CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

MANUAL

2017-2021

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HISTORY
CONSTITUTION
GOVERNMENT
SACRAMENTS AND RITUALS

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FOREWORD

The *Statement of Mission* in the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

The C*ore Values* of the Church of the Nazarene are that we are Christian, Holiness, and Missional.

The seven C*haracteristics* of the Church of the Nazarene are Meaningful Worship, Theological Coherence, Passionate Evangelism, Intentional Discipleship, Church Development, Transformational Leadership, and Purposeful Compassion.

"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.'" (19)

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 2017-2021 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 addresses 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* includes the decisions and judgments of ministerial and lay delegates of the Twenty-ninth General Assembly, which met in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 25-29 June 2017, 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

The Church of the Nazarene confesses itself to be a branch of Christ's "one, holy, universal, and apostolic" church, embracing as its own the history of God's people recorded in the Old and New Testaments and God's people through the ages, in all expressions of Christ's church. Our denomination receives the creeds of the first five Christian centuries as expressions of its own faith. We identify with the historic church in preaching the Word, administering the sacraments, maintaining a ministry of apostolic faith and practice, and inculcating the disciplines of Christlike living and service. Our denomination heeds the Biblical call to holy living and entire devotion to God, which we proclaim through the theology of entire sanctification.

Our Christian heritage was mediated through the 16th-century English Reformation and 18th-century Wesleyan revival. Through the preaching of John and Charles Wesley, people throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales turned from sin and were empowered for Christian service. This revival was characterized by lay preaching, testimony, discipline, and circles of earnest disciples known as "societies," "classes," and "bands." The Wesleyan revival's theological landmarks were: justification by grace through faith; sanctification, or Christian perfection, likewise by grace through faith; and the witness of the Spirit to the assurance of grace. John Wesley's distinctive contributions included an emphasis on entire sanctification as God's gracious provision for the Christian life. These emphases were disseminated worldwide. In North America, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784 "to reform the Continent, and to spread scriptural Holiness over these Lands."

A renewed emphasis on Christian holiness developed in the mid-19th century. Timothy Merritt of Boston, Massachusetts,

USA, spurred interest as editor of the *Guide to Christian Perfection*. Phoebe Palmer of New York City, New York, USA, led the Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness and became a sought-after speaker, author, and editor. In 1867, Methodist preachers J. A. Wood, John Inskip and others, at Vineland, New Jersey, USA, initiated the first in a long series of holiness camp meetings that renewed the Wesleyan quest for holiness around the world. Wesleyan Methodists, Free Methodists, the Salvation Army, and certain Mennonites, Brethren, and Quakers all emphasized Christian holiness. Evangelists carried this movement to Germany, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, India, and Australia. New holiness churches arose, including the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana, USA). Holiness churches, urban missions, and missionary associations grew from this endeavor. The Church of the Nazarene was born from the impulse to unite many of these into one holiness church.

Unity in Holiness

Fred Hillery organized the People's Evangelical Church (Providence, Rhode Island, USA) in 1887. The Mission Church (Lynn, Massachusetts, USA) followed in 1888. In 1890, they and eight other New England congregations formed the Central Evangelical Holiness Association. Anna S. Hanscome was ordained in 1892, the first ordained female minister in the Nazarene lineage. In 1894-1895, William Howard Hoople organized three holiness congregations in Brooklyn, New York, USA, which formed the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. "Pentecostal" was a synonym for "Holiness" to these and other Nazarene founders. Hillery and Hoople's groups merged in 1896, established work in India (1899) and Cape Verde (1901), and missions executive Hiram Reynolds organized congregations in Canada (1902). The group reached from Nova Scotia, Canada to Iowa, USA by 1907.

Robert Lee Harris organized the New Testament Church of Christ at Milan, Tennessee, USA in 1894. Mary Lee Cagle, his widow, spread it into west Texas, USA, in 1895. C. B. Jerni-

gan organized the first Independent Holiness Church at Van Alstyne, Texas, USA, in 1901. These churches merged at Rising Star, Texas, USA (1904), forming the Holiness Church of Christ. By 1908, it stretched from Georgia, USA, to New Mexico, USA, ministering to outcasts and the needy, supporting orphans and unwed mothers, and with workers in India and Japan.

Phineas F. Bresee and Joseph P. Widney, with about 100 others, organized the Church of the Nazarene at Los Angeles, California, USA in 1895. They held that Christians sanctified by faith should follow Christ's example and preach the gospel to the poor. They believed that their time and money should be given to Christlike ministries for the salvation of souls and the relief of the needy. The Church of the Nazarene spread chiefly along America's west coast, with some congregations east of the Rocky Mountains as far as Illinois, USA. They supported an indigenous mission in Calcutta, India.

In October 1907, the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene jointly convened in Chicago, Illinois, USA, to fashion a church government that balanced superintendency with congregational rights. Superintendents were to foster and care for established churches, organize and encourage new churches, but not interfere with the independent actions of a fully organized church. Holiness Church of Christ delegates participated. The First General Assembly adopted a name drawn from both organizations: Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. Bresee and Reynolds were elected general superintendents.

In September 1908, the Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church, under H. G. Trumbaur, united with the Pentecostal Nazarenes.

In October, the Second General Assembly convened at Pilot Point, Texas, USA, with the General Council of the Holiness Church of Christ. On Tuesday morning, 13 October, R. B. Mitchum moved and C. W. Ruth seconded the proposition: "That the union of the two churches be now consummated." Bresee exerted continual effort toward this outcome, and at

10:40 A.M., amid great enthusiasm, the motion to unite was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

Led by J. O. McClurkan, the Pentecostal Mission formed in Nashville, Tennessee, USA in 1898, uniting holiness people from Tennessee and adjacent states in the USA. They sent pastors and teachers to Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and India. In 1906, George Sharpe was ejected from Parkhead Congregational Church in Glasgow, Scotland, for preaching the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian holiness. The Parkhead Pentecostal Church was formed, other congregations were organized, and the Pentecostal Church of Scotland was founded in 1909. The Pentecostal Mission and Pentecostal Church of Scotland united with the Pentecostal Nazarenes in 1915.

The Fifth General Assembly (1919) changed the denomination's official name to Church of the Nazarene because new meanings had become associated with the word "Pentecostal."

A Global Church

The Church of the Nazarene's essential character was shaped by the parent churches that had united by 1915. There was an international dimension to this character. The denomination supported fully organized churches in the United States of America, India, Cape Verde, Cuba, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Japan, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Swaziland, China, and Peru. By 1930, it reached into South Africa, Syria, Palestine, Mozambique, Barbados, and Trinidad. National leaders were essential to this process, like district superintendents V. G. Santin (Mexico), Hiroshi Kitagawa (Japan), and Samuel Bhujbal (India). This international character was reinforced further by new accessions.

In 1922, J. G. Morrison led many Layman's Holiness Association workers and over 1,000 members in the Dakotas, USA, Minnesota, USA, and Montana, USA, into the church. Robert Chung led a network of Korean pastors and congregations into the Church of the Nazarene in the 1930s. Churches in Australia under A. A. E. Berg united in 1945. Alfredo del

Rosso led Italian churches into the denomination in 1948. The Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association's South African work and its center in Tabor, Iowa, USA, united with the Nazarenes around 1950.

The International Holiness Mission, founded in London, England, by David Thomas in 1907, developed extensive work in southern Africa under David Jones. In 1952, its churches in England under J. B. Maclagan and work in Africa united with the Nazarenes. Maynard James and Jack Ford formed the Calvary Holiness Church in Britain in 1934 and united with the Nazarenes in 1955. The Gospel Workers Church, organized by Frank Goff in Ontario, Canada, in 1918, joined the Church of the Nazarene in 1958. Nigerians formed an indigenous Church of the Nazarene in the 1940s and, under Jeremiah U. Ekaidem, united with the international body in 1988.

Nazarenes have consciously developed a model of church that differs from the Protestant norm. In 1976, a study commission was raised to examine the denomination's future shape. Reporting in 1980, it recommended *internationalization* based on two principles. First, it recognized that Nazarene churches and districts globally constituted a "worldwide fellowship of believers in which there exists full acceptance within their cultural contexts." Second, it identified a common commitment to "the distinctive mission of the Church of the Nazarene," namely "to spread scriptural holiness . . . [as] the key element in a core of nonnegotiables which represent the Nazarene identity."

The 1980 General Assembly embraced "international theological uniformity" around the Articles of Faith, affirmed the importance of theological training for all ministers, and called for adequate support of institutions of theological education in each world area. It summoned Nazarenes toward maturity as an international holiness communion within a single connectional framework in which the colonial mentality that evaluated peoples and nations in terms of "strong and weak, donor and recipient" gave way to "one that assumes an entirely new

way of looking at the world: one recognizing the strengths and equality of all partners."

NOTE: Journal of the Twentieth General Assembly, Church of the Nazarene, (1980): 232. Franklin Cook, The International Dimension (1984): 49.

The Church of the Nazarene has a unique growth pattern among Protestants. By 1998, half of Nazarenes no longer lived in the United States of America and Canada, and 41% of delegates at the 2001 General Assembly spoke English as their second language or did not speak it at all. An African, Eugénio Duarte of Cape Verde, was elected one of the church's general superintendents in 2009. In 2013, a Central American, Gustavo Crocker of Guatemala, was elected general superintendent. In 2017, another African, Filimão Chambo, a native of Mozambique, was also elected general superintendent, and, for the first time, half the members of the Board of General Superintendents were individuals born and raised outside North America.

By 2017, the church had 2.5 million members in 471 districts and over 160 world areas. Nearly 28% of Nazarenes were Africans, 29% lived in Latin America and the Caribbean, while about one-fourth lived in the United States of America and Canada. The church's established European districts assisted new outreach into Eastern Europe, and the church in Asia moved outside traditional bases in Korea, Japan, and India, and into Southeast Asia, among other places. By 2017, the three largest Nazarene districts were in Asia and Africa, and the three largest congregations in worship attendance were in South America and the Caribbean.

Distinctives of International Ministry

Nazarene strategic ministries have centered historically around evangelism, social ministry, and education. They flourish through the mutual cooperation of cross-cultural missionaries and thousands of local ministers and lay workers, who have indigenized Wesleyan principles within their respective cultures.

Evangelization. Hiram F. Reynolds was a strategic personality in establishing Nazarene cross-cultural ministries. During a quarter-century as general superintendent, his constant advocacy helped raise missions to a denominational priority. Since 1915, Nazarene Missions International (originally the Women's Missionary Society) has raised funds and promoted mission education in congregations around the world. Home missions were a central part of North American evangelization, while national missionaries John Diaz (Cape Verde), Santos Elizondo (Mexico), Samuel Krikorian (Palestine), J. I. Nagamatsu (Japan), and Robert Chung (Korea) were pioneer leaders. The Mid-Century Crusade for Souls directed new energies toward world evangelization after World War II. Home missions expanded in North America. New fields opened on other continents. Urban evangelism compelled the church to rediscover the city as a primary locus of ministry in the 1970s. New types of urban ministry developed, and the church undertook an international "Thrust to the Cities" emphasis in the 1980s. The church entered Eastern Europe in the 1990s. Nazarenes participate in the East African revival and serve in nations as diverse as Bangladesh, where on 24 March 2010, 193 elders were ordained to the ministry in a single service—a remarkable event in Christian history.

Compassion. Early Nazarenes witnessed to God's grace by supporting famine relief in India, and establishing orphanages, maternity homes for unwed girls and women, and urban missions that ministered to addicts and the homeless. In the 1920s, the church's social ministry priorities shifted to medicine, as hospitals were built in China and Swaziland, and later in India and Papua New Guinea. Nazarene medical professionals cared for the sick, performed surgeries, trained nurses, and sponsored mobile field clinics among some of the world's poorest people. Specialized clinics were established, such as a leprosy clinic in Africa. The creation of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in the 1980s permitted a wider range of social ministries that endure today, including child sponsor-

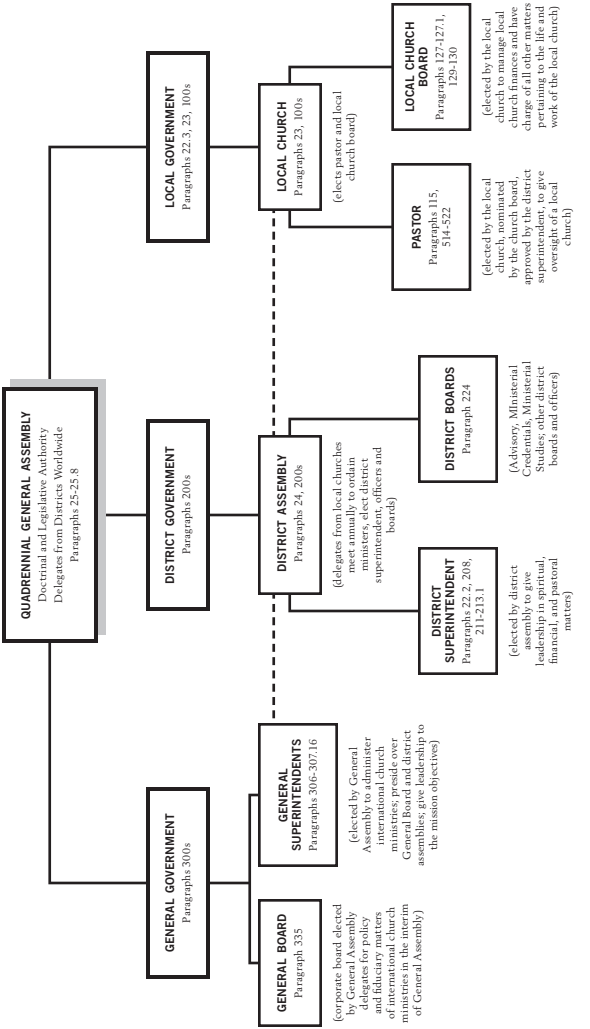
ship, disaster relief, AIDS education, orphan support, water projects, and food distribution.

Education. Nazarene Sunday schools and Bible studies have always been part of congregational life and play significant roles in forming Christlike disciples. The church has invested in basic education and literacy since the early years of Hope School for Girls in Calcutta, founded 1905. Nazarene schools prepare people around the world for fuller participation in social, economic, and religious life. Most early Nazarene colleges in the United States of America had grade schools and high schools attached to them until the mid-20th century. The Nazarene founders invested significantly in higher education, believing it essential for training pastors and other Christian workers and for shaping the laity. The International Board of Education lists 53 Nazarene institutions of higher education around the world, including liberal arts colleges and universities in Africa, Canada, Korea, Swaziland, Trinidad, and the United States of America, 30 Bible colleges and institutes, schools of nursing in India and Papua New Guinea, and graduate schools of theology in Australia, Costa Rica, England, the Philippines, and the United States of America.

The Church of the Nazarene has moved over time from a church with a global presence toward a global community of believers. Grounded in the Wesleyan tradition, Nazarenes understand themselves to be a people who are Christian, Holiness, and Missional, and embrace as their mission statement: "To make Christlike disciples in the nations."

CHURCH GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
(with detail)

◆ Global Church of the Nazarene ◆ Constitution and Articles of Government – *Manual* Paragraphs 22-27 ◆



PART II

Church Constitution

PREAMBLE

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE CHURCH

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

AMENDMENTS

PREAMBLE TO CHURCH CONSTITUTION

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

NOTE: 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 part of the Constitutional text.

I. The Triune God

1. We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the universe; that He only is God, holy in nature, attributes, and purpose. The God who is holy love and light 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; 1 John 1:5; 4:8)

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, 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 righteousness 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 those incapable of moral responsibility 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 Corinthians 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

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7. *We 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 *also* believe that the human race's creation in Godlikeness included *the* 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 3:6a; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20a; 7:14-25

Free grace and works of faith: Ezekiel 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6b; 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; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Timothy 4:10a; 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

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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.] [T]*t*he 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. *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.*

We believe that all persons may fall from grace and apostatize and, unless they repent of their sins, be hopelessly and eternally lost. We believe that regenerate persons need not return to sin but may live in unbroken fellowship with God through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit who bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God.

(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

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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.

9.1. 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.

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

9.3. We believe that justification, regeneration, and adoption are simultaneous in the experience of seekers after God and are [obtained upon the condition of] *received by* 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. Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification

10. We believe that sanctification is the work of God which transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God's grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.

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 or infilling of 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 grace through 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 unity," "the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit," "the fullness of the blessing," and "Christian holiness."

10.1. 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 divine impulse to grow in grace as a Christlike disciple. 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.

Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace and in wholehearted love to God and neighbor.

(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

11. 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, holy living, and mutual accountability.

The mission of the Church in the world is to share in the redemptive and reconciling ministry of Christ in the power of the Spirit. The Church fulfills its mission by making disciples through evangelism, education, showing compassion, working for justice, and bearing witness to the kingdom of God.

The Church is a historical reality that organizes itself in culturally conditioned forms, exists both as local congregations and as a universal body, and also 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

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12. 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.] *and incorporation into the Body of Christ. Baptism is a means of grace proclaiming faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. It is to be administered to believers indicating their full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness. As participants in the new covenant, young children and the morally innocent may be baptized upon request of parents or guardians. The church shall give assurance of Christian training. Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.*

(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

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13. 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.] *Communion Supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a sacrament, proclaiming His life, sufferings, sacrificial death, resurrection, and the hope of His coming again. The Lord's Supper is a means of grace in*

which Christ is present by the Spirit. All are invited to participate by faith in Christ and be renewed in life, salvation, and in unity as the Church. All are to come in reverent appreciation of its significance, and by it show forth the Lord's death until He comes. Those who have faith in Christ and love for the saints are invited by Christ to participate as often as possible.

(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

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14. We believe in the [Bible] *biblical* doctrine of divine healing and urge our people 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

15. 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

16. 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."

16.1. 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.

16.2. 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

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

II. The Churches Severally

18. 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

19. 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

20. Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regener-

ate, 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:

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

20.2. The Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

20.3. Human beings are born with a fallen nature, and are, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

20.4. The finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

20.5. The atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human r ace; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

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

20.7. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

20.8. Our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

V. The Covenant of Christian Character

21. 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—

21.1. 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).

(3) Being courteous to all people (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 people; 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).

21.2. 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, extramarital, or same-sex relations; perversion in any form or looseness and impropriety of conduct (Genesis 19:4-11; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Matthew 5:27-32; Romans 1:26-27; 1

Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Timothy 1:10).

(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).

21.3. 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).

* * *

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

Article I. Form of Government

22. The Church of the Nazarene has a representative form of government.

22.1. We are agreed that there are three legislative entities in the structure of the Church of the Nazarene: local, district,

general. The regions serve as administrative entities for mission strategy and implementation.

22.2. 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.

22.3. 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

23. 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

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24. 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 Boundaries Committee shall fix the boundaries of assembly districts.]

The General Assembly shall also define the powers and duties of district assemblies. (200-207.6)

Article IV. The General Assembly

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25. 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 Global Mission Committee of the Church of the Nazarene] as may be provided for by the General Assembly.

25.1. 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 elected by plurality vote, 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 ministerial 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 twice the number of its delegates. In situations where travel visas are problematic, a district assembly may authorize the District Advisory Board to select additional alternates. (205.23, 301-301.1)

25.2. 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.

25.3. 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.] *The quorum at any meeting of the General Assembly shall be a majority of the voting delegates who have been registered on site with the General Assembly Credentials Committee.* If a quorum has once been obtained, a smaller number may approve the unapproved minutes and adjourn.

25.4. 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]*six general superintendents,* 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)

25.5. 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)

25.6. 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. (300.2-300.3)

25.7. 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)

25.8. 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, 305-305.8)

(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

NOTE: Constitutional changes adopted by the 2017 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.

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

27. Resolutions amending the Articles of Faith (paragraphs 1-16.2) shall be referred by the General Assembly to the Board of General Superintendents for review by a study committee, including theologians and ordained ministers, appointed by the Board of General Superintendents that reflects the global nature of our Church. The committee shall report, with any recommendations or resolutions, *to the Board of General Superintendents, who shall report* to the subsequent General Assembly.

PART III

The Covenant of Christian Conduct

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

CHURCH OFFICERS

RULES OF ORDER

AMENDING THE COVENANT OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

A. The Christian Life

28. 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)

28.1. 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 teachings of Jesus Christ, demonstrated most fully and concisely in the Great Commandment and the Sermon on the Mount constitute the basic Christian ethic.

28.2. 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.

28.3. The Church of the Nazarene believes this new and holy way of life involves practices to be avoided and redemptive acts of love to be accomplished for the souls, minds, and bodies of our neighbors. One redemptive arena of love involves the special relationship Jesus had, and commanded His disciples to have, with the poor of this world; that His Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis

on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor and marginalized. Throughout the Bible and in the life and example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe the Christian's responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love. We believe Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that it drives the Christian beyond their own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in this world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others.

(Exodus 23:11; Deuteronomy 15:7; Psalms 41:1; 82:3; Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; Jeremiah 22:16; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:10)

28.4. 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 them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil."

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

28.5. 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.

28.6. Education is of the utmost importance for the social and spiritual well-being of society. 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. 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)

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

29.1. 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, that affirms scriptural values, and that supports the sacredness of the marriage vow and the exclusivity of the marriage covenant, 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. (28.2-28.4, 926-931)

(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)

29.2. 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)

29.3. Membership in oath-bound secret orders or societies including but not limited to those such as Freemasonry. The quasi-religious nature of such organizations dilutes the Christian's commitment, and their secrecy contravenes the Christian's open witness. This issue will be considered in conjunction with paragraph 112.1 regarding church membership.

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

29.4. 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)

29.5. 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. (929-931)

(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.) (515.4, 532.7, 533.2, 534.1, 700)

29.6. The use of stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens and other intoxicants outside proper medical care and guidance.

In light of medical evidence outlining the dangers of such substances, along with scriptural admonitions to remain in responsible control of mind and body, we choose to abstain from intoxicants, stimulants, depressants,and hallucinogens outside

proper medical care and guidance, regardless of the legality and availability of such substances.

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

B. Sanctity of Human Life

30. 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.

30.1. 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 of-

ten 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)

30.2. 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.

30.3. 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 non-human 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.

30.4. 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.

30.5. 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 ces-

sation of suffering; and it reflects a human arrogance before a graciously sovereign God. We urge our people to oppose all efforts to legalize euthanasia.

30.6. 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.

C. Human Sexuality and Marriage

31. The Church of the Nazarene views human sexuality as one expression of the holiness and beauty that God the Creator intended. Because all humans are beings created in the image of God, they are of inestimable value and worth. As a result we believe that human sexuality is meant to include more than the sensual experience, and is a gift of God designed to reflect the whole of our physical and relational createdness.

As a holiness people, the Church of the Nazarene affirms that the human body matters to God. Christians are both called and enabled by the transforming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to glorify God in and with our bodies. Our senses, our sexual appetites, our ability to experience pleasure, and our desire for connection to another are shaped out of the very character of God. Our bodies are good, very good.

We affirm belief in a God whose creation is an act of love. Having experienced God as holy love, we understand the Trinity to be a unity of love among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are made with a yearning for connection with others at the core of our being. That yearning is ultimately

fulfilled as we live in covenanted relationship with God, the creation, and loving one's neighbor as one's self. Our creation as social beings is both good and beautiful. We reflect the image of God in our capacity to relate and our desire to do so. The people of God are formed as one in Christ, a rich community of love and grace.

Within this community, believers are called to live as faithful members of the body of Christ. Singleness among the people of God is to be valued and sustained by the rich fellowship of the church and the communion of the saints. To live as a single person is to engage, as Jesus did, in the intimacy of community, surrounded by friends, welcoming and being welcomed to tables, and expressing faithful witness.

Also within this community, we affirm that some believers are called to be married. As defined in Genesis, "a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) The marriage covenant, a reflection of the covenant between God and the people of God, is one of exclusive sexual fidelity, unselfish service, and social witness. A woman and a man publicly devote themselves to one another as a witness to the way God loves. Marital intimacy is intended to reflect the union of Christ and the Church, a mystery of grace. It is also God's intention that in this sacramental union the man and woman may experience the joy and pleasure of sexual intimacy and from this act of intimate love new life may enter the world and into a covenantal community of care. The Christ-centered home ought to serve as a primary location for spiritual formation. The church is to take great care in the formation of marriage through premarital counseling and teaching that denotes the sacredness of marriage.

The Scriptural story, however, also includes the sad chapter of the fracturing of human desire in the Fall, resulting in behaviors that elevate self-sovereignty, damage and objectify the other, and darken the path of human desire. As fallen beings, we have experienced this evil on every level—personal and corporate. The principalities and powers of a fallen world have saturated us with lies about our sexuality. Our desires have

been twisted by sin and we are turned inward on ourselves. We have also contributed to the fracturing of the creation by our willful choice to violate the love of God and live on our own terms apart from God.

Our brokenness in the areas of sexuality takes many forms, some due to our own choosing and some brought into our lives via a broken world. However, God's grace is sufficient in our weaknesses, enough to bring conviction, transformation, and sanctification in our lives. Therefore, in order to resist adding to the brokenness of sin and to be able to witness to the beauty and uniqueness of God's holy purposes for our bodies, we believe members of the body of Christ, enabled by the Spirit, can and should refrain from:

- **Unmarried sexual intercourse and other forms of inappropriate sexual bonding.** Because we believe that it is God's intention for our sexuality to be lived out in the covenantal union between one woman and one man, we believe that these practices often lead to the objectification of the other in a relationship. In all its forms, it also potentially harms our ability to enter into the beauty and holiness of Christian marriage with our whole selves.
- **Sexual activity between people of the same sex.** Because we believe that it is God's intention for our sexuality to be lived out in the covenantal union between one woman and one man, we believe the practice of same-sex sexual intimacy is contrary to God's will for human sexuality. While a person's homosexual or bi-sexual attraction may have complex and differing origins, and the implication of this call to sexual purity is costly, we believe the grace of God is sufficient for such a calling. We recognize the shared responsibility of the body of Christ to be a welcoming, forgiving, and loving community where hospitality, encouragement, transformation, and accountability are available to all.
- **Extra-marital sexual relations.** Because we believe this behavior is a violation of the vows that we made before God and within the body of Christ, adultery is a selfish act, a

family-destroying choice, and an offense to the God who has loved us purely and devotedly.

- **Divorce.** Because marriage is intended to be a life-long commitment, the fracturing of the covenant of marriage, whether initiated personally, or by the choice of a spouse, falls short of God's best intentions. The church must take care in preserving the marriage bond where wise and possible, and offering counsel and grace to those wounded by divorce.
- **Practices such as polygamy or polyandry.** Because we believe that the covenantal faithfulness of God is reflected in the monogamous commitment of husband and wife, these practices take away from the unique and exclusive fidelity intended in marriage.

Sexual sin and brokenness is not only personal but pervades the systems and structures of the world. Therefore, as the church bears witness to the reality of the beauty and uniqueness of God's holy purposes we also believe the church should refrain from and advocate against:

- **Pornography in all its forms, which is desire gone awry.** It is the objectification of people for selfish sexual gratification. This habit destroys our capacity to love unselfishly.
- **Sexual violence in any form, including rape, sexual assault, sexual bullying, hateful speech, marital abuse, incest, sex trafficking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, beastiality, sexual harassment, and the abuse of minors and other vulnerable populations.** All people and systems that perpetrate sexual violence transgress the command to love and to protect our neighbor. The body of Christ should always be a place of justice, protection, and healing for those who are, who have been, and who continue to be affected by sexual violence. A minor is defined as any human being under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained later under a state's or country's own domestic legislation.

Therefore we affirm that:

- **Where sin abounds grace abounds all the more.** Although the effects of sin are universal and holistic, the efficacy of grace is also universal and holistic. In Christ, through the

Holy Spirit, we are renewed in the image of God. The old is gone and the new comes. Although the forming of our lives as a new creation may be a gradual process, God's healing is effective in dealing with the brokenness of humanity in the areas of sexuality.

- **The human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.** We affirm the need for our sexuality to be conformed to God's will. Our bodies are not our own but have been bought with a price. Therefore, we are called to glorify God in our bodies through a life of yielded obedience.
- **The people of God are marked by holy love.** We affirm that, above all the virtues, the people of God are to clothe themselves with love. The people of God have always welcomed broken people into our gathering. Such Christian hospitality is neither an excusing of individual disobedience nor a refusal to participate redemptively in discerning the roots of brokenness. Restoring humans to the likeness of Jesus requires confession, forgiveness, formative practices, sanctification, and godly counsel – but most of all, it includes the welcome of love which invites the broken person into the circle of grace known as the church. If we fail to honestly confront sin and brokenness, we have not loved. If we fail to love, we cannot participate in God's healing of brokenness.

As the global church receives and ministers to the people of our world, the faithful outworking of these statements as congregations is complex and must be navigated with care, humility, courage, and discernment.

D. Christian Stewardship

32. 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)

32.1. 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.

32.2. Fundraising 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 fundraising 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, 153, 154-154.2, 516.13)

32.3. 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, 115.6, 129.8)

32.4. 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 deferred 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.

32.5. Shared Responsibility for the Denominational Mission. The government of the Church of the Nazarene is representative. Each local congregation supports the overall mission of the church as defined by the General Assembly and implemented through the leadership of the Board of General Superintendents in world evangelism, education, ministerial support, and district ministries.

The Board of General Superintendents and the General Board are authorized and empowered to develop, revise, and maintain a system for raising the World Evangelism Fund and to establish funding goals and responsibilities for local churches through the assembly districts.

Subject to paragraph 337.1, national boards and/or regional advisory councils are authorized and empowered to establish

ministerial retirement savings plans on their region. Reporting of such plans shall be as provided in paragraph 337.2. The provisions of paragraph 32.5 shall not apply to the Board of Pensions and Benefits USA.

National boards and/or regional advisory councils are also authorized and empowered to establish support for the higher education institutions on their region.

