responsibility and authority.
2. Although the copastors are equals in the pastoral office, one person shall be officially designated by the church board as the presiding officer, serving as president of the corporation and chairperson of the church board.
3. The pastoral review process shall be conducted as provided for in *Manual* paragraph 122.

**120.1.** Upon the resignation or termination of a copastor a remaining copastor may be appointed by the district superintendent to serve as pastor of the church; provided, however, that within sixty days, the question of the pastoral relationship shall be presented to the church board, at which time the church shall follow the process outlined in paragraph 115.

### **I. The Church/Pastor Relationship**

**121.** Every year, the pastor and the church board shall conduct a planning session to renew the expectations and goals of the church and the pastor. The written understanding of goals, plans and objectives between the church and the pastor shall be updated. Such written understanding shall be filed with the district superintendent. (115.2, 129.4)

**121.1.** Pastors and congregations shall seek a clear understanding of each others' expectations and sincerely follow

biblical principles to resolve differences in a spirit of reconciliation within the church. Biblical principles for resolving differences in Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1-5 include:

1. Seek to resolve differences by discussing them face-to-face.
2. If face-to-face discussion fails to bring resolution, seek the assistance of one or two others in resolving the differences.
3. Bring the differences to the church board only after face-to-face discussion and small-group efforts fail.
4. Christians are obligated to work at resolving differences in a spirit of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

### **J. Renewing the Church/Pastor Relationship**

**122. The Regular Church/Pastoral Review.** The church/pastoral relationship shall be reviewed by the church board, meeting with the district superintendent, or an ordained minister or layperson appointed by the district superintendent, within 60 days of the second anniversary of pastoral service and every four years thereafter. The district superintendent, or an ordained minister or layperson appointed by the district superintendent, shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting the review meeting(s) with the church board. The review meeting(s) shall be scheduled in consultation with the pastor. The review meeting(s) shall be conducted in executive session (church board, including pastor). At the discretion of the district superintendent, a portion of the review may be conducted in the absence of the pastor. In case the pastor's spouse is an elected member of the board, he or she shall not participate in the review.

A public and/or printed announcement explaining the purpose of this church board meeting shall be conveyed to the congregation the Sunday before the church board and district superintendent meet for the regular church/pastoral review.

At this review meeting, the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship shall be discussed. The objective is to discover consensus without the need of a formal church board vote. If the church board does not vote to pre-

sent the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the church membership, the church/pastoral relationship will continue.

The church board may vote to present to the church membership the question of continuing the pastoral call. The vote by the board will be by ballot and require a majority of all church board members present to carry.

If the church board votes to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the church membership, the matter shall be presented at a church meeting duly called for this purpose and held within 30 days following such action. The question shall be presented, "Shall the present church/pastoral relationship continue?" The vote shall be by ballot and require a two-thirds majority to carry, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise.

If the church membership votes to continue the church/pastoral relationship, the church/pastoral relationship shall continue as though such a vote had not been taken; otherwise, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not less than 30 nor more than 180 days following the vote. If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation, he or she shall submit a resignation. In such case, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not less than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with a congregational vote. As a part of the regular review, a report will be made to the district superintendent by the pastor and church board regarding progress toward fulfilling the mission, vision and core values of the church.

**122.1.** The chairperson of the Board of Tellers shall personally inform the pastor of the results of a pastoral vote before any public announcement is made.

**123. Special Church/Pastoral Review.** In the interim of regular reviews, a local church board meeting shall become officially a special review only by a majority vote of the entire elected church board with the district superintendent present or an elder appointed by the district superintendent serving as chairperson. If the district superintendent and



the church board shall be of the opinion that the question of the continuance of the church/pastoral relationship should be submitted to the church, the district superintendent and the church board by a majority vote of all its members present, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise, may order the question submitted for vote at a special church meeting. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present church/pastoral relationship be continued?" This special church/pastoral review meeting shall be conducted in executive session. (113.14)

If by a two-thirds vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise, the church decides to continue its present church/pastoral relationship, the term of office of the pastor shall continue as though such vote had not been taken.

If, however, the church fails to decide by such vote to continue the present church/pastoral relationship, the term of office of the pastor shall terminate on a date, set by the district superintendent, not more than 180 days following the vote. (122-22.1)

**124. Local Church in Crisis.** Upon learning that a local church is approaching crisis, the district superintendent with the approval of the District Advisory Board shall have the authority to impanel a committee to review the situation and implement procedures to avert a crisis. The committee shall consist of two elders and two lay members of the District Advisory Board, and the district superintendent who shall serve as chairperson. (208.3)

**124.1.** When in the opinion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, a local church is declared in crisis—financial, morale, or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the church, (a) The question of continued church/pastoral relationship may be submitted to the local congregation by the district superintendent or a member of the District Advisory Board appointed by the district superintendent as if the church board had requested the vote under paragraph 122, or (b) the

tenure of a pastor and/or church board may be terminated with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. The district superintendent, with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board, may appoint members of the church board for any church that has been declared in crisis. (208.3)

### **K. The Church Board**

**127. Membership.** Every local church shall have a church board, composed of the pastor, the Sunday School superintendent, the president of the Nazarene Youth International, the president of the Nazarene Missions International (or if the president is the pastor's spouse, and chooses not to serve on the board, the vice president may serve; however, if the president is the pastor's spouse and chooses to serve on the board, he or she shall not be a part of the review process of the pastor), the stewards, and the trustees of the church, and the members of the Sunday School Ministries Board when elected as the Education Committee of the church board by the annual church meeting. There shall be no more than 25 regular members of the church board. Ordained and district licensed ministers unassigned by the district and paid employees of the local church are not eligible to serve on the local church board.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39, 113.9-13.12, 137, 141, 145, 146, 151, 153.2, 160.4)

**128. Meetings.** The church board takes office at the beginning of the church year and shall have regular monthly meetings and shall meet specially when called by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the church board secretary only with the approval of the pastor, or the district superintendent when there is no pastor. Between the annual church

meeting and the beginning of the church year, the newly elected church board may meet for organization purposes, at which time it shall elect a church board secretary and a church treasurer as provided hereafter and any other officer that it shall be their duty to elect. (129.19-130)

**129. Business.** The **business of the church board** shall be:

**129.1.** To care for the interests of the church and its work, not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the pastor. (156, 415)

**129.2.** To nominate to the church, after having consulted with the district superintendent, any elder or licensed minister whom it may deem the proper person to become pastor, provided the nomination be approved by the district superintendent. (115, 208.9)

**129.3.** To cooperate with an incoming pastor in the development of a written statement of goals and expectations. (115.2)

**129.4.** To conduct at least once a year, along with the pastor, a planning session for the purpose of updating a clear written understanding of expectations, goals, plans and objectives. (121)

**129.5.** To arrange for pastoral supply, with approval of the district superintendent, until such time as a pastor shall be regularly called by the church. (209, 421)

**129.6.** To provide for the development and adoption of an annual budget for the church, all auxiliaries, any childcare/schools (birth through secondary) projecting income and expenditures.

**129.7.** To assign a committee of the board, whose responsibilities include: (a) monitoring the church budget, (b) reporting to the board on the financial conditions and concerns of the church.

**129.8.** To determine the amount of compensation the pastor shall receive, and to review it at least once a year. (115.4, 122)

**129.9.** To provide ways and means for the support of the pastor, the pastoral supply, or any other paid workers of the church; to encourage and support through planning and

budgeting the lifelong learning commitment of the pastor and staff. (115.4)

**129.10.** In order to encourage a healthy pastoral ministry and the lifelong learning of the pastor, the church board, in consultation with the district superintendent, should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor following each seven consecutive year of service in one congregation. The timing and duration of the sabbatical shall be determined in consultation with the pastor, church board and district superintendent. It is strongly urged that the pastor's salary continue in full and the church board provide for pulpit supply during the sabbatical period. Materials shall be developed and distributed by the appropriate department of the church to guide local congregations in establishing and implementing a sabbatical leave policy and procedure.

**129.11.** To determine the financial support and housing allowance an evangelist should receive and notify the person of such minimum support at the time of the call by the church board.

**129.12.** To license, or renew the license of, at its discretion, any person who has been recommended by the pastor for (a) local minister, or (b) lay minister. (402.3, 426.1, 426.3)

**129.13.** To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, any person who desires to receive a certificate for any of the assigned roles of ministry, including all lay and ministerial candidates aspiring to be recognized for ministries beyond the local church, if such recommendation is required by the *Manual*.

**129.14.** To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, any person who desires the Licensed Minister's Credential or its renewal. (426.5, 427.1)

**129.15.** To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, renewal of deaconess' license in harmony with 406.

**129.16.** To elect, upon nomination of the Sunday School Ministries Board, with the approval of the pastor, a director of children's ministries and a director of adult ministries. (145.6)

**129.17.** To approve the NYI president elected by the NYI organization of the local church, as provided in the NYI Charter.

**129.18.** To approve the selection of the administrators of Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary). (152, 160.1, 208.12, 413.18)

**129.19.** To elect a secretary, from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in *Manual* paragraph 39, at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. (39, 113.6, 128, 135.1-35.7)

**129.20.** To elect a treasurer, from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in paragraph 39, at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. No member of the pastor's immediate family (spouse, children, siblings, parents) can serve as the local church treasurer without the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (128, 136.1-36.6)

**129.21.** To cause careful accounting to be kept of all money received and disbursed by the church, including any childcare/schools (birth through secondary) and all auxiliaries, and make report of the same at its regular monthly meetings and to the annual meeting of the church. (136.3-36.5)

**129.22.** To provide a committee, no fewer than two members of which shall count and account for all money received by the church.

**129.23.** To appoint an auditing committee that shall audit, at least annually, the financial records of the treasurer of the church, the Nazarene Youth International, the Sunday School Ministries Board, Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary), and any other financial records of the church. The pastor shall have access to all records of the local church.

**129.24.** To provide an Evangelism and Church Membership Committee of no fewer than three persons. (110)

**129.25.** To function, if advisable, as the Sunday School Ministries Board in churches of no more than 75 members. (145)

**129.26.** To appoint a trial committee of five in case written charges are pending against a church member. (504)

**129.27.** To elect, with the written approval of the district superintendent and upon the nomination of the pastor, such paid associates as the local church may designate. (151, 152, 160-60.1, 208.12)

**129.28.** To elect a local minister or a licensed minister as an unpaid associate pastor only if approval is given annually in writing by the district superintendent.

**129.29.** To provide for a long-range planning committee for the church with the pastor as ex-officio chairperson.

**129.30.** To adopt and implement a plan to reduce the risk that individuals placed in positions of authority within the church will use the position of trust or authority to engage in misconduct. The plan for each local church must take into consideration its own unique circumstances.

**130.** The church board, together with the pastor, shall follow plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly for raising World Evangelism Fund and District Ministries Fund apportionments made to the local church, and shall raise and regularly pay these apportionments. (317.12, 334.8)

**131. Meaning of Stewardship.** Refer to paragraphs 38-8.4.

**132.** The church board shall perform the duties of a Sunday School Ministries Board in a newly organized church until such board has been regularly elected. (145)

**132.1.** The church board and pastor of the newly organized church shall decide when a Sunday School superintendent will be elected. (129.25, 145, 146)

**133.** The church board may remove from the membership roll the name of an inactive church member after a period of two years has elapsed from the date when his or her name was declared inactive. (109-9.4, 112.3)

**134.** The church board may suspend or revoke the license of any locally licensed person.

**135. Church Secretary.** The duties of the secretary of the church board are:

**135.1.** To record correctly and preserve faithfully the minutes of all church meetings and meetings of the church board, and do whatever else may pertain to the office. (119.1, 129.19)

**135.2.** To present to the annual meeting of the church an annual report of the major activities of the local church, including statistics on membership. (113.8)

**135.3.** To see that official papers, records, and legal documents pertaining to the local church, including deeds, abstracts, insurance policies, loan documents, church membership rolls, historical records, church board minutes, and incorporation papers are held in trust in either fireproof or secure safes on the local church premises, or when feasible, they may be placed in safe deposit facilities in local banks or similar institutions. Access to such shall always be shared with the pastor and church treasurer, and care for such shall be delivered immediately to the church secretary's successor in office.

**135.4.** To be the secretary of all annual and special church meetings; and to be custodian of the minutes and other papers of such annual and special church meetings. (113.6)

**135.5.** To certify in writing to the district superintendent the results of the vote from the calling of a pastor and the continuation of the church/pastoral relationship. Such certification shall be made within one week of the vote.

**135.6.** To send to the district superintendent a copy of the minutes of all church meetings and meetings of the church board within three days of such meetings when that local church is without a pastor.

**135.7.** To sign in conjunction with the pastor all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual*. (102.3, 103-4.2)

**136. Church Treasurer.** The duties of the treasurer of the church board are:

**136.1.** To receive all moneys not otherwise provided for, and disburse the same only on order of the church board. (129.21)

**136.2.** To make monthly remittances of all district funds to the district treasurer, and of all general funds to the general treasurer through the appropriate office, except as otherwise provided. (413.17)

**136.3.** To keep a correct book record of all funds received and disbursed. (129.21)

**136.4.** To present a detailed monthly financial report for distribution to the church board. (129.21)

**136.5.** To present an annual financial report to the annual church meeting. (113.8, 129.21)

**136.6.** To deliver to the church board the complete treasurer's records at such time as the treasurer shall cease to hold the office.

### **L. The Stewards**

**137.** The stewards of the church shall be no fewer than three or more than thirteen in number. They shall be elected by ballot, at the annual or a special church meeting, from among the members of the church, to serve for the next church year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. (39, 113.7, 113.10, 127)

**138.** The **duties of the stewards** are:

**138.1.** To serve as a church growth committee, unless otherwise provided for, with the responsibilities of outreach, evangelism, and extension, including sponsoring new churches and church-type missions, with the pastor as ex-officio chairperson.

**138.2.** To provide assistance and support for the needy and distressed. A biblical role of lay leaders is that of ministering in areas of practical service (Acts 6:1-3; Romans 12:6-8). Therefore stewards should offer their time and spiritual gifts in acts of service, administration, encouragement, mercy, visitation, and other ministries.

**138.3.** To serve, at the discretion of the church board, as the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee as outlined in 110-10.8.

**138.4.** To assist the pastor in organizing the church so that Christian service opportunities are available to all members. Special attention should be given to the develop-



ment of ministries toward those of other cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in the immediate and nearby communities.

**138.5.** To serve as liaisons to community Christian action and service organizations.

**138.6.** To give assistance to the pastor in public worship and Christian nurture in the local church.

**138.7.** To provide the elements for the Lord's Supper, and when requested by the pastor, to assist in the distribution of the same. (34.5, 413.11)

**139.** A vacancy in the office of steward may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. (113.14)

**140.** The stewards shall constitute the Stewardship Committee, whose duty it shall be to promote the cause of Christian stewardship of life resources in the local church in cooperation with the pastor and the Stewardship Ministries office of the general treasurer. (38-8.4)

### **M. The Trustees**

**141.** The trustees of the church shall be no fewer than three or more than nine in number. They shall be elected from among the members of the local church to serve for the next church year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. (39, 113.10, 127)

**142.** In all cases where the civil law requires a specific mode of election of church trustees, that mode shall be strictly followed. (113.4)

**142.1.** Where no particular mode of election is required by civil law the trustees shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the local church or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose. (113.7, 113.10)

**143.** The **duties of the trustees** are:

**143.1.** To hold the title to church property and manage it as trustees of the local church, where the local church is not incorporated, or where the civil law requires it, or where for other reasons it is deemed best by the district superintendent or the District Advisory Board, subject to the guidance and the restrictions as set forth in 102-4.4.

**143.2.** To give guidance to the development of the physical

facilities and to financial planning, unless the church board has provided otherwise.

**144.** A vacancy in the office of trustee may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. (113.14)

#### **N. The Sunday School Ministries Board**

**145.** Each local church shall establish a **Sunday School Ministries Board**, or an **Education Committee** as part of the church board, at the annual church meeting, to be responsible for the Christian education ministries of the church. In churches of 75 members or fewer, the responsibilities may be performed by the church board. Members are: ex-officio the Sunday School superintendent (146); the pastor; the NMI president; the NYI president; children's ministries director; adult ministries director; and three to nine persons elected from the church membership at the annual church meeting. The members may be elected for staggered terms of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified. When an elected member vacancy occurs, it may be filled at a duly called church meeting. If a church elects an education committee as part of the church board, it shall follow *Manual* requirements for minimum number of stewards and trustees (137, 141). Ex-officio personnel shall be members of the committee, though some may not be members of the church board.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39)

The **duties and powers of the Sunday School Ministries Board or Education Committee** are:

**145.1.** To plan, organize, promote, and conduct the ministry of Christian education for the local church. This is to be done subject to the direct care of the pastor, and the leadership of the Sunday School superintendent, and the direction of the local church board, in keeping with denominational

objectives and standards established by the General Board and promoted through the Sunday School Ministries & NYI Committee and offices of adult, NYI, and children's ministries. These include both curriculum and program-oriented ministries for adults and children. The Sunday School, along with the preaching ministry, provides the core of the church's study of Scripture and doctrine. Childcare/Schools (birth through secondary) and annual/special ministries and training, such as Caravan, Vacation Bible Schools, and singles' ministries, provide opportunities through which scriptural doctrines are lived out and integrated into the life of the congregation. (413.23)

**145.2.** To reach the largest number of unchurched people for Christ and the church, bringing them into the fellowship, teaching the Word of God effectively, and encompassing their salvation; teaching the doctrines of the Christian faith and developing Christlike character, attitudes, and habits; helping to establish Christian homes; preparing believers for membership in the church and equipping them for appropriate Christian ministries.

**145.3.** To determine the curricula of the various ministries, always using Church of the Nazarene materials to form the basis of biblical study and doctrinal interpretation.

**145.4.** To plan for and organize the total Sunday School ministry of the local church in keeping with the Sunday School Bylaws. (812)

**145.5.** To nominate to the annual church meeting one or more persons approved by the pastor, for election to the office of Sunday School superintendent. The nominations are to be made in a meeting with the incumbent superintendent not present.

**145.6.** To nominate to the church board persons approved by the pastor, to serve as a director of children's ministries and a director of adult ministries.

**145.7.** To elect the children's and adult councils from nominations by the directors of children's and adult ministries with approval of the pastor and the Sunday School superintendent.

**145.8.** To elect all age-group Sunday School supervisors,

teachers, and officers who shall be professing Christians, exemplary in life, and in full harmony with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene, from nominations by the NYI president and the directors of children's and adult ministries. The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School superintendent.

**145.9.** To elect a local director of Continuing Lay Training, who shall organize, promote, and supervise regular training opportunities for Sunday School ministries workers and the entire membership of the church. The Sunday School Ministries Board shall have the option of naming the Continuing Lay Training director as an ex-officio member to this board.

**145.10.** To hold regular meetings; and to organize, by electing a secretary and other officers considered necessary, at the beginning of the Sunday School ministries year, which shall be the same as the church year (114). The pastor or the Sunday School superintendent may call special meetings.

**146. The Sunday School Superintendent.** The annual church meeting shall elect by majority vote by ballot, of those present and voting, from among its full members, a Sunday School superintendent to serve for one year (39), or until his or her successor is elected. The Sunday School Ministries Board, with the pastor's approval, may call for an incumbent Sunday School superintendent to be elected by a "yes" or "no" vote. A vacancy shall be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting (113.10, 145.5). The Sunday School superintendent, newly elected, shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly (201), the local church board (127), and the Sunday School Ministries Board (145).