Each district is authorized and empowered to establish funding goals and responsibilities for local churches for district ministry support through the District Assembly Finance Committee. (238.1, 317.10, 345, 346.3)

E. Church Officers

33. We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church 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, active service, and with tithes and offerings. Church officers should be fully engaged in "making Christlike disciples in the nations." (113.11, 127, 145-147)

F. Rules of Order

34. 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, 205, 300.3)

G. Amending the Covenant of Christian Conduct

35. 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

Church Government

PREAMBLE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PREAMBLE TO CHURCH GOVERNMENT

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 Christlike disciples in the nations," 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 fully mature 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."

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 global 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, sections 100, 200, 300, may be made. Requests for all such adaptations shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents. (300)

I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A. Local Church 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. (23, 107, 211.1, 538.15)

100.1. Church-Type Mission. New congregational works that have not yet been organized according to paragraph 100, may be registered by the general secretary as a church-type mission, with the approval of the district superintendent where the new work is located. A member of the clergy serving a church-type mission as pastor or as associate shall be considered an assigned minister with the approval of the district superintendent. A church-type mission may be incorporated according to paragraph 102 and receive and report members. (100.2, 107.2, 138.1, 159, 211.6)

100.2. 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 organized churches. 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 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 relation thereto, except by the express permission of the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor of the local church. (100-100.1)

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 this process:

1. The local church board submits the proposed change to the district superintendent who shall obtain the written approval of the District Advisory Board;
2. A majority ballot vote in an annual or special meeting of the church membership;
3. 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, it is recommended that the District Advisory Board transfer the title to the local church upon the repayment by the local church of the money invested by the District Advisory Board.

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 conveyances 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 paragraphs 104-104.3.

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."
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. (101-101.1, 104.3, 106.1-106.3)

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 or sale 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. The local church shall submit quarterly financial and status reports to this board throughout the construction process. (236-237.5)

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 or lease real estate, nor sell, mortgage, refinance with accrual of additional debt, exchange, or in any other way encumber real property, or otherwise dispose of real estate unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting properly called. If a church is refinancing an existing debt, and the refinancing arrangement does not increase the debt of the church and does not further encumber the real estate of the church, approval for the refinancing may be granted by a two-thirds vote of the board, without the need to take a congregational vote on the matter. The church board may approve by two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, the disposition of properties donated for the specific purpose of providing funds for the local church. All items above require the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. (113.3-113.4, 113.7-113.8, 237.3-237.4)

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, the planting of a new church, 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. (113-113.1)

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. (106.2-106.3)

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 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 or Disorganized. Churches may be declared inactive for a period of transition by action of the District Advisory Board prior to being officially disorganized, reactivated or reorganized.

106.1. A local church may be disorganized as follows:

1. recommendation from the district superintendent;
2. affirmative response from the general superintendent in jurisdiction; and,
3. a two-thirds vote of the District Advisory Board.

106.2. In case a local church becomes inactive or 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. Local church trustees holding property for the inactive or 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, 106, 225.23)

106.3. No trustee or trustees of an inactive or 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, 141-144, 225.23)

106.4. Only officially disorganized churches 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. Local Church Membership

107. Full Membership. The full membership of the local church shall be composed of 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. The local church leadership shall seek to place every member into a ministry of service and a circle of care and support. (23, 107.2, 111, 113.1, 516.1, 520, 532.8, 538.8-538.9)

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 pastor shall receive qualified candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members. (21, 28-33, 110-110.4, 228, 704)

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 in the annual statistics according to paragraphs 107 and 107.1.

107.3. Voting and Office-bearing. Only those who are full and active members of the local church, and have reached their 15th birthday, may hold office in the church where local law allows, vote in annual or special church meetings, or represent the church as delegates to the district assembly.

108. Fellowship Membership. Where a district makes provision, a local church may have fellowship members who shall have all the privileges of church members, with the exception of voting and holding church office. (205.24)

108.1. Fellowship 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 paragraphs 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 update the membership roll of the local church with "Placed on the Inactive Membership Roll by the church board (date)."

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.

109.5. An inactive member may request in writing that the church board return his or her name to the active membership roll of the church. Such 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.

C. Local Church 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 (138.3). Its duties shall be:

110.1. To promote evangelism in the local church and seek to conserve the fruits of evangelism. (107-107.1, 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 membership 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. (20-21)

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 Local Church Membership

111. Transfer. The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a transfer of church membership (see form in paragraph 817) 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. (818)

111.1. Commendation. The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a Certificate of Commendation (see form in paragraph 815) 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, 539.5, 815)

E. Termination of Local Church 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 or District Board of Ministry of the fact. The District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry shall investigate and confirm the status of the member of the clergy. If the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry determines that the member of the clergy will be removed from the Roster of Ministers, the pastor of the local church will also remove the person's name from the membership roll of the church and shall update the membership roll with "Removed by uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry." (532.9, 538.10, 538.13-538.14)

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 paragraph 816), 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 update the membership roll with, "Removed by the church board (date)." (109, 133)

F. Local 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. (34, 104, 113.7-113.8, 115, 518)

113.1. Only those persons who are full and active members and have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in church meetings. (107.3, 109-109.4)

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. (213.1, 307.10, 516.15)

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. Special Meetings. 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. 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. (104, 113.1, 115-115.1, 123-123.7, 137, 139, 142.1, 144)

113.9. Reports. Reports shall be given at the annual church meeting by the pastor, the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent, the president of the Nazarene Youth International, the president of the Nazarene Missions International, the deaconesses, the local ministers, the secretary, and the treasurer of the church board. (135.2, 136.5, 146.6, 152.2, 508, 516.7, 531.1)

113.10. 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. The nominating committee is to be appointed by the pastor, and approved by the church board annually. 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 33.

113.11. Elections. At the annual church meeting there shall be an election, by ballot, of the stewards, the trustees, the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International superintendent (SDMI), and the members of the SDMI Board, to serve for the next church year and until their successors are elected and qualified. Where laws permit and when it is approved by a majority vote of the church members present, all those elected may serve a two-year term. All those elected shall be active members of that same local Church of the Nazarene.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church 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 har-

mony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance, active service, and with tithes and offerings. Church officers should be fully engaged in "making Christlike disciples in the nations." (33, 127, 137, 141, 142.1, 145-147)

113.12. 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 paragraphs 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. 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. (145-145.10)

113.13. Where laws permit, and in churches where such procedure is approved by a majority vote of the church members present at a properly 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 paragraphs 137 and 141.

113.14. At the annual church meeting, there shall be an election, by ballot, of lay delegates to the district assembly, or, if approved by a majority vote of the church membership at the annual meeting, delegates may be recommended by the pastor and approved by the local church board on the basis of representation fixed by the General Assembly according to paragraphs 201-201.2. All those elected as delegates shall be

active members of that same local Church of the Nazarene. (107.3, 113.11)

113.15. District assembly delegates from a church-type mission (CTM) may be appointed by its pastor based on criteria outlined in paragraphs 33, 201.1, and 201.2. Delegates may also be named by the CTM pastor for district conventions, according to the Nazarene Youth International Charter, Nazarene Missions International Constitution, and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Bylaws. (100.1, 810, 811, 812)

G. The Local 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. (225.1)

H. Calling of a Pastor

115. An ordained elder or licensed minister (elder track) 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 properly called annual or special meeting of the church, provided that:

1. The nomination shall have the prior approval of the district superintendent.
2. The nomination shall have been approved by the District Advisory Board when the individual nominated is a member of that same local church, or serving as a paid or unpaid associate of that local church; and
3. The individual shall have been nominated to the church by the church board by two-thirds vote by ballot of all its members.

This call shall be subject to review and continuance as hereinafter provided. (119, 122-125.5, 129.2, 159.8, 211.10, 225.16, 514, 532, 533.4, 534.3)

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. (122, 129.3-129.4)

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 or District Advisory Board be legally responsible in excess of funds raised during the term of the pastor's actual service, and not otherwise designated. If civil action is taken against the church or District Advisory Board by a current or former pastor, a district may take steps to obtain the minister's credential and subsequently drop the minister's name from the Roster of Ministers.

The local church should also make provision for the pastor's traveling and moving expenses. (32-32.3, 129.8-129.9)

115.5. The remuneration of the pastor shall commence on the Monday preceding the first official Sunday of service to the local church.

115.6. Local churches may consider alternative plans for pastoral support in cooperation with their respective districts. (32.3, 129.8)

116. Affirming the value of family and the importance of pastors modeling peaceful and integrated lives, local churches should consider providing a maternity or paternity leave for the pastor and associates. District superintendents should encourage local churches to adopt maternity or paternity leave policies and provide for their development. Such policies may contain the following provisions:

1. Timing and duration of maternity or paternity leave should be determined by mutual agreement of the pastor and church board prior to anticipated childbirth or adoption placement.
2. Maternity or paternity leave should be considered in addition to and separately from vacation.
3. The local church should consult with the pastor and district superintendent to arrange for a supply pastor during the period of maternity or paternity leave.
4. During maternity or paternity leave the pastor's full salary and benefits continue. Any other arrangement shall be placed in writing and signed by the pastor, secretary of the church board, and the district superintendent.

117. The pastor of a church that has been organized for fewer than five years, or had fewer 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. (211.17)

117.1. When a church exceeds 35 voting members or has been organized for at least five years, and its pastor has served as its appointed pastor for at least two years, a process to be moved from "appointed status" may be initiated. Such process must include a church/pastoral relationship review, majority vote of church board members present, approval of the district superintendent, and approval of the District Advisory Board.

The anniversary date for future four-year regular church/pastoral relationship reviews shall be the date of final approval.

118. 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.

119. The call of a pastor who is a licensed minister (elder track) will terminate at the end of the district assembly if the minister's license is not renewed.

120. The pastor desiring to resign from a pastoral assignment shall:

1. First consult with the district superintendent;
2. Provide a written resignation to the church board at least 30 days prior to termination of the pastorate; and
3. Send a copy to the district superintendent.

When the resignation is received by the church board and approved in writing by the district superintendent, the termination date shall be finalized within 30 days.

120.1. 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.

121. Upon the recommendation of the church board and approval of the district superintendent, a congregation may elect co-pastors to serve. In this case, the following stipulations will apply:

1. The co-pastors shall work with the church board, under the direction of the district superintendent, to develop a plan for shared responsibility and authority.
2. Co-pastors are equals in the pastoral office. If required by law, 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 church/pastoral relationship review process shall be conducted as provided for in paragraphs 123-123.7.
4. A local church whose pastor has not been appointed and who has served for at least two years may add one or more ministers as co-pastors by following paragraph 115 for this process. Upon approval by the district superintendent and a two-thirds vote of all the church board members, the church will vote whether to add any co-pastor. A co-pastor candidate would need to receive a two-thirds vote of the congregation in order to be approved to serve as co-pastor for that local church.
5. If the necessary two-thirds vote is received, the two-year term would then begin on the same date for each minister. A regular church/pastoral relationship review would be scheduled within 60 days of the second anniversary of the pastoral service of the co-pastors (115, 123-123.7).

121.1. Within sixty days upon the resignation or termination of a co-pastor, the district superintendent, or appointed representative, shall conduct a regular church/pastoral relationship review as outlined in paragraphs 123-123.7. If the church board decides to no longer call a co-pastor, such decision will require the approval of the district superintendent and the two-thirds vote of the local church membership.

I. The Local Church/Pastoral Relationship

122. 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)

122.1. Pastors and congregations shall endeavor to articulate a clear understanding of each other's expectations and to resolve differences by sincerely following biblical principles including those found in Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1-5. In a spirit of cooperation and reconciliation within the church,

1. Individual or collective members of the congregation shall be encouraged to resolve differences by discussing them face-to-face with the pastor or discreetly with a church board member. Individual or collective members of the church board shall seek to resolve differences by discussing them face-to-face with the pastor.
2. If either of the foregoing face-to-face discussions fails to bring resolution, the complainant shall seek the assistance of one or two spiritually mature members of the congregation or church board in resolving the differences.
3. The persons involved in such small-group efforts shall bring the differences to the full church board only after face-to-face discussions and small-group efforts have failed. If so called upon, the church board shall work at resolving differences in a spirit of love, acceptance, and forgiveness, and in accordance with church discipline. (123-126.2, 129.1)

J. Renewing the Local Church/Pastoral Relationship

123. The Regular Church/Pastoral Relationship 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. 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.

123.1. 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 district superintendent shall determine the review methodology. 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. In addition, other immediate relatives of the pastor may be recused from the review, per the request of the district superintendent or appointed representative.

123.2. 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 relationship review.

123.3. If the church board does not vote to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the church membership, the church/pastoral relationship will continue.

123.4. 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 two-thirds vote of all church board members present to carry.

123.5. 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 properly 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 vote to carry, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise.

123.6. 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 fewer than 30 nor more than 180 days following the vote. If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation or chooses not to accept the vote, 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 fewer than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with or accept the congregational vote. (120)

123.7. 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.

124. 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.

125. Special Church/Pastoral Relationship 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 or an elder appointed by the district superintendent present and serving as chairperson.

125.1. This special church/pastoral relationship review meeting 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. In addition, the district superintendent or appointed representative may recuse other immediate relatives of the pastor from the review.

125.2. If the district superintendent and the local 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 local church board by a two-thirds vote by ballot 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?"

125.3. 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.

125.4. 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.

125.5. If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation or chooses not to accept the vote, 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 fewer than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with or accept the congregational vote. (113.8, 123-124)

126. 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 assigned ordained ministers and two lay members of the District Advisory Board, and the district superintendent who shall serve as chairperson. (211.3)

126.1. When in the opinion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, 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 123-123.7, 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 District Advisory Board, may appoint members of the church board for any church that has been declared in crisis. Notification of the District Advisory Board action shall be sent to the general superintendent in jurisdiction within 30 days. (211.3)

126.2. When in the opinion of the district superintendent, a local church declared in crisis in accordance with paragraph 126.1 has fulfilled the interventions set in place and is ready to resume its ministry under normal circumstances, the local church may be declared out of crisis by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. The general superintendent in jurisdiction shall be notified of the District Advisory Board action within 30 days. (211.4)

K. The Local Church Board

127. Membership. Every local church shall have a church board, composed of the pastor, the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent, the president of the Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the president of the Nazarene Missions International (NMI), the stewards, and the trustees of the church, and the members of the SDMI Board when elected as the Education Committee of the church board by the annual church meeting. If the NMI 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 church/pastoral relationship review process of the pastor.

There shall be no more than 25 regular members of the church board. Ordained and district licensed ministers with the exception of individuals approved by the pastor and the district superintendent and paid employees of the local church are not eligible to serve on the local church board. The district superintendent, with the recommendation of the pastor and church board, may grant an exception for unassigned district licensed ministers who are students in the Course of Study or in a Nazarene institution of higher education. Such ministers are recused from church board action regarding recommending the minister to the district assembly for renewal of district minister's license.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church 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, active service, and with tithes and offerings. Church officers should be fully engaged in "making Christlike disciples in the nations." (33, 113.11, 137, 141, 145-147, 152.2, 159.4)

127.1. When the annual meeting of a local church comes during a time of pastoral transition, the local nominating committee, chaired by the district superintendent, may, with the approval of the district superintendent, present the congregation with a resolution, no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting, to retain the current church board for the upcoming church year. This resolution may be adopted by majority favorable vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting at a properly called special meeting of the church. Should the resolution fail to pass, the church board shall be elected by the annual meeting as usual.

128. Meetings. The church board takes office at the beginning of the church year and shall have at least a bimonthly

meeting and shall meet specially when called by the pastor or district superintendent. The church board secretary shall call a special meeting of the board only with the approval of the pastor, or the district superintendent when there is no pastor. Meetings of the church board, including voting, may be conducted electronically. Such meetings and votes shall have the same force and effect as votes at a meeting of members gathered in one room or area. 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. (155, 518)

129.2. To nominate to the church, after having consulted with the district superintendent, any elder or licensed minister (elder track) whom it may deem the proper person to become pastor, provided the nomination be approved in accordance with paragraph 115. (159.8, 211.10, 225.16)

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. (122)

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. (212, 524)

129.6. To provide for the development and adoption of an annual budget for the church, NMI, NYI, SDMI, 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) report-

ing to the board on the financial conditions and concerns of the church.

129.8. To determine the amount of remuneration and benefits, including retirement benefits, the pastor shall receive, and to review them at least once a year. (32.3, 115.4, 115.6, 123-123.7)

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 strong spiritual life of the pastor, the church board, in consultation with the district superintendent, should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor during each seventh 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. This topic is to be addressed by the district superintendent as part of the church/pastoral relationship review process that would come after year two and again in year six, once the viability of continuing the relationship has been established. Materials shall be developed and distributed by the Global Clergy Development office to guide local congregations in establishing and implementing a sabbatical leave policy and procedure. At the church board's discretion, such a program may also be implemented for a member of the pastoral staff.

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. (503.3-503.5, 531.1-531.3, 813)

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 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. (531.5, 532.1)

129.15. To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, renewal of deaconess' license in harmony with paragraph 508.

129.16. To elect, upon nomination of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 Nazarene Youth International (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). (151, 159.1, 211.13, 516.10)

129.19. To elect a secretary from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in paragraph 33. Such election shall be held at the first meeting of the new board. The individual so elected shall serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified, and has voting privileges only if elected to the church board at a properly called meeting of the members of the congregation. (33, 113.6-113.8, 113.11, 128, 135.1-135.7)

129.20. To elect a treasurer from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in paragraph 33. Such election shall be held at the first meeting of the new board. The individual so elected shall serve until the close of the church year and until a succes-

sor has been elected and qualified, and has voting privileges only if elected to the church board at a properly called meeting of the members of the congregation. No member of the pastor's immediate family can serve as the local church treasurer without the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. Immediate family shall include spouse, children, siblings, or parents. (33, 113.7-113.8, 113.11, 128, 136.1-136.6)

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 Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI), and make report of the same at its regular monthly meetings and to the annual meeting of the church. (136.3-136.5)

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 or a committee of independent examiners, or such other qualified persons, that shall audit or examine, to at least the minimum standard required by national or state law if applicable, or other recognized professional standards, at least annually, the financial records of the treasurer of the church, the Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 SDMI 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. (605)

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, 159-159.1, 211.13)

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. (115.6)

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 Board of General Superintendents and the General Board for raising the World Evangelism Fund and District Ministry Funds by the local church, and shall regularly remit these amounts to the general treasurer and district treasurer, respectively. (317.10, 335.7)

131. Meaning of Stewardship. Refer to paragraphs 32-32.5.

132. The church board shall perform the duties of a SDMI 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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. (109-109.4, 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. Board minutes should identify all voting board members as present or absent to clearly document a quorum. (120.1, 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. (113.9)

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, 103-104.2)

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. (516.9)

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. (113.9, 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 of the Local Church

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. (33, 113.7, 113.11, 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 (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 paragraphs 110-110.8.

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 development of ministries toward those of other cultural and socioeconomic 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. (29.5, 515.4)

139. A vacancy in the office of steward may be filled by the local church at a properly called church meeting. (113.8)

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. (32-32.5)

M. The Trustees of the Local Church

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. (33, 113.11, 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 properly called for that purpose. (113.7, 113.11)

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 paragraphs 102-104.4.

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 properly called church meeting. (113.8)

N. The Local Church Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board

145. Each local church shall establish a **Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 SDMI superintendent; the pastor; the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president; the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president; Children's Ministries (CM) director; Adult Ministries (AM) 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 properly 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. 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 active members of the local church 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, active service, and with tithes and offerings. Church officers should be fully engaged in "making Christlike disciples in the nations." (33, 137, 141, 146)

The **duties and powers of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 Global Mission Committee and offices of Adult Ministries (AM), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Children's Ministries (CM). These include both curriculum and program-oriented ministries for adults, youth, and children. The Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups, along with the preaching ministry, provide 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. (516.15)

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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) of the local church in keeping with the SDMI 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 (CM) and a director of Adult Ministries (AM).

145.7. To elect the Children's Ministries (CM) and Adult Ministries (AM) councils from nominations by the directors of CM and AM with approval of the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

145.8. To elect all age-group Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups 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 Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president and the directors of Children's Ministries (CM) and Adult Ministries (AM). The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

145.9. To elect a local director of Continuing Lay Training (CLT), who shall organize, promote, and supervise regular training opportunities for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) workers and the entire membership of the church. The SDMI Board shall have the option of naming the CLT 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 and Discipleship Ministries

International (SDMI) year, which shall be the same as the church year. The pastor or the SDMI superintendent may call special meetings. (114)

146. The Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent to serve for one year, or until his or her successor is elected. The SDMI Board, with the pastor's approval, may call for an incumbent SDMI superintendent to be elected by a "yes" or "no" vote. A vacancy shall be filled by the local church at a properly called church meeting. The SDMI superintendent, newly elected, shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly, the local church board, and the SDMI Board.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church 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, active service, and with tithes and offerings. Church officers should be fully engaged in "making Christlike disciples in the nations." (33, 113.11, 127, 145, 145.5, 201)

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

146.1. To have executive supervision of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) in the local church.

146.2. To administer the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) in keeping with the SDMI 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI)

Board, or the Education Committee of the church board, and to lead the SDMI Board in performing its duties.

146.5. To submit an annual budget for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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's Ministries (CM)/Adult Ministries (AM) Councils and Directors. The work of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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/Bible studies/small groups 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 CM and AM councils is subject to approval of its director and the SDMI 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for persons within that age-group.

147.2. To give leadership to the appropriate age-group of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for children, youth, or adults in the local church, in cooperation with the SDMI 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board the leadership for the various ministries assigned to his or her age-group, including

Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups supervisors, teachers, and officers, with exception of Nazarene Youth International (NYI) who will nominate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups supervisors, teachers, and officers. The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the SDMI superintendent. (33)

147.5. To obtain the approval of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board before using supplemental curriculum.

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

147.7. To submit an annual budget request to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) 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 all Discipleship Ministries (Sunday School/Extended Ministries Responsibilities/Discipleship/Bible Study) shall be submitted to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

147.9. To submit a quarterly calendar of his or her age-group activities to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board to be coordinated with the total SDMI of the local church.

148. Children's Ministries Council. The Children's Ministries (CM) Council is responsible for planning the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for children from birth to age 12 in the local church. The council is composed of at least one Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups 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 paragraphs 147.1-147.9.

148.2. To work with the Nazarene Missions International (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 (CM) councils. Nominees for this position shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

149. Adult Ministries Council. The Adult Ministries (AM) Council shall be responsible for planning the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for adults in the local church. The AM Council is composed of at least one Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups 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, 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 paragraphs 147.1-147.9.

O. The Local Church Nazarene Youth International (NYI)

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

150.1. The local Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall organize itself according to the NYI Local Ministry Plan (810.100-810.118), which may be adapted in response to local youth ministry needs (see 810.103), consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

P. Nazarene Childcare/Schools (Birth through Secondary) of the Local Church

151. 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 and Discipleship Ministries International office. The director and school board shall be accountable to and shall submit an annual report to the local church board(s). (129.18, 211.13-211.14, 225.14, 516.15, 517)

151.1. 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 Church Nazarene Missions International

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

152.1. 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. (516)

152.2. The president of the local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be nominated by a committee of three to seven members of the NMI 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. (113.9, 114, 123, 127, 201)

153. All funds raised by the local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) for general interests of the Church of the Nazarene shall be applied to the World Evangelism Fund with the exception of mission special projects that have been approved by the Ten Percent Committee.

153.1. After primary consideration has been given to the full payment of the World Evangelism Fund, local churches are encouraged to support other global mission work through approved mission specials.

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

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

154.2. From special offerings such as Easter and Thank offerings.

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

R. Prohibition of Financial Appeals for a Local Church

155. 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.

156. 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 Local Church Name

157. 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

158. 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 par-

ticipants, 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

159. 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)

159.1. 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. (159.4, 211.13)

159.2. 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 an-

nual 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 non-renewal must be given in writing not fewer than 30 days prior to the termination of employment. (129.27)

159.3. 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.

159.4. 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.

159.5. In times of pastoral transition, the stability, unity, and ongoing ministry of the local church is crucial. Consequently, the district superintendent (or a representative appointed by the district superintendent) will work closely with the local church board to implement the following steps which (a) may allow the local church to retain some or all staff for at least a period of time during the transition; (b) will still allow the new pastor freedom to develop his/her own team of associates, if desired; and (c) will allow a board and district superintendent discretion to provide transitioning staff a reasonable amount of time to make necessary personal and professional adjustments. First, upon resignation or termination of the pastor, any associates shall also submit their resignations effective concurrently with the pastor. Second, 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 paragraph 159. 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.

159.6. Communication with staff members, the church board, and the congregation regarding the effect of paragraph 159.5 on staff members at the time of pastoral change shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent. (211.13)

159.7. The pastor of a congregation having approval to function as a local church according to paragraph 100.2 shall not be considered a staff member.

159.8. 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 superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (115, 129.2, 211.10, 225.16)

II. DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

A. District Bounds and Name

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

A district is an entity made up of interdependent local churches organized to facilitate the mission of each local church through mutual support, the sharing of resources, and collaboration.

The bounds and name of a district shall be such as shall be declared by the General Boundaries Committee and approved by a majority vote by the assembly district(s) involved, with the final approval of the general superintendent or superintendents having jurisdiction.

Where districts from more than one educational region would consider merger into one district, the General Boundaries Committee would determine the region the new district would be a part of, in consultation with the general superintendents in jurisdiction. (24)

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. (24, 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.

A Phase 1 district superintendent shall be recommended by the regional director, in consultation with the Global Mission 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 cases where there are sponsoring districts, 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).

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 1 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 general superintendent in jurisdiction and in consultation with the Global Mission 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.

Phase 2. A Phase 2 district may be designated when a sufficient number of organized churches and ordained ministers 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 Global Mission 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 include a minimum of 10 organized churches, 500 full members, and 5 ordained ministers, 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.

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 2 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 general superintendent in jurisdiction. 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.

Phase 3. A Phase 3 district may be declared when a sufficient number of organized churches, ordained ministers, 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 Global Mission director, regional director, and other individuals and boards involved in the appointment of the district superintendent. 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 ministers.

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.

Phase 3 districts are an integral part of their respective regions.

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. The general superintendent in jurisdiction, with approval of the Board of General Superintendents may take one or more of the following actions:

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. (200.1, 205.12, 206.2, 209.1, 307.9, 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 or realigned districts have population centers that justify the creation or realignment 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 ordained ministers and lay leaders are available for the work of the districts;
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.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts may be merged in accordance with provisions for new district formation outlined in paragraph 200.2. (200.1)

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 two-thirds 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 District Assembly

201. Membership. The district assembly shall be composed of all assigned elders; all assigned deacons; all assigned licensed ministers; all retired assigned ministers; the district secretary; the district treasurer; 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) chairperson; the district age-group ministries international directors (children and adult); the District SDMI Board; the president of the District Nazarene Youth International (NYI); the president of the District Nazarene Missions International (NMI); the newly elected superintendent or vice superintendent of each local SDMI Board; the newly elected president or vice president of each local NYI; the newly elected president or vice president of each local NMI; or an elected alternate may represent the NMI, NYI, and SDMI organizations in the district assembly; those serving in assigned roles of ministry; the lay members of the District Advisory Board; active lay missionaries whose local church membership is on the district; all retired lay missionaries whose local church membership is on the district who were active missionaries at the time of retirement; and the lay delegates from each local church and church-type mission in the assembly district. (24, 113.14-113.15, 146, 152.2, 201.1-201.2, 219.2, 222.2, 224.4, 242.2, 244.2, 505-528.1, 532.8, 533-533.4, 534-534.3, 535-535.1, 536-536.2, 538.9)

201.1. Local churches and church-type missions 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 or church-type mission 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. (24, 113.14-113.15, 201)

201.2. Local churches and church-type missions in districts of 5,000 or more full church members shall be entitled to rep-

resentation in the district assembly as follows: one lay delegate from each local church or church-type mission 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. (24, 113.14-113.15, 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 District Advisory Board or arranged for by the district superintendent.

203. 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. (215.2)

204. All district entities shall be authorized to meet electronically. Voting methods shall be approved by the District Advisory Board. All communications and voting required may be carried out electronically.

C. Business of the District Assembly

205. 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. (34)

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

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

205.3. 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 paragraphs 505-528.2. (521, 532.8, 538.9)

205.4. 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (129.14, 531.5, 532.1, 532.3)

205.5. 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (129.15)

205.6. 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (533.3, 534.3)

205.7. 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (532.2, 535-535.2)

205.8. To receive, by transfer from other districts, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those having commissioned roles of ministry, 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (231.9-231.10, 505, 508-511.1, 537-537.2)

205.9. To issue a transfer of members of the clergy, and those having commissioned roles of ministry, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board, who desire to transfer to another district upon favorable recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (505, 508-511.1, 231.9-231.10, 537-537.1)

205.10. To commission or register for one year those persons deemed qualified for the roles of ministry named and defined in paragraphs 505-528.2 upon favorable recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry.

205.11. 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 district 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.

205.12. After a district superintendent of a Phase 2 or Phase 3 district 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. (200.2)

205.13. In case the general superintendent and the District Advisory Committee (DAC), 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 DAC 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 DAC. (206.2, 208, 239)

205.14. To elect, by ballot, up to three assigned 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 assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members and the final major part of 2,500 members. (224)

205.15. To elect a District Ministerial Credentials Board of not fewer than five assigned ordained ministers, two of whom shall be the district superintendent and the district secretary, if ordained, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. A district secretary who is a layperson serves as a non-voting member of the board. 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. (229-231.10)

205.16. To elect a District Ministerial Studies Board of five or more assigned ordained ministers, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (232)

205.17. To facilitate its efforts to prepare candidates for ordination and provide support and clergy development opportunities for its ministers, a district 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. Those ministers elected shall serve for four years.

The District Board of Ministry, with the district superintendent as ex-officio chairperson shall organize the District Board of Ministry to carry out all the duties and responsibilities of the District Ministerial Credentials Board and of the District Ministerial Studies Board. (216, 229-234.4)

205.18. To elect a District Church Properties Board in keeping with provisions of paragraph 236. (206.1)

205.19. To elect at its discretion either or both of the following:

1. A District Evangelism Board of no fewer 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. (206.1, 215)

205.20. To elect a District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board in harmony with the procedure stated in paragraph 241, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. (206.1, 215)

205.21. To elect a District Assembly Finance Committee of equal lay and assigned minister 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. (238-238.3)

205.22. To elect a District Court of Appeals, consisting of three assigned 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. (610)

205.23. 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 elected alternate shall be seated in the district superintendent's place. The Nominating Committee shall submit a nominating ballot containing at least six times the number of delegates eligible from that district in each category, ministerial and lay. From these nominees, the number of names for the electing ballot will be reduced to no more than three times the number to be elected. Then, the allowed delegates and alternates shall be elected by plurality vote, according to paragraphs 301.1-301.3. Each district assembly may elect alternates not to exceed twice the number of delegates. In situations where travel visas are problematic, a district assembly may authorize the District Advisory Board to select additional alternates. Delegates elected are expected to attend faithfully all meetings of the General Assembly from opening to closing unless providentially prevented. (25-25.2, 301.1-301.3, 303, 332.1)

205.24. To establish, at its discretion, a system of fellowship membership for its local churches. (Fellowship members must not be counted as full members for purposes of representation.) (108)

205.25. To provide for the auditing of all district treasurers' books annually, to at least the minimum standard required by national or state law if applicable, or other recognized professional standards, either by a District Auditing Committee, a committee of independent examiners, or by such other appropriately qualified persons elected by the District Advisory Board. (225.24)

205.26. To present to the General Assembly, through the district secretary, a full official journal for the preceding quadrennium, to be preserved and filed. (207.3-207.4, 220.7)

205.27. To grant a retired relation to a minister upon recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board

or District Board of Ministry. Any change in status must be approved by the district assembly, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (231.8, 536)

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

205.29. 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.

206. 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. (225.6)

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

206.2. The **district superintendents of Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts** shall be chosen in accordance with 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.

206.3. 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

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

207.1. The journal must be prepared in a format permitted by the General Secretary's office. Paper copies may be printed locally.

207.2. Separate items of business shall be placed in separate paragraphs.

207.3. The journal should be edited carefully with the view to its examination by the General Assembly. (205.26, 220.7)

207.4. The full official journal for each quadrennium shall be preserved and filed with the district and the General Assembly files. (220.5, 220.7)

207.5. 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.

207.6. 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

208. 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 thirty 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 reelected 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 for another term, or a successor will be elected or appointed and qualified. No elder employed by the district office shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to the office of district superintendent on the district where they are serving without the approval of the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction (in harmony with paragraph 115). (205.11-205.13)

209. 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 the District Advisory Committee (DAC). 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. (239, 307.7)

209.1. 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 vote of the District Advisory Committee. (239, 321)

209.2. 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. (307.8)

209.3. 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. (245.3)

209.4. 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. (245.3)

210. The role of the district superintendent is to provide oversight and spiritual leadership for the pastors and congregations of the district by:

- modeling a life of prayer and devotion to the Scriptures
- promoting biblical pastoral theology and practices among district clergy
- promoting Wesleyan-holiness theology and practices throughout the district
- casting vision for evangelism and planting churches in the district
- resourcing district congregations toward organizational health.

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

211.1. 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, 538.15)

211.2. 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.

211.3. 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 necessary, he or she may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board, take appropriate action to address the situation. Such action may include, but is 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.

The assets of an organized church remain under the control of an incorporated local church, unless declared inactive in accordance with paragraph 106.5 or disorganized in accordance with paragraph 106.1. The general superintendent in jurisdiction shall be notified of actions taken within 30 days.

211.4. When in the opinion of the district superintendent, a local church declared in crisis in accordance with paragraph 126.1 has fulfilled the interventions set in place and is ready to resume its ministry under normal circumstances, the local church may be declared out of crisis by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. The district superintendent shall notify the general superintendent in jurisdiction within 30 days.

211.5. To schedule and conduct, with each local church board, the regular church/pastoral relationship review according to the provisions of paragraphs 123-123.7. The district superintendent shall provide an annual record of regular church/pastoral relationship reviews conducted to the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

211.6. 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.

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

211.8. To nominate to the District Advisory Board someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district treasurer. (222.1)

211.9. To appoint a district chaplaincy director to promote and amplify holiness evangelism through the specialized ministry of chaplaincy. (240)

211.10. To consult with the church board concerning the nomination of an elder or a licensed minister (elder track) to pastor a local church and to approve or disapprove such nomination, with additional approval of the District Advisory Board as required in paragraph 115. (129.2, 159.8, 225.16)

211.11. To schedule a special church/pastoral relationship review, within 90 days of the request of a church board for such review, on the continuance of the church/pastoral relationship. (125)

211.12. 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. (531.1, 531.3)

211.13. 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, 159-159.8)

211.14. To approve or disapprove, with the District Advisory Board, requests from local churches to operate Christian

childcare/school (birth through secondary) ministries. (151, 225.14, 517)

211.15. To execute and sign, along with the secretary of the District Advisory Board, all legal documents of the district. (225.6)

211.16. To nominate to the District Advisory Board and to supervise any paid assistants on the district. (245)

211.17. To appoint pastors in keeping with paragraph 117.

211.18. 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, and other church officers (secretary, treasurer) if a church has been organized for fewer than five years, or had fewer than thirty-five 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 fewer than three. (117, 126)

211.19. To cause to be investigated written accusations against a minister in his or her assembly district, according to paragraphs 606-606.3.

211.20. To appoint in consultation with the District Advisory Board qualified clergy and laity to serve as a recovery team prepared to provide a timely and redemptive response to the minister, his or her spouse and family, church, and community in situations of clergy misconduct. When such situations arise, the district superintendent shall deploy a recovery team as immediately as possible and in accordance with the district plan. (225.5, 540.1)

211.21. The district superintendent shall schedule and conduct a self-assessment and review in consultation with the tenured evangelist in accordance with paragraph 510.4.

211.22. To strongly encourage, along with district leadership, each local church to achieve its individual general, district, and educational funding goals.

212. 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, 524, 531.6)

212.1. The district superintendent, with the consent of the church board and the District Advisory Board, may appoint an interim pastor to fill a vacancy in the office of pastor, until a permanent pastor can be called. The district superintendent shall also be authorized to extend the time of service of the interim pastor as he or she deems necessary in consultation with the church board. The interim pastor would be authorized to fulfill all responsibilities of the pastor. The interim pastor would also serve as a delegate from that church to the district assembly if said pastor holds membership on the district of interim assignment.

Such an assigned interim pastor is subject to the authority of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board at all times. The interim pastor shall also be subject to removal by the district superintendent in consultation with the church board. (526)

213. 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. (514)

213.1. 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)

214. 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. (307.5)

215. The district superintendent may fill vacancies in the following committees:

1. District Assembly Finance Committee;
2. District Auditing Committee;
3. District Board of Ministry (or Ministerial Credentials Board and Ministerial Studies Board);
4. District Evangelism Board or the district director of evangelism;
5. District Church Properties Board;
6. District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board;
7. District Court of Appeals;
8. Other district boards and standing committees where such are not provided in the *Manual* or by assembly action. (205.21, 205.25, 229.1, 232.1, 235, 236, 241, 610)

215.1. 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.

215.2. 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. (203)

216. The district superintendent shall be ex-officio chairperson of the District Advisory Board and the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (224.2, 230.1)

216.1. The district superintendent shall be a member ex-officio of all elected and standing boards and committees on the district he or she serves. (205.20-205.21, 237, 241, 810, 811)

217. The district superintendent shall not create financial obligations, count moneys, or disburse funds for the district unless authorized and directed by majority vote of the District Advisory Board; such action, if taken, must be properly recorded in the minutes of the District Advisory Board. No district superintendent or any member of his or her immediate family shall be authorized to have unrestricted access

to the financial accounts or assets of the district without clearly defined and written internal controls approved by the District Advisory Board. Immediate family shall include spouse, children, siblings, or parents. (218, 222-223.2)

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

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

F. The District Secretary

219. 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. (225.22)

219.1. 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. (211.7)

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

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

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

220.2. To record correctly and preserve all statistics of the district.

220.3. To forward all statistical charts to the general secretary to be audited before their publication in the official journal. (326.6)

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

220.5. To preserve and file the full official journal for each quadrennium. (207.4)

220.6. To forward sufficient copies of the printed journal of each district assembly to the Global Ministry Center for

distribution among the general officers of the Church of the Nazarene.

220.7. To present to the General Assembly, for the district assembly, the full official journal for the preceding quadrennium to be preserved and filed. (205.26, 207.3-207.4)

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

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

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

G. The District Treasurer

222. 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. (225.21)

222.1. 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. (211.8)

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

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

223.1. 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.

223.2. 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

224. The District Advisory Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and up to three assigned 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 assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members or the final major part of 2,500 members. (205.14)

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

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

224.3. The board shall elect from its membership a secretary, who shall carefully record all actions of the board and promptly transmit them to his or her successor.

224.4. The lay members of the District Advisory Board shall be ex-officio members of the district assembly, ex-officio members of the District SDMI Convention, ex-officio members of the District NMI Convention, and ex-officio members of the District NYI Convention. (201, 224)

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

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

225.2. To give information to and consult with the district superintendent respecting the ministers and local churches of the assembly district. (115.6, 519)

225.3. To appoint an investigating committee consisting of three or more assigned ordained ministers and not fewer than two laypersons in case an accusation is filed against a member of the clergy. (606-606.3)

225.4. To select a trial court when charges are made against a member of the clergy. (606.5-606.6)

225.5. To develop and annually review a written, comprehensive plan that is in harmony with *Manual* directives to guide its efforts in providing a timely, compassionate, and informed response to members of the clergy involved in conduct unbecoming a minister, to their families, and to any congregation involved. (538.20, 539-539.13)

225.6. 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. (206)

225.7. When a District Advisory Board incorporates, the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, or comparable legal documentation will provide that the corporation is governed by the provisions of the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*. They will include such provisions as shall be recommended by the general superintendent in jurisdiction to ensure that upon dissolution or attempt to leave the Church of the Nazarene, the assets of the corporation will not be diverted from the Church of the Nazarene. Once the district's incorporation has been approved by the Board of General Superintendents, upon recommendation of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the proposed Articles of Incorporation shall be sent to the General Secretary's office for review and filing and they shall include provisions similar to those in paragraph 102.4. (225.6)

225.8. In areas where the civil law does not permit such incorporation, 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, 225.6)

225.9. 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 paragraphs 102-102.5.

225.10. 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.

225.11. In order to encourage a healthy superintendency and the strong spiritual life of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction, should provide a sabbatical leave for the district superintendent during or after each seventh consecutive year of service to the district. During the sabbatical, the district superintendent's salary and benefits will continue in full. The district superintendent shall work with the District Advisory Board to develop a proposal for the sabbatical including duration, personal development plan, and a plan to care for essential duties during the sabbatical period.

225.12. 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)

225.13. To recommend the granting of an initial license, or renewal of a license for the licensed minister serving as pastor. (532.5)

225.14. 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). (151, 211.14, 517)

225.15. To approve Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) annually according to regionally established guidelines. Only Compassionate Ministry Centers that are approved by a district will qualify as "approved mission specials" for contribution purposes in keeping with paragraph 153.1.

225.16. To approve or disapprove a request from a local church board to nominate an ordained elder or a licensed minister (elder track) to be called as pastor when that person is also a member of that local church or serving as a paid or unpaid associate of that local church. This decision will be made in consultation with the district superintendent. (115, 129.2, 159.8, 211.10)

225.17. To approve or disapprove a request from a member of the clergy to regularly conduct independent church activities that are not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or carry on independent missions or unauthorized church activities, or be connected with the operating staff of an independent church or other religious group or denomination. Approval of any such request shall be required annually. (528, 538.13)

225.18. To elect or dismiss any paid assistants employed by the district. (245-245.1)

225.19. 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. (223.1)

225.20. 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, 206)

225.21. 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. (222)

225.22. 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. (219)

225.23. 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.

225.24. If required, pursuant to paragraph 205.25, to elect a District Auditing Committee to serve until the adjournment of the following district assembly. (205.25)

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

226. The District Advisory Board may issue a transfer of membership to a member of the clergy, a minister of Christian education, or a deaconess, 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 District Advisory Board transfer receptions upon favorable recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. (205.8-205.9, 231.9-231.10, 508, 511, 537-537.2)

226.1. The District Advisory Board may, upon request, issue a Certificate of Commendation to a member of the district assembly who wishes to unite with another denomination. (815)

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

228. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting a credential from another 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. (520, 532.2, 535)

I. The District Ministerial Credentials Board

229. The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall be composed of not fewer than five assigned ordained ministers, two of whom shall be the district superintendent and the district secretary, if ordained. A district secretary who is a layperson serves as a non-voting member of the board. Those elected 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. (205.15)

229.1. A vacancy occurring in the District Ministerial Credentials Board in the interim of the district assemblies may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (215)

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

230.1. 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. (216)

230.2. 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.

231. The **duties of the District Ministerial Credentials Board** are as follows:

231.1. 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.

231.2. To carefully examine and evaluate all persons desiring to receive a certificate for any of the 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*.

231.3. 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.

231.4. 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.

231.5. 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. (531.6)

231.6. 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 Roster of Ministers.

231.7. To investigate reports concerning an ordained minister indicating that he or she has placed his or her church mem-

bership 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 properly authorized permission, and make recommendation to the district assembly relative to his or her retention on the Roster of Ministers. (112, 538.13)

231.8. To recommend to the district assembly retired relationship for a minister requesting such relation who desires to discontinue active ministerial service because of age or disability. (205.27, 536)

231.9. To recommend to the district assembly, members of the clergy, and those licensed roles of ministry, for transfer to another district, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (205.9, 537-537.2)

231.10. To recommend to the district assembly, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those licensed roles of ministry for reception of transfer from other districts, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (205.8, 537-537.2)

J. The District Ministerial Studies Board

232. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be composed of five or more assigned 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. (205.16)

232.1. 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. (215)

233. 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:

233.1. The board shall elect from among its members a chairperson. They shall elect an assigned ordained minister as secretary, who with the other members shall have the re-

sponsibility of examining and advancing candidates through a validated course of study for ordination. They shall maintain a permanent record for all students. (233.5, 529.1-529.3)

233.2. 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.

233.3. 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.

233.4. 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*.

233.5. The other members of the board shall attend faithfully the meetings of the board and shall supervise all candidates by (1) encouragement, counsel, and guidance; and (2) training by example and by conversation concerning the ethics of being a member of the clergy with specific attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct. (233.1)

233.6. The board shall cooperate with the district superintendent and the Global 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.

234. 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.

234.1. 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. (233.1-233.2, 529.1-529.3)

234.2. The board shall carry out its responsibilities in conformity with the official *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

234.3. 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 Global Clergy Development through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC).

234.4. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be responsible for the promotion of lifelong learning for ordained ministers and other staff ministers on the district in cooperation with officially recognized Nazarene institutions for ministerial preparation and the Global Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC), and under the general guidance of the district superintendent. The lifelong learning shall include education concerning ethics of being a member 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

235. 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. (205.19)

235.1. 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

236. The District Church Properties Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and no fewer than two assigned ministers 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.

237. The **duties of the District Church Properties Board** are:

237.1. To advance the cause of constructing church-related buildings within the bounds of the assembly district, in cooperation with the District Advisory Board.

237.2. To verify and conserve the titles to local church property.

237.3. To consider propositions submitted by local churches relating to the purchase or sale of real estate or the erection of church buildings or parsonages, and to advise them concerning the propositions submitted. (103-104)

237.4. 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. (103-104)

237.5. To do whatever else the district assembly may direct regarding the matter of local church property.

M. The District Assembly Finance Committee

238. The **duties of the District Assembly Finance Committee** are:

238.1. 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. (32.5)

238.2. To do whatever else the district assembly may direct in areas of district finance. (205.21)

238.3. To publish in the district journal the method used and the percentages applied to determine the fund base for all accepted financial apportionments.

N. The District Advisory Committee

239. The District Advisory Committee (DAC) shall be composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District SDMI Board, the president of the district NMI, the president of the district NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. This committee shall meet as necessary and shall be chaired by the district superintendent or the general superintendent in jurisdiction or his/her designee. (209)

O. The District Chaplaincy Director

240. 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. (211.9)

P. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board

241. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board shall be composed of the district superintendent, the district Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president, the district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president, and the chairperson of the District SDMI 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 SDMI Convention to staggered terms of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Upon initial organization of the District SDMI 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 SDMI Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (215)

The **duties of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board** are:

241.1. 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board. Other district directors, as deemed necessary, may be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the board.

241.2. To give supervision to all Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) interests of the district.

241.3. 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.

NOTE: For additional information concerning the duties of Children's and Adult Ministries councils, see the SDMI Handbook.

241.4. 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 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.

241.5. To arrange for an annual district Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) convention. (241)

241.6. To determine, in consultation with the district superintendent, whether elections for the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board members and chairperson will be held in the district assembly or in the District SDMI Convention.

241.7. To encourage all local Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendents and

age-group ministries directors/Nazarene Youth International presidents to be present in the District SDMI Convention and take part as opportunity affords.

241.8. 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 and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) on the district.

241.9. To plan and implement district or zone Continuing Lay Training classes.

241.10. To assist the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) office of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. in securing information relating to district and local SDMI interests.

241.11. To recommend to the District Assembly Finance Committee the annual District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board budget.

241.12. 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.

241.13. To approve the report of its chairperson to be presented to the district assembly.

241.14. To meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the district superintendent or the chairperson of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board to plan and execute effectively the responsibilities of the board.

242. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Chairperson. The district assembly or the SDMI Convention shall elect a chairperson of the District SDMI Board to serve for a one- or two-year term, from two or more nominees submitted by the District Nominating Committee. An incumbent chairperson may be reelected by a favorable "yes" or "no" vote when such vote has been recommended by the District SDMI Board, and approved by the district superintendent. A vacancy in the interim of sessions of the district assembly may be filled according to the provisions of paragraph 215. (241.6)

The **duties and powers of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International chairperson** are:

242.1. To give responsible leadership to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) on the district by:

1. Promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance;
2. Coordinating all programs relating to Children's and Adult Ministries (CM, AM), and;
3. Working in cooperation with Nazarene Youth International (NYI) to coordinate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups.

242.2. To be an ex-officio member of the district assembly and the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board.

242.3. To prepare for the District SDMI Board a written report for the annual assembly journal.

Q. The District Nazarene Youth International

243. Nazarene youth ministry is organized on the district under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International (NYI), under the NYI 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.

243.1. The district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall organize itself according to the NYI District Ministry Plan (810.200-810.219), which may be adapted in response to district youth ministry needs (see 810.203), consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

R. The District Nazarene Missions International

244. The District Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be composed of the local NMI within the boundaries of the assembly district. The district NMI shall represent Global Nazarene Missions International in district ministries. (811)

244.1. The District Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be governed by the NMI Constitution approved by the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention and the Global Mission Committee of the General Board. It shall be subject to the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, the district assembly, and the district NMI Council. (811)

244.2. The president of the District Nazarene Missions International shall serve without salary and shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

S. District Paid Assistants

245. 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 District Advisory Board. (211.16)

245.1. 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. (225.16)

245.2. The duties and services of such district assistants are to be determined and supervised by the district superintendent.

245.3. Upon the resignation or termination of the district superintendent, the term of service of the paid assistants shall be considered concluded, unless otherwise stipulated by national labor law. 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. (209.3-209.4)

245.4. 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. A paid district assistant is not eligible to serve on the District Advisory Board.

T. Disorganization of a District

246. 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)

246.1. In case a district becomes officially disorganized, any church property that shall exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., for the use of the denomination 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 Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and turn the funds over to such agent. (106.2, 106.5, 225.6)

III. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A. General Assembly 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. (25-25.8)

300.1. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the general superintendents. (25.5, 307.3)

300.2. The General Assembly shall elect officers and organize for transaction of business. (25.6)

300.3. Rules of Order. Subject to applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, meetings and proceedings of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (34)

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 ordained ministerial delegates, remaining assigned ordained ministerial delegates and all lay delegates elected by district assemblies; general superintendents emeriti and retired; general superintendents; Global Nazarene Missions International president; Global Nazarene Youth International Council chair; The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. officers and directors who have global responsibility and report to the plenary of the General Board; one-half of the regional International Board of Education school presidents from each region will be voting members, and the other one-half will be non-voting members, with the number and selection process determined by the International Board of Education; and one General Board-commissioned missionary delegate per region elected by the General Board-commissioned missionaries

serving in that region. In the absence of such election the missionary representative shall be elected by the Global Mission Committee.

301.1. Each Phase 3 district shall be entitled to representation in the General Assembly by: two assigned ordained ministers and two laypersons for the first 6,000 or fewer full church members, and one additional assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for the next 4,000 full members, and for each successive additional 5,000 full members. "Assigned ordained minister" shall include elders and deacons. (See chart below.)

Number of Full Members	Number of Delegates
0-6,000	4 (2 lay, 2 ministerial)
6,001-10,000	6 (3 lay, 3 ministerial)
10,001-15,000	8 (4 lay, 4 ministerial)
15,001-20,000	10 (5 lay, 5 ministerial)
20,001-25,000	12 (6 lay, 6 ministerial)
25,001-30,000	14 (7 lay, 7 ministerial)
30,001-35,000	16 (8 lay, 8 ministerial)
35,001-40,000	18 (9 lay, 9 ministerial)

(For every 5,000 members above 40,000, 1 additional lay delegate and 1 additional ministerial delegate)

301.2. Each Phase 2 district shall be entitled to one assigned ordained minister and one layperson delegate to the General Assembly. The assigned 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 non-voting 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.

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 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 is ineligible to serve as a delegate 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 district prior to the convening of the General Assembly.

C. The Time and Place of General Assembly

302. The General Assembly shall meet in the month of June, every fourth year, at such time and place 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 Assembly Commission shall have power, in case of an emergency, to change the time and place of the meeting of the General Assembly.

302.1. The Board of General Superintendents in consultation with the Executive Committee of the General Board is authorized, when appropriate, to select a simultaneous site(s) for the General Assembly. Voting from such simultaneous sites will be recognized as official voting along with the votes of the delegates at the primary site.

302.2. The General Assembly shall open with devotional and inspirational services. Provision shall be made for transaction of business and other inspirational services. The General Assembly shall set the time of adjournment. (25.3)

D. Special Sessions of the General Assembly

303. The Board of General Superintendents, or a majority thereof, 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 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, delegates and alternates to the last preceding General Assembly, or their elected and qualified successors, shall serve as delegates and alternates to the special session.

E. General Assembly Arrangements Committee

304. The general secretary, 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, and enter into contracts regarding the General Assembly.

304.2. The General Assembly Arrangements Committee with the general superintendents shall formulate a program for the General Assembly, including emphases for each general interest; Communion service; and religious services; which 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 25.8 of the Church Constitution, shall be to:

305.1. Reference, through its Reference Committee, 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. Elect, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, six general superintendents who shall hold office until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified;

a. First, there shall be a "yes" or "no" ballot for the general superintendents presently serving.
b. Vacancies remaining after the ballot process is completed for all general superintendents presently serving 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. (25.4, 307.16, 900)

305.3. Elect a general superintendent to the emerita/emeritus honor when deemed advisable, provided the superintendent shall have become disabled or shall have been granted retired status. It is thereby understood that election to emerita/emeritus relation is of life tenure. (314.1)

305.4. Place in retired status a general superintendent who has requested such relationship, or who, in the judgment of the General Assembly, has become disqualified by physical disability, or by any other disqualification that would prevent such a person from caring adequately for the work of the general superintendency; and provided that superintendent has served in the office of general superintendent for at least one full term. Should a general superintendent 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. Set a suitable retirement pension for each retired general superintendent.

305.6. Elect a General Board, as provided in paragraphs 332.1-333.4, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (331, 901)

305.7. Elect a General Court of Appeals, consisting of five assigned 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. (25.7, 611, 902)

305.8. 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. (25.8)

G. The General Superintendents

306. The role of the general superintendents is to provide apostolic and visionary spiritual leadership by:

- articulating mission
- casting vision
- ordaining members of the clergy
- propagating theological coherency, and
- providing jurisdictional and general administrative oversight for the general church.

307. The **duties and powers of the general superintendents** are as follows:

307.1. Have general supervision of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to law and order as adopted by the General Assembly.

307.2. Serve as ex-officio members of the General Assembly. (301)

307.3. Preside over the General Assembly and over the meetings of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene. (300.1, 335.3)

307.4. Have discretionary power to ordain, or appoint others to ordain, those who have been properly elected to be elders or deacons. (320, 538.5-538.6)

307.5. Preside over each district assembly as scheduled by the Board of General Superintendents. A general superintendent may appoint an ordained elder to serve as chairperson. (202, 214)

307.6. The general superintendent presiding over a district assembly, the district superintendent, and District Advisory Board, in concurrence with delegates of local churches, shall appoint pastors of local churches that have not called pastors. (218.1)

307.7. The general superintendents may appoint district superintendents over assembly districts where vacancies occur in the interim of district assembly sessions, upon consultation with the District Advisory Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 208, all qualified elders are eligible for consideration, including those of that district. (209, 239)

307.8. 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. (209.2)

307.9. 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)

307.10. 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)

307.11. No general superintendent shall be a voting member of any board of the Church of the Nazarene, other than the Board of General Superintendents, unless provided for by the bylaws of said boards. (307.12)

307.12. A general superintendent shall hold no other general office in the church while serving as general superintendent. (307.11)

307.13. All official acts of the general superintendents shall be subject to review and revision by the General Assembly.

307.14. Any official act of a general superintendent may be nullified by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents.

307.15. 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 two-thirds vote of the General Board.

307.16. 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)

H. General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

314. All emeriti and retired general superintendents shall be ex-officio members of the General Assembly. (301)

314.1. A general superintendent who has been placed in retired status, or voted emerita/emeritus honor, shall not be a member of the Board of General Superintendents. 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. (305.3-305.5, 900.1)

I. The Board of General Superintendents

315. The general superintendents shall organize as a board and arrange for and assign to the members work over which they shall have special jurisdiction.

316. Vacancy. If a vacancy occurs 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 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, an elder of the Church of the Nazarene to fill the vacancy and to perform the duties of the general superintendent until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly, and until a successor is elected and qualified. (25.4, 305.2)

316.1. The general secretary shall report the result of the ballot to the Board of General Superintendents, which shall announce the ballot results.

317. The **duties of the Board of General Superintendents** shall be to:

317.1. Provide supervision, guidance, and motivation for the general church, with appropriate attention to leadership and theology for all districts, agencies, and ministries of the global Church of the Nazarene.

317.2. Recommend, in consultation with the director of Global Mission, and respective national administrative directors and/or regional directors, changes in assignment of geographical areas subject to approval of the General Board.

317.3. Have primary authority with regard to ecclesiastical policies and plans, and to advise the General Board, its committees, and all boards of the Church of the Nazarene on other matters. The Board of General Superintendents shall make recommendations they deem advisable to the General Board and to the committees. The Board of General Superintendents shall approve or disapprove all nominations made by the Global Mission Committee to the General Board for appointment as missionaries.

317.4. Serve together with the General Board Executive Committee as a Nominating Committee, to bring one or more names to the General Board for election of a general secretary and a general treasurer.

317.5. Declare vacant by a two-thirds vote the office of general secretary, general treasurer, or department director.

317.6. 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, 612, 902)

317.7. Fill vacancies that may occur in any special commission or committee in the interim of General Assemblies or General Board.

317.8. Appoint general superintendents to serve as advisers of institutions of higher education affiliated with the International Board of Education. (905)

317.9. Arrange, in conjunction with Global Clergy Development, ministerial studies for those serving in roles of ministry, lay or credentialed. (529-530)

317.10. Plan, preserve and promote the World Evangelism Fund which is the lifeline of global mission interests. The Board of General Superintendents and the General Board are authorized and empowered to establish funding goals and responsibilities for the World Evangelism Fund to local churches. (32.5, 130, 335.7)

317.11. Approve in writing the return of credential to a former elder or deacon as required. (539.11, 540.8, 540.12)

318. The Board of General Superintendents shall be the authority for interpretation of law and doctrine of the Church of the Nazarene, and meaning and force of provisions of the *Manual*, subject to an appeal to the General Assembly.

319. The Board of General Superintendents shall consider for approval plans for district centers. Plans shall not be carried out until they have been approved in writing by the Board of General Superintendents. (225.12)

320. The Board of General Superintendents shall have discretionary power in the ordaining of divorced persons. (307.4, 533.3, 534.3)

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 vote of the District Advisory Committee. (209.1, 239)

322. The Board of General Superintendents may approve that a Phase 3 district be declared in crisis. (200.2, 307.9)

323. Following each general assembly, the revised *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* is to be effective in all appropriate languages when the Board of General Superintendents announces the official release date.

324. The Board of General Superintendents shall have authority to do anything in the service of the Church of the Nazarene, not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the general church order, and subject to the Church Constitution.