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39)

The **duties and powers of the Sunday School superintendent** are:

**146.1.** To have executive supervision of all Sunday School ministries in the local church.

**146.2.** To administer the Sunday School in keeping with the Sunday School Bylaws. (812)

**146.3.** To promote programs of growth in enrollment, attendance, and leadership training.

**146.4.** To preside over the regular meetings of the Sunday School Ministries Board, or the Education Committee of the church board, and to lead the Sunday School Ministries Board in performing its duties.

**146.5.** To submit an annual budget for Sunday School ministries to the church board.

**146.6.** To make a monthly report to the church board and to submit a written report to the annual church meeting.

**147. Children/Adult Councils and Directors.** The work of Sunday School ministries is best organized by age-groups: children, youth, and adults. For each age-group there should be a council responsible to organize and administer the work. Such council is composed of the age-group director and representatives from the Sunday School and other ministries the church provides for that age-group. The task of the council is to work with the age-group director to plan ministries for that age-group, and to make provisions for the implementation of those plans. All work of the children's and adult councils is subject to approval of its director and the Sunday School Ministries Board.

The **duties of the age-group directors** are:

**147.1.** To chair the age-group council that he or she directs and to lead the council in organizing, promoting, and coordinating the total Sunday School ministry for persons within that age-group.

**147.2.** To give leadership to the appropriate age-group of the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for children, youth, or adults in the local church, in cooperation with the Sunday School Ministries Board.

**147.3.** To give leadership for additional Sunday, childcare/

schools (birth through secondary), annual and special ministries, evangelism and fellowship activities for the age-group he or she represents.

**147.4.** To nominate to the Sunday School Ministries Board the leadership for the various ministries assigned to his or her age-group, including Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers, with exception of NYI who will nominate youth Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers (39). The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School superintendent.

**147.5.** To obtain the approval of the Sunday School Ministries Board before using supplemental curriculum.

**147.6.** To provide leadership training for age-group workers in cooperation with the Sunday School Ministries Board and the director of Continuing Lay Training.

**147.7.** To submit an annual budget request to the Sunday School Ministries Board and/or church board, and to administer funds in accordance with such budget approval.

**147.8.** To receive all reports of the various ministries functioning within the age-groups of the local church under his or her direction. A monthly report of Sunday School enrollment, attendance, and ministry activities shall be submitted to the Sunday School superintendent.

**147.9.** To submit a quarterly calendar of his or her age-group activities to the Sunday School Ministries Board to be coordinated with the total Sunday School ministry of the local church.

**148. Children's Ministries Council.** The Children's Ministries Council is responsible for planning the total Sunday School ministry for children from birth to age 12 in the local church. The council is composed of at least one Sunday School representative and the directors of any other children's ministry being offered in the local church, such as: children's church, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, Bible quizzing, missions, Cradle Roll, and any others deemed necessary. The council size will vary with the number of ministries being offered to children in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

The **duties of the children's ministries director** are:

**148.1.** To perform those duties assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

**148.2.** To work with the NMI Executive Committee of the local church in appointing a children's mission director. The person appointed becomes a member of both the NMI and Children's Ministries councils. Nominees for this position shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School superintendent.

**149. Adult Ministries Council.** The Adult Ministries Council shall be responsible for planning the total Sunday School ministry for adults in the local church. The Adult Ministries Council is composed of at least one Sunday School representative and the directors of any other ministry being offered in the local church, such as: marriage and family life, senior adult ministries, single adult ministries, small-group Bible studies, lay ministries, women's ministries, men's ministries, and any others deemed necessary. The council size will vary with the number of ministries being offered to adults in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

The **duties of the adult ministries director** are:

**149.1.** To perform those duties assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

### **O. Nazarene Youth International/NYI Council**

**150.** Nazarene youth ministry is organized in the local church under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International. Local groups are organized under the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the authority of the local church board.

**150.1.** The local NYI shall organize itself according to the NYI Local Ministry Plan, which may be adapted in response to local youth ministry needs, consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

**150.2.** The local NYI shall be coordinated by an NYI Council, responsible for planning and organizing ministry for youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults, and collectively casting the vision for local youth ministry. All work of the NYI Council pertaining to

Sunday School is subject to the approval of the Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Ministries Board.

**150.3.** The NYI Council shall be composed of the president and other officers with assigned ministry responsibilities according to local church needs, youth representatives and ministry directors as deemed necessary, and the local pastor and/or youth pastor. NYI Council officers shall be members of the local Church of the Nazarene where they serve. The council shall be responsible to the church board.

**150.4.** NYI officers and council members are elected by the NYI membership. Only those NYI members who are also members of the local Church of the Nazarene shall be entitled to vote for the NYI president.

**151. NYI President.** The president of the local Nazarene Youth International group shall be elected according to the NYI Local Ministry Plan, at the annual NYI meeting by the NYI members present who are also members of the Church of the Nazarene. Nominees shall be approved by the local pastor and church board. The NYI president shall be a member ex-officio of the church board (127), the Sunday School Ministries Board (145), and the district assembly (201). Should the term "president" not effectively communicate in a particular culture, a more appropriate title may be used by vote of the local NYI Council.

The **duties of the NYI president** are:

**151.1.** To chair the NYI Council in facilitating the development of youth ministry in the local church.

**151.2.** To work with the NMI president in the development of a missions emphasis for youth.

**151.3.** To perform those duties for youth Sunday School as assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

**151.4.** To report monthly to the local church board and the annual meeting of the local church. (113.8, 127)

**151.5.** When a youth pastor is employed in a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board and NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for NYI to the youth pastor. In that case, the youth pastor carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to the local NYI president. However, the importance of the NYI president remains in provid-



ing lay leadership, support, and representation for local youth ministry. The pastor, youth pastor, and NYI Council work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the church's youth ministry. A youth pastor may not serve as the NYI president. (160.4)

#### **P. Nazarene Childcare/Schools (Birth through Secondary)**

**152.** Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary) may be organized by the local church board(s) after receiving the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and following criteria established by Children's Ministries/Sunday School Ministries Department. The director and school board shall be accountable to and shall submit an annual report to the local church board(s). (129.18, 208.12-8.13, 222.11, 413.23, 414)

**152.1. School Closings.** In the event a local church should find it necessary to suspend operations of its childcare/school(s), (birth through secondary), it should do so only after consulting with the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board and presenting a financial report.

#### **Q. The Local Nazarene Missions International**

**153.** Upon the authorization of the church board, local organizations of the Nazarene Missions International may be formed within any age-group in harmony with the NMI Constitution approved by the General Nazarene Missions International Convention and the World Mission Committee of the General Board. (811)

**153.1.** The local Nazarene Missions International shall be a constituent part of the local church and subject to the supervision and direction of the pastor and the church board. (414)

**153.2.** The president of the local NMI shall be nominated by a committee of three to seven members of the Nazarene Missions International appointed by the pastor, who shall serve as chairperson. This committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president subject to the approval of the church board. The president shall be elected by

a majority vote by ballot of the members (excluding associate) present and voting. The president shall be a member of the local church whose NMI is served, a member ex-officio of the church board (or in churches where the president is the pastor's spouse, the vice president may serve on the church board), and a member of the district assembly held immediately prior to his or her year of office. The president shall present a report to the annual meeting of the local church. (113.8, 114, 122, 127, 201)

**154.** All funds raised by the local NMI for general interests of the Church of the Nazarene shall be applied to the World Evangelism Fund apportionment of the local church with the exception of mission special projects that have been approved by the Ten Percent Committee.

**154.1.** After primary consideration has been given to the full payment of the World Evangelism Fund, opportunities may be given to make offerings for the support of world missionary work, such contributions to be known as "approved mission specials."

**155.** Funds for the support of general interests shall be raised in the following manners:

**155.1.** From gifts and offerings designated for the World Evangelism Fund and general interests.

**155.2.** From special offerings such as Easter and Thanksgiving.

**155.3.** No part of the above funds shall be used for local or district expense or charitable purposes.

### **R. Prohibition of Financial Appeals**

**156.** It shall not be lawful for a local church, its officers, or members, to send appeals to other local churches, their officers, and members, to solicit money or financial assistance for their local church needs or for the interests that they may support. It is provided, however, that such solicitation may be made to local churches and church members located within the bounds of the assembly district in which the solicitor is located, but only on condition that the solicitation be approved in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

**157.** Members of the Church of the Nazarene who are not authorized by the General Board or one of its committees shall not solicit funds for missionary or kindred activities apart from the World Evangelism Fund, from congregations of local churches, or from members of such churches.

#### **S. Use of the Church Name**

**158.** The name of the Church of the Nazarene, any local church, or any corporation or institution that is a part or in any manner affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene, or any part of any such name, shall not be used by any members of the Church of the Nazarene nor any one or more members thereof, or by any corporation, partnership, association, group, or other entity in connection with any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) without the prior written approval of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene and the Board of General Superintendents, provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to such activities of the Church of the Nazarene as are authorized by its official *Manual*.

#### **T. Church-sponsored Corporation**

**159.** No local church, local church board, district corporation, district board, nor any two or more members of any of them, acting individually or otherwise, shall directly or indirectly form or become members of any corporation, association, partnership, group, or other entity that promotes, sponsors, encourages, or in any manner engages in any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) in which members of the Church of the Nazarene are solicited or in any manner sought as prospective participants, customers, tenants, clients, members, or associates, or in any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) that directly or indirectly purports to be sponsored or operated primarily or exclusively by or for the benefit or service of members of the Church of the Nazarene, without the express prior written consent of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the Board of General Superintendents.

### **U. Associates in the Local Church**

**160.** There may be those who feel called to prepare themselves for certain vital lay services in the church, either part-time or full-time. The church recognizes the place of such lay workers, and yet it is basically constituted a voluntary institution, with service to God and others the duty and privilege of all its members according to their abilities. When paid associates in the local church, or any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporations of the local congregation, whether ministerial or lay, become necessary for greater efficiency, it must be such as will not devitalize the spirit of free service by all its members or tax the church's financial resources including the payment of all financial apportionments. However, a request may be made in writing for review by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board for exceptions in special cases. (129.27)

**160.1.** All local paid or unpaid associates who provide specialized ministry within the context of the local church and enter into a relationship of vocational ministry within the church, including directors of childcare/schools (birth through secondary), shall be elected by the church board, having been nominated by the pastor. All nominations must have prior approval in writing by the district superintendent, who shall respond within 15 days after receipt of the request. (160.4, 208.12)

**160.2.** The employment of such associates shall be for no more than one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of the pastor with the prior written approval of the district superintendent and the favorable vote of the church board. The pastor shall be responsible to conduct an annual review of each staff member. The pastor, in consultation with the church board, may make recommendations for staff development or modifications in job description as indicated by the review. The dismissal of all local associates prior to the end of the employment term (end of fiscal church year) must be by recommendation of the pastor, approval of the district superintendent, and the majority vote of the church board. Notification of dismissal or nonrenewal must be given

in writing not less than 30 days prior to the termination of employment. (129.27)

**160.3.** The duties and services of such associates are to be determined and supervised by the pastor. A clear, written statement of responsibilities (job description) shall be made available to such associates within 30 days of the beginning of their responsibility to the local church.

**160.4.** No paid employee of the church shall be eligible for election to the church board. If a church board member should become a paid employee of the church, he or she shall not remain a member of the church board.

**160.5.** In times of pastoral transition, the stability, unity, and ongoing ministry of the local church is crucial. Consequently, upon resignation or termination of the pastor, a local church board may request that the district superintendent approve the continued service of any or all associates. This approval, if granted, could continue until 90 days after the new pastor's assumption of duties or until the incoming pastor nominates his or her paid associates for the coming year in harmony with *Manual* paragraph 160. Directors of childcare/schools (birth through secondary) shall submit their resignations effective at the end of the school year in which the new pastor assumes the duties of the office. The chief executive officer of any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporation shall submit his or her resignation at the end of that contractual period in which the new pastor assumes the duties of the office. The incoming pastor may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed.

**160.6.** Communication with staff members, the church board, and the congregation regarding the effect of 160.5 on staff members at the time of pastoral change shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent. (208.12)

**160.7.** The pastor of a congregation having approval to function as a local church according to 100.1 shall not be considered a staff member.

**160.8.** Any person serving as paid staff would be ineligible to be called as pastor to the church of which he or she is a member without approval of the District Advisory Board. (115)

## CHAPTER II

## THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

**A. Bounds and Name**

**200.** The General Assembly shall organize the membership of the church into districts.

The bounds and name of a district shall be such as shall be declared by the General Assembly, or by the assembly district involved, with the final approval of the general superintendent or superintendents having jurisdiction. (30)

**200.1. The Creation of New Districts.** New districts in the Church of the Nazarene may be created by:

1. The division of one district into two or more districts (requires a two-thirds vote of the district assembly);
2. The combination of two or more districts out of which a differing configuration of districts may be created;
3. The formation of a new district in an area not encompassed by any existing district;
4. The merger of two or more districts, or
5. A recommendation to establish a new district shall be submitted to the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction. The district superintendent(s) and District Advisory Board(s) or national board(s) may approve and refer the matter to the district assembly/assemblies for vote with the approval of the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents. (30, 200, 200.4)

**200.2.** Work in the Church of the Nazarene may begin as a pioneer area and lead to the establishment of new districts and district assembly boundaries. Phase 3 districts may emerge as quickly as possible according to the following pattern:

**Phase 1.** A Phase 1 district shall be designated when opportunity for entry into a new area is presented, within

guidelines for strategic development and evangelism. Requests may be made by a regional director, a district through the Regional Advisory Council, or the sponsoring district superintendent and/or District Advisory Board for final approvals by the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents. (200.1, #5)

A Phase 1 district superintendent in regions related to the World Mission Department shall be recommended by the regional director, in consultation with the department director, to the general superintendent having jurisdiction who shall appoint. The region shall give guidance to the Phase 1 district regarding resources available for development. In other regions, the district superintendent shall be appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction after consultation with the district superintendent(s) and Advisory Board(s) of the sponsoring district(s). (204.2)

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 1 district in regions related to the World Mission Department, is in crisis—financial, morale or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and in consultation with the World Mission Department director. The regional director, with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may appoint an interim board for the management of the district and in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly. On those districts not served by a regional director and Regional Advisory Council, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, may make such determination.

**Phase 2.** A Phase 2 district may be designated when a sufficient number of fully organized churches and ordained elders, and a district infrastructure of adequate maturity exists to recommend such designation.

Such designation will be by the Board of General Superintendents upon recommendation of the general superintendent in jurisdiction after consultation with the department director, regional director, and other individuals and boards

involved in the appointment of the district superintendent. A district superintendent will be elected or appointed.

Quantifiable guidelines would be a minimum of 10 organized churches, 500 full members, and 5 ordained elders, and a minimum of 50% of district administration expense shall be generated by district ministries fund income at the time of designation. A District Advisory Board or national board may request the general superintendent in jurisdiction for an exception to these criteria. (204.2)

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 2 district in regions related to the World Mission Department, is in crisis—financial, morale or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and in consultation with the World Mission Department director. The regional director, with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may appoint an interim board for the management of the district and in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly. On those districts not served by a regional director and Regional Advisory Council, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, may make such determination.

**Phase 3.** A Phase 3 district may be declared when a sufficient number of fully organized churches, and ordained elders, and members exist to warrant such designation. Leadership, infrastructure, budgetary responsibility, and doctrinal integrity must be demonstrated. A Phase 3 district must be able to shoulder these burdens and share the challenges of the Great Commission within the global scope of an international church.

Such designation will be by the Board of General Superintendents upon recommendation of the general superintendent in jurisdiction after consultation with the department director, regional director, and other individuals and boards involved in the appointment of the district superintendent. (203.13) A district superintendent will be selected in accordance with *Manual* provisions.



Quantifiable criteria include a minimum of 20 organized churches, 1,000 full members, and 10 ordained elders. A District Advisory Board or national board may request to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for an exception to these criteria.

A Phase 3 district must be 100% self-supporting in regard to district administration. The district superintendent shall be elected by the district assembly in accordance with *Manual* provisions.

Phase 3 districts are an integral part of their respective regions. In regions having a regional director, the general superintendent in jurisdiction may enlist the assistance of the regional director to facilitate communication with and supervision of the district.

When in the opinion of a general superintendent in jurisdiction, a district is in crisis—financial, morale, or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board Executive Committee. The general superintendent in jurisdiction, with approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the Executive Committee of the General Board may take the following action: (1) remove the district superintendent; (2) appoint an interim board for the management of the district in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly; and (3) initiate such special interventions as may be necessary to restore the district's health and mission effectiveness. (307.8, 322)

**200.3. Criteria for District Division or District Boundary Changes.** A proposal for district development or district boundary changes developed by a regional office, a national board, or a District Advisory Board may be presented to the general superintendent in jurisdiction. Such a plan should take into consideration:

1. That the proposed new districts have population centers that justify the creation of such districts;
2. That lines of communication and transportation are available to facilitate the work of the districts;

3. That a sufficient number of mature elders and lay leaders are available for the work of the district;
4. That the sponsoring districts will have, wherever possible, sufficient district ministries fund income, sufficient membership and organized churches to maintain their Phase 3 district status;

**200.4. Mergers.** Two or more Phase 3 districts may be merged upon two-thirds favorable vote by each of the district assemblies involved, provided: The merger shall have been recommended by the respective District Advisory Boards, (and national board{s} where applicable), and approved in writing by the general superintendents in jurisdiction of the districts involved.

The merger and all pertinent related matters shall be finalized at a time and place determined by the district assemblies involved, and the respective general superintendents in jurisdiction.

The organization thus created will combine the assets and liabilities of the respective districts. (200.1)

Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts may be merged in accordance with provisions for new district formation outlined in paragraph 200.2.

**200.5.** If any or all of the district assemblies involved fail to act, or if the actions of the several district assemblies are in disagreement, the recommendation may be submitted to the next General Assembly for action, if requested by a two-thirds majority of the affected District Advisory Boards.

**200.6.** A district superintendent may use zone facilitators or mission area directors to assist in:

1. Building a sense of community and camaraderie among the pastors of that zone or mission area;
2. Promoting the cause of Christ by encouraging and strategizing for ministerial development, church growth, evangelism, starting and restarting churches;
3. Carrying out specific assignments on behalf of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board; and
4. Serving as a communications bridge between the local congregations and the district.

## **B. Membership and Time of Meeting**

**201. Membership.** The district assembly shall be composed of all assigned elders (429-29.3, 430-30.1, 433.9); all assigned deacons (428-28.4, 433.9); all assigned licensed ministers (427.8); all retired assigned ministers (431-31.1); the district secretary (216.2); the district treasurer (219.2); chairpersons of standing district committees reporting to the district assembly; any lay presidents of Nazarene institutions of higher education, whose local church membership is on the district; the District Sunday School Ministries chairperson (238.2); the district age-group ministries directors (children and adult); the District Sunday School Ministries Board; the president of the District Nazarene Youth International (239.4); the president of the District Nazarene Missions International (240.2); the newly elected superintendent or vice superintendent of each local Sunday School Ministries Board (146); the newly elected president or vice president of each local Nazarene Youth International (151); the newly elected president or vice president of each local Nazarene Missions International (153.2); or an appropriately elected alternate may represent the auxiliary organizations in the district assembly; those serving in assigned roles of ministry according to 402-23.1; the lay members of the District Advisory Board (221.3); all retired assigned lay career missionaries whose local church membership is on the district; and the lay delegates from each local church in the assembly district. (30, 113.13, 201.1-1.2)

**201.1.** Local churches in districts of fewer than 5,000 full church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: two lay delegates from each local church of 50 or fewer full church members, and one additional lay delegate for each successive 50 full church members and the final major part of 50 full church members. (30, 113.13, 201)

**201.2.** Local churches in districts of 5,000 or more full church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: one lay delegate from each local church of 50 or fewer full church members, and one addi-

tional lay delegate for each successive 50 full church members and the final major part of 50 full church members. (30, 113.13, 201)

**202. Time.** The district assembly shall be held annually, at the time appointed by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, and in the place designated by the preceding district assembly or arranged for by the district superintendent.