J. The General Secretary

325. The general secretary, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a successor is elected and qualified, or until removed according to paragraph 317.5. (900.2)

325.1. The general secretary shall be a member ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

325.2. If in the interim of sessions of General Board a vacancy should occur in the office of the general secretary, it shall be filled by the General Board, upon nomination as provided in paragraph 317.4. (335.21)

325.3. The general secretary shall be amenable to the Board of General Superintendents and General Board.

326. The **duties of the general secretary** are to:

326.1. Serve as ex-officio secretary of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., the General Board, and the General Assembly and shall record and preserve the journal of their proceedings. (331.2)

326.2. Record and preserve general statistics of the Church of the Nazarene.

326.3. Preserve documents belonging to General Assembly, and deliver the documents to his or her successor.

326.4. Preserve all permanent records and decisions made by the General Court of Appeals. (614)

326.5. Catalogue and preserve filed, surrendered, removed, and resigned credentials of ministers and deliver them only on proper order made by the district from which they were received. (539-539.3, 539.8)

326.6. Audit district statistical charts. (220.3)

326.7. Maintain the records of persons who have been granted a district minister's license.

326.8. Make available minutes of the General Assembly sessions to the delegates.

326.9. Make available the latest version of the *Manual*.

326.10. Do faithfully whatever else may be necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of the office.

327. The general secretary shall hold in trust, legal documents belonging to the general church.

327.1. The general secretary is authorized to collect historic material relating to the rise and development of the denomination, and shall be the custodian of these records and materials.

327.2. The general secretary shall keep a register of Historic Sites and Landmarks according to paragraph 913.

328. The general secretary, in conjunction with the general superintendents, shall, prior to the opening of General Assembly, prepare necessary forms, including *Rules of Order "Manual" Abridgment* for revision, and other things for expediting the work of General Assembly. Expense incurred shall be provided for out of General Assembly expense fund.

328.1. The general secretary may have as many assistants as General Assembly shall elect, or, in the interim of sessions of General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents may appoint.

K. The General Treasurer

329. The general treasurer, elected by General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a suc-

cessor is elected and qualified or until removed according to paragraph 317.5. (900.3)

329.1. The general treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of General Assembly. (301)

329.2. The general treasurer shall be amenable to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the Global Ministry Center Financial office, Board of General Superintendents, and General Board.

330. The **duties of the general treasurer** are to:

330.1. Have custody of funds belonging to general interests of the Church of the Nazarene.

330.2. Receive, and disburse funds of the Global Administration and Finance Committee, Global Education and Clergy Development Committee, Global Mission Committee, and other funds belonging to the General Board, or to any of its departments; general superintendents' fund; general contingent fund; General Assembly expense fund; general benevolent church funds; funds of Global Nazarene Youth International; and funds of Global Nazarene Missions International. (331.3)

330.3. Give bond for performance of duties, in a reliable surety company, as the General Board may direct.

330.4. Furnish reports to boards and departments, for whose funds he or she may be custodian.

330.5. Furnish to the General Board an annual report of all finances of the Church of the Nazarene, including investments. (335.12)

330.6. Safeguard annuity funds invested in real estate by proper insurance policies and to provide against the lapsing of such policies.

L. The General Board

331. The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri, USA. The General Board shall be composed of members who shall be elected by ballot by the General Assembly from among the persons nominated as provided in paragraphs 332.1-333.5. 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, 334)

331.1. 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 Church of the Nazarene, Inc., or entities including educational institutions that receive financial subsidy from The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. Individuals from districts or other entities receiving operating funds from the general church are likewise ineligible.

331.2. The general secretary shall be ex-officio secretary of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and the General Board.

331.3. The general treasurer shall be ex-officio treasurer of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and the General Board and also of the departments of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. (330.2)

332. Nominations for the General Board shall be made as herein provided:

332.1. 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 assigned 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. (205.23)

332.2. 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 assigned ordained minister and one layperson; each

region exceeding 100,000 and up to 200,000 full members shall nominate two assigned ordained ministers, one district superintendent and one pastor or evangelist, and two laypersons; and one additional layperson and one additional assigned ordained minister for regions exceeding 200,000 full members, with the following provisions:

On those regions whose membership is in excess of 200,000 full members, one assigned ordained minister shall be a pastor or evangelist; another shall be a district superintendent; and the other assigned ordained minister may be in either category.

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 members of Nazarene Missions International {NMI} and Nazarene Youth International {NYI}). 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.

In each region the layperson(s), 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 assigned ordained minister who receive the next highest number of votes shall be the additional nominees.

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. (305.6, 901)

332.3. The International Board of Education (IBOE) shall nominate to the General Assembly four persons from the educational institutions, two assigned ordained ministers and two laypersons. The General Assembly will elect two representatives, one assigned ordained minister and one layperson for the General Board. (331.1)

332.4. The Global Council of the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall nominate to the General Assembly the newly elected Global NYI Council chair. In the event that the newly elected Global NYI Council chair cannot serve the General Board, the Global NYI Council will nominate one member from the Global NYI Council. (343.4)

332.5. The Global Council of the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall nominate to the General Assembly one member of the Global NMI Council. The General Assembly shall elect one representative for the General Board. (344.3)

332.6. The regional Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) coordinators and the Global SDMI director shall nominate one person to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall elect one representative for the General Board.

333. Elections to the General Board shall be as herein provided:

333.1. Each nominee presented by the respective regions shall be elected by the General Assembly by a majority "yes" vote by ballot.

333.2. From the nominees presented by the International Board of Education, the General Assembly shall elect two, one of whom shall be an assigned ordained minister and one a layperson.

333.3. From the nominee presented by the Global Council of the Nazarene Youth International, the General Assembly shall elect by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (343.4, 903)

333.4. From the nominee presented by the Global Council of the Nazarene Missions International, the General Assembly shall elect by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (344.3, 904)

333.5. From the nominee presented by the regional SDMI coordinators and the Global SDMI director, the General Assembly shall elect by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (332.6)

334. The members of the General Board shall hold office until 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, or if a minister becomes unassigned, or if a layperson requests and receives a district minister's license, his or her membership shall be terminated immediately. The vacancy so created shall be filled promptly. (331)

334.1. 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, the names of two eligible persons from whom for regional representation the District 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 Nazarene Youth International (NYI), nominees shall be submitted to the Global NYI Council to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from Nazarene Missions International (NMI), nominees shall be submitted from the Executive Committee of the Global NMI Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents to the Global NMI Council to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI), the nominees shall be submitted to the General Board to elect one by a majority vote. (332.3-332.6)

335. The duties of the General Board. The General Board shall serve as the board of directors of The Church of the

Nazarene, Inc., and shall have primary authority with regard to non-ecclesiastical policies and plans. 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 propagate Christian holiness in the Wesleyan tradition by making Christlike disciples in the nations, 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 committees of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., subject to instructions as may be given by the General Assembly. It shall coordinate, correlate, and unify plans and activities of the constituent committees so that a unified policy may be established by and in all activities of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. It shall have power to direct auditing of the accounts of all its departments and all entities legally related to The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and it shall direct the business and administrative affairs of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and its departments and of all entities legally related to The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. These departments and entities, shall give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the General Board.

335.1. The General Board shall have power to buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell, convey, and donate, or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of both real and personal property, sold, devised, bequeathed, donated, or otherwise conveyed to The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. in trust for any lawful purpose, and to execute such trust; to borrow and to loan money in the execution of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc.'s lawful purposes.

335.2. The General Board shall fill a vacancy in the Board of General Superintendents in accordance with paragraphs 316 and 305.2.

335.3. 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 shall preside over the meetings of the General Board.

335.4. Meetings. The General Board shall meet in session at least three times between General Assemblies, at a time and place specified by the bylaws of the said board or at the hour, date, and place unanimously adopted at any regular or special meeting in order to suit the best interests of the General Board and its committees.

335.5. Special Meetings of the General Board may be called by the Board of General Superintendents, president, or secretary.

335.6. World Evangelism Fund. Each local Church of the Nazarene is part of the global effort to "make Christlike disciples in the nations." The World Evangelism Fund shall be used by the denomination for the support, maintenance, and promotion of general mission and related activities. Annual budgets for the general church will be based on contribution projections, with input from departments and agencies of the general church, and considering financial statements of the general treasurer. From time to time, the General Board shall determine the amount to be allotted from the World Evangelism Fund to each department and fund. When such allotments have been agreed upon, they shall be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents for consideration, suggestions, or amendments before final adoption by the General Board.

335.7. The General Board and the Board of General Superintendents are authorized and empowered to establish funding goals and responsibilities for the World Evangelism Fund to local churches. (130, 317.10)

335.8. 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.

335.9. The General Board shall approve appropriations from the World Evangelism Fund for Nazarene Theological Seminary (USA) and Nazarene Bible College (USA) as it may deem advisable in line with the availability of funds.

335.10. The General Board shall annually review and make appropriate adjustments in salaries and related benefits of the general superintendents in the interim of General Assemblies.

335.11. Reports. The General Board shall, at its regular meeting, receive a detailed report of 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.

335.12. 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 Church of the Nazarene, Inc. The general treasurer shall be responsible to the General Board for the faithful performance of official duties. (330.5)

335.13. 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.

335.14. The General Board members representing the United States of America regions shall elect a Board of Pensions and Benefits USA, composed of one member representing each United States of America 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. (337)

335.15. The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House Board following each General Assembly, who shall

serve until adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified.

335.16. 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.

335.17. The General Board shall relate any commission or committee authorized by the General Assembly or General Board to some department(s), or to the board as a whole, and assign work, responsibility, and budget.

335.18. Department Directors. The General Board shall elect The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. department directors pursuant to the procedures set forth in the General Board Bylaws and the *General Board Policy Manual*, to serve until final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed from office. (317.5)

335.19. Department directors 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 respective committee, shall submit one or more names to the General Board for election as provided in the General Board Bylaws.

335.20. 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 and other officers as may be authorized and elected by the General Board.

335.21. 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 paragraph 317.4, shall fill any vacancy that may occur in offices listed in paragraphs 335.13 and 335.18, and any other executive offices created by General Assembly, General Board, or their elected committees.

336. The **retirement** for all officers and any director listed in paragraphs 335.13 and 335.18, and any agency head employed by The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. 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. Pension Plans

337. 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. (335.14)

337.1. The General Board shall establish and maintain suggested guidelines that are relevant to 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. (32.5)

337.2. All pension plans shall submit an annual report to the General Board through Pensions and Benefits International in the form and format requested. (32.5)

N. Subsidiaries of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

338. Subsidiary corporations of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc. will be organized and governed according to the following principles:

a. Sole Member
   i. The Sole Member of all subsidiaries incorporated in the United States of America must be "The Church of the Nazarene, Inc."
b. Board of Directors Membership
   i. Composition: Each organization shall determine the appropriate number of directors according to its needs and purpose. Minimum requirements are:
      1. One director of the Board of General Superintendents is an ex-officio member
      2. One denomination senior staff appointed by the Board of General Superintendents
   ii. All directors must be nominated by the Board of General Superintendents in consultation with the other directors of the Corporation.
   iii. All directors must be elected by the Board of General Superintendents acting on behalf of the Sole Member. They will hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.
   iv. Removal: Any one or more of the directors may be removed either with or without cause, at any time, by vote of the Board of General Superintendents acting on behalf of the Sole Member at any special meeting called for that purpose.
c. Officers and Executives: The number and titles of the officers shall be determined by each entity according to their bylaws.
d. Meetings of the Corporation:
   i. Meetings of the Sole Member will take place at a date and location set from time-to-time by the Sole Member (The Church of the Nazarene, Inc.).

ii. Meetings of the Directors will take place at the discretion of the Corporation.

e. Executives of the Corporation: Are selected and removed in accordance with the subsidiary's bylaws.

f. Fiscal Year: All subsidiaries shall adopt a fiscal year identical to the fiscal year of The Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

g. Dissolution: Upon dissolution of the Corporation, all its assets will be transferred to the Sole Member.

h. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

i. Subsidiaries may be established by a two-thirds vote of the General Board of the Sole Member. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are Subject to approval of the General Board of the Sole Member.

ii. Amendments are proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors of the Corporation and they are subject to the approval of the General Board of the Sole Member.

O. Nazarene Publishing House

339. The mission of Nazarene Publishing House is to publish or otherwise produce, merchandise, own, license, and manage content for the benefit of the Church of the Nazarene and other Christian markets consistent with the mission of the Church. In order to protect and manage the media assets utilized by the Church of the Nazarene and its affiliates, the Church of the Nazarene entrusts Nazarene Publishing House with these primary responsibilities.

P. The General Christian Action Committee

340. Following the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents shall appoint a **General Christian Action Committee,** one of whom shall be the general secretary, who shall report the committee's work to the General Board.

Duties of the General Christian Action Committee are to:

340.1. Provide and develop constructive information regarding matters such 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.

340.2. Emphasize the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the Christian home and to point out the problems and evils of divorce. In particular, the committee should emphasize the biblical plan of marriage as a lifelong covenant, to be broken only by death.

340.3. Encourage people to serve in places of leadership in organizations working for civic and social righteousness.

340.4. Alert people regarding the Lord's Day observance, oath-bound secret orders, entertainments that are subversive of the Christian ethic, and other types of worldliness. (29.1)

340.5. 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.

340.6. Monitor moral issues of national and international importance and present the scriptural viewpoint.

Q. Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist

341. 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 office 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. 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 office director, in consultation with the revivalism coordinator. (317.7, 510.3)

R. International Course of Study Advisory Committee

342. Following the General Assembly, the Global Clergy Development director, in consultation with 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 fewer than once every two years at a location determined by the Global Clergy Development director (529.1-529.2, 529.5).

S. The Global Nazarene Youth International

343. Nazarene youth ministry is organized globally under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International (NYI), under the NYI Charter, and the authority of the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI and General Board. The Global NYI shall be composed of 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.

343.1. There shall be a quadrennial Global Nazarene Youth International (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 members as are designated in the NYI Global Ministry Plan (810).

343.2. The convention shall elect a Global NYI Council chair. The Global NYI vice chair is elected by the Global NYI Council at its first meeting during or following General Assembly. The Global NYI Council chair and vice chair shall be members ex-officio of the Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council and shall serve without salary.

343.3. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council shall be composed of the chair, vice chair, and representation from each region as designated by the NYI Global Ministry Plan. The director of Nazarene Youth International shall serve ex-officio on the council. The council shall be responsible to the General Board through the Global Mission Committee, and 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 next General Assembly, when their successors are elected and qualified. (810)

343.4. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be represented on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene by the Global NYI Council chair elected by the General Assembly from the nomination made by the Global NYI Council. (332.4, 333.3)

343.5. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be represented at the General Assembly by the Global NYI Council chair at the close of his or her term (301).

T. The Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International

344. The Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be composed of the global president, global director, and the number of members prescribed and elected in accordance with the Constitution of the Global NMI.

344.1. The Global Council shall be governed by the NMI Constitution. The Global Council shall report to the Global Mission Committee of the General Board. (811)

344.2. Nomination and Election of Global NMI Director. The global NMI executive committee and the general superintendent in jurisdiction will form the search committee to identify potential candidates for the position of global NMI director. Up to two names of potential candidates will be submitted to the Global Mission Committee of the General Board.

The Global Mission Committee of the General Board with the general superintendent in jurisdiction will consider the names submitted to it and ratify up to two names for election by the Board of General Superintendents.

The Board of General Superintendents will elect the global NMI director by ballot from the names submitted to it by the Global Mission Committee of the General Board.

The global NMI director shall be an ex-officio member of the Global Nazarene Missions International (NMI) Council and a member of the staff of Global Mission.

344.3. The Global Nazarene Missions International shall be represented on the General Board by one member elected by the General Assembly from nominations made by the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International. (332.5, 333.4)

344.4. There shall be a Quadrennial Convention held under the direction of the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the regular meeting of the General Assembly. This convention shall elect the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International in harmony with the Constitution. The convention shall elect a global president, who shall be a member ex-officio of the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International. (811)

U. National Boards

345. Upon the recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents, a national board may be created when such an entity is necessary to facilitate the mission and strategy of the church in that nation. A national board shall have such author-

ity as shall be extended to it by the regional director and Phase 3 District Advisory Board(s) of the nation, if any, and in consultation with the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction for the region, and the districts of that nation, to act on behalf of the church in fulfillment of the regional strategy. It may, when deemed necessary by the regional director, in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the region, be the registered lawful authority of the Church of the Nazarene in that nation. When deemed no longer necessary for mission fulfillment or legal requirement, a national board may be dissolved by the Board of General Superintendents.

The membership and structure of each national board shall be in the manner approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

A copy of the articles of organization or incorporation of such board shall be filed immediately with the general secretary. These articles shall be kept current by filing any changes with the general secretary. Business transacted by the national board in regard to facilitation of mission and strategy of the Church shall be conducted in consultation with the regional director. The minutes of the annual and special meetings of the national board shall be examined by the Regional Advisory Council, before they are submitted to the general secretary for review and comment as appropriate by the General Board. (32.5)

V. The Region

346. 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.

346.1. Regional Policy. In keeping with the non-symmetrical approach to organization, the Board of General Superintendents may, 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 the Articles of Faith, faithful adherence to holiness doctrine and lifestyle, and support of extensive missionary outreach efforts.

346.2. Duties. The **principal duties of the regions** are to:

1. Implement the mission of the Church of the Nazarene through the pioneer areas, districts, and institutions;
2. Develop regional awareness, fellowship, and strategies to fulfill the Great Commission, bringing district and institutional representatives together periodically for planning, prayer, and inspiration;
3. Nominate persons to the General Assembly and Global Conventions for elections to the General Board;
4. In harmony with *Manual* provisions, to establish and maintain schools and colleges or other institutions;
5. Be authorized to recruit and screen missionary candidates from the region in accordance with policy (346.3);
6. Plan Regional Advisory Council meetings and conferences for the region;
7. Facilitate National Boards as stipulated in paragraphs 345 and 346.3.

346.3. 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, review and recommend approval or disapproval of national board minutes before forwarding to the office of the general secretary, interview missionary candidates for recommendation to the General Board for global appointment, and receive reports from the regional director, field strategy coordinators, and ministry coordinators.

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 Global Mission director and general superintendent in jurisdiction for approval. Ex-officio members will be the general superintendent in jurisdiction of the region, Global Mission director and regional director who will serve as chairperson. Personnel accountable to Global Mission 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. (32.5)

346.4. The Regional Director. A region may have a director elected by the Board of General Superintendents in consultation with the Global Mission 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 districts, churches, and institutions of the 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 Global Mission director and general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council. A positive review will constitute an endorsement for recommendation for reelection.

Each regional director is to be administratively accountable to Global Mission, and General Board, and in jurisdictional matters, accountable to the Board of General Superintendents.

346.5. The Field Strategy Coordinator. When considered necessary, the regional director could institute a field structure in the region, and recommend to the Global Mission director the appointment of field strategy coordinators according to the *Global Mission Policy and Procedure Manual*. The field strategy coordinator would be responsible to the regional director.

346.6. 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.

346.7. Duties of the **Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee (RCOSAC). The principal duties of** the **RCOSAC** are to:

1. Develop a regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* outlining the minimum educational standards for ordination on the region. The regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* must reflect minimum standards established in the *Manual* and elaborated in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination;*
2. Develop validation procedures for the ministerial educational programs of the region, verify that the programs meet the regional COSAC and ICOSAC minimum standards;
3. Collaborate with regional educational providers to interpret standards in ministerial education programs;
4. Review ministerial education program submissions for compliance with regional *Sourcebook and International Sourcebook* standards;
5. Endorse regional ministerial education programs to the International Course of Study Advisory Committee for adoption and approval.

PART V

Higher Education

CHURCH AND COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL NAZARENE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

I. CHURCH AND COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY

400. 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*.

400.1. 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.

400.2. 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.

II. GLOBAL NAZARENE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

401. There shall be a Global Nazarene Education Consortium 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, regional education coordinators, education commissioner, Global Mission director, and general superintendent in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education.

III. INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

402. The International Board of Education shall be the general church advocate for educational institutions in the Church of the Nazarene.

This board shall be composed of twelve members: eight elected by the General Board, plus these members ex-officio: two education representatives on the General Board, Global Mission director, Global Clergy Development director, and education commissioner. A Nominating Committee composed of the education commissioner, Global Mission director, two education representatives on the General Board, and general superintendents in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education and Global Mission shall present eight nominees approved by the Board of General Superintendents to the General Board for election.

In an effort to ensure broad representation throughout the church, the Nominating Committee shall submit nominees as follows: one regional education coordinator; three laypersons; two assigned ordained ministers from Global Mission regions where no person who is an education coordinator has been nominated; two "at large" nominees. No Global 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 to:

402.1. Ensure that institutions are under 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*.

402.2. Ensure 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.

402.3. Receive such funds as may be contributed 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.

402.4. 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) current annual fiscal budget.

402.5. Recommend and provide support and advocacy, although its role is advisory to the institutions, to the Board of General Superintendents and to the General Board.

402.6. Serve the church in matters pertaining to Nazarene educational institutions in order to strengthen the bonds between the institutions and the church at large.

402.7. Submit its business and recommendations to the appropriate committee of the General Board.

403. 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 VI

Ministry and Christian Service

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER

CATEGORIES OF MINISTRY

ROLES OF MINISTRY

EDUCATION OF CLERGY

CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL REGULATIONS

I. CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER

NOTE: The *Manual* Editing Committee, in recognition of the validity of the opening words of paragraph 500, 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.

500. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes all believers are called to minister to all people.

We also affirm Christ calls some men and women to a specific and public ministry even as He chose and ordained His 12 apostles. When the church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, recognizes such a divine call, the church endorses and assists the individual's entry into a lifetime of ministry.

501. Theology of Women in Ministry. The Church of the Nazarene supports the right of women to use their God-given spiritual gifts within the church and affirms the historic right of women to be elected and appointed to places of leadership within the Church of the Nazarene, including the offices of both elder and deacon.

The purpose of Christ's redemptive work is to set God's creation free from the curse of the Fall. Those who are "in Christ" are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). In this redemptive community, no human being is to be regarded as inferior on the basis of social status, race, or gender (Galatians 3:26-28). Acknowledging the apparent paradox created by Paul's instruction to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:11-12) and to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 14:33-34), we believe interpreting these passages as limiting the role of women in ministry presents serious conflicts with specific passages of scripture that commend female participation in spiritual leadership roles (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9; Romans 16:1, 3, 7; Philippians 4:2-3), and violates the spirit and practice of the Wesleyan-holiness tradition. Finally, it is incompatible with the character of God presented throughout Scripture, especially as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

502. 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 and gifts certain men and women for ministerial leadership in the 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 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 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)

502.1. The Church of the Nazarene depends largely upon the spiritual qualifications, character, and manner of life of its ministers. (538.17)

502.2. 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 or infilling of the Holy Spirit. The minister must have a deep love for unbelievers, believing they are perishing, and a call to proclaim salvation.

502.3. The minister is to be an example to the church: punctual, discreet, diligent, earnest, in purity, understanding, patience, kindness, love, and truth by the power of God (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

502.4. 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.

502.5. The minister should respond to opportunities to mentor future ministers and to nurture the call to ministry.

502.6. The minister must have gifts and graces, for the ministry. 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 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.

II. CATEGORIES OF MINISTRY

A. Ministry of Laypersons

503. All Christians should consider themselves ministers of Christ and seek to know the will of God concerning their appropriate avenues of service. (500)

503.1. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes a ministry of laypersons. It also recognizes that the layperson may serve the church in various capacities. (Ephesians 4:11–12) The church recognizes the following roles of service in which a district assembly may place a layperson: pastor, evangelist, missionary, teacher, administrator, chaplain, and special service. Lay training is normally required, or greatly desired, to fulfill these categories. (605.3)

503.2. Lay Minister. 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.

503.3. The local church board, upon the recommendation of the pastor, shall initially examine and approve the lay minister as to personal experience of salvation, effective involvement in church ministries, and knowledge of the work of the church.

503.4. The local church board may issue to each lay minister candidate a certificate signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board.

503.5. 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.

503.6. For a lay minister serving under district assignment as church planter, supply pastor, bivocational pastor, and/or other specialized ministry, upon completion of a validated 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.

503.7. 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.

503.8. 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 through the Continuing Lay Training office.

503.9. 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

504. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes only one order of the preaching ministry, that of elder. It also recognizes that the member of the clergy may serve the church in vari-

ous capacities. (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. Ministerial training and ordination are normally required, or greatly desired, to fulfill these categories as an "assigned minister." 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.

504.1. All persons assigned to a particular role shall file a report annually to the assigning district assembly.

504.2. 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.

504.3. All persons assigned to a particular role of ministry, when placed on disability by approved medical authority, may be listed as "assigned disabled."

III. ROLES OF MINISTRY

505. The roles of ministry are as follows:

506. Administrator. The administrator is an elder or a deacon either elected by the General Assembly as a general official; or a member of the clergy elected or employed to serve in the general church. An administrator may also be an elder elected by the district assembly as district superintendent; or a member of the clergy elected or employed as his or her primary assignment in the service of a district. Such person is an assigned minister.

507. Chaplain. The chaplain is an ordained minister who feels divinely led to specialized ministry in military, institutional, or industrial chaplaincy. All ministers seeking to serve in chaplaincy must be approved by their district superintendent. An ordained minister serving in chaplaincy as his or her

primary assignment 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 fellowship 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. (519, 538.9, 538.13)

508. Deaconess. 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. (113.9, 503.2-503.9)

509. Educator. The educator is an elder, deacon, or licensed minister 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.

510. Evangelist. 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 ministers: 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 as-

signment and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister.

510.1. 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.

510.2. 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.

510.3. 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 or District Board of Ministry 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. (231.2, 536)

510.4. A regular self-assessment and review similar to the church/pastoral relationship 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. (211.21)

510.5. 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.

510.6. An elder or licensed minister desiring to enter the field of evangelism between district assemblies may be recognized by the general office of Global 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.

510.7. Guidelines and procedures for certification of evangelists' roles will be contained in the *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

511. Minister of Christian Education. 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.

511.1. 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.

512. Minister of Music. 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 ministry;
4. has had not fewer 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; and
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. (205.10)

512.1. Only such persons who maintain this ministry as their primary assignment and vocation and have ministerial credentials shall be considered assigned ministers.

513. Missionary. The missionary is a member of the clergy or a layperson who ministers under the supervision of Global Mission. A missionary with an appointment and having a ministerial credential shall be considered an assigned minister.

514. Pastor. A pastor is an ordained elder or licensed minister (elder track) who, under the call of God and His people, has the oversight of a local church. A pastor of a local church is an assigned minister. (115, 213, 533.4)

515. The **core duties of a pastor** are to:

515.1. Pray.

515.2. Preach the Word.

515.3. Equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

515.4. Administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. The Lord's Supper should be administered at least once a quarter. Pastors are encouraged to move toward a more frequent celebration of this means of grace. A district licensed minister who has not complied fully with the provisions of paragraph 532.7 shall arrange for the administration of the sacrament by an ordained minister. A local licensed minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism or the Lord's Supper. Consideration should be given for extending the Lord's Supper to homebound persons, under supervision of the pastor. (531.7, 700)

515.5. Care for the people by pastoral visitation, particularly the sick and needy.

515.6. Comfort those who mourn.

515.7. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.

515.8. Seek the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of the converted, and the building of God's people in holiness. (19)

515.9. Give due care to matters relating to solemnizing marriages. Pastors shall convey the sacredness of Christian marriage through careful attention to their own marital state, through all forms of communication, through ministering to others, and through premarital counseling and solemnizing the marriage ceremony. (538.19)

515.10. Nurture the call people feel toward Christian ministry and mentor such persons, guiding them toward appropriate preparation for ministry.

515.11. Fulfill the expectations of God and the Church for a program of lifelong learning. (538.18)

515.12. Nurture his or her own call through the years of ministry, maintain a life of personal devotion that enriches his or her own soul, and, if married, guard the integrity and vitality of that marriage relationship.

516. The **administrative duties of a pastor** are to:

516.1. Receive persons as members of the local church according to paragraphs 107 and 107.1.

516.2. Shepherd all departments of local church work.

516.3. Appoint the teachers of the Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups in harmony with paragraph 145.8.

516.4. Read to the congregation the Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene and the Covenant of Christian Conduct contained in paragraphs 1-21, 28-33, both inclusive, within each year, or have this section of the *Manual* printed and distributed annually to the members of the church. (114)

516.5. 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)

516.6. 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.

516.7. Submit a report to the annual church meeting, including a report on the status of the local church and its departments, and outline areas of future needs for study and/or implementation.

516.8. Appoint an investigating committee of three church members in case of accusation filed against a church member. (605)

516.9. See that all World Evangelism Fund moneys raised through the local NMI are remitted promptly to the general treasurer; and that all moneys for District Ministry Funds are remitted promptly to the district treasurer. (136.2)

516.10. Nominate to the church board all paid employees of the local church, and to supervise the same. (159.1-159.3)

516.11. 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, 103-104.3)

516.12. 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.

516.13. Arrange and raise, together with the church board, funds for all denominational goals assigned to the local church, including the World Evangelism Fund, any applicable District Ministry Funds, and any funding goals established by regional or national boards. (32.2, 130, 153)

516.14. The pastor may, when requested by a member, grant a transfer of church membership, a Certificate of Commendation, or a letter of release. (111-111.1, 112.2, 815-818)

516.15. 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, 151, 152.1)

517. 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.

518. The pastor and members of his or her immediate family are prohibited from creating financial obligations, spending funds, counting moneys, or having unrestricted access to financial accounts of the church. The church board or church meeting may, by majority vote, request an exception from the District Advisory Board and district superintendent. If the district superintendent and a majority of the District Advisory Board approve the exception, the district superintendent will provide written approval of the request to the church board secretary, who will record the action in the church records. Immediate family shall include spouse, children, siblings, or parents. (129.1, 129.21-129.22)

519. The pastor shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (225.2, 538.2)

520. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting a credential 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, 228)

521. 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. (205.3, 532.8, 538.9)

522. 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. (538.8)

523. 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.

524. Supply Pastor. 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.

525. Parent-Affiliated Congregation (PAC) Pastor. An elder or district licensed minister leading a Parent-Affiliated Congregation shall be an assigned minister and may be designated by the district as a "PAC pastor."

526. Interim Pastor. An elder may be approved by the district assembly as district interim assigned (DIA) by the recommendation of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and will serve when called upon by the district superintendent and a local church board. (212.1)

527. Song Evangelist. A song evangelist is a member of the Church of the Nazarene whose intention is to devote the ma-

jor 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.

527.1. Guidelines and procedures for certification of song evangelists' roles are contained in the *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

528. Special Service. 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. Persons designated special service are required to maintain relationship with the Church of the Nazarene and will submit annually in writing to the District Advisory Board and District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, the nature of their ongoing connection with the Church of the Nazarene.

528.1. A member of the clergy 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 Advisory Board and 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 paragraph 538.13.

528.2. A member of the clergy between assignments for a short period of time or on leave of absence may be appointed to special service by the District Advisory Board, upon recommendation by the district superintendent.

IV. EDUCATION OF CLERGY

A. Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry

529. 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 "to make Christ-like disciples in the nations" based on Christ's commission to His Church in Matthew 28:19-20. 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.

529.1. The Church of the Nazarene provides a variety of educational institutions and programs around the world. The resources of some global areas allow more than one program to be developed to provide the educational foundations for ministry. Each student is expected to take advantage of the most appropriate validated course of study provided by the Church in his or her area of the world. When not possible, the Church will utilize as much flexibility in delivery systems as feasible to prepare every person called by God to ministry in the Church. Students may use a validated course of study, directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board, or one developed and delivered by a Nazarene higher education institution. Each expression of the validated course of study should cover the same general standards as outlined in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination* and the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*.

529.2. When a licensed minister satisfactorily completes a validated course of study, the education provider shall issue a certificate of completion to the licensed minister. The licensed minister shall present the certificate of completion to the District Ministerial Studies Board responsible for considering recommendation to the district assembly for graduation from a validated course of study.

529.3. 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 curricu-

lum. 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 Global 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 make Christlike disciples in the nations."

"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'" (19).

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.

529.4. 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.

529.5. 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 Global Clergy Development. This regional *Sourcebook* with necessary revisions shall be endorsed by the International Course of Study Advisory Committee and approved by Global 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 Global Clergy Development with the International Course of Study Advisory Committee. The Interna-

tional Course of Study Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents.

529.6. 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 hours of lifelong learning each year 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 relationship 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.

529.7. Failure to complete the lifelong learning requirements for more than two consecutive years shall result in the ordained minister being required to meet with the District Ministerial Studies Board at its regular meeting time. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall give guidance to the minister in completing the lifelong learning required. (115, 123, 515.11, 538.18)

B. Cultural Adaptations of Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry

530. The variety of cultural contexts around the world makes one curriculum unsuited for all global areas. Each region of the world will develop specific curricular requirements, providing the educational foundations for ministry in a way that reflects the resources and the expectations of that global area. Approval of the International Course of Study Advisory Committee, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents will be required before implementing a regionally designed program. Even within global 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 Global Clergy Development and the International Course of Study Advisory Committee in consultation with the regional educational coordinator. (529.5)

530.1. 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*.

530.2. All validated courses of study will be governed by the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. (529.2-529.3, 529.5)

V. CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL REGULATIONS

A. The Local Minister

531. 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.

531.1. 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 ordained minister as pastor, upon the pastor's recommendation; or by the church board of a local church not having an ordained minister 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. He or she shall undergo an appropriate background check administered by the local church. A local minister shall make a report to the local church at its annual church meetings. (113.9, 129.12, 211.12)

531.2. 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. (211.12, 225.13)

531.3. The license of a local minister may be renewed by a local church board having an elder as pastor, upon the recommendation of the pastor; or renewed by a local church board 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, 211.12)

531.4. 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.

531.5. 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, 529, 532.1)

531.6. A local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor must be approved by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry if he or she continues this service after the district assembly following the appointment. (212, 231.5, 524)

531.7. A local minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and shall not officiate at marriages. (532.7)

B. The Licensed Minister

532. 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. The district license authorizes and appoints the minister 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. (532.7)

532.1. When members of the Church of the Nazarene 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, and can demonstrate appreciation, comprehension, and application of the *Manual* and history of the Church of the Nazarene, and of the doctrine of holiness, by successfully completing the related portions of a validated course of study;
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 a District 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;

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; and
8. in case of a previous divorce, the recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry along with supporting documents will be given to the Board of General Superintendents, which may remove this as a barrier to pursuing a license.

The minister must have completed the equivalent of one-fourth of a validated course of study in the Church of the Nazarene. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry 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.

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 or District Board of Ministry as automatically excluding the applicant from credentialed ministry, except under the provisions of paragraph 540.9. (129.14, 207.6, 531.5)

532.2. Licensed ministers from other 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 one-fourth of a validated course of study in the Church of the Nazarene for local ministers and can demonstrate appreciation, comprehension, and application of the *Manual* and history of the Church of the Nazarene, and of the doctrine of holiness, by successfully completing the related portions of a validated course of study;
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;
5. have promised to pursue immediately a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination;
6. have had any disqualification, which may have been imposed by a district assembly or its equivalent, removed by an explanation in writing by the district superintendent or his or her equivalent and the District Advisory Board or its equivalent of the district where the disqualification was imposed; and provided further that their marriage relationship does not render them ineligible for a district license; and
7. in case of a previous divorce, the recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry along with supporting documents will be given to the Board of General Superintendents, which may remove this as a barrier to pursuing a license. (532.1)

532.3. 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 a District Minister's License carefully filled in; and

2. that the candidate shall have completed at least two courses in a validated course of study; and
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 or District Board of Ministry 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 a District Minister's License. (205.4)

532.4. 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, 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 District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. Such recommendation shall be contingent upon the minister having graduated from a validated course of study or having completed at least two courses in a validated course of study during the past year.

532.5. 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. In the case of local ministers who are serving as pastors, the recommendation for the granting of minister's license shall be made by the District Advisory Board. (225.13)

532.6. 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.

532.7. Licensed ministers shall be vested with authority to preach the Word and/or to use their gifts and graces in various ministries to the Body of Christ. In addition, provided they serve in an assigned ministry recognized by the district on which they hold their ministerial membership, licensed ministers 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. (511-512, 515, 515.4, 523, 532.8, 533-533.2, 534-534.2, 700, 701, 705)

532.8. 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. Reports may be submitted on the appropriate annual report form or the Application for a District Minister's License if renewing. (201, 205.3, 521)

532.9. If a licensed minister unites with a church or denomination other than the Church of the Nazarene or engages in other Christian ministry without the approval of his or her District Advisory Board or without the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents, he or she shall be expelled immediately from the ministry and membership of the Church of the Nazarene. In its minutes, the district assembly will record the following statement: "Expelled from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry." (107, 112)

C. The Deacon

533. A deacon is a minister whose call of God to Christian ministry, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, who has been separated to the service of Christ by a vote of a district assembly and by the solemn act of ordination, and who has been invested to perform certain functions of Christian ministry.

533.1. The deacon does not witness to a specific call to preach. The church recognizes, on the basis of Scripture and experience, that God calls individuals to lifetime ministry who do not witness to such a specific call, and believes that individuals so called to such ministries should be recognized and confirmed by the church and should meet requirements, and be granted responsibilities, established by the church. This is a permanent order of ministry.

533.2. The deacon must meet the requirements of the order for education, exhibit the appropriate gifts and graces, and be recognized and confirmed by the church. The deacon shall be vested with the authority to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to officiate at marriages where the laws of the state do not prohibit, and on occasion to conduct worship and to preach. It is understood that the Lord and the church may use this person's gifts and graces in various associate ministries. As a symbol of the servant ministry of the Body of Christ, the deacon may also use his or her gifts in roles outside the institutional church. (515.4, 515.9)

533.3. A deacon candidate professes a call of God to this ministry. The candidate currently holds a district license, and has at one time held a license for not fewer than three consecutive years. In addition, the candidate has been recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board. Further the candidate:

1. has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same,

2. has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as deacon, and
3. has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry to the district assembly.

The candidate may be elected to the order of deacon by two-thirds vote of the district assembly; provided he or she has been an assigned minister not fewer than three consecutive years; and provided further that the candidate must currently be serving in an assigned ministry. In the case of part-time assignment, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry, and that their testimony and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly has been removed in writing by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board of said district; and provided further that his or her marriage relationship does not render him or her ineligible for ordination. (205.6, 320, 529)

533.4. If in the pursuance of his or her ministry, the ordained deacon feels called to the preaching ministry, he or she may be ordained elder upon completion of the requirements for that credential and the return of the deacon credential.

D. The Elder

534. An elder is a minister whose call of God to preach, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ through His church by the vote of a district assembly and by the solemn act of ordination, and thus has been fully invested to perform all functions of the Christian ministry.

534.1. We recognize but one order of preaching ministry—that of elder. This is a permanent order in the church. The elder is to rule well in the church, to preach the Word, to ad-

minister the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to solemnize matrimony, all in the name of, and in subjection to, Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church. (31, 514-515.3, 515.4, 515.9, 538.15)

534.2. The church expects that one called to this official ministry should be a steward of the Word and give full energy through a lifetime to its proclamation.

534.3. An elder candidate professes a call of God to this ministry. The candidate currently holds a district license, and has at one time held a license for not fewer than three consecutive years. In addition, the candidate has been recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board. Further the candidate:

1. has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same,
2. has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as elder, and
3. has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry of the district assembly.

The candidate may be elected to the order of elder by two-thirds vote of the district assembly. To be eligible for election, the candidate must have been an assigned minister for not fewer than three consecutive years, and the candidate must currently be serving in an assigned ministry. In the case of part-time assignment, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry, and that their testimony and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly must be removed in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed before the minister is eligible for election to elder's orders. In addition, the candidate's marriage

relationship must be such as not to render him or her ineligible for ordination. (205.6, 320, 529)

E. The Recognition of Credentials

535. Ordained ministers from other denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene and presenting their ordination papers, may have their ordination recognized by the district assembly, after satisfactory examination by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry as to their conduct, personal experience and doctrine, provided that:

1. they demonstrate appreciation, comprehension and application of the *Manual* and history of the Church of the Nazarene and of the doctrine of holiness by successfully completing the related portions of a validated course of study;
2. they file with the district assembly the Ordination/Recognition Questionnaire, carefully filled in; and
3. they meet all requirements for ordination as outlined in paragraphs 533-533.3 or 534-534.3; and
4. provided further that the candidate must currently be serving in a ministry assignment. (205.7, 228, 529, 532.2)

535.1. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to the ordained minister a recognition of ordination certificate, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary. (538.6)

535.2. When the credential of a minister from another church has been recognized, the credential issued by said church shall be returned to him or her inscribed in writing or stamped on the reverse side of the credential as follows:

Accredited by the _____ District Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene this day of _____, _____, (year) as the basis of the new credentials.

_____, General Superintendent
_____, District Superintendent
_____, District Secretary

F. The Retired Minister

536. A retired minister is one who has been placed in the retired relation by the district assembly in which he or she holds ministerial membership, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry. Any change in status must be approved by the district assembly, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry.

536.1. Retirement shall not compel cessation from ministerial labors or in itself deprive of membership in the district assembly. A minister who was serving in an "assigned" role at the time of requesting retired relation or at the age for normal retirement may be placed in a "retired assigned" relation. A "retired assigned" minister is a member of the district assembly. However, a minister in an "unassigned" status in either of the above situations will be placed in a "retired unassigned" relation. A "retired unassigned" minister is not a member of the district assembly. (201, 538.9)

536.2. Retired ministers (assigned or unassigned) remain obligated to report annually to the district assembly. In the case of retired ministers who are unable to report due to limitations beyond their control, the district assembly may, upon recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, grant "exempt" status to such a minister, thus perpetually fulfilling the obligation of annual reporting. (538.9)

G. The Transfer of Ministers

537. When a member of the clergy desires to transfer to another district, transfer of ministerial membership may be issued by vote of the district assembly, or by the District Advisory Board in the interim of assemblies, in which his or her ministerial membership is held. Such transfer may be received by the District Advisory Board in the interim before the district assembly meets, granting to said minister full rights and privileges of membership on the district on which

it is received, subject to final approval of the Ministerial Credentials Board and the district assembly. (205.8-205.9, 226, 231.9-231.10)

537.1. The transfer of a licensed minister shall be valid only when a detailed record of the licensee's grades in a validated course of study for licensed ministers, properly certified by the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the issuing district assembly, has been sent to the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the receiving district. The secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the receiving district shall notify his or her district secretary that the licensee's record of grades has been received. The minister being transferred shall actively pursue the matter of the reporting of his or her grades in a validated course of study to the receiving district. (233.1-233.2)

537.2. The district assembly receiving a transfer shall notify the district assembly issuing said transfer of the reception of the transferred person's membership. Until the transfer is received by vote of the district assembly to which addressed, the person thus transferred shall be a member of the issuing district assembly. Such transfer is valid only until the close of the next session following the date of issue of the district assembly to which addressed. (205.8, 226, 231.10)

H. General Regulations

538. The following **definitions** are of terms relating to general regulations for ministers of the Church of the Nazarene:

Members of the Clergy—Elders, deacons and licensed ministers. (530, 531, 532)

Laity—Members of the Church of the Nazarene who are not members of the clergy.

Active—A member of the clergy fulfilling an assigned role.

Assigned—The status of a member of the clergy who is active in one of the roles listed in paragraphs 505-528.

Unassigned—The status of a member of the clergy who is in good standing but not presently active in one of the roles listed in paragraphs 505-528.

Retired Assigned—The status of a retired member of the clergy who was assigned at the time retirement was requested.

Retired Unassigned—The status of a retired member of the clergy who was not assigned at the time retirement was requested.

Roster of Ministers—A district's roll of ministers, licensed and ordained, who are in good standing as members of the clergy and who have not filed their credential.

Good Standing—The status of a member of the clergy who has no unresolved accusations pending and who is not currently under discipline.

Removed—The action taken by a district assembly to exclude from the Roster of Ministers the names of those members of the clergy who have filed, resigned, or surrendered their credential or have had their credential suspended or revoked.

Disciplined—The status of a member of the clergy who has been relieved, in whole or in part, of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy by disciplinary action.

Suspension—A range of disciplinary actions, excluding surrender of credential, by which a minister is temporarily relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy until the conditions for reinstatement are met.

Expelled—The status of a member of the clergy whose credential has been revoked and who has been removed from membership in the Church of the Nazarene.

Filed Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy in good standing who, because of inactivity in the ministry, has given up the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy by filing his or her credential with the general secretary. A person who has filed his or her credential remains a member of the clergy and may have the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy reinstated in accordance with paragraph 539.10. (539, 539.1)

Surrendered Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy who, because of misconduct, accusations, confessions, result of action by a board of discipline, or voluntary action for any reason other than inactivity in the ministry has been relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy. The person whose credential is surrendered is a member of the clergy under discipline. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy may be reinstated to this individual upon restoration to good standing and return of credential.

Resigned Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy who gives up the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy to become a lay member of the church. A member of the clergy who is not in good standing may resign his or her credential only upon approval of the District Advisory Board. (539.1, 539.5)

Revoked Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy who has been expelled from the ministry and membership of the Church of the Nazarene. The name of the minister whose credential has been revoked shall be removed from the Roster of Ministers.

Return of Credential—The action accompanying the reinstatement of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy to a minister whose credential has been filed, suspended, surrendered, resigned, or revoked.

Recovery—The process of assisting a minister relieved, voluntarily or otherwise, of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, and his or her spouse and family in the recovery of health and wholeness. Efforts toward recovery are to be undertaken independently of the process to determine whether a return of credential to the minister is appropriate and advisable.

Reinstatement—The granting of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy to a minister whose credential was filed, suspended, surrendered, resigned, or revoked, on condition of restoration to good standing and all required approvals.

Accusation—A written document signed by at least two members of the Church of the Nazarene accusing a member of the Church of the Nazarene of conduct which if proven would cause the member to be subject to discipline under the terms of the *Manual*.

Knowledge—The awareness of facts learned by the exercise of one's own senses.

Information—Facts learned from others.

Belief—A conclusion reached in good faith based upon knowledge and information.

Investigating Committee—A committee appointed in accordance with the *Manual* to gather information with regard to alleged or suspected misconduct.

Charges—A written document describing specifically the conduct of a member of the Church of the Nazarene which if proven would be the basis of discipline under the terms of the *Manual*.

538.1. A member of the clergy shall be subject to discipline if regularly conducting independent church activities with another religious group without the written approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership, and the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents. (538.13, 606.1)

538.2. A member of the clergy shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (519)

538.3. Any claim to participation by a member of the clergy, and/or his or her dependents in any plan or fund that the church may have now or hereafter for the assistance or support of its disabled or aged ministers shall be based only upon regular, active service rendered by the minister as an assigned pastor or evangelist or other recognized role, under the sanction of the district assembly. This rule shall exclude from such participation all those in part-time and occasional service.

538.4. A licensed minister actively assigned as pastor or associate pastor of a Church of the Nazarene shall be a voting member of the district assembly. (201)

538.5. The candidate elected to the order of elder or order of deacon shall be ordained by the laying on of the hands of the general superintendent and ordained ministers with appropriate religious exercises, under the direction of the presiding general superintendent. (307.4)

538.6. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to the person ordained a certificate of ordination, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, district superintendent, and district secretary. (535.1)

538.7. In case the ordination certificate of an elder or deacon has been misplaced, mutilated, or destroyed, a duplicate certificate may be issued upon the recommendation of the District Advisory Board. Such recommendation shall be made directly to the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and upon the authority of that approval, the general secretary shall issue a duplicate certificate. On the back of the certificate, the original number should be identified along with the word DUPLICATE. If the general superintendent, district superintendent, or the district secretary signing the original certificate is not available, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, district superintendent, and district secretary of the district requesting the duplicate certificate shall sign the certificate. On the reverse side thereof shall be the following statement inscribed in writing or printing, or both writing and printing, and signed by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, district superintendent, and district secretary.

This certificate is given to replace the original certificate of ordination given to (name) on the _____ day of (month), (year), A.D. by the (ordaining organization), at which date (he or she) was ordained and (his or her) original ordination certificate signed by (General Superintendent), (District Superintendent), and (District Secretary).

The original certificate was (misplaced, mutilated, destroyed).

_____, General Superintendent
_____, District Superintendent
_____, District Secretary

538.8. All members of the clergy (assigned and unassigned) shall be active members in a local Church of the Nazarene where they will be faithful in attendance, in tithe, and in participation in the ministries of the church. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted only by approval of the District Advisory Board. Any member of the clergy who does not hold membership in a local Church of the Nazarene on the district where his or her credential is held and who has not been granted an exception is subject to discipline by action of the District Advisory Board. (522, 538.10)

538.9. All elders and deacons shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, to which body they shall report annually. Any elder or deacon who for two consecutive years does not report to his or her district assembly either in person or by letter shall, if the district assembly so elect, cease to be a member thereof. (201, 205.3, 521, 536.1)

538.10. Any member of the clergy uniting with a church or denomination other than the Church of the Nazarene, or other Christian ministry, will cease membership in the Church of the Nazarene unless he or she obtains approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership. The district assembly shall cause to be entered into its minute record the following statement: "Expelled from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry." (107, 112)

538.11. Any member of the clergy who withdraws or is expelled from local church membership when he or she is not in good standing may reunite with the Church of the Nazarene only with the consent of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district from which he or she withdrew or was expelled from membership. The District Advisory Board may grant its consent on condition that the former minister shall subsequently remain a lay member of the church or, with the approval of the district superintendent and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, that the former minister be readmit-

ted as a member of the clergy under discipline having affirmed his or her willingness to participate actively and consistently in a recovery process. (539.6)

538.12. An elder or deacon whose name has been removed from a district assembly Roster of Ministers and who has not filed his or her credential shall not be recognized in any other district without having secured the written consent of the district assembly from whose Roster of Ministers his or her name was removed, except as otherwise provided. The District Advisory Board may act on a request of transfer of jurisdiction between assemblies. (538.11)

538.13. A member of the clergy must have the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board in order to do the following:

- regularly conduct independent church activities not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or
- carry on independent missions or unauthorized church activities, or
- be connected with the operating staff of an independent church or other religious group, Christian ministry, or denomination.

Should a member of the clergy fail to comply with these requirements, he or she may, on recommendation by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, and by action of the district assembly, be expelled from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. The final determination as to whether any specific activity constitutes "an independent mission" or "an unauthorized church activity" shall rest with the Board of General Superintendents. (112-112.1, 532.9)

538.14. Prior to granting approval to the member of the clergy to participate in independent church activities, the District Advisory Board must request the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents when such participation is to be on more than one district, or a district other than the district on which the minister holds ministerial membership.

The Board of General Superintendents shall notify the respective District Advisory Boards that a request for said approval is pending.

538.15. An assigned minister may start a local church when authorized to do so by the district superintendent or the general superintendent having jurisdiction. Official organization reports are to be filed with the General Secretary's office by the district superintendent. (100, 211.1)

538.16. Membership in the assembly shall be by virtue of being a pastor or other assigned minister who is actively serving and maintains employment in such ministry as his or her primary vocation in one of the assigned ministerial roles defined in paragraphs 505-528.

538.17. Information disclosed to a minister during the course of counseling, advising, or spiritual direction shall be held in the strictest confidence possible, and shall not be disclosed without the informed consent of the person, except as required by law.

Whenever possible and as soon as possible, the minister should disclose those circumstances under which confidentiality may be breached:

1. When there is the clear and present threat of harm to self or others.
2. When there is the suspicion of abuse or neglect perpetrated on a minor, disabled person, elderly person, or other vulnerable person as defined by local law. It is not the responsibility of the reporter to ascertain the veracity of the report or to investigate the context of the report, but only to report suspicion to the appropriate authorities. A minor is defined as any human being under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained later under a state's or country's own domestic legislation.
3. In legal cases when under court order to provide evidence. Ministers should keep secure minimal records of the content of sessions, including a record of the disclosures given and the informed consent received.

Knowledge that arises from professional contact may be used in teaching, writing, homilies, or other public presentations only when measures are taken to absolutely safeguard both the individual's identity and the confidentiality of the disclosures.

While counseling a minor, if a minister discovers there is a serious threat to the welfare of the minor and that communication of confidential information to a parent or legal guardian is essential to the minor's health and well-being, the minister should disclose information necessary to protect the health and well-being of the minor.

538.18. All elders and deacons are expected to be involved in 20 hours of lifelong learning per year, to be administered by the District Ministerial Studies Board. (529.6)

538.19. A minister may solemnize marriage only for those who have been qualified by careful counseling, and who have a biblical basis for marriage.

Biblical marriage only exists in a relationship involving one man and one woman. (31, 515.9)

538.20. Each district is to have and annually review a written, comprehensive plan to guide its efforts in providing a timely, compassionate, and informed response to members of the clergy involved in conduct unbecoming a minister, to their families and to any congregation involved. The district plan shall be in harmony with *Manual* directives and shall include a provision for establishing and maintaining a record of the facts and circumstances of the change in status of any minister who ceases to be entitled to exercise the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy. This record shall include all correspondence and official actions related to the status of the member of the clergy in question and the names and date of appointment of those persons selected to the recovery team as may be provided in accordance with paragraph 540.1. (225.5)

I. The Filing, Suspension, Resignation, or Revocation of a Ministerial Credential

539. The general secretary is authorized to receive and hold for safekeeping the credentials of a member of the clergy in good standing who, because of inactivity in the ministry for a period of time, wishes to file them. At the time of filing the credential, the District Advisory Board of the minister's assembly district shall certify to the general secretary that the credential is not being filed for the purpose of avoiding discipline. The filing of the credential shall not prevent a member of the clergy from being subject to discipline as a member of the clergy. Members of the clergy who file their credentials with the general secretary may have them reinstated. (539.10)

539.1. A member of the clergy in good standing who has not been granted retirement status and who has remained unassigned for four or more consecutive years is considered to be no longer participating as a member of the clergy and is required to file his or her credential. The District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry shall report to the district assembly "the credential of (the elder or deacon in question) has been filed by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry." This action should be considered nonprejudicial to character. The individual who files may have his or her credential reinstated. (539.10)

539.2. When an ordained minister in good standing ceases from an assigned ministry to pursue a calling or vocation other than being a member of the clergy in the Church of the Nazarene, he or she may resign the rights, privileges and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy. The district assembly, in which he or she holds standing, shall receive the credential and place it in the care of the general secretary. The record in the district minutes will show that he or she was "removed from the Roster of Ministers, having resigned his or her order." A member of the clergy who thus resigns may have his or her credential returned. (539.11)

539.3. When an unretired ordained minister ceases from active service as a member of the clergy and takes full-time secular employment, after a period of two years he or she may be required by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry to resign from being a member of the clergy or file his or her credential with the general secretary. This two-year period shall begin at the district assembly immediately following the cessation of activity as a member of the clergy. The District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry shall report its action to the district assembly. This action should be considered nonprejudicial to character.

539.4. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a member of the clergy may be suspended and his or her name removed from the Roster of Ministers if he or she changes his or her residence from the address of record without providing a new address of record to the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry within one year, or if he or she fails to submit an annual report as required in paragraphs 532.8 and 538.9. Such action to suspend shall be the responsibility of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry.

539.5. A member of the clergy who receives a Certificate of Commendation from his or her local church and has not joined another Church of the Nazarene by the time of the next district assembly, or who declares in writing that he or she has withdrawn from the Church of the Nazarene, or who joins another denomination either as a member or a minister, and who has not resigned his or her ministerial credential, may be expelled from the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by order of the district assembly upon the recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry and his or her name be removed from the Roster of Ministers and the membership roll of the local church. (111.1, 815)

539.6. A member of the clergy not in good standing may resign his or her credential only upon approval of the District Advisory Board. (540)

539.7. A member of the clergy may be expelled from the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene as provided in paragraphs 539.5 and 540.10, or through disciplinary action according to paragraphs 606-609.

539.8. When an elder or deacon has been expelled, the credential of the member of the clergy shall be sent to the general secretary to be catalogued and preserved subject to the order of the district assembly of the district where the elder or deacon held membership at the time he or she was expelled. (326.5)

539.9. Pastors, local church boards, and others who determine assignments within the church shall not engage a member of the clergy who is not in good standing in any ministerial role or in any other position of trust or authority (such as leading worship, teaching a Sunday School class, or leading a Bible study or small group) until good standing is restored. Exceptions to this prohibition require the written approval of both the district superintendent of the district to which the minister belonged when relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction of that same district. (540.4)

539.10. Reinstatement of a Filed Credential. When an elder or deacon in good standing has filed his or her credential, such credential may, at any subsequent time when the elder or deacon is in good standing, be returned to the elder or deacon upon order of the district assembly where it was filed, provided that the return of his or her credential shall have been recommended by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. Between district assemblies, a District Advisory Board may vote to approve the return of a minister's filed credential.

539.11. Reinstatement of a Resigned or Revoked Credential. An elder or deacon who, while a minister in good standing, resigned his or her order of ministry or whose credential was revoked upon uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry, may have his or her credential returned by the district assembly upon submitting the Ordination/Recognition

Questionnaire, reaffirming the vows of ministry, being examined and favorably recommended by the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, and upon prior approval of the district superintendent and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. (539.2)

539.12. The certificate of ordination of a deceased minister whose credential was filed and who was in good standing at the time of death, may be conveyed to the minister's family upon written request to the general secretary and approval by the district superintendent of the district where such filing is recorded.

539.13. Separation/Divorce. Within 48 hours of the filing of a request for divorce or legal termination/separation of a marriage of a minister or within 48 hours of the physical separation of the minister and his or her spouse for the purpose of discontinuing the physical cohabitation, the minister shall (a) contact the district superintendent, notifying the superintendent of the action taken; (b) agree to meet with the district superintendent and a member of the District Advisory Board at a mutually agreeable time and place, or if no mutually agreeable time and place can be arranged, at a time and place designated by the district superintendent; and, (c) explain (at the meeting designated in item "b") the circumstances of the action taken, explain the marital conflict, and explain the biblical basis for justification as to why the member of the clergy should be permitted to continue to serve as a member of the clergy in good standing. If a member of the clergy fails to comply with the subsections above, such noncompliance shall be cause for discipline. All ministers whether active, inactive, or retired, assigned or unassigned, are subject to these provisions, and must show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. No active or assigned minister may continue in any member of the clergy role without the affirmative vote of the District Advisory Board.

J. The Restoration of Members of the Clergy

540. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes its responsibility to extend the hope and healing of God's redeeming and renewing grace to any of its own ministers who, by surrender of credential, voluntary or otherwise, have been relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy due to conduct unbecoming a minister. The church also acknowledges its obligation to invite into the embrace of God's loving care the spouse and family, congregation, and community of the minister. For this reason, the process leading toward restoring the minister to good standing is to be conducted in two distinct steps:

1. Recovery. Without regard for the severity of the minister's misconduct, the likelihood of his or her eventual return to ministerial service, or his or her initial receptivity to grace and offers of help extended, the recovery of the minister's well-being (spiritually and otherwise) and that of his or her spouse and family is to be diligently, prayerfully, and faithfully pursued by the district in accordance with paragraphs 540.1-540.7. Such recovery is to be the singular aim of this step.
2. Reinstatement. Restoration to good standing of the minister and recommendation for the return of his or her credential is to be considered in a process separate from and subsequent to efforts seeking the recovery of the health and well-being of the minister and his or her spouse and family. (540.6-540.12)

540.1. Appointment of a Recovery Team. When clergy misconduct becomes evident, a timely response of appropriate and compassionate intervention is critical for the sake of the minister and his or her spouse and family, the congregation, and the community. Since such developments are rarely anticipated, advance selection and preparation of qualified persons, both clergy and laity, to facilitate recovery is an important element of the district response plan. These persons are to be appointed by the district superintendent in consultation with

the District Advisory Board. When situations of clergy misconduct arise, these persons, acting as a recovery team, are to be deployed by the district superintendent as immediately as possible and in accordance with the district plan. A recovery team so deployed should be comprised of no less than three persons. (211.20, 225.5, 540)

540.2. Duties of a Recovery Team. A recovery team is responsible for facilitating the recovery of the health and well-being of the minister and of the minister's spouse and family. It has neither the responsibility nor the authority to determine whether the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy should be reinstated to the minister. Insofar as the situation permits, the duties of a recovery team include:

1. extending care to the minister's spouse and family as well as to the minister;
2. providing clarity to the minister and spouse on the process and purpose of recovery;
3. coordinating the combined efforts of the minister, the district, and any congregation involved in developing a plan to address financial, housing, medical, emotional, spiritual, and other needs that typically arise with urgency in situations where misconduct has become evident;
4. implementing the district-approved plan, including reporting regularly on its own efforts and on the status of the progress of the minister and his or her spouse and family in the recovery of health and well-being;
5. communicating to the minister and his or her spouse, to the district superintendent, and to the appropriate district board when it judges its work is nearing completion or has progressed as far as can be expected;
6. submitting to the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry or appointed committee responsible for considering reinstatement, upon application by the minister for reinstatement of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, its recommendation as to whether consideration for resto-

ration of the minister to good standing is appropriate. (540.8)

540.3. In the event the minister under discipline is or becomes unresponsive to the recovery process, diligent effort should be given to furthering the recovery of the minister's spouse and family while actively seeking to engage or re-engage the minister in recovery. Upon review of the recovery efforts and with due regard for the well-being of the minister's spouse and family, the district superintendent may suspend, conclude, or otherwise redirect its recovery efforts.