**202.1. Nominating Committee.** Prior to the convening of the district assembly, the district superintendent in consultation with the District Advisory Board shall appoint a nominating committee to serve the district assembly; this committee may prepare nominations for the usual committees and offices in advance of the convening of the district assembly. (212.2)

### **C. Business of the District Assembly**

**203. Rules of Order.** Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40)

**203.1.** The **business of the district assembly** shall be:

**203.2.** To hear and receive an annual report of the district superintendent which summarizes the ministry of the district including newly organized churches.

**203.3.** To hear or receive reports from all ordained and licensed ministers serving as pastors or commissioned evangelists; and to consider the character of all elders, deacons, and deaconesses. By vote of the district assembly the record of written reports received by the secretary may be accepted in place of oral reports of all other elders, deacons, deaconesses, and licensed ministers not engaged in active service, and those ministers having district certificates for all roles of ministry in 402-23.1. (418, 427.8, 433.9)

**203.4.** To license as licensed ministers, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church

boards or the District Advisory Board and who may be judged to be called to the ministry and to renew such license upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (129.14, 426.5, 427.1, 427.3)

**203.5.** To renew as licensed deaconesses, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church boards and who may be judged to be called to the office of deaconess upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (129.15)

**203.6.** To elect to the order of elder, or to the order of deacon, persons judged to have fulfilled all the requirements for such orders of ministry upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (428.3, 429.3)

**203.7.** To recognize the orders of ministry and credentials of persons coming from other denominations who may be judged qualified and desirable for placement in the Church of the Nazarene upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (427.2, 430-30.2)

**203.8.** To receive, by transfer from other districts, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those having commissions for continuing ministry roles, in harmony with 402, 406-9.1, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board, who may be judged as desirable for membership in the district assembly upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.9-28.10, 432-32.2)

**203.9.** To issue a transfer of members of the clergy, and those having commissions for continuing ministry roles according to 402, 406-9.1, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board, who desire to transfer to another district upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.9-28.10, 432-32.1)

**203.10.** To commission or register for one year those persons deemed qualified for the roles of ministry named and defined in 402-23.1 upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board.

**203.11.** To elect, by two-thirds favorable vote, by ballot, an elder to the office of district superintendent, to serve until 30 days following the final adjournment of the second dis-

trict assembly following his or her election and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified. The procedure for reelection of a district superintendent shall be by a "yes" or "no" ballot vote. No elder shall be considered eligible for election to this office who has at any time surrendered his or her credential for disciplinary reasons. No superintendent shall be elected or reelected following his or her 70th birthday.

**203.12.** After a district superintendent of a Phase 2 or Phase 3 district (200.2) has served a district for at least two assembly years, the district assembly may reelect said superintendent for a period of four years subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The procedure for election to an extended term of office shall be by a two-thirds favorable "yes" or "no" ballot.

**203.13.** In case the general superintendent and the officers of the district, namely, the District Advisory Board, chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer, shall be of the opinion that the services of the district superintendent should not continue beyond the current year, the general superintendent having jurisdiction and the district officers may order the question submitted for a vote of the district assembly. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present district superintendent be continued in office beyond this district assembly?"

If the district assembly, by a two-thirds vote by ballot, decides to continue the district superintendent in office, he or she shall continue to serve as though such vote had not been taken.

If, however, the district assembly fails to decide by such vote to continue the district superintendent in office, his or her term of office shall terminate 30-180 days following the close of that district assembly, with the date to be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction in consultation with the officers of the district. (204.2, 206)

**203.14.** To elect, by ballot, up to three ordained ministers and up to three laypersons to the District Advisory Board, to

serve for a term not to exceed four years, as determined by the district assembly, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

However, when the district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, it may elect one additional ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members and the final major part of 2,500 members. (221)

**203.15.** To elect a District Ministerial Credentials Board of not less than 5 nor more than 15 ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the district superintendent, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. This board shall meet prior to the district assembly to consider all matters subject to its authority and, insofar as is possible, to complete its work prior to the district assembly. (226-28.10)

**203.16.** To elect a District Ministerial Studies Board of five or more ordained ministers, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (229)

**203.17.** To facilitate greater flexibility on districts in the use of the most appropriate persons for specific assignments in preparing candidates for ordination, districts may elect the total number necessary to serve on both the District Ministerial Credentials Board and the District Ministerial Studies Board as a District Board of Ministry.

At the first meeting of this District Board of Ministry, the district superintendent may organize the group into a Ministerial Credentials Board and a Ministerial Studies Board, a Rehabilitation Committee, and any other committees that may be deemed wise. (226, 229)

**203.18.** To elect a District Church Properties Board in keeping with provisions of 233. (204.1)

**203.19.** To elect at its discretion either or both of the following: (1) a District Evangelism Board of no less than six members including the district superintendent, (2) a district director of evangelism. The persons elected shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (204.1, 212)

**203.20.** To elect a District Sunday School Ministries Board in harmony with the procedure stated in 237, to serve

until their successors are elected and qualified. (204.1, 212)

**203.21.** To elect a District Assembly Finance Committee of equal lay and ministerial representation to serve for a term not to exceed four years, as determined by the district assembly, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district superintendent and district treasurer shall be members ex-officio. (235-35.2)

**203.22.** To elect a District Court of Appeals, consisting of three ordained ministers, including the district superintendent, and two laypersons, to serve for a term not to exceed four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (509)

**203.23.** To elect, by ballot, at a session within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly, or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary, all of the lay delegates and all but one of the ministerial delegates, since one shall be the district superintendent. Every Phase 3 district assembly shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates. The district superintendent at the time of the General Assembly shall be one of the ministerial delegates, and the remaining ministerial delegates shall be ordained ministers. In case the district superintendent is unable to attend, or in case there has been a vacancy and the new district superintendent has not been appointed, the properly elected alternate shall be seated in the district superintendent's place. The Nominating Committee shall submit ballots containing at least three times the number of delegates eligible from that district, in each category, ministerial and lay. From these nominees, the allowed delegates and alternates shall be elected according to paragraphs 301.1-1.3. Delegates elected are expected to attend faithfully all meetings of the General Assembly from opening to closing unless providentially prevented. (31.1-1.3, 301.1-1.3, 303, 331.1)

**203.24.** To establish, at its discretion, a system of associate membership for its local churches, but associate members must not be counted as full members for purposes of representation. (108)



**203.25.** To provide for the auditing of all district treasurers' books annually, either by a District Auditing Committee elected by the District Advisory Board or by an auditing firm or certified public accountant. (222.18)

**203.26.** To present to the General Assembly, through the district secretary, a full official journal for the preceding quadrennium, to be preserved and filed. (205.3-5.4, 217.7)

**203.27.** To grant a retired relation to a minister upon recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board. Any change in status must be approved by the district assembly, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.8, 431)

**203.28.** To consider and care for the entire work of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the assembly district.

**203.29.** To transact any other business pertaining to the work, not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the spirit and order of the Church of the Nazarene.

**204. Other Rules Pertaining to the District Assemblies.** The district assembly may authorize, where civil law permits, the District Advisory Board to incorporate. After incorporation as above provided, the District Advisory Board shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation. (222.5)

**204.1.** As far as possible membership of district boards and committees shall be equal between ministers and laypersons unless specifically provided otherwise by the *Manual*.

**204.2.** The **district superintendents of Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts** shall be chosen in accordance with *Manual* paragraph 200.2. A Phase 2 district may revert to Phase 1 district status until such time as it can meet the requirements for Phase 2 status.

**204.3.** When the presiding officer of a district assembly deems that it is impossible to convene or continue with the business of the district assembly and therefore postpones,

cancels or adjourns the district assembly, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, shall appoint all district officers not elected prior to the adjournment of the district assembly, to serve for a period of one year.

#### **D. The District Assembly Journal**

**205.** The journal shall be the record of the regular proceedings of the district assembly.

**205.1.** The journal must be either written or typewritten manuscript, or printed, and substantially bound.

**205.2.** Separate items of business shall be placed in separate paragraphs.

**205.3.** The journal should be edited carefully with the view to its examination by the General Assembly. (203.26, 217.7)

**205.4.** The full official journal for each quadrennium shall be preserved and filed with the district and the General Assembly files. (217.5, 217.7)

**205.5.** The journal shall be arranged as far as possible according to the table of contents prepared by the general secretary in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents. The table of contents shall be furnished to the district secretary prior to the convening of the district assembly.

**205.6.** The journal shall contain not only the assignment of pastors to local churches but also all regular and special engagements entered into by ministerial and lay members of the district assembly who are engaged in any line of denominational service that may entitle them to consideration if applying for benefits from the Pensions Board having the responsibility for the pensions and benefits program in which that district participates. (115)

#### **E. The District Superintendent**

**206.** The initial term of office for a district superintendent who is elected at a district assembly begins 30 days after the adjournment of the district assembly. It runs for two full assembly years ending 30 days after the adjournment of the

assembly that marks the second anniversary of the election. At the time of said assembly the superintendent may be re-elected (203.11-3.12) or a successor elected or appointed and qualified. The initial term of office for a district superintendent who is appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction begins at the time of the appointment, includes the remainder of the church year in which the superintendent was appointed, and extends through the two following church years. The term of office ends 30 days after the adjournment of the assembly that marks the end of the second full assembly year of service. At said assembly the superintendent may be elected (203.11-3.12) for another term, or a successor will be elected or appointed and qualified. (203.11-3.13)

**207.** If for any cause a vacancy shall occur in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the general superintendents, jointly and severally, may fill the vacancy, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary and the district treasurer. Consultation shall include an invitation for the committee, as a whole, to submit names for consideration in addition to those names brought forward by the general superintendent in jurisdiction. (307.6)

**207.1.** The office of a Phase 1 or Phase 2 district superintendent may be declared vacant with cause upon the recommendation of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. The office of district superintendent in a Phase 3 district may be declared vacant upon a two-thirds majority vote of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. (321)

**207.2.** In the event of temporary incapacitation of an incumbent district superintendent, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, may appoint a qualified elder to serve as interim district superintendent. The question of incapacitation

shall be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board. (307.7)

**207.3.** Upon the resignation or termination of the district superintendent, the staff members of the district office, the chief executive officer or any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporations of the district, paid and unpaid, such as assistant superintendent and office secretary, shall submit their resignations effective concurrently with the final date of the district superintendency. However, one or more of the staff members may remain with the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board, but not longer than the date of the new superintendent's assumption of duties. (241.3)

**207.4.** After consultation with the District Advisory Board and the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the newly elected or appointed district superintendent may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed. (241.3)

**208.** The **duties of a district superintendent** are:

**208.1.** To organize, recognize, and superintend local churches within the bounds of his or her assembly district, subject to the approval of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. (100, 433.12)

**208.2.** To be available to the local churches in his or her assembly district as needed, and as necessary meet with the church board to consult with reference to spiritual, financial, and pastoral matters, giving such helpful advice and assistance as the superintendent may deem proper.

**208.3.** In circumstances where the district superintendent has determined that a church is in an unhealthy, declining situation, the continuation of which threatens the viability of the church and its mission effectiveness, the district superintendent may pursue contact with the pastor or the pastor and the church board to evaluate the circumstances. Every effort shall be made to work with the pastor and church board toward resolution of issues that have led to the circumstances which are impeding mission effectiveness.

If the district superintendent, after working with the pastor and/or board, concludes that further intervention is nec-

essary, he or she may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, take appropriate action to address the situation. Such action(s) may include, but are not limited to: (1) the removal of the pastor; (2) the dissolution of the church board; (3) the initiation of such special interventions as may be necessary to restore the church's health and mission effectiveness. (124-24.1)

**208.4.** To schedule and conduct, with each local church board, the regular church/pastoral review according to the provisions of 122.

**208.5.** To have special supervision of all the church-type missions of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of his or her assembly district.

**208.6.** To nominate to the District Advisory Board someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district secretary. (216.1)

**208.7.** To nominate to the District Advisory Board someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district treasurer. (219.1)

**208.8.** To appoint a district chaplaincy director to promote and amplify holiness evangelism through the specialized ministry of chaplaincy. (236)

**208.9.** To consult with the church board concerning the nomination of an elder or a licensed minister to pastor a local church and to approve or disapprove such nomination. (115, 129.2, 160.8)

**208.10.** To schedule a special church/pastoral review (123), within 90 days of the request of a church board for such review, on the continuance of the church/pastoral relationship.

**208.11.** To approve or disapprove the granting of license to any member of the Church of the Nazarene who may request local minister's license or renewal of local minister's license from the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor. (426.1, 426.3)

**208.12.** To approve or disapprove in writing requests from the pastor and the local church board to have or to employ any unpaid associate pastors or paid local associates (such as

associate pastors; ministers or directors of Christian education, children, youth, adult, music, childcare/schools (birth through secondary), etc.). The primary criteria for the district superintendent's decisions to approve or disapprove, in concept, the hiring of paid staff will be the willingness and ability of the church to meet its local, district, and general obligations. It is the pastor's responsibility to screen and select pastoral associates. However, the district superintendent shall have the right to disapprove the nominee. (129.27, 160-60.8)

**208.13.** To approve or disapprove, with the District Advisory Board, requests from local churches to operate Christian childcare/school (birth through secondary) ministries. (152, 222.11, 414)

**208.14.** To execute and sign, along with the secretary of the District Advisory Board, all legal documents of the district. (222.5)

**208.15.** To nominate to the District Advisory Board and to supervise any paid assistants on the district. (241)

**208.16.** To appoint pastors in keeping with 116.

**208.17.** The district superintendent may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board, appoint the members of the church board (stewards, trustees), the chairperson of the Sunday School Ministries Board, and other church officers (secretary, treasurer) if a church has been organized for less than five years, or had less than 35 voting members in the previous annual church meeting, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, or has been declared in crisis. The total number of members of such board shall not be less than three. (116, 124)

**208.18.** To cause to be investigated written accusations against a minister in his or her assembly district, according to 505-5.3.

**208.19.** The district superintendent shall schedule and conduct a self-assessment and review in consultation with the tenured evangelist in accordance with paragraph 407.4.

**209.** The district superintendent, with the consent of the church board, may appoint a pastoral supply to fill a vacancy in the office of pastor until the next district assembly. Such appointed pastoral supply shall be subject to removal

by the district superintendent when his or her services are not satisfactory to the church board and the local church. (129.5, 421, 426.6)

**210.** The district superintendent is authorized to perform for a local church within the bounds of his or her assembly district all the functions of pastor when that local church is without a pastor or pastoral supply. (412)

**210.1.** The district superintendent may preside at the annual, or a special meeting of a local church, or appoint a surrogate for such duty. (113.5)

**211.** If for any reason the general superintendent having jurisdiction fails to be present or to appoint a representative to be present in his or her stead at the district assembly, the district superintendent shall call the district assembly to order and shall preside until other provision may be made by the district assembly. (307.4)

**212.** The district superintendent may fill vacancies in the District Assembly Finance Committee (203.21), the District Auditing Committee (203.25), the District Ministerial Credentials Board (226.1), the District Ministerial Studies Board (229.1), the District Evangelism Board or the district director of evangelism (232), the District Church Properties Board (233), the District Sunday School Ministries Board (237), the District Court of Appeals (509), and other district boards and standing committees where such are not provided in the *Manual* or by assembly action.

**212.1.** The district superintendent may appoint all chairpersons, secretaries and members of the district boards and standing committees where such are not provided in the *Manual* or by assembly action.

**212.2.** The district superintendent, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, shall appoint a nominating committee to prepare nominations for the usual committees and offices in advance of the district assembly. (202.1)

**213.** The district superintendent shall be ex-officio chairperson of the District Advisory Board (221.2) and the District Ministerial Credentials Board (227.1).

**213.1.** The district superintendent shall be a member ex-officio of all elected and standing boards and committees on

the district he or she serves. (203.20-3.21, 233, 237, 810, 811)

**214.** All official acts of the district superintendent shall be subject to review and revision by the district assembly, and subject to appeal.

**214.1.** The district superintendent shall always show due regard for the advice of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents with regard to pastoral arrangements and other matters relating to the office of the district superintendent.

### **F. The District Secretary**

**216.** The district secretary, elected by the District Advisory Board, shall serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (222.16)

**216.1.** If the district secretary shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the District Advisory Board shall elect his or her successor upon nomination by the district superintendent. (208.6)

**216.2.** The district secretary shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

**217.** The **duties of the district secretary** are:

**217.1.** To record correctly and preserve faithfully all minutes of the district assembly.

**217.2.** To record correctly and preserve all statistics of the district.

**217.3.** To forward all statistical charts to the general secretary to be audited before their publication in the official journal. (325.6)

**217.4.** To be custodian of all documents of the district assembly, and turn them over promptly to his or her successor.

**217.5.** To preserve and file the full official journal for each quadrennium. (205.4)

**217.6.** To forward sufficient copies of the printed journal of each district assembly to General Headquarters for distribution among the general officers and general boards of the Church of the Nazarene.

**217.7.** To present to the General Assembly, for the district assembly, the full official journal for the preceding quadrennium to be preserved and filed. (203.26, 205.3-5.4)



**217.8.** To do whatever else may pertain to his or her office.

**217.9.** To refer all items of business coming to him or her during the year to the proper assembly committee or standing board.

**218.** The district secretary may have as many assistants as the district assembly shall elect.

### **G. The District Treasurer**

**219.** The district treasurer, elected by the District Advisory Board, shall serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (222.15)

**219.1.** If the district treasurer shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the District Advisory Board shall elect his or her successor upon nomination by the district superintendent. (208.7)

**219.2.** The district treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

**220.** The **duties of the district treasurer** are:

**220.1.** To receive all such moneys from his or her district as may be designated by the General Assembly, or by the district assembly, or by the District Advisory Board, or as the needs of the Church of the Nazarene may require, and disburse the same according to the direction and policies of the district assembly and/or the District Advisory Board.

**220.2.** To keep a correct record of all moneys received and disbursed and to render a monthly report to the district superintendent for distribution to the District Advisory Board and an annual report to the district assembly, to which he or she shall be amenable.

### **H. The District Advisory Board**

**221.** The District Advisory Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and up to three ordained ministers and up to three laypersons elected by ballot by the district assembly annually or for terms not to exceed four years, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually.

When a district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, it may elect one additional ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members or the final major part of 2,500 members. (203.14)

**221.1.** A vacancy on the District Advisory Board may be filled by the remaining members thereof.

**221.2.** The district superintendent shall be ex-officio chairperson of the District Advisory Board.

**221.3.** The lay members of the District Advisory Board shall be ex-officio members of the district assembly, ex-officio members of the District Sunday School Ministries Convention, ex-officio members of the District NMI Convention, and ex-officio members of the District NYI Convention. (201, 221)

**222.** The **duties of the District Advisory Board** are:

**222.1.** To set the date for the beginning and closing of the statistical year in harmony with the provisions of 114.1.