In the event a district does not appoint a recovery team or the recovery team appointed fails to undertake its responsibilities within 180 days from the date the minister was placed under discipline, the minister under discipline may petition the Board of General Superintendents to transfer to another district the responsibility of facilitating efforts toward his or her recovery and of acting upon his or her subsequent application, if any, for restoration to good standing and reinstatement to the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy. This option is also available to the minister in question should a district fail to respond to his or her application for restoration to good standing. (540-540.2, 540.4-540.12)

540.4. A member of the clergy who is not in good standing shall not hold any position of trust or authority in the church or in its worship, such as: preach, lead worship, teach a Sunday School class, lead a Bible study or small group. The minister may only serve in these roles or be given a ministerial role upon the favorable recommendation of the district-appointed recovery team assigned to the minister and the consent of the District Advisory Board, the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, the district superintendent, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. A favorable recommendation indicates a determination that the individual and his or her spouse and family have made sufficient progress in the recovery process to warrant once again allowing the individual to be of service in a position of

trust or authority. Approval to serve in a position of trust or authority may be granted with or without restrictions and may be withdrawn by the district superintendent in consultation with the recovery team. (606.1-606.2, 606.5, 606.11-606.12)

540.5. Upon application by a minister under discipline for restoration to good standing as provided in paragraph 540.6, the recovery team may recommend to the district superintendent and the appropriate district board or appointed committee that the application be considered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 540.8; or, that the minister continue in the recovery process for an additional and specified length of time before reapplying.

In the event the recovery team has concluded its efforts and the minister under discipline does not apply for restoration to good standing, the minister shall remain under discipline unless action is taken 1) to expel the minister from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene; or 2) to grant approval to the minister to resign his or her credential and become a lay member of the church. In situations of the resignation of credential by a minister who has been under discipline where there is evidence of substantial and sustained recovery, care should be given to appropriately recognize and celebrate such progress. (539.5, 540.10)

540.6. Application for Restoration to Good Standing. A minister having been relieved of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy may apply for restoration to good standing and the return of his or her credential subject to the eligibility requirements of paragraph 540.7. Such application must be submitted to the district superintendent at least six months prior to the next scheduled meeting of the district assembly and must comply with the district-approved plan. The district superintendent shall acknowledge receipt of the application within 30 days.

540.7. A minister may apply for restoration to good standing and the return of his or her credential provided the recovery team assigned to the minister favorably supports such application and can attest that the minister has participated actively

and consistently for at least two years in a recovery process under its supervision. A minister who, in his or her judgment, has endeavored to participate actively and consistently for at least four years in such a recovery process may apply for restoration to good standing with or without the favorable support of the application by the recovery team.

When a minister under discipline has pursued participation in recovery from the outset, the minimum time required before applying for restoration to good standing shall commence with the earlier of the first official meeting of the minister with the recovery team or 60 days after the date a recovery team was initially assigned to the minister. In cases where a minister postponed or interrupted his or her participation in the recovery process, the district superintendent in consultation with the recovery team shall determine whether the minimum time required before applying for restoration to good standing has been satisfied. (538, 540.3)

540.8. Response to an Application for Restoration to Good Standing. The District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry, or a committee of the same appointed by the district superintendent, shall consider any application for restoration to good standing received by the district superintendent, and:

1. verify that the application is valid, having met all conditions for submission;
2. request and evaluate the recommendation of the recovery team;
3. interview the minister seeking restoration to good standing and any other persons it deems appropriate to interview;
4. determine whether to recommend the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy be reinstated to the minister and his or her credential returned.

When an application has been submitted at least 180 days in advance of the next scheduled district assembly, consideration of the application shall be completed and recommenda-

tion made to the district superintendent prior to that district assembly. A recommendation to reinstate the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a member of the clergy to a minister whose credential is surrendered due to sexual misconduct shall require a two-thirds approval of the District Advisory Board. The recommendation is to be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents within one year of the date of the minister's most recent application for restoration to good standing. Exceptions to any time frames specified in this paragraph must have the prior written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. (540.2, 540.3, 540.6, 540.7, 540.12)

540.9. An individual guilty of sexual misconduct involving minors should not be restored to good standing as a member of the clergy or permitted to hold any ministerial credential, serve in any position of responsibility for or ministry with minors, or be elected or appointed to any leadership role in the local church. A minor is defined as any human being under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained later under a state's or country's own domestic legislation. (129.30, 600, 606.1-606.2, 606.5, 606.11-606.12, 916)

540.10. The District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry or committee of the same, having considered an application for restoration to good standing submitted within the time frame allowed, may recommend to the district superintendent and appropriate district boards any one of the following:

1. that the minister be restored to good standing and his or her credential returned;
2. that the minister continue in a recovery process for a specified length of time before reapplying for restoration to good standing;
3. that the recovery period be extended and the recovery plan revised (such as monitored re-engagement in ministry, assigning a new recovery team, or addressing personal, marital, or family concerns);
4. that the minister continue under discipline;

5. that the minister not be restored to good standing, but evidence of recovery be appropriately acknowledged and celebrated, and permission granted for the minister to resign his or her credential;
6. that the minister be expelled from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. (539.5, 540.7, 540.12)

540.11. Should two applications for reinstatement by a minister under discipline be denied, a request may be granted by the Board of General Superintendents to transfer responsibility for the recovery and possible restoration to good standing of the minister in question to another district where the application may be considered. If a third application for restoration to good standing and reinstatement to the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy is denied, the minister may become a layperson upon approval of the District Advisory Board. (538.13, 539.6)

540.12. Reinstatement to the Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities of Being a Member of the Clergy. A member of the clergy who has lost good standing and whose application for restoration to good standing has resulted in a recommendation for reinstatement to the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy, may be restored to good standing and have his or her credential returned only by the following process:

1. approval of the district superintendent;
2. approval of the District Ministerial Credentials Board or District Board of Ministry;
3. a two-thirds approval of the District Advisory Board;
4. approval of the Board of General Superintendents; and
5. approval of the district assembly where good standing was lost.

(606.1-606.2, 606.5, 606.11-606.12)

PART VII

Judicial Administration

INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE WRONGFUL CONDUCT AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT

RESPONSE TO MISCONDUCT BY A PERSON IN A POSITION OF TRUST OR AUTHORITY

CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A LAYPERSON

CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

I. INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE WRONGFUL CONDUCT AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

600. The objectives of church discipline are to sustain the integrity of the church, to protect the innocent from harm, to protect the effectiveness of the witness of the church, to warn and correct the careless, to bring the guilty to salvation, to rehabilitate the guilty, to restore to effective service those who are rehabilitated, and to protect the reputation and resources of the church. Members of the church who do violence to the Covenant of Christian Character or the Covenant of Christian Conduct, or who willfully and continuously violate their membership vows, should be dealt with kindly yet faithfully, according to the grievousness of their offenses. Holiness of heart and life being the New Testament standard, the Church of the Nazarene insists upon a clean ministry and requires that those who bear its credentials as a member of the clergy be orthodox in doctrine and holy in life. Thus the purpose of the discipline is not punitive or retributive but is to accomplish these objectives. Determination of standing and continued relationship to the church is also a function of the disciplinary process.

II. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT

601. A response is appropriate any time a person with authority to respond becomes aware of information that a prudent person would believe to be credible. In addition, a response is also appropriate when information which would cause a prudent person to believe that harm is likely to come to the church, to potential victims of misconduct, or to any other person as a result of misconduct by a person in a position of trust or authority within the Church.

601.1. When a person who does not have authority to respond for the church becomes aware of information which a prudent person would consider to be credible and which

would cause a prudent person to believe that wrongful conduct by a person in a position of trust or authority may be occurring within the church, the person with the information shall make the representative of the church who has the authority to respond aware of the information.

601.2. The person who has authority to respond is determined by the position within the church of the individual or individuals who may be involved in misconduct as follows:

Person Implicated	*Person with Authority to Respond*
Nonmember	Pastor of local church where the conduct in question takes place.
Layperson	Pastor of church where layperson is a member.
Member of the clergy	District superintendent (in conjunction with the District Advisory Board) where the person implicated is a member or the pastor of the local church where the person is on staff.
District superintendent	General superintendent in jurisdiction
Regional director	General superintendent in jurisdiction
Field strategy coordinator	General superintendent in jurisdiction
Not otherwise defined	General secretary

The person with authority to respond should also in a timely manner notify respective persons in leadership at the district, field, regional, and/or global dimensions about the accusations. The person with authority to respond may enlist the help of others in any fact-finding or response.

601.3. If no accusation has been made, the purpose of an investigation shall be to determine whether or not action is needed to prevent harm or to reduce the impact of harm that has previously been done. In circumstances in which a prudent person would believe that no further action was needed to prevent harm or to reduce the impact of harm, no investi-

gation will continue unless an accusation has been filed. Facts learned during an investigation may become the basis of an accusation.

III. RESPONSE TO MISCONDUCT BY A PERSON IN A POSITION OF TRUST OR AUTHORITY

602. Whenever a person authorized to respond learns facts which indicate that innocent parties have been harmed by the misconduct of a person in a position of trust or authority, action shall be taken to cause the church to respond appropriately. An appropriate response will seek to prevent any additional harm to victims of the misconduct, seek to respond to the needs of the victims, the accused, and others who suffer as a result of the misconduct. Particular concern should be shown for the needs of the spouse and family of the accused. The response will also seek to address the needs of the local church, the district and the general church concerning public relations, protection from liability and protection of the integrity of the church.

Those who respond for the church must understand that what they say and do may have consequences under civil law. The duty of the church to respond is based on Christian concern. No one has the authority to accept financial responsibility for a local church without action by the church board, or for a district without action by the District Advisory Board. One who is uncertain about what action is appropriate should consider seeking counsel from an appropriate professional.

602.1. In each local church, it is appropriate for the church board to fashion a response to any crisis which may arise; however, it may be necessary to respond before a board meeting can take place. It is wise for each local church to have an emergency response plan.

602.2. On each district the primary responsibility for responding to a crisis rests with the District Advisory Board; however, it may be necessary to respond before a meeting of

the board can take place. It is wise for a district to adopt an emergency response plan. The plan may include the appointment by the District Advisory Board of a response team composed of people with special qualifications such as counselors, social workers, those trained in communications and those familiar with the applicable law.

603. Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation in the Church. Disagreement is a part of life, even in the church. However, when this disagreement becomes a conflict which divides congregants or disrupts the fellowship of the church, an informal process of discernment should precede any formal process of resolution. Whether informal or formal, the goal should be resolution and reconciliation.

603.1. Informal Process: When conflict arises in the church, a period of discernment and counsel should be sought with a desire to live at peace with all people. All parties involved are encouraged to submit the matter to the Lord in prayer, and in fact the entire process must be bathed in prayer. Individuals in conflict should approach one another in humility with the hope of reconciliation.

603.2. Formal Process: If this process fails, the individuals may decide to embark upon the formal process of reconciliation. The matter should be arbitrated with a representative group of mature and unbiased individuals in the church. If fault is determined, this group may recommend appropriate action as described in paragraph 604.

604. Resolution of Disciplinary Matters by Agreement. The disciplinary process described in this *Manual* is intended to provide an appropriate process for resolving allegations of misconduct when the allegations are contested by the accused. In many situations, it is appropriate to resolve disciplinary matters by agreement. Efforts to resolve disciplinary matters by agreement are encouraged and should be pursued whenever practical.

604.1. Any matter which is within the jurisdiction of a Local Board of Discipline may be resolved by a written agreement between the person accused and the pastor if approved

by the church board and the district superintendent. The terms of such an agreement shall have the same effect as an action by a Local Board of Discipline.

604.2. Any matter which is within the jurisdiction of a District Board of Discipline may be resolved by a written agreement between the person accused and the district superintendent if the agreement is approved by the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The terms of such an agreement shall have the same effect as an action by a District Board of Discipline.

IV. CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A LAYPERSON

605. If a lay member is accused of unchristian conduct, such accusations shall be placed in writing and signed by at least two members who have been in faithful attendance for at least six months. The pastor shall appoint an investigating committee of three members of the local church, subject to the approval of the district superintendent. The committee shall make a written report of its investigation. This report must be signed by a majority and filed with the church board. After the investigation and pursuant thereto, any two members in good standing in the local church may sign charges against the accused and file same with the church board. Thereupon the church board shall appoint, subject to the approval of the district superintendent, a Local Board of Discipline of five members, who are unprejudiced and able to hear and dispose of the case in a fair and impartial manner. If in the opinion of the district superintendent, it is impractical to select five members from the local church due to the size of the church, the nature of the allegations, or the position of influence of the accused, the district superintendent shall after consulting the pastor, appoint five laypersons from other churches on the same district to be the Board of Discipline. This board shall conduct a hearing as soon as practicable and determine the issues involved. After hearing the testi-

mony of witnesses and considering the evidence, the Board of Discipline shall either absolve the accused or administer discipline as the facts shall establish to be proper. The decision must be unanimous. Discipline may take the form of reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from membership in the local church. (516.8)

605.1. An appeal from the decision of a Local Board of Discipline may be taken to the District Court of Appeals within 30 days by either the accused or the church board.

605.2. When a layperson has been expelled from membership in the local church by a Local Board of Discipline, he or she may reunite with the Church of the Nazarene on the same district only with the approval of the District Advisory Board. If such consent is granted, he or she shall be received into the membership of that local church using the approved form for the reception of church members. (21, 28-33, 112.1-112.4, 704)

605.3. Laypersons serving in leadership roles are held to a high standard. When misconduct occurs, the impact is often very serious. An individual guilty of sexual misconduct involving minors should not be permitted to serve in any position of responsibility for or ministry with minors, or be elected or appointed to any leadership role in the local church. A minor is defined as any human being under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained later under a state's or country's own domestic legislation. (503.1)

V. CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

606. The perpetuity and effectiveness of the Church of the Nazarene depend largely upon the spiritual qualifications, the character, and the manner of life of its members of the clergy. Members of the clergy aspire to a high calling and function as anointed individuals in whom is placed the church's trust. They accept their calling knowing that they will be held to high personal standards by those to whom they

minister. Because of the high expectations placed upon them, the members of the clergy and their ministry are peculiarly vulnerable to any accusation of misconduct. It is therefore incumbent upon members to use the following procedures with the biblical wisdom and maturity that befits the people of God.

606.1. If a member of the clergy is accused of conduct unbecoming a minister or of teaching doctrines out of harmony with the doctrinal statement of the Church of the Nazarene, such accusations shall be placed in writing and shall be signed by at least two members of the Church of the Nazarene who are at the time in good standing. Accusations of sexual misconduct cannot be signed by any person who consented to participate in the alleged misconduct. The written accusation must be filed with the district superintendent who shall present it to the District Advisory Board of the district where the accused has ministerial membership. This accusation shall become part of the record in the case.

The District Advisory Board shall give written notice to the accused that accusations have been filed, as soon as practical by any method which gives actual notice. When actual notice is not practical, notice may be provided in the manner which is customary for serving legal notices in that locality. The accused and his or her counsel shall have the right to examine the accusations and to receive a written copy of the same immediately upon request. (540.4, 540.9, 540.12)

606.2. A person's signature on an accusation against a member of the clergy constitutes certification by the signer that, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the accusation is well grounded in fact. (540.4, 540.12)

606.3. When a written accusation is filed with the district superintendent and has been presented to the District Advisory Board, the District Advisory Board shall appoint a committee of three or more assigned ordained ministers and not fewer than two laypersons as the District Advisory Board deems to be appropriate to investigate the facts and circumstances involved and report their finding in writing and

signed by a majority of the committee. If after considering the committee's report, it shall appear that there are probable grounds for charges, such charges shall be drawn up and signed by any two ordained ministers. The District Advisory Board shall give the accused notice thereof, as soon as practical, by any method which gives actual notice. When actual notice is not practical, notice may be provided in the manner which is customary for serving legal notices in that locality. The accused and his or her counsel shall have the right to examine the charges and specifications and to receive a copy thereof immediately upon request. No accused shall be required to answer charges of which he or she has not been informed as specified herein. (225.3)

606.4. If, after investigation it appears that an accusation against a member of the clergy is without factual basis and has been filed in bad faith, the filing of the accusation may be grounds for disciplinary action against those who signed the accusation.

606.5. In case charges are filed, the District Advisory Board shall appoint five assigned ordained ministers and not fewer than two laypersons as it deems advisable of the district to hear the case and determine the issues; these persons so named shall constitute a District Board of Discipline to conduct the hearing and dispose of the case according to the laws of the church. No district superintendent shall serve as prosecutor or as assistant to the prosecutor in the trial of an ordained minister or licensed minister. This Board of Discipline shall have power to vindicate and absolve the accused in connection with said charges or to administer discipline commensurate with the offense. Such discipline may provide for discipline intended to lead to the salvation and rehabilitation of the guilty party. The discipline may include repentance, confession, restitution, suspension, recommendation for removal of credential, expulsion from the ministry or membership of the church, or both, public or private reprimand, or any such other discipline that may be appropriate including suspension or deferment of

discipline during a period of probation. (225.4, 540.4, 540.12, 606.11-606.12)

606.6. If either the accused or the District Advisory Board shall so request, the Board of Discipline shall be a Regional Board of Discipline. The regional board for each case shall be appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction of the district where the accused minister holds his or her membership.

606.7. It is provided that in no case shall disciplinary action be taken against a missionary by a Phase 1 district as such.

606.8. The decision of a Board of Discipline shall be unanimous, written and signed by all members, and shall include a finding of "guilty" or "not guilty" as to each charge and specification.

606.9. Any hearing by a Board of Discipline herein provided for shall always be conducted within the bounds of the district where the charges were filed at a place designated by the board that is to hear the charges.

606.10. The procedure at any hearing shall be according to Rules of Procedure hereinafter provided. (225.3-225.4, 532.9, 538.13, 609)

606.11. When a minister is charged with conduct unbecoming a minister and shall admit to guilt, or shall confess to guilt without being charged, the District Advisory Board may assess any of the disciplines provided for in paragraph 606.5. (540.4, 540.12)

606.12. When a minister is accused of conduct unbecoming a minister, and shall admit to guilt, or shall confess to guilt prior to being brought before a Board of Discipline, the District Advisory Board may assess any of the disciplines provided for in paragraph 606.5. (540.4, 540.12)

607. Following a decision by a Board of Discipline, the accused, the District Advisory Board, or those who sign the charges shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the Regional Court of Appeals. The appeal shall be begun within 30 days after such decision, and the court shall review the entire record of the case and all steps that have been taken therein.

If the court discovers any substantial error prejudicial to the right of any person, it shall correct such error by ordering a new hearing to be conducted in a manner capable of giving relief to that person affected adversely by previous proceedings or decision.

608. When the decision of a Board of Discipline is adverse to the accused minister and the decision provides for suspension from the ministry or cancellation of credential, the minister shall thereupon immediately suspend all ministerial activity; and refusal to do so will result in the forfeiture of the right to appeal.

608.1. When the decision of a Board of Discipline provides for suspension or cancellation of credential and the accused minister desires to appeal, he or she shall file with the secretary of the court to which the appeal is made, at the time the notice of appeal is filed, his or her written credential as a minister, and his or her right of appeal shall be conditioned upon compliance with this provision. When such credential is so filed, it shall be safely kept by the said secretary until the conclusion of the case, and thereupon the same shall either be forwarded to the general secretary or returned to the minister as the court may direct.

608.2. Appeals to the General Court of Appeals may be made by the accused or the Board of Discipline from decisions of a Regional Court of Appeals. Such appeals shall be by the same rules and procedures as other appeals to the General Court of Appeals.

VI. RULES OF PROCEDURE

609. The General Court of Appeals shall adopt uniform Rules of Procedure governing all proceedings before boards of discipline and courts of appeal. After such rules are adopted and published, they shall be the final authority in all judicial proceedings. Printed Rules of Procedure shall be supplied by the general secretary. Changes or amendments to such rules may be adopted by the General Court of Appeals at any time, and when these are adopted and published, they shall be ef-

fective and authoritative in all cases. Any steps that are thereafter taken in any proceeding shall be in accordance with such change or amendment. (606.1)

VII. DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

610. Each organized district shall have a District Court of Appeals composed of two laypersons and three assigned ordained ministers, including the district superintendent, elected by the district assembly according to paragraph 205.22. This court shall hear appeals of church members concerning any action of local boards of discipline. Notice of appeal must be given in writing within 30 days after such action or after appellant has knowledge thereof. Such notice shall be delivered to the District Court of Appeals or a member thereof, and a copy of such notice shall be delivered to the pastor of the local church and to the secretary of the church board concerned. (205.22)

610.1. The District Court of Appeals shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all appeals of laypersons or churches from the action of a Board of Discipline appointed to discipline a layperson.

VIII. GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

611. The General Assembly shall elect five assigned ordained ministers to serve as members of the General Court of Appeals during each ensuing quadrennium, or until their successors are elected and qualified. This court shall have jurisdiction as follows:

611.1. To hear and determine all appeals from the action or decision of any District Board of Discipline or Regional Court of Appeals. When such appeals are so determined by said court, such determination shall be authoritative and final. (305.7)

612. Vacancies that may exist in the General Court of Appeals during the interim between sessions of the General As-

sembly shall be filled by appointment of the Board of General Superintendents. (317.6)

613. Per diem and expense allowances for members of the General Court of Appeals shall be the same as that of members of the General Board of the church, when the members of the court are engaged in official business of the court, and payment therefor shall be made by the general treasurer.

614. The general secretary shall be custodian of all permanent records and decisions of the General Court of Appeals. (326.4)

IX. REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

615. There shall be a Regional Court of Appeals for each region. Each Regional Court of Appeals shall consist of five or more assigned ordained ministers elected by the Board of General Superintendents following each General Assembly. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of General Superintendents. The Rules of Procedure shall be the same for the Regional Courts of Appeals as for the General Court of Appeals, in both the church *Manual* and the *Judicial Manual*. A quorum of five shall be required for appeals referred to the court.

X. GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

616. The right to a fair and impartial hearing of charges pending against an accused minister or layperson shall not be denied or unduly postponed. Written charges shall be given an early hearing in order that the innocent may be absolved and the guilty brought to discipline. Every accused is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. As to each charge and specification, the prosecution shall have the burden of proving guilt to a moral certainty and beyond a reasonable doubt.

616.1. The cost of preparing the record of a case for a minister, including a verbatim transcript of all testimony given at the trial, for the purpose of an appeal to the General Court of Appeals, shall be borne by the district where the hearing

was held and disciplinary action taken. Every minister who appeals shall have the right to present oral as well as written argument upon his or her appeal, but this right may be waived in writing by the accused.

The cost of preparing the record of a case for a layperson, including a verbatim transcript of all testimony given at the trial, for the purpose of an appeal to the District Court of Appeals, shall be borne by the local church of the district where the hearing was held and disciplinary action taken. Every layperson who appeals shall have the right to present oral as well as written argument upon his or her appeal, but this right may be waived in writing by the accused.

616.2. The highest court for a minister to appeal is the General Court of Appeals, and the highest court for a layperson to appeal is the District Court of Appeals.

616.3. A minister or layperson who is accused of misconduct or any violation of the church *Manual* and against whom charges are pending shall have the right to meet his or her accusers face-to-face and to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution.

616.4. The testimony of any witness before a Board of Discipline shall not be received or considered in evidence unless such testimony be given under oath or solemn affirmation.

616.5. A minister or layperson who is brought before a Board of Discipline to answer charges shall always have the right to be represented by counsel of his or her own choosing, provided such counsel be a member in good standing in the Church of the Nazarene. Any full member of a regularly organized church against whom no written charges are pending will be considered in good standing.

616.6. A minister or layperson shall not be required to answer charges for any act that occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges, and no evidence will be considered at any hearing for any matter that occurred more than five years before the charges were filed. Provided, however, that if the person aggrieved by any such act was under the age of 18 or found to be mentally incompetent of making an

accusation or filing a charge, such five-year limitation periods would not begin to run until the aggrieved person reached age 18 or became mentally competent. In the case of the sexual abuse of a minor, no time limit shall apply. A minor is defined as any human being under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained later under a state's or country's own domestic legislation.

If a minister is convicted of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction, he or she shall surrender his or her credential to the district superintendent. At the request of such minister, and if the Board of Discipline has not previously been involved, the District Advisory Board shall investigate the circumstances of the conviction and may restore the credential if it deems appropriate.

616.7. A minister or layperson shall not be twice placed in jeopardy for the same offense. It shall not be considered, however, that such person was placed in jeopardy at any hearing or proceeding where the court of appeals discovers reversible error committed in the original proceeding before a Board of Discipline.

PART VIII

Sacraments and Rituals

NOTE: In order to edit or to make additions to any item in the Sacraments and Rituals section of the *Manual,* action by a General Assembly is required.

LORD'S SUPPER

BAPTISM OF BELIEVERS

BAPTISM OF INFANTS OR YOUNG CHILDREN

DEDICATION OF INFANTS OR YOUNG CHILDREN

RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

MATRIMONY

FUNERAL SERVICE

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL CHURCH

CHURCH DEDICATIONS

I. SACRAMENTS

700. LORD'S SUPPER

The administration of the Lord's Supper may be introduced by an appropriate sermon and the reading of 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Luke 22:14-20, or some other suitable passage. Let the minister then give the following invitation:

The Communion Supper, instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a sacrament, which proclaims His life, His sufferings, His sacrificial death, and resurrection, and the hope of His coming again. It shows forth the Lord's death until His return.

The Supper is a means of grace in which Christ is present by the Spirit. It is to be received in reverent appreciation and gratefulness for the work of Christ.

All those who are truly repentant, forsaking their sins, and believing in Christ for salvation are invited to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ. We come to the table that we may be renewed in life and salvation and be made one by the Spirit.

In unity with the Church, we confess our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. And so we pray:

The minister may offer a prayer of confession and supplication, concluding with the following prayer of consecration:

Holy God,

We gather at this, your table, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who by your Spirit was anointed to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, set at liberty those who are oppressed. Christ healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and established the new covenant for forgiveness of sins. We live in the hope of His coming again.

On the night in which He was betrayed, He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, when the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me." Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Matthew 26:27-29, Luke 22:19)

And so, we gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts. Make them by the power of your Spirit to be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By your Spirit make us one in Christ, one with each other, and one in the ministry of Christ to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us pray: (Here the congregation may pray the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Before the partaking of the bread, let the minister say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, broken for you, preserve you blameless, unto everlasting life. Eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and be thankful.

Before the partaking of the cup, let the minister say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, shed for you, preserve you blameless unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and be thankful.

After all have partaken, the minister may then offer a concluding prayer of thanksgiving and commitment. (29.5, 515.4, 532.7, 533.2, 534.1)

NOTE: Only unfermented wine should be used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

701. BAPTISM OF BELIEVERS

Dearly Beloved: Christian baptism is a sacrament signifying participation by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and incorporation into His Body, the Church. It is a means of grace proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Apostle Paul declares that all who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into His death. We are buried with Him through baptism so that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too are raised to walk in newness of life. As we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be united with Him in His resurrection.

The Christian faith, into which you now come to be baptized, is affirmed in the Apostles' Creed, which we confess:

The minister leads the congregation in the affirmation of the confession of faith.

"We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand

of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

"We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church of Jesus Christ, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Will you be baptized into this faith?

Response: I will.

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and do you believe that He saves you now?

Response: I do by faith.

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, will you follow Him all the days of your life, growing in grace and the love of God and neighbor?

Response: I will with God's help.

The minister, giving the full name of the person and using the preferred form of baptism—sprinkling, pouring, or immersion—shall say:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

702. BAPTISM OF INFANTS OR YOUNG CHILDREN

When the sponsors shall have presented themselves with the child (or children) the minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED: The sacrament of baptism is the sign and seal of the new covenant of grace. While we do not hold that baptism imparts the regenerating grace of God, we do believe that Christian baptism signifies for this young child God's acceptance within the community of Christian faith on the basis of prevenient grace. It anticipates his (her) personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

In presenting this child for baptism you are hereby witnessing to your own personal Christian faith and to your purpose to guide him (her) early in life to a knowledge of Christ as Savior. To this end it is your duty to teach him (her), as soon as he (she) shall be able to learn, the nature and end of this holy sacrament; to watch over his (her) education, that he (she) may not be led astray; to direct his (her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (her) from evil associates and habits; and as much as in you lies, to bring him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will."