**222.2.** To give information to and consult with the district superintendent respecting the ministers and local churches of the assembly district. (416)

**222.3.** To appoint an investigating committee consisting of three or more ordained ministers in case an accusation is filed against a member of the clergy. (505-5.3)

**222.4.** To select a trial court in case charges are made against a member of the clergy. (505.5-5.6)

**222.5.** To incorporate, where civil law permits and when authorized by the district assembly. After incorporation, as above provided, the District Advisory Board shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation. The district superintendent and the secretary of the District Advisory Board, or other persons authorized by the District Advisory Board, incorporated or not incorporated, shall execute and sign all conveyances on real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents of the District Advisory Board. (204)

**222.6.** In areas where the civil law does not permit such in-

corporation, then the district assembly may elect the District Advisory Board as district trustee with power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of carrying on its work in the district. (102.6, 106.2, 222.5)

**222.7.** The District Advisory Board, in areas where it is possible for local churches to incorporate, shall, with the advice of competent legal counsel, provide pattern incorporation forms adequate for the areas of its district. This pattern incorporation form shall always include the provisions set forth in 102-2.5.

**222.8.** To serve in an advisory capacity to the district superintendent in his or her supervision of all the departments, boards, and committees of the district.

**222.9.** To submit to the Board of General Superintendents any plans proposed for the creation of a district center. Such plans shall require the approval in writing of the Board of General Superintendents before they are put in operation. (319)

**222.10.** To recommend the renewal of license for the licensed minister serving as pastor. (427.5)

**222.11.** To approve or disapprove requests from local churches to operate Christian childcare/school (birth through secondary) ministries. At the discretion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, a District Christian Childcare/Schools (Birth through Secondary) Committee may be established. Its function shall be to recommend policy, procedures, and philosophy to the District Advisory Board for application in the local church childcare/school (birth through secondary), and to help establish, support, and monitor such childcare/schools (birth through secondary). (152, 208.13, 414)

**222.12.** To elect or dismiss any paid assistants employed by the district. (241-41.1)

**222.13.** To act, in consultation with the district superintendent, as a finance committee between assemblies with authority to adjust operational budgets as deemed necessary and report the same to the district assembly. (220.1)

**222.14.** To protect all district property, real or personal, including all equity therein, from being diverted to any personal or corporate use other than for the Church of the Nazarene. (102.4, 106.5, 204)

**222.15.** To elect a district treasurer, to serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (219)

**222.16.** To elect a district secretary, to serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (216)

**222.17.** To certify the withdrawal or attempted withdrawal of any local church from the Church of the Nazarene for the purpose of implementing the transfer of title to real property as provided for in paragraph 106.2.

**222.18.** If required, pursuant to paragraph 203.26, to elect a District Auditing Committee to serve until the adjournment of the following district assembly. (203.26)

**222.19.** To give an annual report to the district assembly summarizing the activity of the work of the board including the number of convened meetings.

**223.** The District Advisory Board may issue a transfer of membership to a member of the clergy, a minister of Christian education (409), or a deaconess (406), who desires to transfer to another district assembly, before the meeting of the district assembly in which such person's membership is held. Such transfers may be accepted by the receiving District Advisory Board, granting to those transferred full rights and privileges of membership on the district on which it is received. The receiving district assembly shall have final approval of all such Advisory Board transfer receptions upon favorable recommendation by the Ministerial Credentials Board. (203.8-3.9, 228.9-28.10, 432-32.2)

**223.1.** The District Advisory Board may, upon request, issue a Certificate of Commendation (813.2) to a member of the district assembly who wishes to unite with another denomination.

**224.** The District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent, may suspend a licensed deaconess when it is required for the good of the church, after a confer-

ence with the church board of the local church of which the licensed deaconess is a member, and after giving her a fair hearing.

**225.** In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting a credential from another evangelical denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, his or her credential shall be examined by the District Advisory Board. Only with the favorable recommendation of the District Advisory Board shall such applicant be received into membership in the local church. (417, 427.2, 430)

### **I. The District Ministerial Credentials Board**

**226.** The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall be composed of not less than 5 nor more than 15 ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the district superintendent. They shall serve for a period of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually. (203.15)

**226.1.** A vacancy occurring in the Ministerial Credentials Board in the interim of the district assemblies may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

**227.** Following the election of the Ministerial Credentials Board the district superintendent shall call a meeting of the board for organization as follows:

**227.1.** The district superintendent shall serve as chairperson ex-officio of the board; however, upon his or her request the board may elect an acting chairperson to serve in such relationship until the close of the next district assembly. (213)

**227.2.** The board shall elect from its membership a permanent secretary who shall provide a suitable system of records, at the expense of the district assembly, which shall be the property of the district. The secretary shall carefully record all actions of the board and faithfully preserve them along with such other records as shall be relevant to the work of the board and promptly transmit them to his or her successor.

**228. The duties of the Ministerial Credentials Board are:**

**228.1.** To carefully examine and evaluate all persons who have been properly presented to the district assembly for election to the order of elder, the order of deacon, and for minister's license.

**228.2.** To carefully examine and evaluate all persons desiring to receive a certificate for any of the assigned roles of ministry, including all lay and ministerial candidates aspiring to be recognized for ministries beyond the local church, and any other special relations provided by the *Manual*.

**228.3.** To carefully inquire of each candidate and make any other investigation deemed advisable concerning his or her personal experience of salvation; personal experience of entire sanctification by the baptism with the Holy Spirit; knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible; full acceptance of the doctrines, the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, and the polity of the church; evidence of graces, gifts, intellectual, moral, and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for the ministry to which the candidate feels called.

**228.4.** To carefully investigate the conduct of each candidate to seek to identify whether or not the candidate is engaging in or has a pattern of conduct, which if continued would be inconsistent with the ministry for which the candidate has applied.

**228.5.** To review for approval for reappointment any local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor if he or she is to continue such service after the district assembly following the appointment. (426.6)

**228.6.** To investigate and review the cause of failure of an ordained minister to report to the district assembly for two successive years and make recommendation to the district assembly relative to the continued listing of the name on the published rolls of elders or deacons.

**228.7.** To investigate reports concerning an ordained minister indicating that he or she has placed his or her church membership with any other church or that he or she has joined with the ministry of another denomination or group

or is participating in independent activities without duly authorized permission, and make recommendation to the district assembly relative to his or her retention on the roll of elders or deacons. (112, 433.11)

**228.8.** To recommend to the district assembly retired relationship for a minister requesting such relation and who, in the judgment of the board, is unable to continue in the active ministerial service because of disability (203.27, 431) or who desires to discontinue active ministerial service because of age.

**228.9.** To recommend to the district assembly, members of the clergy, and those licensed for continuing ministry roles, for transfer to another district, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (203.9, 432-32.2)

**228.10.** To recommend to the district assembly, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those licensed for continuing ministry roles for reception of transfer from other districts, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (203.8, 432-32.2)

### **J. The District Ministerial Studies Board**

**229.** The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be composed of five or more ordained ministers, elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually. (203.16)

**229.1.** Vacancies occurring in the District Ministerial Studies Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

**230.** Before the close of the district assembly in which the board is elected, the district superintendent or district secretary shall call a meeting of all the members of the board for organization and assignment as follows:

**230.1.** The board shall elect from among its members a chairperson. They shall elect an ordained minister as secretary, who with the other members shall have the responsibility of examining and advancing candidates through a val-

idated course of study for ordination. They shall maintain a permanent record for all students. (230.5, 424.1-24.3)

**230.2.** The chairperson shall assign to the other members of the board the responsibility for and supervision of all candidates enrolled in a validated course of study for ministerial preparation. Such assignment shall continue as long as the candidates remain actively enrolled during the committee member's term of office unless otherwise mutually arranged.

**230.3.** The chairperson shall attend all meetings of the board, unless providentially prevented, and shall oversee the work of the board each year. In case of necessary absence of the chairperson, the secretary shall do his or her work pro tempore.

**230.4.** The secretary shall, at the expense of the district assembly, provide a suitable record book of ministerial studies, which shall be the property of the district assembly, and shall be used according to instructions in the *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

**230.5.** The other members of the board shall attend faithfully the meetings of the board and shall supervise all candidates by (1) fraternal encouragement, counsel, and guidance; and (2) training by example and by conversation concerning the ethics of the clergy with specific attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct. (230.1)

**230.6.** The board shall cooperate with the district superintendent and the Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC) in seeking ways to encourage, aid, and guide the candidates who are pursuing validated courses of study in a Nazarene college/university or seminary.

**231.** The board may establish classes or seminars in order to assist licensed ministers or other candidates in the pursuit of the various validated courses of study, and establish, subject to approved district funding, central libraries of all books for loan when necessary.

**231.1.** The chairperson and the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board are authorized to enroll a student in a



validated course of study for ministerial education, in consultation with the district superintendent. (230.1-30.2, 424.1-24.3)

**231.2.** The board shall carry out its responsibilities in conformity with the official *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

**231.3.** The board shall report all relevant data concerning each candidate's educational progress to the District Ministerial Credentials Board in time for that board to process the data before the district assembly. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall recommend to the district assembly placement and advancement in and graduation from the various validated courses of study. Such placement, advancement, or graduation shall be consistent with guidelines provided by the office of Clergy Development through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC).

**231.4.** The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be responsible, in cooperation with officially recognized Nazarene institutions for ministerial preparation and the Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC), and under the general guidance of the district superintendent, for the promotion of continuing education for ordained ministers and other staff ministers on the district. The continuing education shall include education concerning ethics of the clergy with particular attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct.

#### **K. The District Evangelism Board or Director of Evangelism**

**232.** The district assembly may elect either a District Evangelism Board or a district director of evangelism. The persons elected shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (203.19)

**232.1.** In cooperation with the district superintendent, the District Evangelism Board, or the district director of evangelism, shall seek to promote and amplify the necessity of holiness evangelism, by providing training opportunities, by conducting rallies and conferences, by emphasizing the need for local church revivals with God-called evangelists, and by

every other available means, to impact the district with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as a first priority in the functioning of the Body of Christ.

#### **L. The District Church Properties Board**

**233.** The District Church Properties Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and no fewer than two ministerial and two lay members. Members may be elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The District Advisory Board may serve as the District Church Properties Board upon favorable vote of the district assembly.

**234. The duties of the District Church Properties Board are:**

**234.1.** To advance the cause of constructing church-related buildings within the bounds of the assembly district, in cooperation with the District Advisory Board.

**234.2.** To verify and conserve the titles to local church property.

**234.3.** To consider propositions submitted by local churches relating to the purchase of real estate or the erection of church buildings or parsonages, and to advise them concerning the propositions submitted. (103)

**234.4.** To approve or disapprove, in conjunction with the district superintendent, propositions submitted by local churches relative to church building plans and the incurring of indebtedness in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings. The Church Properties Board shall normally approve a request to increase indebtedness subject to the following guidelines:

1. The local church requesting approval to increase indebtedness paid all financial apportionments in full for the two years preceding the request.
2. The amount of total indebtedness will not exceed three times the average of the amount raised for all purposes in each of the preceding three years.
3. The details of the planned remodeling or construction shall have been approved by the Church Properties Board.

4. The amount of indebtedness and the terms of payment will not jeopardize the spiritual life of the church.

The Church Properties Board may approve requests that do not meet these guidelines only with the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

**234.5.** To do whatever else the district assembly may direct regarding the matter of local church property.

#### **M. The District Assembly Finance Committee**

**235.** The duties of the District Assembly Finance Committee are:

**235.1.** To meet prior to the district assembly and to make recommendation to the district assembly concerning all financial apportionments and the allocation of those apportionments to the local churches.

**235.2.** To do whatever else the district assembly may direct in areas of district finance. (203.21)

**235.3.** To publish in the district journal the method used and the percentages applied to determine the budget base for all accepted budgets.

#### **N. The District Chaplaincy Director**

**236.** The district superintendent may appoint a district chaplaincy director. In cooperation with the district superintendent, the district chaplaincy director shall seek to promote and amplify holiness evangelism through the specialized ministry of chaplaincy. The director will promote and support evangelism through industrial, institutional, campus, and military opportunities. The director shall give special attention to Nazarene servicemembers and other military members located on military installations, appointing and assisting host pastors located near these bases to impact servicemembers and their families for Christ, bonding them to our church while they are serving their country. (208.8)

#### **O. The District Sunday School Ministries Board**

**237.** The District Sunday School Ministries Board shall be composed of the district superintendent, the district NMI president, the district NYI president, and the chairperson of

the District Sunday School Ministries Board, who comprise an Executive Committee, and at least three additional members. The additional members shall be elected by the district assembly or the District Sunday School Ministries Convention to staggered terms of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Upon initial organization of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, the three additional members are to be elected from six nominees, with one being elected for a term of three years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year. However, when the district total membership exceeds 5,000, the number of members nominated and elected may be doubled, and, when possible, at least four of the ten board members should be laypersons. Vacancies occurring in the Sunday School Ministries Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

The **duties of the District Sunday School Ministries Board** are:

**237.1.** To meet within one week following their election and to organize by electing a secretary, treasurer, district directors of adult ministries, children's ministries, and Continuing Lay Training, who then shall become ex-officio members of the Sunday School Ministries Board. Other district directors, as deemed necessary, may be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the board.

**237.2.** To give supervision to all Sunday School interests of the district.

**237.3.** To elect a Children's Ministries Council\* whose chairperson shall be the district director of children's ministries and whose members shall be the district directors of: boys' and girls' camps, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, Bible quizzing, children's church, Cradle Roll, and any others deemed necessary.

**237.4.** To elect an Adult Ministries Council\* whose chairperson shall be the district director of adult ministries and whose members shall be the district directors of: marriage

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\*For additional information concerning the duties of Children's and Adult Ministries councils, see the *Sunday School Ministries Handbook*.

and family life, senior adult ministries, single adult ministries, lay retreat, small-group Bible studies, women's ministries, men's ministries, and any others deemed necessary.

**237.5.** To arrange for an annual district Sunday School Ministries convention. (237)

**237.6.** To determine, in consultation with the district superintendent, whether elections for the District Sunday School Ministries Board members and chairperson will be held in the district assembly or in the District Sunday School Ministries Convention.

**237.7.** To encourage all local Sunday School ministries chairpersons and age-group ministries directors/NYI presidents to be present in the District Sunday School Ministries Convention and take part as opportunity affords.

**237.8.** To organize the district into zones and appoint zone chairpersons who shall assist the board at its direction to carry forward the work of Sunday School ministries on the district.

**237.9.** To plan and implement district or zone Continuing Lay Training classes.

**237.10.** To assist the Sunday School Ministries Department of the General Board in securing information relating to district and local Sunday School interests.

**237.11.** To recommend to the District Assembly Finance Committee the annual District Sunday School Ministries Board budget.

**237.12.** To be responsible for the district lay retreat. The district director of adult ministries shall be member ex-officio of the District Lay Retreat Committee.

**237.13.** To approve the report of its chairperson to be presented to the district assembly.

**237.14.** To meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the district superintendent or the chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board to plan and execute effectively the responsibilities of the board.

**238. The District Sunday School Ministries Chairperson.** The district assembly or the Sunday School Ministries Convention, from two or more nominees submitted by the District Nominating Committee, shall elect a chairperson

of the District Sunday School Ministries Board to serve for a one- or two-year term. An incumbent chairperson may be re-elected by a favorable “yes” or “no” vote when such vote has been recommended by the District Sunday School Ministries Board, with the approval of the district superintendent. A vacancy in the interim of sessions of the district assembly may be filled according to the provisions of 212. (237.6)

**The duties and powers of the District Sunday School Ministries chairperson are:**

**238.1.** To give responsible leadership to the Sunday School on the district by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance, and to coordinate all programs relating to children’s and adult ministries, and to work in cooperation with NYI to coordinate youth Sunday School.

**238.2.** To be an ex-officio member of the district assembly and the District Sunday School Ministries Board.

**238.3.** To report to the General Board Sunday School Ministries Department accurate Sunday School statistics each month and to prepare for the District Sunday School Ministries Board a written report for the annual assembly journal.

### **P. The District Nazarene Youth International**

**239.** Nazarene youth ministry is organized on the district under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International, under the Nazarene Youth International Charter, and the authority of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the district assembly. The district NYI shall be composed of the members and local groups of Nazarene Youth International of the assembly district.

**239.1.** The district NYI shall organize itself according to the NYI District Ministry Plan, which may be adapted in response to district youth ministry needs, consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

**239.2.** The district NYI shall be coordinated by a District NYI Council, responsible for planning and organizing ministry for youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults, and collectively casting the vision for district youth ministry. The council shall be responsible to the district superintendent and District Advisory Board.

All work of the NYI Council pertaining to Sunday School is subject to the approval of the district Sunday School Ministries chairperson and Sunday School Ministries Board.

**239.3.** The District NYI Council shall be composed of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, youth representatives and ministry directors as deemed necessary, and the district superintendent. District NYI officers and council members are elected by the annual District NYI Convention according to the NYI District Ministry Plan, and shall serve without salary. Nominees shall be approved by the district superintendent. Should the terms used to describe officers not effectively communicate in a particular culture, more appropriate titles may be used by vote of the District NYI Council.

**239.4.** The duties of the district NYI president are to give direction and leadership to the district NYI, to chair the District NYI Council in facilitating the development of youth ministry on the district, to preside at the annual District NYI Convention, to represent the interests of the district NYI on appropriate district boards and committees, and to encourage the development of NYI ministry in local churches on the district. The district NYI president shall report to the district superintendent and District Advisory Board, and annually to the district assembly. The district NYI president shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly (201).

#### **Q. The District Nazarene Missions International**

**240.** The District Nazarene Missions International shall be composed of the local Nazarene Missions International within the boundaries of the assembly district. The district NMI shall be auxiliary to the General Nazarene Missions International. (811)

**240.1.** The District Nazarene Missions International shall be governed by the NMI Constitution approved by the General Nazarene Missions International Convention and the World Mission Committee of the General Board. It shall be subject to the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, the district assembly, and the district Nazarene Missions International Council. (811)

**240.2.** The president of the District Nazarene Missions International shall serve without salary and shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

#### **R. District Paid Assistants**

**241.** When paid assistants become necessary for the greater efficiency of the district administration, such persons, ministerial or lay, shall be nominated by the district superintendent, after having secured the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. They shall be elected by the District Advisory Board. The employment of such assistants shall be for no more than one year but may be renewed by recommendation of the district superintendent and the majority vote of the Advisory Board. (208.15)

**241.1.** Dismissal of such assistants prior to the end of the employment period must be by the recommendation of the district superintendent and the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. (222.12)

**241.2.** The duties and services of such district assistants are to be determined and supervised by the district superintendent.

**241.3.** Within 30 days after a new district superintendent assumes administrative duties on the district, the term of service of the paid assistants shall be considered concluded, unless otherwise stipulated by national labor law. (Such clerical assistants as office secretaries shall not be included in the above provisions.) (207.3-7.4)

**241.4.** Service as a paid district assistant shall not prohibit one from serving in other district elected or appointed offices such as district secretary or district treasurer.

#### **S. Disorganization of a District**

**242.** When it seems clear to the Board of General Superintendents that a district no longer should continue as such, it may, upon their recommendation, be disorganized by a two-thirds favorable vote of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene and a formal pronouncement thereof. (200)

**242.1.** In case a district becomes officially disorganized, any church property that shall exist may in no way be di-



verted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of the General Board, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the General Assembly shall direct; and trustees holding property, or corporations created to hold property, for the disorganized district shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the appointed agent of the General Board, and turn the funds over to such agent. (106.2, 106.5, 222.5)

## CHAPTER III

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**A. Functions and Organization**

**300.** The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to the provisions of the church Constitution. (31.1-1.9)

**300.1.** The General Assembly shall be presided over by the general superintendents, jointly and severally. (31.6, 307.2)

**300.2.** The General Assembly shall elect its other officers and organize itself for the transaction of its business according to its wisdom and pleasure. (31.7)

**300.3. Rules of Order.** Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40)

**B. Membership of the General Assembly**

**301.** The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers from each Phase 3 district, the district superintendent serving as one of the assigned and ordained ministerial delegates, the remaining assigned and ordained ministerial delegates and all the lay delegates elected thereto by the district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; the general superintendents emeriti and retired; the general superintendents; the general secretary; the general treasurer; the editor of *Holiness Today*; the directors of the several departments, ministries, and services

of the General Board; the education commissioner; the regional directors; the national director of the Church of the Nazarene, Canada; the General Nazarene Missions International president; the Global Nazarene Youth International president; the regional college/university presidents (in regions where more than one school exists, one delegate from these schools would be elected by the Regional Advisory Council); presidents of multiregional institutions whose Board of Directors are elected by multiple district representatives; the president of the Nazarene Publishing House; the president of the Church of the Nazarene Foundation; the revivalism coordinator; one career missionary delegate for every region of 50 or fewer missionaries and two career missionary delegates for every region with 51 or more missionaries, elected by the Regional Advisory Council in each region. In the absence of such election the missionary representative shall be elected by the World Mission Committee.

**301.1.** Each Phase 3 district shall be entitled to representation in the General Assembly by: one assigned ordained minister and one layperson for the first 2,000 or fewer full church members, and one additional assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for the next 1 to 3,500 full members, and for each successive additional 1 to 3,500 full members.<sup>1</sup> The term “assigned ordained minister” shall include elders and deacons.

**301.2.** Each Phase 2 district shall be entitled to one lay and one ministerial delegate to the General Assembly. The assigned and ordained ministerial delegate shall be the district superintendent. An alternate will be elected for each delegate.

**301.3.** A Phase 1 district shall be entitled to one nonvoting delegate to the General Assembly. The district superintendent shall be the delegate, providing he or she holds his or her membership on the district. If the district superintendent does not hold his or her membership on the district, an alternate who is a member of the district will be elected.

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1. 0-2,000; 2,001-5,500; 5,501-9,000; 9,001-12,500; 12,501-16,000; 16,001-19,500; 19,501-23,000; 23,001-26,500; 26,501-30,000; etc.

**301.4.** The right of an assigned ministerial delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly electing him or her shall be vacated in case he or she shall move to a new ministerial assignment on another assembly district, or if the delegate-elect shall leave the active, assigned ministry of the Church of the Nazarene prior to the convening of the General Assembly. Any minister who has been granted official retirement status by a district would be ineligible to be nominated as a delegate or a delegate-elect to the General Assembly.

**301.5.** The right of a lay delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly electing him or her shall be vacated in case he or she shall remove his or her church membership to some local church on another assembly district prior to the convening of the General Assembly.

### **C. The Time and Place of Meeting**

**302.** The General Assembly shall meet in the month of June, every fourth year, at such time and place as shall be determined by a General Assembly Commission composed of the general superintendents and an equal number of persons chosen by the Board of General Superintendents. The general superintendents and said commission shall also have power, in case of an emergency, to change the time and place of the meeting of the General Assembly.

**302.1.** The General Assembly shall open on Sunday with a full day of devotional and inspirational services. Provision shall be made for the orderly and careful transaction of business, and for such services at the close of the session as it may order. The General Assembly shall fix the time at which its session shall adjourn. (31.4)

### **D. Special Sessions**

**303.** The Board of General Superintendents, or a majority thereof, by and with the written consent of two-thirds of all the district superintendents, shall have power to call a special session of the General Assembly in case of an emergency, the time and place thereof to be determined by the

general superintendents and a commission chosen by the Board of General Superintendents.

**303.1.** In case of a special session of the General Assembly, the delegates and alternates to the last preceding General Assembly, or their duly elected and qualified successors, shall serve as delegates and alternates to the special session.

#### **E. General Assembly Arrangements Committee**

**304.** The general secretary, the general treasurer, and three persons appointed by the Board of General Superintendents at least one year before the convening of the General Assembly shall constitute the General Assembly Arrangements Committee.

**304.1.** The General Assembly Arrangements Committee shall have authority to arrange all necessary details regarding offices, exhibits and space, entertainment and meals, and whatever else may be needful to contribute to the comfort, convenience, and efficiency of the General Assembly, and enter into contracts necessary to provide the same.

**304.2.** The General Assembly Arrangements Committee with the general superintendents shall formulate a program for the General Assembly, including emphases for each of the general interests; a Communion service; and other religious services for the first three days of the General Assembly or until a committee on public worship shall have been appointed; all of which program shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

#### **F. Business of the General Assembly**

**305.** The business of the General Assembly, subject to paragraph 31.9 of the church Constitution, shall be:

**305.1.** To reference, through its Reference Committee, all resolutions, recommendations, and implementing legislation from commissions and special committee reports and other documents to standing or special legislative committees of the assembly, or to regional caucuses for consideration before being presented to the assembly. The Reference Committee may submit legislation affecting only a specific region/regions to

the General Assembly delegates of said region(s) meeting in caucus for action. Changes that affect the *Manual* must be acted upon by the entire General Assembly.

**305.2.** To elect, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall hold office until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided that the first ballot shall be a "yes" or "no" ballot for the general superintendents then serving, and any vacancies remaining after the first ballot shall be filled by ensuing ballots until the elections are completed. In the event that someone who is ineligible under this provision receives votes on the first ballot, that person's name shall be deleted from the elective ballot and the report of the first ballot shall include this statement: "One or more names have been deleted due to ineligibility for the office." No elder shall be considered eligible for election to the office of general superintendent who has at any time surrendered his or her credential for disciplinary reasons. No person shall be elected to the office of general superintendent who has not reached the age of 35 years or who has reached the age of 68 years. (31.5, 306, 900.1)

**305.3.** To elect a general superintendent to the emeritus honor when deemed advisable, provided the superintendent shall have become disabled or shall have reached 65 years of age. It is thereby understood that election to emeritus relation is of life tenure. (314.1)

**305.4.** To place in the retired relation a general superintendent who has attained to the age of 68 years, or who, in the judgment of the General Assembly, has become disqualified by physical disability, or by old age, or by any other disqualification that would prevent such a person from caring adequately for the work of the general superintendency; and provided that said superintendent has served in the office of general superintendent for a reasonable term of years. The General Assembly may grant retired relation when a general superintendent who has attained the age of 65 years requests it.

Should a general superintendent who has attained the

age of 65 years request retirement in the interim of General Assemblies, the request may be granted by the General Board in regular session upon recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents. (314.1)

**305.5.** To fix a suitable retirement pension for each retired general superintendent, in accordance with paragraph 314.2.

**305.6.** To elect a General Board, as provided in 331.1-32.4, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (330, 901.1)

**305.7.** To elect a General Court of Appeals, consisting of five ordained ministers, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Board of General Superintendents shall select the chairperson and secretary. (31.8, 510, 901.2)

**305.8.** To elect boards of control for educational institutions serving multiregional areas, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified and in accordance with the following provisions:

- a. The boards of control shall be comprised of persons from the respective areas served by the institution.
- b. In instances where the institution serves a multiregional area, election of that board shall be conducted in the General Assembly regional caucus(es) composed of delegates from the regions primarily served by the schools.

**305.9.** To do anything else, in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, that wisdom may dictate for the general welfare of the Church of the Nazarene and the holy cause of Christ, subject to the church Constitution. (31.9)

### **G. The General Superintendents**

**306.** The general superintendents, elected by the General Assembly, shall serve until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (305.2)

**306.1.** A general superintendent shall hold no other general office in the church while serving as general superintendent. (307.10)

**306.2.** The general superintendents shall be members ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

**307.** The **duties and powers of the general superintendents** are:

**307.1.** To have general supervision of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to the law and order as adopted by the General Assembly.

**307.2.** To preside over the General Assembly and over the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, jointly and severally. (300.1, 334.3)

**307.3.** To ordain, or appoint others to ordain, in connection with the ordained ministers present, those who have been duly elected to be elders or deacons. (433.5-33.6)

**307.4.** To preside over each Phase 3 district assembly; or, if hindered from doing so, to make suitable arrangements for such presidency. (202, 211)

**307.5.** The general superintendent presiding over a district assembly, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board, in concurrence with the delegates of local churches, shall appoint pastors over such local churches as have not regularly called pastors. (214.1)

**307.6.** The general superintendents, jointly and severally, may appoint district superintendents over assembly districts where vacancies occur in the interim of district assembly sessions, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, and the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary and the district treasurer. (207)

**307.7.** In the event of temporary incapacitation of an incumbent district superintendent, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, may appoint a qualified elder to serve as interim district superintendent. The question of incapacitation shall be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board. (207.2)

**307.8.** The general superintendent in jurisdiction may recommend to the Board of General Superintendents that a Phase 3 district be declared in crisis. (200.2, 322)



**307.9.** The general superintendent having jurisdiction may preside at the annual, or a special meeting of a local church, or appoint a representative to do so. (113.5)

**307.10.** The general superintendents shall not be members of any of the general boards of the Church of the Nazarene. (306.1)

**307.11.** All official acts of the general superintendents shall be subject to review and revision by the General Assembly.

**307.12.** Any official act of a general superintendent may be nullified by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents.

**307.13.** The office of any general superintendent may be declared vacant, for cause, by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents, supported by a majority vote of all the district superintendents of Phase 3 and Phase 2 districts.

## **H. General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired**

**314.** All general superintendents emeriti and retired general superintendents shall be members ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

**314.1.** A general superintendent who has been placed in the retired relation, or voted emeritus honor, shall not be a member of the Board of General Superintendents and shall be relieved of all official responsibility. However, in the event that an active general superintendent should be incapacitated by illness, hospitalization, or other unavoidable emergency necessitating absence from any assignment, the Board of General Superintendents is empowered to call into temporary assignment any retired general superintendent. (305.3-5.5, 900.1)

**314.2.** The pension for a general superintendent shall be under the provisions of the General Church Pension Plan, a qualified church plan. (305.5)

## **I. The Board of General Superintendents**

**315.** The general superintendents shall organize as a board

and arrange for and assign to the members thereof the particular work over which they shall have special jurisdiction.

**316. Vacancy.** If a vacancy occurs, by death or otherwise, in the Board of General Superintendents, in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, the question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Board of General Superintendents. Upon receipt of the board's decision, the general secretary shall notify at once all members of the General Board. When an election is called for, the members of the General Board shall elect, by a two-thirds vote of all eligible to vote, an elder of the Church of the Nazarene to fill the vacancy and to perform the duties of the general superintendent until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly. (31.5, 305.2)

**316.1.** The general secretary shall report the result of the vote to the Board of General Superintendents, which shall announce the same to the Church of the Nazarene.

**317. The duties of the Board of General Superintendents** shall be:

**317.1.** To provide supervision of the international Church of the Nazarene. The Board of General Superintendents shall provide appropriate attention to leadership, guidance, motivation, and access to all Phase 3 districts.

**317.2.** To recommend, in consultation with the director of the World Mission Department, and the respective national administrative directors and/or regional directors, changes in the assignment of the geographical areas subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board.

**317.3.** To have supervision of all general boards and the committees of the General Board. The policies and plans adopted by the board or committee require the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The Board of General Superintendents shall have the privilege of making to the General Board and to the committees thereof such recommendations as they shall deem advisable. They shall approve or disapprove all nominations made by the World Mission Committee to the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene for appointment as missionaries.

**317.4.** To function as a Nominating Committee, in conjunction with the General Board Executive Committee, to bring one or more names to the General Board for election of a general secretary and a general treasurer.

**317.5.** To declare vacant with cause by a two-thirds vote the office of general secretary, general treasurer, Nazarene Publishing House president, or department director.

**317.6.** To fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the General Court of Appeals in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, and to select the chairperson and secretary of the court. (305.7, 511, 901.2)

**317.7.** To fill vacancies that may occur in any special commission or committee in the interim of General Assemblies or General Board.

**317.8.** To approve the appointments and elections made by the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene in filling vacancies that may occur in its membership.

**317.9.** To fill vacancies, upon nomination made by the remaining members thereof, on the corporate board of the Nazarene Publishing House. (337)

**317.10.** To appoint general superintendents to serve as advisers of all institutions of higher education affiliated with the International Board of Education and to serve as general superintendents in jurisdiction for all departments of the General Board. (901.5)

**317.11.** To arrange, in conjunction with Clergy Development, ministerial studies for local ministers, licensed ministers, and those serving in ministerial roles, lay or credentialed. (424-25)

**317.12.** To plan, preserve and promote the lifeline of our global mission interests, the Board of General Superintendents, with the General Board, is authorized and empowered to apportion the World Evangelism Fund to the several assembly districts. (130, 334.8)

**317.13.** To approve in writing the restoration of credential to a former elder or deacon as required. (434.7, 435.2)

**318.** The Board of General Superintendents shall be the authority for the interpretation of the law and doctrine of the Church of the Nazarene, and the meaning and force of

all provisions of the *Manual*, subject to an appeal to the General Assembly.

**319.** The Board of General Superintendents shall consider and pass upon plans for district centers, which plans shall not be carried out until they have been approved in writing by the Board of General Superintendents. (222.9)

**320.** The presiding general superintendent shall have discretionary power in the ordaining of divorced persons to the office of elder or deacon in the Church of the Nazarene. (35.1-35.3, 428.3, 429.3)

**321.** The Board of General Superintendents may declare vacant with cause the office of a district superintendent of any Phase 2 or Phase 1 district upon recommendation of the general superintendent having jurisdiction and may declare vacant the office of district superintendents in Phase 3 districts upon a two-thirds majority vote of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District Sunday School Ministries Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. (207.2)

**322.** The Board of General Superintendents may approve that a Phase 3 district be declared in crisis. (200.2, 307.8)

**323.** The Board of General Superintendents shall have authority to do anything else in the service of the Church of the Nazarene, not otherwise provided for, according to the dictates of its wisdom, in harmony with the general church order, and subject to the church Constitution.

### **J. The General Secretary**

**324.** The general secretary, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a successor is elected and qualified, or until removed according to 317.5. (900.2)

**324.1.** The general secretary shall be a member ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

**324.2.** If in the interim of sessions of the General Board a vacancy should occur in the office of the general secretary for any cause, it shall be filled by the General Board, upon nomination as provided in 317.4. (334.22)

**324.3.** The general secretary shall be amenable to the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board.

**325.** The **duties of the general secretary** are:

**325.1.** To record correctly and preserve the journal of the proceedings of the General Assembly and the General Board.

**325.2.** To record correctly and preserve all general statistics of the Church of the Nazarene.

**325.3.** To preserve all documents belonging to the General Assembly, and promptly deliver the same to his or her successor.

**325.4.** To preserve carefully, in permanent form, all decisions rendered by the General Court of Appeals. (513)

**325.5.** To catalogue and preserve all filed, surrendered, removed, and resigned credentials of ministers and deliver them only on proper order made by the district assembly of the assembly district from which they were received. (434-34.1, 434.6)

**325.6.** To audit assembly district statistical charts for publication. (217.3)

**325.7.** To maintain in a permanent database the records of all persons who have been granted a district minister's license.

**325.8.** To make available the minutes of the General Assembly sessions to the delegates of the specific assembly who make a request for them through their district, or in World Mission areas, their regional office. This may be done in digital format.

**325.9.** To make available for download from <http://www.nazarene.org> the complete text of the latest version of the *Manual*, in a format that can be used in the widest possible range of personal computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc.

**325.10.** To do faithfully whatever else may be necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of the office.

**326.** The general secretary shall be custodian of, and hold in trust, such legal documents as belong to the general church.

**326.1.** The general secretary is authorized to collect available historic material relating to the rise and development

of our denomination, and shall be the custodian of such records and material.

**326.2.** The general secretary shall keep a register of Historic Sites and Landmarks according to paragraph 902.10.

**327.** The general secretary, in conjunction with the general superintendents, shall, prior to the opening of the General Assembly, prepare all necessary forms, including *Rules of Order "Manual" Abridgment* for revision, and other things necessary for expediting the work of the General Assembly. The expense incurred shall be provided for out of the General Assembly expense fund.

**327.1.** The general secretary may have as many assistants for the work as the General Assembly shall elect, or, in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents may appoint.

### **K. The General Treasurer**

**328.** The general treasurer, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a successor is elected and qualified or until removed according to 317.5. (900.3)

**328.1.** The general treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

**328.2.** The general treasurer shall be amenable to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the Headquarters Financial office, the Board of General Superintendents, and the General Board.

**329. The duties of the general treasurer are:**

**329.1.** To have the custody of all funds belonging to the general interests of the Church of the Nazarene.

**329.2.** To receive, and disburse on order, the funds of the USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Committee, Finance Committee, Sunday School Ministries & NYI Committee, World Mission Committee, and such other funds as properly belong to the General Board, or to any of its departments; the general superintendents' fund; the general contingent fund; the General Assembly expense fund; other general benevolent church funds; the funds of the Global Nazarene Youth Inter-

national; and the funds of the General Nazarene Missions International. (330.3)

**329.3.** To give bond for the faithful performance of duties, in a reliable surety company, in a good and sufficient sum, as the General Board may direct.

**329.4.** To furnish such reports to the boards and departments, for whose funds he or she may be custodian, as may be required by them.

**329.5.** To furnish to the General Board an annual report of all finances of the Church of the Nazarene, including investments. (334.13)

**329.6.** To safeguard annuity funds invested in real estate by proper insurance policies and to provide against the lapsing of such policies.

**329.7.** To secure monthly reports of receipts and disbursements from all schools, orphanages, rescue homes, and other institutions of the Church of the Nazarene.

### **L. The General Board**

**330.** The General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, a religious and charitable corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri at Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A., shall be composed of members who shall be elected by ballot by the General Assembly from among the persons nominated as provided in 331.1-32.4. To be elected a member of the General Board as a representative of a church region, one must be a resident on that region as well as a member of a local church on that region. (305.6, 333)

**330.1.** No one shall be eligible for election to the General Board or shall remain a member of the General Board who is an employee of the General Board, or entities including educational institutions controlled by the General Board. Individuals from districts or other entities receiving operating funds from the general church are likewise ineligible.

**330.2.** The general secretary shall be ex-officio secretary of the General Board.

**330.3.** The general treasurer of the Church of the Nazarene shall be ex-officio treasurer of the General Board and also of the departments thereof. (329.2)

**331. Nominations for the General Board** shall be made as herein provided:

**331.1.** After the delegates to the General Assembly have been elected, each Phase 3 district delegation shall meet to select candidates for nomination to the General Board in the following manner. Each Phase 3 district may present names of two ordained ministers and two laypersons. The multicultural composition of the nominating district should be considered in selecting names for nomination. For such regions that have a Regional Advisory Council, the names of these candidates shall be sent first to the national board and then to the Regional Advisory Council, which may reduce the number of names to three for each member that the caucus needs to vote on, after which the names shall be sent immediately to the office of the general secretary to be placed on ballots for presentation to the General Assembly delegates from each region. (203.23)

**331.2.** From the list of these candidates, the General Assembly delegates from each region shall nominate to the General Assembly as follows:

Each region of 100,000 or fewer full members shall nominate one ordained minister and one layperson; each region exceeding 100,000 and up to 200,000 full members shall nominate two ordained ministers, one district superintendent and one pastor or evangelist, and two laypersons; and one additional layperson and one additional ordained minister for regions exceeding 200,000 full members, with the following provisions:

1. On those regions whose membership is in excess of 200,000 full members, one ordained minister shall be a pastor or evangelist; another shall be a district superintendent; and the other ordained minister may be in either category.
2. No district shall be entitled to more than two members on the General Board, and no region shall be entitled to more than six members (with the exception of institutional representatives and auxiliary members). Whenever more than two candidates from a district receive a higher number of votes than candidates from



other districts on the region, those on another district receiving the next highest number of votes shall be selected as nominees from the region. (305.6, 901.1)

3. In each region the layperson/laypersons, the pastor or evangelist, and/or the district superintendent who receive the highest number of votes in their respective classifications shall be nominated by majority vote to the General Assembly. In the instance of the larger regions where six members are to be elected, the layperson and the ordained minister who receive the next highest number of votes shall be the additional nominees. (902.9)
4. If a Regional Advisory Council determines that it is likely that a majority of elected delegates will be prevented from attending the General Assembly, the regional caucus voting may be conducted via postal or electronic means within six months prior to the start of General Assembly. The specific process by which this postal or electronic nomination of General Board members to the General Assembly occurs shall be proposed by the Regional Advisory Council and submitted to the General Secretary's office for approval prior to implementation.