The minister may then ask the parents or guardians to name the child, and shall then baptize the child, repeating his (her) full name and saying:

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Baptism also signifies the acceptance of this child into the community of Christian faith. I now ask you, the congregation; will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to support and encourage these parents as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to this child and to assist by nurturing his (her) growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

The minister may then offer the following prayer or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that You will take this child into Your loving care. Abundantly enrich him (her) with Your heavenly grace; bring him (her) safely through the perils of childhood; deliver him (her) from the temptations of youth; lead him (her) to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior; help him (her) to grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and all people, and

to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example they may faithfully discharge their responsibilities to both this child and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

II. RITUALS

703. DEDICATION OF INFANTS OR YOUNG CHILDREN

When the parents or guardians have presented themselves with the child (or children) the minister shall say:

"Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:13-14).

In presenting this child for dedication you signify not only your faith in the Christian religion but also your desire that he (she) may early know and follow the will of God, may live and die a Christian, and come unto everlasting blessedness.

In order to attain this holy end, it will be your duty, as parents (guardians), to teach him (her) early the fear of the Lord, to watch over his (her) education, that he (she) be not led astray; to direct his (her) youthful mind to the Holy Scriptures, and his (her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (her) from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lies, to bring him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will."

Pastor: I now ask you, the congregation; will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to support and encourage these parents as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to this child and to assist by nurturing his (her) growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

Pastor: Our loving Heavenly Father, we do here and now dedicate _____ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the minister may offer the following prayer, or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that You will take this child into Your loving care. Abundantly enrich him (her) with Your heavenly grace; bring him (her) safely through the perils of childhood; deliver him (her) from the temptations of youth; lead him (her) to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior; help him (her) to grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and all people, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example they may faithfully discharge their

responsibilities both to this child and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

704. RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

It is expected that prospective members have professed the Christian faith and been instructed in the doctrine and practices of the Church of the Nazarene. They may come forward to stand before the congregation and the pastor shall address them as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: The privileges and blessings that we have in community together in the Church of Jesus Christ are sacred and precious. There is in it such hallowed fellowship, care, and counsel as cannot otherwise be known apart from the family of God.

There is the godly care of pastors, with the teachings of the Word and the inspiration of corporate worship. And there is cooperation in service, accomplishing that which cannot otherwise be done.

*Today we affirm again the doctrines and practices of the church.

We believe in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that human beings are born in sin; that they need the work of forgiveness through Christ and the new birth by the Holy Spirit; that subsequent to this there is the deeper work of heart cleansing or entire sanctification through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and that to each of these works of grace the Holy Spirit gives witness.

We believe that our Lord will return, the dead shall be raised, and that all shall come to final judgment with its rewards and punishments.

*__NOTE:__ The minister may use the following Agreed Statement of Belief (*Manual* paragraph 20) as an alternative.

Today we affirm again the Agreed Statement of Belief for the Church of the Nazarene:

That there is one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living; that human beings are born with a fallen nature, and are, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually; that the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost; 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; that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers; and that our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place (Manual paragraphs 20.1-20.8).

Do you heartily believe these truths? If so, answer, "I do."

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and do you believe that He saves you now?

Response: I do by faith.

Desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, do you commit to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself as expressed by the Covenants of Christian Character and Conduct? Do you commit to the mission of God as expressed in the doctrine, fellowship, and work of the Church of the Nazarene? Will you support the teachings of the Church of the Nazarene and strive, with God's help, to grow in your understanding and practice of the same in a way that enhances the witness of the church? Will you endeavor in every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your resources; and by faithfully participating in the means of grace? Will you follow Jesus Christ all the days of your life, abstain from all evil, and seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord?

Response: I will.

The minister shall then say to the person or persons:

I welcome you into the Church of the Nazarene and the fellowship of this local congregation with its benefits and responsibilities. May the great Head of the Church bless and keep you, and enable you to be faithful in all good works, that your life and witness may be effective in care for the poor and oppressed and in leading others to Christ.

705. MATRIMONY

Recognizing the varied global and cultural contexts regarding marriage, the Church of the Nazarene suggests the following principles:

- Equality between husband and wife
- Covenantal relationship reflecting the covenantal relationship between Christ and His church
- Use of language that is legally and culturally appropriate. This ritual does not eliminate or replace the legal requirements of any country.

The following ceremony is offered as a resource.

At the day and time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married—having been qualified according to law and by careful counsel and guidance by the minister—standing together, the couple shall face the minister, and the minister shall address the congregation as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: We are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together (Name of Groom) and (Name of Bride) in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the innocence of Eden, symbolizing the mystical union between Christ and His Church. This holy estate Christ adorned and sanctified with His presence and first miracle that He performed, in Cana of

Galilee, and the writer to the Hebrews commended as being honorable among all people. It is, therefore, not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into this holy estate these persons present now come to be joined.

Addressing the couple to be married, the minister shall say:

_____ and _____, I require and charge you both as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that the commitment to marriage is a commitment to permanence. It is the intent of God that your marriage will be for life, and that only death will separate you.

If the vows you exchange today be kept without violation, and if you seek always to know and do the will of God, your lives will be blessed with His presence, and your home will abide in His peace.

Following the charge the minister shall say unto the man:

_____, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, comfort, honor, and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Then shall the minister say unto the woman:

_____, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, comfort, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Then the minister shall ask:

Will you as (parents of the bride and groom, members of the families, and/or members of God's family) give your blessings to this union?

Response (by parents of the bride and groom, members of the families, and/or members of God's family)*:* We will.

Facing each other and joining right hands, the couple shall then exchange the following vows:

The man shall repeat after the minister:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better-for worse, for richer-for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to

cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

The woman shall repeat after the minister:

I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better-for worse, for richer-for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

If desired, a ring ceremony may be inserted at this point. The minister receives the ring from the groomsman and, in turn, passes it to the groom. As he then places it upon the bride's finger, he shall repeat, after the minister:

This ring I give you as a token of my love and as a pledge of my constant fidelity.

Repeat for double ring ceremony.

The couple then shall kneel as the minister offers the following, or an extemporaneous prayer:

Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life, send Your blessing upon these Your servants, (Name of Groom) and (Name of Bride), whom we now bless in Your name; so they may keep the vow and covenant made between them this hour and may ever remain in love and peace together, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

Forasmuch as this man and woman have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have declared the same by joining of hands, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. Amen.

The minister shall then add this blessing:

God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace. May you so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting.

The minister may then conclude with an extemporaneous prayer and/or benediction. (532.7, 533.2, 534.1, 538.19)

706. FUNERAL SERVICE

DEARLY BELOVED: We are gathered today to pay our final tribute of respect to that which was mortal of our deceased loved one and friend. To you members of the family who mourn your loss, we especially offer our deep and sincere sympathy. May we share with you the comfort afforded by God's Word for such a time as this:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come" (John 14:1-3).

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25-26).

INVOCATION (in the minister's own words or the following):

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come into this sanctuary of sorrow, realizing our utter dependence upon You. We know You do love us and can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before You with reverent and submissive hearts.

You are our Refuge and Strength, O God—a very present Help in time of trouble. Grant unto us Your abundant mercy. May those who mourn today find comfort and healing balm in Your sustaining grace. We humbly bring these petitions in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A HYMN OR SPECIAL SONG

SELECTIONS OF SCRIPTURE:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving

the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9).

(Other passages that might be used are: Matthew 5:3-4, 6, 8; Psalms 27:3-5, 11, 13-14; 46:1-6, 10-11.)

MESSAGE

A HYMN OR SPECIAL SONG

CLOSING PRAYER

* * *

At the Graveside:

When the people have assembled, the minister may read any or all of the following scriptures:

"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27).

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed…then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting

of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 54-58).

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." (Revelation 14:13).

The minister shall then read one of the following committal statements:

For a Believer:

Forasmuch as the spirit of our departed loved one has returned to God, who gave it, we therefore tenderly commit his (her) body to the grave in sure trust and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall give to us new bodies like unto His glorious body. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

For a Nonbeliever:

We have come now to commit the body of our departed friend to its kindred dust. The spirit we leave with God, for we know the merciful Judge of all the earth will do right. Let us who remain dedicate ourselves anew to live in the fear and love of God, so that we may obtain an abundant entrance into the heavenly kingdom.

For a Child:

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commit the body of this child to the grave. And as Jesus, during His earthly life, took the children into His arms and blessed them, may He receive this dear one unto himself, for, as He said, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, God of all mercy, we look to You in this moment of sorrow and bereavement. Comfort these dear ones whose hearts are heavy and sad. Will You be with them, sustain and guide them in the days to come. Grant, O Lord, that they may love and serve You and obtain the fullness of Your promises in the world to come.

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing

his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

707. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Following the singing of an appropriate hymn, let the secretary read the names and positions of the officers to be installed. These may come forward and stand at the altar of the church, facing the minister. A covenant card should be provided for each. The minister shall then say:

Recognizing God's method of setting apart certain workers for specific areas of Christian service, we come to this moment of installation of these officers (and/or teachers) who have been properly chosen to serve in our church for the ensuing year. Let us consider God's instructions to us from His Holy Word.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2).

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with

all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3:16).

"Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor." (Galatians 6:6).

We now come to this important moment when you who stand before the altar are to take upon yourselves the task of caring for the affairs of the church and Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI). May you look upon the assignments you now assume as special opportunities for service for our Lord, and may you find joy and spiritual blessing in the performance of your respective duties.

Yours is no light task, for the ongoing of the church and the destiny of souls is in your hands. The development of Christian character is your responsibility, and leading the unsaved to Jesus Christ is your highest objective. May God grant you wisdom and strength as you do His work for His glory.

You have been given a card on which is printed a covenant. We shall read it in unison, and as we do so, let us make it a personal commitment.

WORKER'S COVENANT

In consideration of the confidence placed in me by the church in being selected for the office I now assume, I hereby covenant:

To maintain a high standard of Christian living and example in harmony with the ideals and standards of the Church of the Nazarene.

To cultivate my personal Christian experience by setting aside each day definite time for prayer and Bible reading.

To be present at the regular Sunday School, the Sunday morning and Sunday evening preaching services, and the midweek prayer meeting of the church, unless providentially hindered.

To attend faithfully all properly called meetings of the various boards, councils, or committees to which I have been, or will be, assigned.

To notify my superior officer if I am unable to be present at the stated time, or to carry out my responsibilities in this office.

To read widely the denominational publications, and other books and literature which will be helpful to me in discharging the duties of my office.

To improve myself and my skills by participating in Continuing Lay Training courses as opportunity is afforded.

To endeavor to lead people to Jesus Christ by manifesting an active interest in the spiritual welfare of others and by attending and supporting all evangelistic meetings in the church.

The minister shall then offer an appropriate prayer, and a special song of dedication may be sung, after which the minister shall say:

Having pledged together your hearts and hands to the task of carrying forward the work of this church in your particular assignments, I herewith install you in the respective positions to which you have been elected or appointed. You are now a vital part of the organizational structure and leadership of this church. May you, by example, by precept, and by diligent service, be effective workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

The minister shall ask the congregation to rise, and shall address them as follows:

You have heard the pledge and covenant entered into by your church leaders for the coming year. I now charge you, as a congregation, to be loyal in your support of them. The burdens which we have laid upon them are heavy, and they will need your assistance and prayers. May you always be understanding of their problems and tolerant of their seeming failures. May you lend assistance joyfully

when called upon, so that, as we work together, our church may be an effective instrument in winning the lost to Christ.

The minister may then lead in a concluding prayer or have the congregation repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison.

708. ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL CHURCH

District Superintendent: Loved ones in Christ, we are gathered on this Lord's Day for the special purpose of officially organizing the (name) Church of the Nazarene. Indeed you are already a church but today the life of this congregation moves to a new level as you embrace the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of an organized congregation in accordance with the Constitution and polity of the Church of the Nazarene.

On behalf of the global family of Nazarenes, I commend you for your vision, your faith, and your diligent labor as you have worked together hand in hand and heart to heart to be a community of faith that lives as an authentic expression of the kingdom of God in the world. By this act of organization, you declare your intention to share with the global family of Nazarenes in fulfilling our common mission: "To make Christlike disciples in the nations."

Three core values guide us in this mission:

We are a Christian people. We stand with Christians everywhere in affirming the historic Trinitarian creeds, and we deeply value our particular heritage in the Wesleyan-holiness tradition. We look to the Bible as our primary source of truth as it proclaims Christ to us, and "all things necessary to our salvation."

We are a Holiness people. We believe that the grace of God provides not only forgiveness for sins but also the cleansing of our hearts by faith. By this gracious act of the Holy Spirit, we are sanctified and empowered to live Christlike lives in the world.

We are a Missional people. We believe God calls us to participation in the kingdom mission of reconciliation. We do this by preaching the gospel, by acts of compassion and justice, and by making disciples after the pattern of Jesus.

District Superintendent to the pastor: Pastor, would you please now present those who will be the charter members of (name) Church of the Nazarene?

Pastor: (name of district superintendent), it is my honor to present to you the charter members of this congregation. I commend them to you as brothers and sisters in Christ who are committed to our common mission as members of the Church of the Nazarene.

(Pastor reads the names or introduces each member or family.)

District Superintendent: Brothers and Sisters, I ask you now to reaffirm your membership vows.

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and do you believe that He saves you now?

Response: I do by faith.

Do you affirm the Agreed Statement of Belief of the Church of the Nazarene?

Response: I do.

Do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with the Church of the Nazarene as set forth in the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct? Will you endeavor in every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your means; by faithful attendance upon the means of grace; and, abstaining from all evil, will you seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord?

Response: I will.

District Superintendent: Therefore, by the authority entrusted to me as superintendent of the (name) District Church of the Nazarene, I hereby declare the official organization of the (name) Church of the Nazarene. Welcome to the global family of Nazarene congregations. May the Lord in His great mercy equip you daily with everything good for doing His will. And may the peace of Christ be with you.

709. CHURCH DEDICATIONS

Minister: Having been prospered by the hand of the Lord and enabled by His grace and strength to complete this building to the glory of His name, we now stand in God's presence to dedicate this structure to the service of His kingdom.

To the glory of God our Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; to the honor of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; and to the praise of the Holy Spirit, Source of light, and life, and power—our Sanctifier,

Congregation: We do now, with joy and gratitude, humbly dedicate this building.

Minister: In remembrance of all who have loved and served this church, establishing the heritage we now enjoy, and who are now part of the Church Triumphant,

Congregation: We gratefully dedicate this edifice (sanctuary, education building, fellowship hall, etc.).

Minister: For worship in prayer and song, for the preaching of the Word, for the teaching of the Scriptures, and for the fellowship of the saints,

Congregation: We solemnly dedicate this house of God.

Minister: For the comfort of those who mourn, for the strengthening of the weak, for the help of

those who are tempted, and for the giving of hope and courage to all who come within these walls,

Congregation: We dedicate this place of fellowship and prayer.

Minister: For the sharing of the good news of salvation from sin, for the spreading of scriptural holiness, for the giving of instruction in righteousness, and for the service of our fellowmen,

Congregation: We reverently dedicate this building.

Unison: We, as laborers together with God, now join hands and hearts and dedicate ourselves anew to the high and holy purposes to which this building has been set apart. We pledge our loyal devotion, faithful stewardship, and diligent service to the end that in this place the name of the Lord shall be glorified, and His kingdom shall be advanced; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PART IX

Charter & Ministry Plans/Constitution/ Bylaws

NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

I. NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

810. NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CHARTER

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

810.1 Our Mission

The mission of Nazarene Youth International is to call our generation to a dynamic life in Christ.

810.2 Our Members

Membership in Nazarene Youth International includes all persons participating in Nazarene youth ministry who choose to embrace our stated vision and values.

810.3 Our Vision

The Church of the Nazarene believes that young people are an integral part of the Church. Nazarene Youth International exists to lead young people into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and to facilitate their growth as disciples for Christian service.

810.4 Our Values

1. We value Young People…significant in the kingdom of God.
2. We value the Bible…God's unchanging truth for our lives.
3. We value Prayer…vital interactive communication with our heavenly father.
4. We value the Church…a global holiness community of faith, diverse in culture but one in Christ.
5. We value Worship…life-changing encounters with an intimate God.

6. We value ***Discipleship***...a lifestyle of becoming like Christ.
7. We value ***Community***...building relationships that help bind us together and to God.
8. We value ***Ministry***...extending God's grace to our world.
9. We value ***Witness***...sharing God's love in word and deed.
10. We value ***Holiness***...a work of grace whereby God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, enables us to live a life representing Christ in who we are and in everything we do.

These values are important dimensions of the holy life and are to be reflected in the life and ministry of NYI at every level of the church. (Please refer to the Articles of Faith in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* for more information on these values.) In reflecting these values, we acknowledge the following Guiding Principles.

810.5 Our Guiding Principles

1. ***NYI exists for youth.***
   Nazarene Youth International exists to attract, equip, and empower young people for service in the kingdom of God and to facilitate their integration into the Church of the Nazarene.
2. ***NYI focuses on Christ.***
   Christ is central to who we are, the Word of God our authoritative source for all we do, and holiness our pattern for life.
3. ***NYI is built on relational ministry to youth in the local church.***
   Effective ministry to young people in the local church is critical to the health and vibrancy of NYI. Relationships and incarnational ministry form the foundation for Nazarene youth ministry, guiding young people toward spiritual maturity in Christ.

4. ***NYI develops and mentors young leaders.***
   NYI provides opportunities for emerging leaders to develop and utilize their gifts within an environment of nurture and support, assuring strong leadership for the Church of the Nazarene. Leadership training, accountability, and mechanisms for evaluation and modification of ministry are vital functions of NYI.
5. ***NYI is empowered to lead.***
   Relevant youth ministry requires that responsibility for ministry and organizational decisions reside with NYI leadership and the appropriate governing bodies at every level. A sense of belonging and ownership, a passion for service, and input in decision-making are key ingredients for the empowerment of young people through NYI.
6. ***NYI embraces unity and diversity in Christ.***
   NYI is committed to understanding and celebrating differences and diversity in language, color, race, culture, socioeconomic class, and gender. Our differences do not diminish unity but enhance our potential and effectiveness. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways must always be a high priority.
7. ***NYI creates networks and partnerships.***
   A climate of cooperation characterizes our relationships at every level of NYI. Networking within the church enhances the development and deployment of young people for service; NYI actively participates in such cooperative endeavors.

810.6 Our Ministry Framework

The Nazarene Youth International Charter provides the foundation for organizing, planning, and implementing youth ministry at every level of the Church of the Nazarene. Standard ministry plan templates are provided that local, district, and regional NYI groups are encouraged to adapt in response to

youth ministry needs in their own ministry situation. Ministry plans at every level must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

810.7 Revisions

The NYI Charter may be amended through resolutions approved by the Global NYI Convention, according to the Global Ministry Plan.

A. LOCAL MINISTRY PLAN TEMPLATE

Ministries

810.100 Evangelism

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.101 Discipleship

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ, in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.102 Leadership Development

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.103 Provision

1. This local ministry plan template provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the local level. A local NYI group may adapt the plan in response to local youth ministry needs, consistent with the

Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the local NYI Council.

810.104 Process

1. The NYI Council establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the local ministry plan and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the annual NYI meeting.
2. Proposed revisions to the local ministry plan must be distributed to NYI members prior to the NYI annual meeting.
3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of all NYI members present and voting at the annual NYI meeting and are subject to church board approval.
4. All changes in the local ministry plan become effective no later than 30 days following the NYI annual meeting. The revised plan must be posted in written form prior to taking effect.

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.105 Composition and Accountability

1. Local NYI membership consists of those who affiliate themselves with an NYI group by participating in its ministries and joining the local group.
2. The local NYI maintains an accurate roster of all active members.
3. The local NYI is accountable to its membership, the local church board, and the pastor.
4. The local NYI reports monthly to the church board and to the annual church meeting.

810.106 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the local NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A local NYI Council may modify the ministry focus

as seen fit with the approval of the pastor and local church board.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the local NYI council establishes age divisions in response to local youth ministry needs.

Leadership

810.107 Officers

1. The officers of the local NYI are a president and up to three persons elected by the annual NYI meeting with assigned ministry responsibilities according to local church needs. These officers serve on the Executive Committee.
2. Local NYI officers must be members of the local church whose NYI they serve, active in local youth ministry, and leaders in personal example and service.
3. In churches not having an organized NYI (no local NYI Council), the pastor, with church board approval, may appoint the NYI president so that the church may begin to reach young people for Christ and respond to their spiritual growth needs.

810.108 Elections

1. Officers are elected annually by the members of the local NYI at the annual meeting and serve until their successors are elected and assume their ministry roles.
2. A nominating committee nominates the officers for NYI. A Nominating Committee is appointed by the pastor and consists of NYI members, as well as the pastor and the NYI president. All nominees are to be approved by the pastor and church board. Persons nominated as local NYI president must have reached their 15th birthday at the time of their election.
3. Officers are elected by majority vote of the NYI members present at the annual NYI meeting. When there is only one nominee for a position, a "yes" and "no" ballot is used, with approval by two-thirds vote. Only those who are also mem-

bers of the local Church of the Nazarene may vote for the president.

4. An incumbent officer may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the NYI Council to the nominating committee, approved by the pastor and church board, and approved by two-thirds vote at the annual NYI meeting.
5. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership from the church, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among officers, the NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. If the vacancy occurs in the office of NYI president, the pastor, youth pastor, or his/her designee chairs the meeting for election.

810.109 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the NYI president include:
   a. Chairing the NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry in the church.
   b. Facilitating the development of youth ministry and working with the NYI Council to define the ministry focus in response to the needs of their young people.
   c. Serving on the church board and submitting a monthly report to the board. A local church board may establish prior to the annual election a minimum age for the NYI president to serve on the church board; should the president be younger, alternate representation for NYI on the church board may be appointed by the NYI Council, subject to the approval of the board.
   d. Submitting an annual report of ministry and finances to the annual church meeting.
   e. Recommending the budget for the local NYI, as approved by the NYI Council, to the church board.
   f. Serving as an ex officio member of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board to coor-

dinate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups in the church.

g. Working with the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president in the development of a missions emphasis for youth.

h. Serving as a delegate to the District NYI Convention and the District Assembly. Should the president be unable to attend, a representative elected by the NYI Council and approved by pastor and the church board may provide alternate representation.

2. The responsibilities of other NYI officers include:

a. Developing and designating leaders for various local NYI ministries.

b. Being role models and spiritual guides for youth both within and outside the church.

c. Defining and assigning titles and youth ministry responsibilities in response to local church needs.

d. Distributing the following responsibilities to insure accountability and effectiveness:

(1) Keeping a correct record of all meetings of the NYI Council and attending to all matters of correspondence for the local NYI.

(2) Disbursing, receiving, and keeping records of NYI funds according to church board policy.

(3) Compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the annual church meeting.

(4) Working with the NYI president to create an annual budget to present to the council and to the church board for approval.

e. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to facilitate the local NYI ministry.

f. Carrying out other ministries as assigned by the NYI Council.

810.110 Paid Staff

1. 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 a local NYI president. However, the importance of the NYI president remains, in providing vital 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.
2. A youth pastor may not serve as the NYI president.
3. The youth pastor serves ex officio on the NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the NYI Nominating Committee.
4. The youth pastor may serve as the pastor's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.
5. If a church has multiple paid staff that minister to specific age divisions within NYI, it may develop officers for each age division under staff leadership and determine from among those officers how NYI is to be represented on the church board.

Council

810.111 Composition

1. The Local NYI Council is composed of the NYI officers, other elected or appointed youth member-at-large and ministry leaders as deemed necessary, and the pastor and/or youth pastor, who collectively cast the vision for local youth ministry.
2. NYI Council members must be members of the local Nazarene Youth International. Local church membership is strongly encouraged and NYI Council members should be expected to become church members.

810.112 Elections

1. A NYI Nominating Committee nominates local NYI members to be elected to the NYI Council.
2. The NYI membership then elects the members of the NYI Council from submitted nominations by majority vote at the annual NYI meeting.
3. A vacancy occurs when a council member moves his/her membership from the local NYI, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members, the NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.
4. If a church has fewer than seven NYI members, the pastor may appoint the members of the NYI Council so that youth ministry may be developed and young people are reached for Christ.

810.113 Responsibilities

1. The NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the local church and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with local church leadership.
2. The NYI Council defines the ministry focus of the local NYI in response to local youth ministry needs, and develops and assigns titles and job descriptions for ministry directors.
3. The NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups by promoting growth in enrollment and attendance for youth, nominating and providing training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders, and recommending curriculum and resources to be used, in cooperation with the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board.

4. The NYI Council cooperates with the District NYI Council in promoting district, regional, and global NYI ministries to young people of the church.
5. The NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for submitting revisions to the local ministry plan.

810.114 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of elected NYI officers and the pastor or youth pastor. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the NYI Council when necessary. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The NYI Council may establish specific ministry or age division committees in response to youth ministry needs.

810.115 Paid Staff

1. The pastor designates the responsibilities of a youth pastor, in consultation with the church board and the NYI Council.
2. The NYI Council and youth pastor work in cooperation and harmony with each other.
3. If a church has multiple paid staff who minister to specific age divisions within NYI, it may develop NYI councils or committees for each of these age divisions under staff leadership. The church may decide whether a coordinating council for the various groups is used.

Meetings

810.116 Local NYI Meetings

1. A variety of local NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people.
2. The local NYI group participates in district, regional, and global NYI gatherings that further enhance youth ministry in the church.

810.117 NYI Council Meetings

1. The NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the president or pastor.

810.118 Annual Meeting

1. The annual meeting of the local NYI is held within sixty days of the District NYI Convention and in harmony with the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. NYI officers and council members and delegates to the District NYI Convention are elected at the annual NYI meeting.
3. The NYI local ministry plan may be revised by two-thirds vote at the NYI annual meeting.

B. DISTRICT MINISTRY PLAN TEMPLATE

Ministries

810.200 Evangelism

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.201 Discipleship

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.202 Leadership Development

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.203 Provision

1. This district ministry plan template provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the district level. The district NYI may adapt and revise the plan in response to youth ministry needs on the district, consistent with the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the District NYI Council

810.204 Process

1. The District NYI Council establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the district ministry plan, and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the District NYI Convention.
2. Proposed revisions to the district ministry plan must be distributed in written form to local NYI groups prior to the District NYI Convention.
3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of all delegates and members present and voting at the District NYI Convention and are subject to the approval of the district superintendent and District Advisory Board.
4. All changes in the district ministry plan become effective no later than 60 days following the Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.205 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups and members of NYI within the boundaries of a district form the district Nazarene Youth International.
2. The district NYI is accountable to its membership, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board.

3. The district NYI reports annually to the District NYI Convention and the District Assembly through the district NYI president.

810.206 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the district NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A District NYI Council may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, with the approval of the district superintendent and District Advisory Board.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the District NYI Council establishes age divisions according to youth ministry needs on the district.

Leadership

810.207 Officers

1. The officers of the district NYI are the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
2. District NYI officers must be members of a local Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the district at the time of their election, be active in local and district youth ministry, and be viewed as leaders in personal example and ministry.
3. District NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of district NYI officers is allocated as a part of the district NYI budget.
4. Should a district not yet have an organized NYI (no District NYI Convention), the district superintendent may appoint a district NYI president so that local churches may be assisted in reaching young people for Christ and in responding to their spiritual growth needs.

810.208 Elections

1. District NYI officers are elected by the District NYI Convention to serve for a one-year term, from the close of the convention until their successors are elected and assume

their ministry roles. At the recommendation of the district NYI Nominating Committee and with the approval of the district superintendent, an officer may be elected for a two-year term.

2. A district NYI Nominating Committee nominates the officers of the district NYI. The nominating committee is appointed by the District NYI Council and consists of at least four district NYI members, and also includes the district superintendent and the district NYI president. All nominees must be approved by the District NYI Council and district superintendent.
3. Officers are then elected by ballot by majority vote at the annual NYI Convention. When there is only one nominee for a position, a "yes" and "no" ballot is used, with approval by two-thirds vote. If recommended by the nominating committee, the convention may vote to allow the District NYI Council to appoint the district NYI secretary and treasurer.
4. An incumbent officer may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the District NYI Council, with the approval of the district superintendent and approved by two-thirds vote of the District NYI Convention.
5. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership from the district, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur in the office of district NYI president, the vice-president assumes the responsibilities of president until the next District NYI Convention. Should a vacancy occur among other officers, the District NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.

810.209 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the district NYI president include:

a. Giving leadership and direction to district NYI, working in cooperation with NYI and district leadership.
b. Chairing the District NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry on the district.
c. Facilitating the development of youth ministry on the district and working with the District NYI Council to define the district NYI ministry focus according to needs.
d. Presiding at the District NYI Convention.
e. Encouraging the development of NYI ministry in each local church within the district.
f. Representing the interests of NYI on all appropriate district boards and committees.
g. Submitting an annual report to the District NYI Convention and District Assembly.
h. Presenting an annual budget to the District Finance Committee (or appropriate district body) and to the District NYI Convention for approval.
i. Serving as an ex officio delegate to the District Assembly.
j. Serving as a delegate to the Global NYI Convention. Should the president be unable to attend, a representative elected by the District NYI Council and approved by district superintendent and district advisory board may provide alternate representation.
k. Serving as a member of the Regional NYI Council, if so designated by the ministry plan of the region.

2. The responsibilities of the vice president include:
   a. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to carry out effective youth ministry on the district.
   b. Performing the duties of the president in his/her absence.
   c. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the District NYI Council and Convention.
   d. In case of a vacancy in the office of district NYI president, fulfilling the functions of president until a successor is elected and installed.