**331.3.** The International Board of Education (IBOE) shall nominate to the General Assembly four persons from the educational institutions, two ordained ministers and two laypersons. (330.1)

**331.4.** The Global Council of the Nazarene Youth International shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the Global NYI Council. (341.4)

**331.5.** The General Council of the Nazarene Missions International shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the General Council. (342.3)

**332. Elections to the General Board** shall be as herein provided:

**332.1.** Each nominee presented by the respective regions shall be elected by the General Assembly by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (902.9)

**332.2.** From the nominees presented by the International Board of Education, the General Assembly shall elect two, one of whom shall be an ordained minister and one a layperson.

**332.3.** From the nominees presented by the Global Council of the Nazarene Youth International, the General Assembly shall elect one. (341.4, 901.3)

**332.4.** From the nominees presented by the General Council of the Nazarene Missions International, the General Assembly shall elect one. (342.3, 901.4)

**333.** The members of the General Board shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. In the event that a member of the General Board shall move his or her church membership or residence from the region he or she represents, or if a minister changes from the category of ministerial assignment for which elected, before the second regular meeting of the quadrennium, his or her membership shall be terminated immediately. The vacancy so created shall be filled promptly. (330)

**333.1. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the General Board,** and also the committees thereof, shall be filled upon nomination by the Board of General Superintendents, who shall present to the general secretary, as soon as feasible, the names of two eligible persons from whom for regional representation the Advisory Boards of the districts of the region on which the vacancy occurred shall elect one by a majority vote, each Phase 2 and Phase 3 District Advisory Board being entitled to one vote. For educational representation, the nominees shall be submitted to the General Board to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from NYI, nominees shall be submitted to the Global Council to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from NMI, nominees shall be submitted from the Executive Committee of the General NMI Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents to the General NMI Council to elect one by a majority vote.

#### DUTIES OF THE GENERAL BOARD

**334.** The General Board shall encourage and expect all national, regional, district, and local boards to fulfill the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, which is to propa-

gate Christian holiness in the Wesleyan tradition, and shall facilitate the progress of the global church in each nation and/or region. The General Board shall promote the financial and material affairs of all the committees of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to such instructions as may be given by the General Assembly. It shall coordinate, correlate, and unify the plans and activities of the several constituent committees so that a unified policy may be established by and in all the activities of the Church of the Nazarene. It shall have the power to direct the auditing of the accounts of all departments and institutions relating to or associated with the Church of the Nazarene, with a view to securing such uniformity of method and completeness of form as shall be most efficient; and it shall be an advisory body in the business and administrative affairs of the several departments of the General Board and of all the organizations and institutions that are a part of, related to, or associated with this denomination. These departments, organizations, and institutions shall give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the General Board.

**334.1.** The General Board shall have power to buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell and convey and donate, or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of both real and personal property, sold, devised, bequeathed, donated, or otherwise conveyed to it in trust for any lawful purpose, and to execute such trust; to borrow and to loan money in the execution of its lawful purposes.

**334.2.** The General Board shall fill a vacancy in the Board of General Superintendents in accordance with paragraphs 316 and 305.2.

**334.3.** The General Board shall meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and shall organize by electing officers and committees, and members to committees as required by its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, to serve for the quadrennium and until their successors are elected and qualified. The general superintendents, jointly and severally, shall preside over the meetings of the General Board.

**334.4. Meetings.** The General Board shall meet in ses-

sion at least three times during the quadrennium, at a time specified by the bylaws of the said board, at Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A.; however, the hour, date, and place of the regular meeting may, by resolution unanimously adopted at any regular or special meeting, be changed to suit the best interests of the General Board and its committees.

**334.5. Special Meetings** of the General Board may be called by the chairperson, the president, or the secretary.

**334.6. Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee, elected by the General Board, shall have charge of the proper investment of trust funds. The General Board, after first referring to this committee all budget requests submitted by the several departments and offices of the General Headquarters for the ensuing year, shall receive from the committee a report of its recommendations concerning each request. This committee shall perform any other work assigned to it by the General Board. It shall keep accurate minutes of all its meetings and submit them to the General Board for approval.

**334.7. World Evangelism Fund.** The World Evangelism Fund shall be the grand total of all department budgets and other funds to be raised by the whole denomination for the support, maintenance, and promotion of its general activities.

From the statements of budget requests submitted by the various departments and agencies of the church, and from the statements of the general treasurer, the General Board shall determine the amount to be allotted from the World Evangelism Fund to each department and fund. When the World Evangelism Fund with its proposed allotment to each department shall have been agreed upon, it shall be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents for its consideration, suggestions, or amendments before final adoption by the General Board.

**334.8.** When the total amount of the World Evangelism Fund has been fixed for the next fiscal year by the General Board, the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents are authorized and empowered to apportion the World Evangelism Fund to the several assembly districts on

a basis of equity to both the district and general interests affected. (130, 317.12)

**334.9.** The General Board shall have authority to increase or diminish the amount requested by any department or fund. Items of finance adopted by the General Assembly shall be referred to the General Board, who shall be authorized to adjust proportionately with existing economic conditions the annual allocation of any institution or agency of the church, in keeping with the total financial commitment of the general church.

**334.10.** The General Board shall approve appropriations from the World Evangelism Fund for the Nazarene Theological Seminary (U.S.A.) and the Nazarene Bible College (U.S.A.) as it may deem advisable in line with the availability of funds.

**334.11.** The General Board shall annually review and make appropriate adjustments in the salaries and related benefits of the general superintendents in the interim of General Assemblies.

**334.12. Reports.** The General Board shall, at its regular meeting, receive a detailed report of the activities of the departments for the past year, including a financial report. Each department shall also submit a proposed expenditures budget for the ensuing year.

**334.13.** The general treasurer shall annually present to the General Board a detailed financial report of receipts and disbursements of all funds of which he or she has been custodian during the past year, including trust funds and investments, together with a detailed statement of the proposed expenditures for the ensuing year of funds not included in the budgets of departments of the General Board. The general treasurer shall be responsible to the General Board for the faithful performance of official duties. (329.5)

**334.14.** The General Board shall meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and shall elect a general secretary and a general treasurer as provided in General Board Bylaws, who shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified.

**334.15.** The General Board members representing United

States regions shall elect a Board of Pensions and Benefits USA, composed of one member representing each United States region, and one member-at-large. Nominations shall be submitted by the Board of General Superintendents as provided by the Bylaws of the Board of Pensions and Benefits USA. (336)

**334.16.** The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House Board following each General Assembly, who shall serve until the adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (337)

**334.17.** The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House president in the manner prescribed by 334.20 and General Board Bylaws.

**334.18.** A General Board agenda item affecting only a specific region/nation shall be referred upon approval of the Executive Committee of the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents, to the General Board members of said region/nation meeting in caucus.

**334.19.** The General Board shall properly relate any commission or committee authorized by the General Assembly or General Board to some department or departments, or to the board as a whole, and assign its work, responsibility, and budget.

**334.20. Department Directors.** The General Board shall elect a department director, by ballot, for each of its several departments, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed from office as provided in paragraph 317.5. They shall be **nominated according to the following procedures:** If there is an incumbent director, the Nominating Committee may recommend either a “yes” or “no” vote, or present multiple nominees. The search for capable candidates for these offices shall be conducted by a search committee as provided by General Board Bylaws. This committee will bring two or more names to the Nominating Committee along with supporting rationale for their recommendation.

The Nominating Committee, composed of the six general superintendents and the Personnel Committee from the re-

spective committee, shall submit one or more names to the General Board for election as provided in the General Board Bylaws.

**334.21. Executives' Salaries.** The General Board shall establish and document a "performance evaluation" and salary administration program that includes the department director and ministry/service directors and provides for a salary structure that recognizes both levels of responsibility and merit. The General Board shall annually review and approve the salaries of department directors, the Nazarene Publishing House president, and such other officers as may be authorized and elected by the General Board.

**334.22.** The General Board, during the interim of sessions of the General Assembly and/or General Board, upon nomination as provided in the General Board Bylaws and 317.4, shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the offices listed in 334.14, 334.20, and any other executive offices created by the General Assembly, General Board, or their elected committees.

**335.** The **retirement** for all officers and any other director listed in 334.14 and 334.20, and any other agency head employed by the General Assembly or its elected commissions, the General Board and its departments, shall occur at the time of the General Board meeting following their 70th birthday. Where there are vacancies, they shall be filled in accordance with *Manual* procedures.

## M. General Church-related Boards

### PENSION BOARDS

**336.** There shall be a Pensions Board, or equivalent authorized body, with fiduciary responsibility for each church-related pension plan. A pension plan may apply at organizational, district, multidistrict, national, regional, or multiregional level as the needs may dictate. (334.15)

**336.1.** The General Board shall establish and maintain suggested guidelines that are relevant to all pension programs worldwide. The General Board does not guarantee any pension plan from loss or depreciation. The General Board does not guarantee the payment of any money that

may be or becomes due to any person from any pension plan, and shall not be liable in the case of the underfunding of any pension plan.

**336.2.** All pension plans shall submit an annual report to the General Board through Pensions and Benefits International in the form and format requested.

#### NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE BOARD

**337.** The Nazarene Publishing House (NPH), a corporation of Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A., shall have a Board of Directors composed of nine members: the president of the Nazarene Publishing House, who shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation; the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene, who shall be the ex-officio secretary of the corporation; one General Board member from the Sunday School Ministries & NYI Committee and selected by that committee; and six members-at-large, nominated by the Board of General Superintendents and elected by the General Board. They shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining members from nominations made by the Board of General Superintendents.

**337.1.** The Board of Directors shall review and provide guidance for the policy, planning, and business operations of the Nazarene Publishing House and shall serve in accordance with the charter and bylaws of NPH and the General Board.

**337.2.** The Nazarene Publishing House Board shall meet annually, or more frequently, as specified in the NPH Bylaws.

**337.3.** The Capital Expenditures Budget and an annual budget shall be prepared by the president of the Nazarene Publishing House for approval by the Board of Directors before adoption by the General Board.

**337.4.** The president of the Nazarene Publishing House shall be responsible to the NPH Board of Directors for the management of the corporation's business, and shall report annually to the Board of Directors and to the General Board.

**337.5.** The president of the Nazarene Publishing House



shall be elected in accordance with 334.20, except that the Board of Directors will select one of their number to serve on the Search Committee when a new president is to be elected, and the Nominating Committee shall be composed of the six general superintendents, three members of the Board of Directors who are not members ex-officio, and three members of the General Board Executive Committee. He or she shall be amenable to the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

**337.6.** The president of the Nazarene Publishing House shall be a member of the Headquarters Directors Fellowship and the Planning and Budget Council.

#### **N. The Christian Action Committee**

**338.** Following the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents shall appoint a **Christian Action Committee**, one of whom shall be the general secretary, who shall report the committee's work to the General Board.

The **duties of the General Christian Action Committee** are:

**338.1.** To provide and develop for our people constructive information regarding such matters as alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, gambling and other current moral and social issues in harmony with church doctrine, and to disseminate the information in denominational communications.

**338.2.** To emphasize the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the Christian home and to point out the problems and evils of divorce. In particular, stress should be laid upon the biblical plan of marriage as a lifelong covenant, to be broken only by death.

**338.3.** To encourage our people to serve in places of leadership in organizations working for civic and social righteousness.

**338.4.** To alert our people regarding the Lord's Day observance, oath-bound secret orders, entertainments that are subversive of the Christian ethic, worldliness of other types, and such related subjects as may need emphasis. (34.1)

**338.5.** To assist and encourage each district to establish a Christian Action Committee; and to provide each district committee with information and material on current moral

issues to be disseminated to each local church for appropriate action.

**338.6.** To monitor moral issues of national and international importance and to present the scriptural viewpoint to the appropriate organizations for their consideration.

#### **O. Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist**

**339.** The Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist shall be composed of the revivalism coordinator, who shall be ex-officio chairperson of the committee, plus four tenured evangelists and one pastor. The USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism director, in consultation with the revivalism coordinator shall submit a list of nominees for the committee to the Board of General Superintendents for approval and appointment. The committee or its designee shall personally interview commissioned evangelists who have been recommended by their respective district assemblies for "tenured evangelist" status (408.3). It shall also review the state of itinerant evangelism in the Church of the Nazarene and make recommendations concerning both revivals and evangelists to the appropriate committee of the General Board. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment from the Board of General Superintendents from recommendations received from the USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism director, in consultation with the revivalism coordinator. (317.7)

#### **P. International Course of Study Advisory Committee**

**340.** Following the General Assembly, the Clergy Development director, in consultation with the regional education coordinators, shall submit a list of nominees to serve on the International Course of Study Advisory Committee (ICOSAC). Nominees to the committee may include pastoral, administrative, educational, and lay representatives. Composition of ICOSAC should substantially represent the global church. The Board of General Superintendents shall appoint the International Course of Study Advisory Committee to serve for the quadrennium.

The International Course of Study Advisory Committee shall meet not less than once every two years at a location determined by the Clergy Development director (424.1-24.2, 424.5).

### **Q. The Global Nazarene Youth International**

**341.** Nazarene youth ministry is organized globally under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International, under the Nazarene Youth International Charter, and the authority of the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI and General Board. The global NYI shall be composed of the members, local groups and district organizations, of Nazarene Youth International around the world. The global NYI is governed by the NYI Charter and the NYI Global Ministry Plan approved by the General Assembly.

**341.1.** There shall be a quadrennial Global NYI Convention which shall meet at a time set by the Board of General Superintendents, in consultation with the Global Council of Nazarene Youth International. The quadrennial convention shall be composed of such members as are designated in the NYI Global Ministry Plan (810).

**341.2.** The convention shall elect a global president and a global vice president, who shall be members ex-officio of the Global NYI Council and shall serve without salary.

**341.3.** The Global NYI Council shall be composed of the president, vice president, youth members-at-large, and representation from each region as designated by the NYI Global Ministry Plan (810). The Director of Nazarene Youth International shall serve ex-officio on the council. The council shall be responsible to the General Board through the Sunday School Ministries & NYI Committee, and to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI, and shall conduct itself under the authority of the NYI Charter and the NYI Global Ministry Plan. The Global NYI Council members shall hold office until the conclusion of the subsequent General Assembly, when their successors are elected and qualified.

**341.4.** The Global Nazarene Youth International shall be represented on the General Board of the Church of the Naz-

arene by one member elected by the General Assembly from nominations made by the Global NYI Council. (331.4, 332.3)

**341.5.** The Global Nazarene Youth International shall be represented at the General Assembly by the global NYI president at the end of his or her term (301).

### **R. The General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International**

**342.** The General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International shall be composed of the general president, general director, and the number of members prescribed by the Constitution of the General Nazarene Missions International and elected in accordance therewith.

**342.1.** The General Council shall be governed by the NMI Constitution. The General Council shall be auxiliary to the World Mission Committee of the General Board. (811)

**342.2.** The general director shall be nominated by the World Mission Department director, in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the World Mission Department, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the General Council before being submitted to the World Mission Committee for approval by a majority vote with the recommendation submitted for election by the Board of General Superintendents. In the event the nomination is not approved, the director of the World Mission Department and the Board of General Superintendents shall submit further nominations until one is approved by majority ballot vote of the General Council. The general director shall be an ex-officio member of the General NMI Council and a member of the staff of the World Mission Department.

**342.3.** The General Nazarene Missions International shall be represented on the General Board by one member elected thereto by the General Assembly from nominations made by the General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International. (331.5, 332.4)

**342.4.** There shall be a Quadrennial Convention held under the direction of the General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the regular meeting of the General Assembly. This convention

shall elect the General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International in harmony with the Constitution. The convention shall elect a general president, who shall be a member ex-officio of the General Council of the General Nazarene Missions International. (811)

### **S. National Boards**

**343.** Where deemed necessary, a national board shall be established to facilitate the fulfillment of the church's mission allowing for unified strategies for evangelism, discipleship, church planting, district development, new districts, ministerial preparation, resource development, and ministerial retirement savings plans; by providing for the acquiring, holding, selling, and conveying of property; or by dealing with any other administrative and/or legal business matters relative to the Church of the Nazarene in that nation, for which no other provision is made in the *Manual*. Such a board shall be recognized as a lawful authority of the Church of the Nazarene in that nation.

Where only one district of the Church of the Nazarene is organized in the nation, the duly elected District Advisory Board shall be the national board to conduct business as outlined above.

Where there are two or more organized districts in one nation, the national board shall be composed of the duly appointed or elected district superintendents, as well as one elder and two lay representatives elected by the district assembly, from the members of the District Advisory Board; or, with the approval of the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents, the membership shall consist of those persons duly elected or appointed as district superintendents and additional representation of ordained ministers and laypersons as agreed upon.

Where there is more than one region in one nation, the duly elected representatives from said regions to the General Board and additional representation of ordained ministers and laypersons as agreed upon shall constitute the national board. (331-31.2)

A copy of the articles of organization or incorporation of

such board shall be filed immediately with the general secretary. Any business transacted by the national board shall be subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The minutes of the annual and special meetings of the national board shall be reviewed by the Regional Advisory Council who shall recommend approval or disapproval, before they are submitted to the general secretary for reading and approval by the General Board.

## **T. The Region**

**344. Origin and Purpose.** In the growth of the church worldwide, there has developed a grouping of several organized districts into geographical areas identified as regions. A cluster of districts amenable to the general government of the Church of the Nazarene and having a sense of area and cultural identification may be formed into an administrative region by action of the General Board and approval of the Board of General Superintendents.

**344.1. Regional Policy.** In keeping with the nonsymmetrical approach to organization, the Board of General Superintendents may, when deemed necessary, and in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council, structure administrative regions according to the particular needs, potential problems, existing realities and diverse cultural and educational backgrounds in their particular geographic areas of the world. In such situations, the Board of General Superintendents shall establish a policy that embraces non-negotiable commitments including our *Articles of Faith*, faithful adherence to our holiness doctrine and lifestyle, and support of our extensive missionary outreach efforts.

**344.2. Duties.** The **principal duties of the regions** are:

1. To implement the mission of the Church of the Nazarene through the established pioneer areas, districts, and institutions;
2. To develop regional awareness, fellowship, and strategies to fulfill the Great Commission, bringing district and institutional representatives together periodically for planning, prayer, and inspiration;
3. To nominate persons to the General Assembly and

General/Global Conventions for elections to the General Board;

4. In harmony with *Manual* provisions, to establish and maintain such schools and colleges or other institutions as they shall determine;
5. To be authorized to recruit and screen missionary candidates from the region in accordance with policy (344.3);
6. To plan Regional Advisory Council meetings and conferences for the region;
7. To facilitate National Boards as stipulated in paragraphs 343 and 344.3.

**344.3. Regional Advisory Council (RAC).** A region may have a Regional Advisory Council whose responsibilities will be to assist the regional director in strategy development for the region, to review and recommend approval or disapproval of all national board minutes before forwarding the same to the office of the general secretary, to interview missionary candidates for recommendation to the World Mission Department and/or for deployment as regional and General Board contracted missionaries, to receive reports from the regional director, field strategy coordinators, and ministry coordinators, to elect missionary delegates to the General Assembly in accordance with provisions of the *Manual*, and to elect a principal/rector/president of an International Board of Education institution as a delegate to the General Assembly.

Membership of the RAC shall be flexible in order to shape the RAC according to the needs, development and requirements of the individual regions. The regional director will recommend the number of members of the RAC to the World Mission director and the general superintendent in jurisdiction for approval. Ex-officio members will be the general superintendent in jurisdiction of the region, the World Mission Department director and the regional director who will serve as chairperson. World Mission Department contracted personnel shall not be candidates for election to the RAC but may serve as resource persons. Members of the RAC will be elected by ballot by the regional caucus at the General

Assembly. The RAC will fill any vacancy between General Assemblies.

The regional director, in consultation with the RAC, may convene a regional conference or area evangelism conference as needed.

**344.4. The Regional Director.** Where deemed necessary a region may have a director elected by the Board of General Superintendents in consultation with the World Mission Department director, and ratified by the General Board, to work in harmony with the policies and practices of the Church of the Nazarene giving leadership to the districts, churches, and institutions of said region in fulfillment of the mission, strategies, and program of the church.

Prior to the reelection of a regional director, a review shall be conducted by the World Mission Department director and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council. A positive review will constitute an endorsement for the recommendation for reelection.

Each regional director is to be administratively accountable to the World Mission Department, and the General Board, and in jurisdictional matters, accountable to the Board of General Superintendents.

**344.5. The Field Strategy Coordinator.** When considered necessary, the regional director could institute a field structure in the region, and recommend to the World Mission Department director the appointment of field strategy coordinators according to the *World Mission Policy and Procedure Manual*. The field strategy coordinator would be responsible to the regional director.

**344.6. Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee.** The Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee (RCOSAC) shall be composed of the regional education coordinator, who may be ex-officio chairperson of the committee, plus representatives selected in consultation with the regional director. Members of the RCOSAC should represent all parties interested in ministerial education (i.e., pastors, administrators, educators, and laity) for the region.



**344.7. Duties of the Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee.** The **principal duties of the RCOSAC** are:

1. To develop the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* (SOO) outlining the minimum educational standards for ordination on their region in the Church of the Nazarene. The regional SMD must reflect the minimum standards established in the *Manual* and elaborated in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination*;
2. To develop validation procedures for the ministerial educational programs of their region, to verify the programs meet the regional COSAC and ICOSAC minimum standards;
3. To collaborate with the regional educational providers to interpret these standards in ministerial education programs;
4. To review ministerial education program submissions for compliance with regional *Sourcebook* and *International Sourcebook* standards;
5. To endorse regional ministerial education programs to the International Course of Study Advisory Committee for adoption and approval.

## CHAPTER IV

## HIGHER EDUCATION

**A. Church and College/University**

**380.** The Church of the Nazarene, from its inception, has been committed to higher education. The church provides the college/university with students, administrative and faculty leadership, and financial and spiritual support. The college/university educates the church's youth and many of the church's adults, guides them toward spiritual maturity, enriches the church, and sends out into the world thinking, loving servants of Christ. The church college/university, while not a local congregation, is an integral part of the church; it is an expression of the church.

The Church of the Nazarene believes in the value and the dignity of human life and the need for providing an environment in which people can be redeemed and enriched spiritually, intellectually, and physically, "made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work" (2 Timothy 2:21). The primary task and traditional expressions of local church activity—evangelism, religious education, compassionate ministries, and services of worship—exemplify the church's love for God and concern for people.

At the local church level, the Christian education of youth and adults at various stages of human development intensifies the effectiveness of the gospel. Congregations may incorporate within their objectives and function childcare/school educational programs at any or all levels, from birth through secondary. At the general church level, the historic practice of providing institutions for higher education or ministerial preparation will be maintained. Wherever such institutions are operated, they shall function within the philosophical

and theological framework of the Church of the Nazarene as established by the General Assembly and expressed through the *Manual*.

**380.1. Educational Mission Statement.** Education in the Church of the Nazarene, rooted in the biblical and theological commitments of the Wesleyan and holiness movements and accountable to the stated mission of the denomination, aims to guide those who look to it in accepting, in nurturing, and in expressing in service to the church and world consistent and coherent Christian understandings of social and individual life. Additionally, such institutions of higher education will seek to provide a curriculum, quality of instruction, and evidence of scholastic achievement that will adequately prepare graduates to function effectively in vocations and professions such graduates may choose.

**380.2.** General Assembly authorization, upon the recommendation of the International Board of Education, is required to establish degree granting institutions.

Authorization for the development or change of status of existing institutions may be granted by the General Board upon recommendation of the International Board of Education.

No local church or combination of churches, or persons representing a local church or group of churches, may establish or sponsor a post-secondary level or ministerial preparatory institution on behalf of the church, except upon the recommendation of the International Board of Education.

### **B. International Higher Education Council**

**381.** There shall be an International Higher Education Council composed of the president, principal, rector, or director (or his/her designated representative) of each International Board of Education institution of the Church of the Nazarene, the regional education coordinators, the education commissioner, the World Mission Department director, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education.

### **C. International Board of Education**

**382.** The International Board of Education shall be the general church advocate for educational institutions in the Church of the Nazarene worldwide.

This board shall be composed of thirteen members: eight elected by the General Board, plus five members ex-officio: the two education representatives on the General Board, the World Mission Department director, the Clergy Development director, and the education commissioner (383). A Nominating Committee composed of the education commissioner, the World Mission Department director, the two education representatives on the General Board, and the general superintendents in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education and World Mission Department shall present eight nominees approved by the Board of General Superintendents to the General Board for election.

In an effort to insure broad representation throughout the church, the Nominating Committee shall submit nominees as follows: one regional education coordinator; three laypersons; two ordained ministers from World Mission regions where no person who is an education coordinator has been nominated; two “at large” nominees. No World Mission region shall have more than one elected member on the IBOE until each region has a representative.

Throughout the nominating and election process, attention shall be given to the election of persons with cross-cultural perspective and/or experience as educators.

The **functions of the International Board of Education** are:

**382.1.** To insure that institutions are under the legal control of their respective governing boards whose constitutions and bylaws shall conform to their respective charters or articles of incorporation and that shall be in harmony with the guidelines set by the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

**382.2.** To insure that members of governing boards of Nazarene institutions shall be members of the Church of the Nazarene in good standing. They are to be in full accord with the *Articles of Faith*, including the doctrine of entire

sanctification and the usages of the Church of the Nazarene as set forth in the *Manual* of the church. Insofar as possible, the membership of the higher education boards of control shall have an equal number of ministers and laity.

**382.3.** To receive such funds as may be contributed to it for educational purposes through gifts, bequests, and donations, and shall annually recommend allocations from these funds to each educational institution in accordance with policy adopted by the General Board. Institutions shall not continue to receive regular support unless their education standards, plan of organization, and financial reports are filed with the International Board of Education.

**382.4.** To receive and deal appropriately with a yearly report from the education commissioner summarizing the following information from all International Board of Education institutions: (1) annual statistical report, (2) annual audit report, and (3) annual fiscal budgets for the upcoming year.

**382.5.** To recommend and to provide support and advocacy, although its role is advisory to the institutions, to the Board of General Superintendents and to the General Board.

**382.6.** To serve the church in matters pertaining to Nazarene educational institutions in order to strengthen the bonds between the institutions and the church at large.

**382.7.** To submit its business and recommendations to the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board for ratification in the same manner as is the business and recommendations of committees of the General Board.

#### **D. Education Commissioner**

**383.** The administrator of the International Board of Education is the education commissioner, who shall be elected by two-thirds favorable vote of the General Board from one or more nominees approved by the Board of General Superintendents and presented by a Nominating Committee composed of the two education representatives on the General Board, the general superintendents in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education and the World Mission

Department, the World Mission Department director, and the chairperson of the International Higher Education Council. (382)

The education commissioner may be reelected as an incumbent by a “yes” or “no” vote of the General Board upon approval of the Nominating Committee.

The duties of the education commissioner shall be detailed in the General Board Bylaws. (382)

**384.** All institutional constitutions and bylaws must include an article on dissolution and disposal of assets indicating that the Church of the Nazarene shall receive such assets to be used for educational services for the church.

PART V

# **Ministry and Christian Service**

**CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER**



**CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY**

**EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS**

**CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL  
REGULATIONS**

## CHAPTER I

**CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS  
OF THE MINISTER<sup>1</sup>**

**400.** The Church of the Nazarene recognizes and insists that all believers have committed to them a dispensation of the gospel that they are to minister to all people.

We also recognize and hold that the Head of the Church calls some men and women to the more official and public work of the ministry. As our Lord called to Him whom He would, and chose and ordained His 12 apostles “that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach” (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends out messengers of the gospel. The church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, will recognize the Lord’s call.

The church also recognizes on the basis of Scripture and experience that God calls individuals to a lifetime of ministry who do not witness to a specific call to preach.

When the church discovers a divine call, the proper steps should be taken for its recognition and endorsement, and all suitable help should be given to open the way for the candidate to enter the ministry.

**401.** The perpetuity and efficiency of the Church of the Nazarene depend largely upon the spiritual qualifications, the character, and the manner of life of its ministers. (433.14)

**401.1.** The minister of Christ is to be in all things a pattern to the flock—in punctuality, discretion, diligence, earnestness;

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1. The *Manual* Editing Committee, in recognition of the validity of the opening words of paragraph 400, has attempted to use language that reflects this distinctive. However, due to the nature of this section of the *Manual*, the terms “minister” or “the minister” will usually refer to a person holding credentials, whether licensed, ordained, or commissioned.



“in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left” (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

**401.2.** The minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and be sanctified wholly by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The minister must have a deep sense of the fact that souls for whom Christ died are perishing, and that he or she is called of God to proclaim or make known to them the glad tidings of salvation.

**401.3.** The minister must likewise have a deep sense of the necessity of believers going on to perfection and developing the Christian graces in practical living, that their “love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight” (Philippians 1:9). One who would minister in the Church of the Nazarene must have a strong appreciation of both salvation and Christian ethics.

**401.4.** The minister must have gifts, as well as graces, for the work. He or she will have a thirst for knowledge, especially of the Word of God, and must have sound judgment, good understanding, and clear views concerning the plan of redemption and salvation as revealed in the Scriptures. Saints will be edified and sinners converted through his or her ministry. Further, the minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must be an example in prayer.

**401.5.** The minister should respond to opportunities to mentor future ministers and to nurture the call to ministry of those who have obvious gifts and graces for ministry or who are hearing the call of God to Christian ministry.

**401.6. Theology of Ordination.** While affirming the scriptural tenet of the universal priesthood and ministry of all believers, ordination reflects the biblical belief that God calls out and gifts certain men and women for ministerial leadership in His Church. Ordination is the authenticating, authorizing act of the Church, which recognizes and confirms God’s call to ministerial leadership as stewards and proclaimers of both the gospel and the Church of Jesus Christ. Consequently, ordination bears witness to the

Church universal and the world at large that this candidate evidences an exemplary life of holiness, possesses gifts and graces for public ministry, and has a thirst for knowledge, especially for the Word of God, and has the capacity to clearly communicate sound doctrine.

(Acts 13:1-3; 20:28; Romans 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 5:22)

## CHAPTER II

## CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY

**A. The Lay Minister**

**402.** All Christians should consider themselves ministers of Christ and seek to know the will of God concerning their appropriate avenues of service. (400)

**402.1.** Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called to serve as a church planter, bivocational pastor, teacher, lay evangelist, lay song evangelist, stewardship minister, church staff minister, and/or other specialized ministry on behalf of the church, but who does not at the present time feel a special call to become an ordained minister, may pursue a validated course of study leading to a certificate of lay ministry.

**402.2.** The local church board, upon the recommendation of the pastor, shall initially examine the lay minister as to personal experience of salvation, effective involvement in church ministries, and knowledge of the work of the church, and satisfy itself as to the lay minister's qualifications for such ministry.

**402.3.** The local church board may issue to each lay minister candidate a certificate signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board.

**402.4.** The certificate of the lay minister may be renewed annually by the church board upon the recommendation of the pastor, if the lay minister has completed at least two subjects in the lay ministry educational program as outlined by the Continuing Lay Training. The lay minister shall report annually to the church board.

**402.5.** For a lay minister serving under district assignment as church planter, supply pastor, bivocational pastor, and/or other specialized ministry, upon completion of a vali-

dated course of study, a certificate of lay ministry may be issued by the District Advisory Board, signed by the district superintendent and the secretary of the District Advisory Board. The certificate of lay ministry may be renewed annually by the District Advisory Board upon the recommendation of the district superintendent.

**402.6.** The lay minister serving outside the local church where he or she is a member shall be subject to the appointment and supervision of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and shall report annually to them. When district assignment shall cease, reference shall be made back to the local church in which the lay minister holds membership for renewal and reporting.

**402.7.** After completion of a lay ministry validated course of study, a lay minister shall proceed in a specialized concentration of study according to his or her chosen ministry. (See Continuing Lay Training Catalog) The provision for grading and recording the same will be made at the Continuing Lay Training office.

**402.8.** A lay minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and shall not officiate at marriages.

### **B. Ministry of the Clergy**

**403.** The Church of the Nazarene recognizes only one order of the preaching ministry, that of the elder. It also recognizes that the member of the clergy may serve the church in various capacities. Christ has called "some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:11-12). The church recognizes the following categories of service in which a district assembly may place an elder, deacon, or, as circumstances warrant, a licensed minister: pastor, evangelist, missionary, teacher, administrator, chaplain, and special service. Service within these categories that qualifies as being an "assigned minister" would include that service for which ministerial training and ordination are normally required, or greatly desired. The *Sourcebook on*

*Ordination* shall provide guidelines for each category of ministry that will aid district boards in identifying the qualifications necessary for consideration to be an assigned minister. Only assigned ministers shall be voting members of the district assembly.

**403.1.** All persons assigned to a particular role shall file a report annually to the assigning district assembly.

**403.2.** All persons assigned to a particular role may request and obtain annually from the assigning district a certificate of their role of service, signed by the district superintendent and the district secretary.

**403.3.** All persons assigned to a particular role of ministry, when placed on disability by approved medical authority, may be listed as “assigned disabled.”

The roles of ministry are listed in alphabetical order for convenience.

### **C. The Administrator**

**404.** The elder or a deacon who is an administrator is one who has been elected by the General Assembly as a general official; or a member of the clergy who has been elected or employed by the General Board to serve in the general church; or an elder who has been elected by the district assembly as district superintendent; or a member of the clergy who has been elected or employed as his or her primary assignment in the service of a district. Such person is an assigned minister.

### **D. The Chaplain**

**405.** The elder or deacon who is a chaplain is one who feels divinely led to specialized ministry in military, institutional, or industrial chaplaincy. All chaplains must be approved by their district superintendent. Persons applying for career or career assignment in the U.S.A. military chaplaincy must appear before the Chaplaincy Advisory Council and the Board of General Superintendents. The chaplain who serves in this ministry as his or her primary assignment and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister,

and shall report annually to the district assembly and give due regard to the advice and counsel of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. The chaplain may receive associate members into the Church of the Nazarene in consultation with an officially organized Church of the Nazarene, administer the sacraments in harmony with the *Manual*, give pastoral care, comfort the sorrowing, reprove and encourage and seek by all means the conversion of sinners, sanctification of believers, and the upbuilding of the people of God in the most holy faith. (416, 433.9, 433.11)

#### **E. The Deaconess**

**406.** A woman who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene and believes that she is divinely led to engage in ministering to the sick and the needy, comforting the sorrowing, and doing other works of Christian benevolence, and who has given evidence in her life of ability, grace, and usefulness, and who was in the years preceding 1985 licensed or consecrated as a deaconess shall continue in such standing. However, those women called to active and assigned ministry but not called to preach shall complete the requirements for ordination to the order of deacon. Women desiring a credential for compassionate ministries may pursue the requirements for lay minister. (113.8, 402-2.8)

#### **F. The Educator**

**407.** The elder, deacon, or licensed minister who is an educator who is employed to serve on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene. The district shall designate such a person as an educator for their ministry assignment.

#### **G. The Evangelist**

**408.** The elder or licensed minister who is an evangelist is one devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel, and who is authorized by the church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes three levels of itinerant evangelism to which a district assembly may assign minis-

ters: registered evangelist, commissioned evangelist, and tenured evangelist. An evangelist who dedicates time to evangelism, outside his or her local church as his or her primary assignment and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister.

**408.1.** A registered evangelist is an elder, or a district licensed minister, who has indicated a desire to pursue evangelism as his or her primary ministry. Such registration shall be for one year. Renewal by subsequent district assemblies shall be granted on both the quality and quantity of work in evangelism in the year prior to the assembly.

**408.2.** A commissioned evangelist is an elder who has met all the requirements of a registered evangelist for two complete years. The commission is for one year and may be renewed by subsequent district assemblies for one who continues to meet the requirements.

**408.3.** A tenured evangelist is an elder who has met all the requirements of a commissioned evangelist for four complete and consecutive years immediately prior to application for tenured evangelist status, and has been recommended by the District Ministerial Credentials Board and approved by the Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist and the Board of General Superintendents. This role designation shall continue until such time as the evangelist no longer meets the requirements of a commissioned evangelist, or until he or she is granted retired status. (228.2, 431)

**408.4.** A regular self-assessment and review similar to the church/pastoral review shall be conducted by the evangelist and district superintendent together at least every four years after the election to the tenured role. The district superintendent shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting the meeting. This meeting shall be scheduled in consultation with the evangelist. Upon completion of the review, a report of the results shall be forwarded to the Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist to evaluate qualification requirements for continued approval. (208.19)

**408.5.** An elder or licensed minister who sustains a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments, and who wishes to perform a ministerial function through revivals or evangelistic meetings, may receive certification for "retired evangelism service." Such certification shall be for one year, shall be voted by the district assembly upon recommendation by the district superintendent, and may be renewed by subsequent district assemblies on the basis of actual work in evangelism in the year prior to the assembly.

**408.6.** An elder or licensed minister desiring to enter the field of evangelism between district assemblies may be recognized by the general office of Clergy Development upon recommendation of the district superintendent. The registration or commission shall be voted by the district assembly upon recommendation by the district superintendent.

**408.7.** Guidelines and procedures for certification of evangelists' roles will be contained in the *Sourcebook for Ministerial Development*.

### **H. The Minister of Christian Education**

**409.** A member of the clergy employed in a ministerial capacity in a Christian education program of a local church may be assigned as a minister of Christian education.

**409.1.** A person who was, in the years preceding 1985, licensed or commissioned as a minister of Christian education, shall continue in good standing. However, those persons desiring to begin the pursuit of the role of minister of Christian education may complete the requirements for ordination to the order of deacon as their credential for this ministry.

### **I. The Minister of Music**

**410.** A member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called to the ministry of music may be commissioned as a minister of music for one year by the district assembly, provided such person (1) has been recommended for such work by the church board of the local church in which membership is held; (2) gives evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (3) has had at least one year of experience in music min-



istry; (4) has had not less than one year of vocal study under an accredited teacher and is pursuing a validated course of study or its equivalent prescribed for ministers of music or has completed the same; (5) is regularly engaged as a minister of music; (6) has been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the assembly district within the bounds of which the person holds his or her church membership, regarding his or her intellectual and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for such work. (203.10)

**410.1.** Only such persons who maintain this ministry as their primary assignment and vocation and have ministerial credentials shall be considered assigned ministers.

### **J. The Missionary**

**411.** The missionary is a member of the clergy or a layperson who has been appointed by the General Board to minister for the church through the World Mission Committee or through the USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Committee. A missionary with an appointment and having a ministerial credential shall be considered an assigned minister.

### **K. The Pastor**

**412.** A pastor is a minister (115) who, under the call of God and His people, has the oversight of a local church. A pastor in charge of a local church is an assigned minister. (210)

**413.** The **duties of a pastor** are:

**413.1.** To preach the Word.

**413.2.** To equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

**413.3.** To receive persons as members of the local church according to 107 and 107.1.

**413.4.** To administer the sacraments.

**413.5.** To care for the people by pastoral visitation, particularly the sick and needy.

**413.6.** To comfort those who mourn.

**413.7.** To correct, rebuke, and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.

**413.8.** To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the

entire sanctification of the converted, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith. (25)

**413.9.** To have the care of all departments of local church work.

**413.10.** To appoint the teachers of the Sunday School in harmony with 145.8.

**413.11.** To administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter. A licensed minister who has not complied fully with the provisions of 427.7 (see also 802) shall arrange for the administration of the sacrament by an ordained minister. Consideration should be given for extending the Lord's Supper to homebound persons, under supervision of the pastor.

**413.12.** To read to the congregation the Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene and the Covenant of Christian Conduct contained in 1-27, 33-39, both inclusive, within each year (114), or have this section of the *Manual* printed and distributed annually to the members of the church.

**413.13.** To supervise the preparation of all statistical reports from all departments of the local church, and present promptly all such reports through the district secretary to the district assembly. (114.1)

**413.14.** To give leadership to the evangelism, education, devotion, and expansion programs of the local church in harmony with the district and general church promotional goals and programs.

**413.15.** To submit a report to the annual church meeting, including a report on the status of the local church and its departments, and an outline of areas of future needs with recommendations for reference by the church to any of its officers or departments for study and/or implementation in future steps for growth and progress.

**413.16.** To appoint an investigating committee of three in case of accusation filed against a church member. (501-1.2)

**413.17.** To see that all World Evangelism Fund monies raised through the local NMI are remitted promptly to the general treasurer; and that all District Ministries Fund monies are remitted promptly to the district treasurer. (136.2)

**413.18.** To nominate to the church board all persons who are paid employees of the local church, and to have supervision of the same. (160.1-60.3)

**413.19.** To sign in conjunction with the church secretary all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual*. (102.3, 103-4.3)

**413.20.** To notify the pastor of the nearest church when a member or friend of a local church or any of its departments moves to another locality in the same assembly district where vital association with the previous local church is impractical, giving the member's or friend's address.

**413.21.** To arrange, together with the church board, according to plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly, for the raising of the World Evangelism Fund and District Ministries Fund apportionments made to the local church; and to raise these apportionments. (38.2, 130, 154)

**413.22.** The pastor may, when requested by a member, grant a transfer of church membership, a certificate of commendation, or a letter of release. (111-11.1, 112.2, 813.2-13.5)

**413.23.** The pastor shall be, ex-officio, president of the local church, chairperson of the church board, and a member of all elected and standing boards and committees of the church he or she serves. The pastor shall have access to all records of the local church. (127, 145, 150, 152, 153.1)

**413.24.** To nurture the call that people feel toward Christian ministry and to mentor such persons as are called. This shall include guiding them toward appropriate preparation for ministry.

**413.25.** To fulfill the expectations of God and the Church for a program of lifelong learning. (433.15)

**413.26.** To nurture his or her own call through the years of ministry, to maintain a life of personal devotion that enriches his or her own soul, and, if married, to guard the integrity and vitality of that marriage relationship.

**414.** The pastor shall have the right to a voice in the nomination of all heads of all departments of the local church,

and any Nazarene childcare/school (birth through secondary) organization.

**415.** The pastor shall not contract bills, create financial obligations, count moneys, or disburse funds for the local church unless authorized and directed by majority vote of the church board or by majority vote of a church meeting; such action, if taken, must be approved in writing by the District Advisory Board and shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the church board or of the church meeting. No pastor or any member of his or her immediate family shall be authorized to sign checks on any church account except upon the written approval of the district superintendent. Immediate family shall include spouse, children, siblings, or parents. (129.1, 129.21-29.22)

**416.** The pastor shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (222.2, 433.2)

**417.** In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting credentials from another denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application for membership in a local church, the pastor may not receive such applicant without first having obtained the favorable recommendation of the District Advisory Board. (107, 225)

**418.** For the exercise of this office the pastor shall be amenable to the district assembly, to which he or she shall report annually and give brief testimony to his or her personal Christian experience. (203.3, 427.8, 433.9)

**419.** The pastor shall automatically become a member of the church of which he or she is pastor; or, in case of more than one church in his or her charge, of the church of his or her choice. (433.8)

**420. Pastoral Service** includes the ministry of a pastor or an associate pastor, who may serve in specialized areas of ministry recognized and approved by the appropriate governing, licensing and endorsing agencies. A member of the clergy called to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a church may be considered an assigned minister.

**421. Supply Pastors.** A district superintendent shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

1. A supply pastor may be a Nazarene member of the clergy serving in some other assignment, a local minister or a lay minister of the Church of the Nazarene, a minister in process of transfer from another denomination, or a minister who belongs to another denomination.
2. A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres to him or her on some other basis, and he or she shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in the filing of reports, unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent.
3. A supply pastor's church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church where he or she is serving.
4. A supply pastor shall be a nonvoting member of the district assembly unless he or she is a voting member by some other right.
5. A supply pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the district superintendent.

### **L. The Song Evangelist**

**422.** A song evangelist is a member of the Church of the Nazarene whose intention is to devote the major portion of his or her time to the ministry of evangelism through music. A song evangelist who has a ministerial credential and who is involved in active ministry and has evangelism as his or her primary assignment, and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister.

**422.1.** Guidelines and procedures for certification of song evangelists' roles are contained in the *Sourcebook for Ministerial Development*.

### **M. Special Service**

**423.** A member of the clergy in active service not otherwise provided for shall be appointed to special service, if

such service is approved by the district assembly, and shall be listed by the district as an assigned minister.

**423.1.** An elder or deacon employed in a ministerial capacity as an officer in a church-related organization serving the church, or approved upon careful evaluation of his or her district assembly to serve with an educational institution, evangelistic, or missionary organization not directly related to the church, may be appointed to special service subject to 433.11.

## CHAPTER III

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

**A. For Ministers**

**424.** Ministerial education is designed to assist in the preparation of God-called ministers whose service is vital to the expansion and extension of the holiness message into new areas of evangelistic opportunity. We recognize the importance of a clear understanding of our mission based on Christ's commission to His Church in Matthew 28:19-20, to "go and make disciples." Much of the preparation is primarily theological and biblical in character, leading toward ordination in the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall determine the placement and evaluate the progress of each student in his or her validated course of study.

**424.1. Fulfillment of Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry.** A variety of educational institutions and programs are provided around the world by the Church of the Nazarene. The resources of some world areas allow more than one program to be developed to provide the educational foundations for ministry. The normal expectation is that each student will take advantage of the most appropriate validated course of study provided by the Church in his or her area of the world. In some instances the particular circumstances of the student may make the ideal impossible. The Church will utilize as much flexibility in delivery systems as is feasible to make adequate preparation available to every person called by God to ministry in the Church. A validated course of study, directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board, and college/seminary programs, developed by the educational institutions, may be used. They should cover the same general standards as outlined

in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination* and the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. Licensed ministers shall be graduated from a validated course of study when they have satisfactorily completed a validated course of study leading toward ordination by Bible, theological, and liberal arts colleges/universities and seminaries, whose ordination programs have been validated by the Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee, recommended by the International Course of Study Advisory Committee through Clergy Development, for adoption by the General Board and approval by the Board of General Superintendents.

**424.2. Cultural Adaptations for the Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry.** The variety of cultural contexts around the world makes one curriculum unsuited for all world areas. Each region of the world will be responsible for the development of specific curricular requirements for providing the educational foundations for ministry in a way that reflects the resources and the expectations of that world area. Approval of the International Course of Study Advisory Committee, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents (424.5) will be required before implementing a regionally designed program for providing educational foundations for ministry. Even within world regions there are varieties of cultural expectations and resources. As a result, cultural sensitivity and flexibility will characterize regional provisions for the educational foundations for ministry, which shall be directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board. Cultural adaptations of each region's program for providing educational foundations for ministry will be approved by Clergy Development and the International Course of Study Advisory Committee in consultation with the regional educational coordinator.

**424.3. General Curriculum Areas for Ministerial Preparation.** Though curriculum is often thought of only as academic programs and course content the concept is much larger. The character of the instructor, the relationship of the students and instructor, the environment, and students' past experiences join with the course content to create the



full curriculum. Nevertheless, a curriculum for ministerial preparation will include a minimal set of courses that provide educational foundations for ministry.

Cultural differences and a variety of resources will require differing details in curriculum structures. However, all programs for providing educational foundations for the ordained ministry that seek approval by Clergy Development should give careful attention to content, competency, character, and context. The purpose of a validated course of study is to contain courses that include all four elements in varying degrees and that will help ministers fulfill the mission statement of the Church of the Nazarene as agreed upon by the Board of General Superintendents as follows:

“The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to respond to the Great Commission of Christ to ‘go and make disciples of all nations’” (Matthew 28:19). “The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God’s Kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures.”

“The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are ‘holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature’” (25).

A validated course of study is described in the following categories:

- Content—Knowledge of the content of the Old and New Testaments, the theology of the Christian faith, and the history and mission of the Church is essential for ministry. Knowledge of how to interpret Scripture, the doctrine of holiness and our Wesleyan distinctives, and the history and polity of the Church of the Nazarene must be included in these courses.
- Competency—Skills in oral and written communication; management and leadership; finance; and analytical thinking are also essential for ministry. In addition

to general education in these areas courses providing skills in preaching, pastoral care and counseling, biblical exegesis, worship, effective evangelism, biblical stewardship of life resources, Christian education and Church administration must be included. Graduation from a validated course of study requires the partnering of the educational provider and a local church to direct students in ministerial practices and competency development.

- **Character**—Personal growth in character, ethics, spirituality, and personal and family relationship is vital for the ministry. Courses addressing the areas of Christian ethics, spiritual formation, human development, the person of the minister, and marriage and family dynamics must be included.
- **Context**—The minister must understand both the historical and contemporary context and interpret the worldview and social environment of the culture where the Church witnesses. Courses that address the concerns of anthropology and sociology, cross-cultural communication, missions, and social studies must be included.

**424.4.** Preparation for the ordained ministry pursued in non-Nazarene schools or under non-Nazarene auspices shall be evaluated by the District Ministerial Studies Board in conformity with the curricular requirements stated in a *Sourcebook on Ordination* developed by the region/language group.

**424.5.** All courses, academic requirements, and official administrative regulations shall be in a regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* developed by the region/language group in cooperation with Clergy Development. This regional *Sourcebook* and such revisions as become necessary shall be endorsed by the International Course of Study Advisory Committee and approved by Clergy Development, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents. The *Sourcebook* shall be in compliance with the *Manual* and with the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination*, produced by Clergy Development with the International Course of Study Advisory Committee. The International Course of

Study Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents.

**424.6.** Once a minister has fulfilled the requirements of a validated course of study for ministry, he or she will continue a pattern of lifelong learning to enhance the ministry to which God has called him or her. A minimum expectation is 20 contact hours each year (2 accredited Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or the equivalent determined by the region/language group and stated in their regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. All assigned and unassigned licensed and ordained ministers shall report on their progress in a program of lifelong learning as part of their report to the district assembly. An up-to-date report on his or her lifelong learning program will be used in the church/pastoral review process and in the process of calling a pastor. The regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* for the region/language group will contain the details of the accrediting and reporting process. At least 20 contact hours or its equivalent are expected annually. (115, 122, 413.25, 433.15)

### **B. General Guidelines for Preparation for Christian Ministry**

**425.** General guidelines for preparation for Christian ministry are:

**425.1.** A validated course of study, together with the necessary procedures concerning their completion for those seeking a credential as elder and deacon or certification in categories and roles of ministry, are to be found in the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

**425.2.** In regions administratively related to the World Mission Department, all validated courses of study, as stated in the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* will be governed by the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. (424.2-24.3, 424.5)

## CHAPTER IV

**CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL  
REGULATIONS****A. The Local Minister**

**426.** A local minister is a lay member of the Church of the Nazarene whom the local church board has licensed for ministry, under the pastor's direction, and as opportunity affords, thus providing for the demonstration, employment, and development of ministerial gifts and usefulness. He or she is entering into a process of lifelong learning.

**426.1.** Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called of God to preach or to pursue lifetime ministry through the church may be licensed as a local minister for one year by the church board of a local church having an elder as pastor, upon the pastor's recommendation; or by the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor, if the granting of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. The candidate must first be examined as to his or her personal experience of salvation, knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible, and the order of the church; he or she must also demonstrate that the call is evidenced by grace, gifts, and usefulness. A local minister shall make a report to the local church at its annual church meetings. (113.8, 129.12, 208.11)

**426.2.** The church board shall issue to each local minister a license signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board. Where a church is supplied by a person who does not have a district license, that person may be issued a local minister's license, or the renewal of license, by the District Advisory Board upon the recommendation of the district superintendent. (208.11, 222.10)

**426.3.** The license of a local minister may be renewed by

the church board of a local church having an elder as pastor, upon the recommendation of the pastor; or by the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor, provided that the renewal of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. (129.12, 208.11)

**426.4.** Local ministers shall pursue a validated course of study for ministers under the direction of the District Ministerial Studies Board. Local license cannot be renewed after two years without the written approval of the district superintendent if the local minister has not completed at least two courses in the required studies in a validated course of study.

**426.5.** A local minister, having served in that relation for at least one full year, and having passed the necessary studies, may be recommended by the church board to the district assembly for minister's license; but, if not received, he or she shall sustain his or her former relation. (129.12, 424, 427.1)

**426.6.** A local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor must be approved by the Ministerial Credentials Board if he or she continues this service after the district assembly following the appointment. (209, 228.5, 421)

**426.7.** A local minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and shall not officiate at marriages. (427.7)

### **B. The Licensed Minister**

**427.** A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by the district assembly through the granting of a ministerial license, authorizing the minister for, and appointing him or her to, a larger sphere of service and to greater rights and responsibilities than those pertaining to a local minister, normally as a step toward ordination as an elder or a deacon. The district ministerial license shall include a statement indicating whether the minister is preparing for ordination as an elder or a deacon or a district license not leading to ordination. (427.7)

**427.1.** When there are members of the Church of the Nazarene who acknowledge a call to a lifetime of ministry, they may be licensed as ministers by the district assembly provided they (1) have held a local minister's license for one full year; (2) have

completed one-fourth of a validated course of study for ministers, or have passed the Nazarene history and polity courses and five additional courses in a validated course of study for ministers, or if enrolled in a Nazarene college/university or seminary, have completed one-fourth of a validated college/university or college/university-seminary course of study for ministry, or have completed one-fourth of a validated district or regional training center curriculum. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by the District Ministerial Credentials Board provided the candidate is pastoring an organized church and is registered in a system of approved studies, and provided the candidate annually fulfills the minimum amount of studies required by the *Manual* for the renewal of a license, and provided the district superintendent approves the exception; (3) have been recommended for such work by the church board of the local church of which they are members, to which recommendation shall be attached the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; (4) have given evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (5) have been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the district within the bounds of which they hold their church membership, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work, including appropriate background checks as determined by the District Advisory Board. In the case where a background check reveals criminal misconduct prior to one's salvation, this fact should not be interpreted by the District Ministerial Credentials Board as automatically excluding the applicant from credentialed ministry, except under the provisions of paragraph 435.8; (6) have promised to pursue immediately a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination; (7) have had any disqualification, which may have been imposed by a district assembly, removed by an explanation in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed; and provided further that their marriage relationship does not render them ineligible for a district license or ordination; and (8) in case of a previous divorce and remarriage, the recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board along with supporting documents will be given to

the general superintendent in jurisdiction, which may remove this as a barrier to pursuing a license or ordination. (35.1-5.3, 129.14, 205.6, 426.5)

**427.2.** Licensed ministers from other evangelical denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, may be licensed as ministers by the district assembly, provided they present the credentials issued to them by the denomination in which they formerly held their membership; and further provided that they (1) have passed a course of study equivalent to a validated course of study in the Church of the Nazarene for local ministers; (2) have been recommended by the church board of the local Church of the Nazarene of which they are members; (3) have given evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (4) have been carefully examined under the direction of the district assembly regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work; and (5) have promised to pursue immediately a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination. (203.6)

**427.3.** A minister's license shall terminate with the close of the next district assembly. It may be renewed by vote of the district assembly, provided (1) that the candidate for renewal shall file with the district assembly the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; and provided (2) that the candidate shall have completed at least two courses in a validated course of study; and provided (3) that the candidate has been recommended for the renewal of license by the church board of the local church of which he or she is a member, upon the nomination of the pastor. In case, however, he or she shall not have passed a validated course of study required, the license may be renewed by the district assembly only upon submission of a written explanation for this failure. Such explanation shall be satisfactory to the District Ministerial Credentials Board and approved by the general superintendent presiding. The district assembly may, for cause and at its discretion, vote against the renewal of a minister's license.

Licensed ministers who have graduated from a validated course of study and have been placed in retired relation by the district assembly shall, with the recommendation of the

District Advisory Board, have their license renewed without the filing of an Application for Minister's License. (203.4)

**427.4.** To qualify for ordination, candidates must achieve graduation from a validated course of study within 10 years from the granting of the first district license. Any exception, due to unusual circumstances, may be granted by the Ministerial Credentials Board, subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

A licensed minister who is not pursuing ordination or who is disqualified from ordination for failure to complete a validated course of study within the prescribed time limit may be granted renewal of minister's license upon recommendation of the District Advisory Board and the Ministerial Credentials Board.

**427.5.** In the case of licensed ministers who are serving as pastors, the recommendation for the renewal of minister's license shall be made by the District Advisory Board rather than by the local church board. (222.10)

**427.6.** The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to each licensed minister a minister's license, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

**427.7.** Licensed ministers shall be vested with authority to preach the Word and/or to use their gifts and graces in various associate ministries in servant ministry to the Body of Christ; and, provided they pass annually the required studies in a validated educational program and are acting as pastors, or are involved in an active and assigned ministry recognized by the district on which their membership is held, they shall also be vested with authority to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper in their own congregations, and to officiate at marriages where the laws of the state do not prohibit. (34.5, 35.2, 409-10, 413, 413.4, 413.11, 420, 428-28.2, 429-29.2, 800, 802, 803)

**427.8.** All licensed ministers shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, and shall report to this body annually. (201, 203.3, 418)

**427.9.** In case a licensed minister has united with the