3. The responsibilities of the secretary include:
   a. Keeping a correct record of all the proceedings of the District NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the District NYI Convention.
   b. Attending to all matters of correspondence for the district NYI.
   c. Notifying the global NYI Office and regional NYI chair of the names and addresses of the various district NYI officers and ministry directors as soon as possible after election.
   d. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the District NYI Council and Convention.
4. The responsibilities of the treasurer include:
   a. Disbursing, receiving, and keeping record of district NYI funds.
   b. Compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the annual District NYI Convention.
   c. Working with the president to create an annual budget to present to the appropriate bodies.
5. Other responsibilities may be assigned to officers according to district youth ministry needs.

810.210 Paid Staff

1. When a district employs a youth pastor, the district superintendent, in consultation with the District Advisory Board and District NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for the district NYI to the district youth pastor. In that case, the district youth pastor carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a district NYI president. However, the importance of the district NYI president remains, in providing additional leadership, support, and representation for district youth ministry. The District NYI Council and district superintendent work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the district youth ministry.

2. A district youth pastor may not serve as the district NYI president.
3. The district youth pastor serves ex officio on the District NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the District NYI Nominating Committee.
4. The district youth pastor may serve as the district superintendent's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.

Council

810.211 Composition

1. The District NYI Council is composed of the officers of the district NYI, other elected or appointed youth members-at-large and ministry leaders as deemed necessary by the council, and the district superintendent and/or district youth pastor.
2. Only NYI members who are members of the Church of the Nazarene on the district may serve as District NYI Council members.

810.212 Elections

1. The district NYI Nominating Committee nominates district NYI members to be elected to the District NYI Council.
2. The District NYI Convention then elects the members of the District NYI Council from submitted nominations by majority vote.
3. A vacancy occurs when a council member moves his/her membership off of the district, resigns, or is removed from office by the council by two-thirds vote due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members, the District NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.
4. The nominating committee may authorize the District NYI Council to appoint district ministry directors.

810.213 Responsibilities

1. The District NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the district and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with district leadership.
2. The District NYI Council defines the ministry focus of district NYI in response to district youth ministry needs and develops and assigns titles and responsibilities for district NYI ministry directors.
3. The District NYI Council encourages and equips local churches across the district for effective youth ministry.
4. The District NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of the district Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups by promoting growth and enrollment in attendance for youth and by providing training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders in cooperation with the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board.
5. The District NYI Council promotes regional and global NYI ministries and programs to local NYI groups.
6. The District NYI Council makes recommendations to the District NYI Convention concerning the ministry of NYI. The convention may revise these recommendations prior to adoption.
7. The District NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for amending the district ministry plan.

810.214 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of elected district NYI officers and the district superintendent and/or district youth pastor. Should the secretary and treasurer be appointed members of the council, the council may elect by majority vote two other District NYI Council members to serve on the Executive Committee. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining

members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The District NYI Council may establish specific ministry or age division committees in response to district youth ministry needs.

810.215 Zone NYI

1. In cooperation with district leadership, the District NYI Council may authorize various zones within the existing structure of the district to organize for leadership of NYI, in order to coordinate and maximize NYI ministry across the district.
2. A zone NYI council may be created to have responsibility for specific ministries and activities on the zone.
3. A president or representative from each zone may serve on the District NYI Council, if so specified by the District NYI Convention.

810.216 Paid Staff

1. The district superintendent designates the responsibilities of a district youth pastor, in consultation with the District Advisory Board and District NYI Council.
2. The District NYI Council and district youth pastor work in cooperation and harmony with each other.

Meetings

810.217 District NYI Meetings

1. A variety of district NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people.
2. The district NYI also encourages and enhances local NYI ministry by meeting with local NYI groups across the district to resource them for effective ministry.
3. The district NYI participates in regional and global NYI gatherings that further enhance effective youth ministry across the district.

810.218 District NYI Council Meetings

1. The District NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of district NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the district NYI president or district superintendent.

810.219 District NYI Convention

1. The annual District NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry across the district. Reports are received, leadership is elected, and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI is transacted at the Convention. Delegates to the Global NYI Convention are also elected consistent with the NYI Global Ministry Plan.
2. The District NYI Council arranges for and oversees the District NYI Convention, in cooperation with the district superintendent. The Convention convenes at a time and place designated by the District NYI Council, with the approval of the district superintendent and within ninety days of the District Assembly.
3. The District NYI Convention is composed of the members of the District NYI Council, the district superintendent, local pastors, other assigned ordained ministers of the district who participate in NYI ministry, and local NYI delegates.
4. All local NYI delegates to the District NYI Convention must be members of the Church of the Nazarene that they represent.
5. The number of local NYI delegates for each church is determined by the membership figures on the most recent local Pastor's Report prior to the District Assembly. District NYI leadership encourages local churches to make suitable arrangements for the expenses of delegates attending the District NYI Convention.
6. The local NYI delegation to the District NYI Convention for churches with 30 or fewer NYI members consists of:

a. The pastor and youth pastor or any fulltime paid pastoral staff who participate in NYI ministry;
b. The newly-elected local NYI president;
c. Up to four elected delegates, with at least half being within the district-established NYI ministry focus.
d. Local churches may add an additional delegate for each successive 30 local NYI members and/or final major part of those 30 members (i.e., 16-29 members). At least half of any additional delegates must be also within the district-established NYI ministry focus.

7. The pastor of any local church or director of an approved Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Center not having an organized NYI may appoint one delegate.

Number of members	Number of delegates*	Number of members	Number of delegates*
5-45	4	136-165	8
46-75	5	166-195	9
76-105	6	196-225	10
106-135	7	226-255	11

*Number of elected delegates from a local NYI does not include *ex officio* delegates (NYI president, pastor, youth pastor, District NYI Council members from a local church, etc.).

C. REGIONAL MINISTRY PLAN TEMPLATE

Ministries

810.300 Evangelism

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.301 Discipleship

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.302 Leadership Development

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.303 Provision

1. The regional ministry plan template provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the regional level. A regional NYI may adapt and revise the plan in response to youth ministry needs on the region, consistent with the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the Regional NYI Council.

810.304 Process

1. The Regional NYI Council, in cooperation with the region, establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the regional ministry plan and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the Regional NYI Caucus.
2. Proposed revisions to the regional ministry plan must be distributed in written form to district NYI councils prior to the Regional NYI Caucus at the Global NYI Convention.
3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of all delegates and members present and voting at the Regional NYI

Caucus and are subject to the approval of the regional director and Regional Advisory Council (where applicable).
4. All changes in the regional ministry plan become effective no later than 90 days following the Global NYI Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.305 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups, district NYI ministries, and members of NYI within the boundaries of a region form the regional Nazarene Youth International.
2. The regional NYI is accountable to its membership, regional director, global NYI director, regional NYI council, and to the Global NYI Council
3. The regional NYI reports to the Global NYI Council on an annual basis.

810.306 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the regional NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A Regional NYI Council may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, with the approval of the districts on the region and the regional director.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the Regional NYI Council may establish age divisions according to youth ministry needs on the region.

Leadership

810.307 Officers

1. The officers of the Regional NYI Council are a chair, vice chair, and secretary. These officers and the regional youth coordinator serve as the Executive Committee.
2. Regional NYI officers must reside and hold membership in the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the region at the time of their election, be active in youth min-

istry, and be viewed as leaders in personal example and ministry.

3. Regional NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of regional NYI officers is allocated as a part of regional funds.

810.308 Elections

1. Regional NYI officers are elected by the Regional NYI Caucus at a special meeting during the Global NYI Convention. The regional officers serve from the close of the Global NYI Convention until the close of the following Global NYI Convention.
2. A regional NYI Nominating Committee nominates the officers of the regional NYI. The nominating committee is appointed by the Regional NYI Council and consists of at least four regional NYI members, including the regional NYI chair and regional director. At least two names are submitted to the Regional NYI Caucus for each position. The Regional NYI Council and regional director must approve all nominees.
3. An incumbent regional NYI chair who is eligible to be elected for another term may be re-elected by a "yes" or "no" vote, when such election is recommended by the Regional NYI Council, approved by the regional director, and approved by two-thirds vote by ballot of the Regional NYI Caucus during the Global NYI Convention.
4. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership off the region, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Regional NYI Council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among officers, the Regional NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. In the case of such a vacancy in the office of regional NYI chair, the region elects a new chair consistent with the NYI Global Ministry Plan.

810.309 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the regional NYI chair include:
   a. Giving leadership and direction to the regional NYI, working in cooperation with NYI global and regional leadership.
   b. Chairing the Regional NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry on the region.
   c. Facilitating the development of youth ministry on the region and working with the Regional NYI Council to define the regional NYI ministry focus according to needs.
   d. Presiding at the Regional NYI Caucus during the Global NYI Convention.
   e. Encouraging the development of NYI ministry on each district and field within the region.
   f. Representing the interests of regional NYI on appropriate regional boards and committees.
   g. Submitting an annual report to the Regional NYI Council, regional director and Regional Advisory Council (where applicable), and the Global NYI Council.
   h. Recommending an annual budget to the Regional NYI Council and the Regional Office.
   i. Serving as a delegate to the Global NYI Convention.
   j. Serving as a liaison between the regional NYI and Nazarene institutions of higher education on the region to promote communication, cooperation, and ministry partnership.
2. The responsibilities of regional NYI officers include:
   a. Developing and designating leaders for the various regional NYI ministries.
   b. Defining and assigning titles and youth ministry responsibilities according to regional needs.
   c. Distributing the following responsibilities to insure accountability and effectiveness:
      (1) Keeping a correct record of all meetings of the Regional NYI Council and attending to all matters of correspondence for the regional NYI.

(2) Disbursing, receiving, and keeping records of regional NYI funds, according to Global NYI Council, General Board, and regional office policies.
(3) Assisting the chair in compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the Global NYI Council and other appropriate bodies.
(4) Working with the chair to create an annual budget to present to the Regional NYI Council and to the regional director for approval.
(5) Notifying the Global NYI Office and the regional office of the names and addresses of the various regional NYI officers and ministry directors as soon as possible after election or appointment.

d. Cooperating with the chair in every way possible to facilitate regional youth ministry.
e. Carrying out other ministries as assigned by the Regional NYI Council or Regional NYI Caucus.

810.310 Paid Staff

1. When a region employs a regional youth coordinator, the regional director, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council and Regional NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for the regional NYI to the regional youth coordinator. In that case, the regional youth coordinator may carry out some of the duties otherwise designated to a regional NYI chair. However, the importance of the regional NYI chair remains, in providing additional leadership, support, and representation for regional youth ministry. The Regional NYI Council and regional director work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the regional youth ministry.
2. A regional youth coordinator may not serve as regional NYI chair.
3. The regional youth coordinator serves ex officio on the Regional NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the Regional NYI Nominating Committee.

4. The regional youth coordinator may serve as the regional director's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.

Council

810.311 Composition

1. The Regional NYI Council is composed of the officers of the regional NYI, other elected or appointed youth members-at-large, ministry leaders as deemed necessary by the council, the regional director and regional youth coordinator.
2. Only those NYI members who are members of the Church of the Nazarene on the region may serve as Regional NYI Council members.
3. When applicable, representatives from Nazarene colleges or universities responsible for shared ministry with the regional NYI may also serve on the Regional NYI Council.

810.312 Elections

1. A regional NYI Nominating Committee nominates regional NYI members to be elected to the Regional NYI Council.
2. The Regional NYI Caucus at the Global NYI Convention then elects by majority vote the members of the Regional NYI Council from submitted nominations. The Regional NYI Caucus may authorize the Regional NYI Council to appoint regional ministry directors.
3. A vacancy occurs when a member moves his/her membership off of the region, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members elected or appointed by the council, the Regional NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. If a vacancy occurs among members representing a district on the region, the vacancy is filled according to that district's ministry plan.

810.313 Responsibilities

1. The Regional NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the region and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with regional leadership.
2. The Regional NYI Council defines the ministry focus of regional NYI in response to regional youth ministry needs, and develops and assigns titles and responsibilities for regional NYI ministry directors.
3. The Regional NYI Council encourages and equips districts across the region for effective youth ministry.
4. The Regional NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of Sunday School/Bible Studies/small groups regionally by promoting growth in enrollment and attendance for youth and providing training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders in cooperation with Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International.
5. The Regional NYI Council promotes global NYI ministries and programs to regional membership.
6. The Regional NYI Council directs the expenditure of funds provided to the region through NYI events and partnerships.
7. The Regional NYI Council makes recommendations to the Regional NYI Caucus at the Global NYI Convention concerning the ministry of NYI. The council also appoints up to two persons to serve the region as members of the Resolutions Committee at the Global NYI Convention, consistent with the Global Ministry Plan.
8. The Regional NYI Council works in consultation with the regional director to select one representative to serve on the Global NYI Council.
9. The Regional NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for amending the regional ministry plan.

810.314 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of the elected regional NYI officers and the regional director and/or regional youth coordinator. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the Regional NYI Council when it is impractical or impossible to convene the entire council. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The Regional NYI Council may establish specific ministry committees in response to regional youth ministry needs.
3. In countries where there are a number of districts, a region may organize national NYI leadership to coordinate and facilitate youth ministry in that country.

810.315 The Field NYI

1. Where applicable and in cooperation with regional church leadership, the Regional NYI Council may organize for leadership of NYI on the various fields within the existing structure of a region, in order to coordinate and maximize NYI ministry across the region.
2. A field NYI council may be created to have responsibility for specific ministries and activities on the field.
3. A representative from each field may serve on the Regional NYI Council, if so specified by the Regional Caucus.

810.316 Paid Staff

1. The regional director designates the responsibilities of a regional youth coordinator, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council and the Regional NYI Council.
2. The Regional NYI Council and regional youth coordinator work in cooperation and harmony with each other.

Meetings

810.317 Regional NYI Meetings

1. A variety of regional NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people on the region.
2. The regional NYI also encourages and enhances district NYI ministry by meeting with district NYI groups across the region to resource them for effective ministry.
3. The regional NYI participates in global NYI gatherings that further enhance effective youth ministry across the region.

810.318 Regional NYI Council Meetings

1. The Regional NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of regional NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the regional NYI chair, regional director, regional youth coordinator, or the global NYI director.

810.319 Regional NYI Caucus

1. A Regional NYI Caucus is convened during the Global NYI Convention. The caucus provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry across the region. Reports are received, leadership is elected, and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI on the region is transacted at the caucus
2. The Regional NYI Council, in cooperation with the global NYI director, arranges for and oversees the Regional NYI Caucus.
3. The Regional NYI Caucus is composed of the members of the Regional NYI Council, the regional director and/or regional youth coordinator, and the delegates from the region to the Global NYI Convention who are elected, consistent with the Global Ministry Plan.
4. The caucus convenes during the Global NYI Convention at a time and place designated by the global NYI director. When approved by the Regional NYI Council, the regional director, and the Global NYI Council, a caucus may be

convened by postal or electronic means within six months prior to the Global NYI Convention in order to conduct regional NYI business when circumstances prohibit a majority of elected delegates from attending the Global NYI Convention.

D. GLOBAL MINISTRY PLAN TEMPLATE

Ministries

810.400 Evangelism

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.401 Discipleship

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.402 Leadership Development

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.403 Provision

1. The Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan provide the structure for organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the global level. The Global NYI Convention may revise the NYI Charter and Global Ministry Plan in response to youth ministry needs around the world through submitted resolutions. All amendments

to the Global Ministry Plan must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

2. Any area not covered by the NYI Charter or Global Ministry Plan is under the authority of the Global NYI Council and the director of NYI.

810.404 Process

1. The Global NYI Council, in cooperation with the director of NYI, establishes and publicizes the process for amending the Global Ministry Plan and the Nazarene Youth International Charter through submitted resolutions.
2. Any District NYI Council, Regional NYI Council, the Global NYI Council, or at least six sponsoring delegates to the Global NYI Convention may submit these resolutions. Resolutions must be in proper resolution form and received by the stated deadline.
3. The NYI office must receive all resolutions at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the Global NYI Council in the year of the Global NYI Convention.
4. Resolutions must be distributed in written form to Global NYI Convention delegates prior to the Global NYI Convention.
5. Resolutions are considered first by the Global NYI Council and by a Resolutions Committee of the Global NYI Convention, composed of up to two NYI delegates appointed from each region by the Regional NYI Council. Resolutions which receive a majority vote of either body to recommend their approval are then considered by the Convention.
6. Resolutions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of all delegates present and voting at the Global NYI Convention.
7. All approved changes in the Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan become effective no later than 90 days following the Global NYI Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.405 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups, district, field and regional NYI ministries, and their members constitute Nazarene Youth International.
2. The global NYI is accountable to NYI membership, the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI, the global mission director, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents.
3. The global NYI reports annually to the General Board and reports to the Global NYI Convention and to the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene.
4. The director of NYI is responsible for general coordination and supervision for the development of youth ministry for the Church of the Nazarene through Nazarene Youth International.
5. NYI offices around the world work together with the Global NYI Council for the effective implementation of youth ministry for the Church of the Nazarene.

810.406 Ministry Focus

1. The ministry focus of Nazarene Youth International is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. Regional, field, district, and local NYI councils may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, consistent with the ministry plan for that level.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, Nazarene Youth International establishes three divisions — early youth, senior youth, and college/university/young adult.

Leadership

810.407 Officers

1. The elected officers of the global NYI are a council chair and a vice chair.

2. No one shall be eligible for election as the Global NYI Council chair who is an employee of the Church of the Nazarene, Inc., or entities including educational institutions that receive financial subsidy from the Church of the Nazarene, Inc. Individuals from districts or other entities receiving operating funds from the general church are likewise ineligible.
3. Global NYI officers must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene, be active in youth ministry, be leaders in personal example and ministry, and be members of the Global NYI Council.
4. Global NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of global NYI officers is allocated as a part of NYI funds.
5. A global NYI officer may serve in his/her position no more than one full term.

810.408 Elections

1. The Global NYI council chair is elected by majority vote in the Global NYI Convention and will serve until the close of the following General Assembly or until his/her successor is elected.
2. Each region nominates one name for the global NYI council chair from the regional NYI caucus meeting of the global NYI Convention.
3. The Global NYI vice chair is elected by the Global NYI Council at its first meeting during or following the General Assembly and will serve until the close of the following General Assembly or until his/her successor is elected.
4. A vacancy occurs in the position of global NYI chair or vice chair when he/she resigns from office or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Global NYI Council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. In the case of a vacancy among the global NYI officers, the Global NYI Council will elect his/her replacement.

810.409 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the global NYI council chair include:

   a. Presiding at the business meetings of the Global NYI Convention and the meetings of the Global NYI Council.
   b. Representing NYI as a member of the General Board and as a delegate to the General Assembly.
   c. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.
2. The responsibilities of the global NYI vice chair include:
   a. Cooperating with the global NYI council chair in every way possible to carry out effective youth ministry globally.
   b. Ensuring accurate records of all proceedings of the Global NYI Convention and all meetings of the Global NYI Council are kept for submission to the General Board.
   c. Chairing the Global NYI Council, providing alternate representation on any boards or councils, and fulfilling any designated duties in the absence of the global NYI council chair.
   d. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.

810.410 Paid Staff

1. The general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI and the General Board assign the responsibility for the global NYI to the director of NYI. The director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Board of General Superintendents.
2. The Board of General Superintendents elects the director of NYI subject to General Board election procedures.
3. Should a vacancy occur in the position, it is filled according to the following sequence:
   a. The general superintendent in jurisdiction nominates the director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council and Board of General Superintendents.
   b. A ballot is then presented to the Global NYI Council for approval by majority vote and is subject to General Board election procedures.

4. After nomination by the general superintendent in jurisdiction responsible for NYI, an incumbent director of NYI is approved by majority vote of the Global NYI Council at its first scheduled meeting following the General Assembly, and is subject to General Board election procedures.
5. The director of NYI may not serve as an elected global NYI officer.
6. The director of NYI serves ex officio on the Global NYI Council, the Executive Committee, all regional councils, and other global NYI committees as appointed.

Council

810.411 Composition

1. The Global NYI Council is composed of the director of NYI, the global NYI council chair, and one representative from each world region, who is selected according to each region's adopted ministry plan.
2. Other appointed persons as deemed necessary by the Global NYI Council may be appointed to serve as non-voting members of the council.
3. All Global NYI Council members must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene.

810.412 Responsibilities

1. The Global NYI Council, in collaboration with the director of NYI and NYI staff, establishes procedures for global NYI and gives direction and support to the development of youth ministry resources for all levels of NYI, subject to approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI and the General Board. The NYI ministry is designed to reach young people for Christ and respond to their spiritual growth needs; it is facilitated through the director of NYI and NYI leadership around the world.
2. The Global NYI Council provides a forum for the support and development of effective youth ministry programs,

events, and resources at the regional level, consistent with the mission and vision of NYI.

3. The Global NYI Council provides avenue for the representation of regional, field, district, and local levels of NYI by council members to the NYI staff. Council members also represent the global NYI by initiating contact with their region, fields, districts, and local churches on behalf of the Global NYI Council and the Global NYI Office.
4. The Global NYI Council assists in the planning and administration of the Global NYI Convention.
5. The Global NYI Council gives input to the youth area of the Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups and helps promotes growth in enrollment and attendance for youth and training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders globally, in cooperation with Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International.
6. The Global NYI Council reviews the annual budget and expenditures of the NYI office provided through the General Board.
7. The Global NYI Council directs and reviews the expenditure of funds provided through NYI events and partnerships subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

810.413 Committees

1. The Executive Committee consists of the elected Global NYI officers and the director of NYI. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the Global NYI Council when it is impractical or impossible to convene the entire council. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The Global NYI Council may establish specific ministry committees as necessary for advancing its work.

810.414 Paid Staff

1. The director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Global Mission Director and the Board of General Superintendents. The Global NYI Council may recommend revisions to these duties to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI.
2. The director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council, designates the responsibilities of global NYI office paid staff. The Global NYI Council and global NYI Office staff work in cooperation and harmony with each other.
3. The director of NYI may not serve as the Global NYI council chair.

Meetings

810.415 Global NYI Meetings

1. To provide effective ministry to young people, global NYI ministry may involve a variety of gatherings for worship, teaching, training, fellowship, and evangelism. Global NYI leadership works together with regional, field, district, and local NYI leadership to plan ministry globally, related to specific groups, and geared to multiple regions, so that youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene may be most effective.
2. Global NYI leaders and staff are actively involved with NYI on every level as a resource for effective ministry.

810.416 Global NYI Council Meetings

1. The Global NYI Council meets annually to advance the mission and vision of NYI. The meeting is scheduled in connection with the annual meeting of the General Board.
2. The global NYI officers or director of NYI may call special meetings as necessary, in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI.

810.417 Global NYI Convention

1. A Global NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions to advance youth ministry around the world. Reports are received and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI is transacted at the Global NYI Convention.
2. The Board of General Superintendents sets the length of the Convention and the time it convenes, from recommendations of the Global NYI Council to the General Assembly Program Committee. The global NYI officers and director of NYI oversee the convention, with the assistance of the Global NYI Council.
3. All delegates of the Global NYI Convention must be members of the Church of the Nazarene and Nazarene Youth International and 12 years of age or older at the time of the Global NYI Convention. Additionally, each district NYI delegate must be a member of and reside on the district he/she represents at the time of the convention.
4. The Global NYI Convention is composed of the Global NYI Council, the director of NYI, duly elected executive regional officers (no more than three), the regional, field, national, and district youth coordinators, and district NYI delegates as follows:
   a. Districts with 1,000 or fewer NYI members may send the following delegates:
      (1) The district NYI president serving at the time of the Global NYI Convention;
      (2) One ministerial delegate active in NYI leadership who is an assigned elder, deacon, or district licensed minister;
      (3) One lay delegate over the age of 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI leadership; and
      (4) One youth delegate between the ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI.
   b. In addition, a district may send an additional ministerial delegate, lay delegate, and youth delegate between the

ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention, for each successive 1,500 NYI members and/or the final major part of 1,500 members (751-1,499 members).

c. The size of the district delegation is based on the district NYI membership report for the District Assembly in the calendar year immediately prior to the Global NYI Convention.

d. All district delegates are to be elected by ballot by majority vote at a session of the District NYI Convention within 18 months of the Global NYI Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or extensive preparations are necessary. Alternate delegates may be elected after elected delegates on another ballot from the remaining nominations by plurality vote, with first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc., designated by the number of votes received. Delegates and alternates must be elected by 31 March of the year of the Global NYI Convention.

e. The student body president of each Nazarene university, college, or theological school, may also serve as a delegate, as a representative of the partnership of NYI with his/her institution. Should he/she be unable to serve or attend, a representative selected by the student government may provide alternate representation.

5. In the case of districts without an organized NYI (no District NYI Convention), Global NYI Convention representation may be comprised of one delegate of NYI membership age chosen by the District Assembly. Should a delegate withdraw prior to the convention, the District Advisory Board may appoint a qualified delegate.
6. The bar of the Global NYI Convention is set to enable all duly elected delegates to participate in the voting of the Global NYI Convention. This voting will take place by the voting procedures established by the Convention Business Committee.
7. A caucus for each region is held during the Global NYI Convention and is composed of the Regional NYI Council,

the regional director and regional youth coordinator, and elected district NYI delegates from that region.

Number of members	Number of delegates*	Number of members	Number of delegates*
4-1750	3	4751-6250	12
1751-3250	6	6251-7750	15
3251-4750	9	7751-9250	18

*Number of elected delegates from a district NYI does not include ex officio delegates (district NYI president, regional NYI presidents and coordinators, and global officers, etc.).

II. NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

811. NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Nazarene Missions International (NMI) of the Church of the Nazarene.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to mobilize the Church of the Nazarene in missions through 1) praying, 2) giving, 3) educating, and 4) engaging children and youth.

Article III. Structure

Section 1. Local

The local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the local church and shall work cooperatively with the pastor and church board through the local NMI council.

Section 2. District

The leaders constituting the district NMI council shall work cooperatively with the district superintendent, district advisory board, and other district-related leaders.

All local NMI organizations within the boundaries of a district shall constitute the district NMI.

Section 3. Global

The leaders constituting the Global NMI Council shall work cooperatively with the Global Mission Office, the Global Mission Committee of the General Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

All district and local NMI organizations shall constitute the Global NMI.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Members

Any person who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) purpose may be a member of NMI in that local church.

Voting and holding office shall be limited to members who are 15 years of age or older, except in children's and youth groups.

Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, reference to "members" means NMI members who are members of the church.

Section 2. Associate Members

Any person who is not a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the NMI purpose may be an associate member of NMI.

Article V. Councils and Officers

Section 1. Local Council

A. **Purpose**

The local council shall promote the purpose of NMI to mobilize the Church of the Nazarene in missions through 1) praying, 2) giving, 3) educating, and 4) engaging children and youth.

B. **Composition**

1. The NMI council shall be composed of a president and the number of officers and/or council members as agreed upon by the president and the lead pastor, according to the needs and size of the church.
2. A local council may have an executive committee composed of the president, lead pastor (ex officio), and two

or more additional members as determined by the local NMI council.

3. Additional council members may be responsible for specific areas of NMI including but not limited to praying, giving, educating, and engaging children and youth.
4. A council member may hold more than one position but shall have only one vote.
5. Any district NMI council member shall be an ex officio member of the local council with the approval of the local council.

C. **Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies**

The local council may determine the need for the use of a nominating committee, other than the church nominating committee, as part of the process of identification of suitable candidates for election to the local council. If a nominating committee is to be used, then the nominating committee shall be appointed by the president in agreement with the local council.

1. President
   a. The local council in position at the end of the church year may recommend names to a nominating committee that may submit one or more names for the election of the office of president, subject to the approval of the church board.
   b. The president shall be elected or reelected by a majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting for a term of service of one or two church years. The NMI council and the pastor shall recommend the length of the term of service.
   c. An incumbent may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the local council and approved by the pastor and church board.
   d. Alternatively, in a church that has not yet been organized, has been organized for less than 5 years, or with a membership of less than 35 members, the president may be appointed by the pastor in discussion with, and approval of, the church board.

2. Council
   a. On recommendation of the current president and upon agreement with the lead pastor, a local council other than the president may be elected by a plurality vote of the NMI membership or by the annual meeting of the church, or appointed by the president and pastor with the approval of the church board.
   b. The length of service shall be one or two years, or until their successors are elected or appointed, by recommendation of the NMI council or, in its absence, the church board and the pastor.
   c. These leaders shall begin serving on the first day of the new church year after the election.
   d. If the church has a unified treasurer who accounts for church funds including NMI monies, that person shall be the NMI treasurer and an ex officio member of the local NMI council with all rights and privileges, unless otherwise specified by the local council.
3. Delegates to the District Convention
   a. Delegates and alternates shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting by a plurality vote.
   b. If an election is not possible or feasible, the election may be by the local council, or in its absence, the church board, by a plurality vote. Refer to Article VI, Section 3.A.3. for determining the number of delegates.
4. Vacancies
   a. President: The local council may recommend names to the church board who shall nominate one or more names. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the NMI members at a meeting called according to the provisions of the *Manual*. Alternatively, where there is no NMI council, the church board shall fill any vacancy by election by a majority vote.
   b. Other council members: The NMI council, or in its absence the church board, shall fill any vacancy by appointment.

D. **Duties of Council Members**
   1. President
      a. Directs and facilitates the work of NMI in the local church.
      b. Presides at all regular and special meetings of the NMI.
      c. Assigns duties to council members as may be required from time to time.
      d. Serves as an ex officio member of the church board, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries Board, district NMI convention, and district assembly.
      e. Other duties as listed in the job description.
      f. In the case where the spouse of the local president is a member of the church board, or the spouse is the pastor of the church, if the local president chooses not to serve on the church board, an NMI representative determined by the NMI council is authorized to serve on the church board in the president's place with all rights and privileges.
   2. Executive Committee
      a. Transacts business between council meetings.

Section 2. District Council

A. **Purpose**

The district council shall promote the purpose of NMI to mobilize the Church of the Nazarene in missions through 1) praying, 2) giving, 3) educating, and 4) engaging children and youth within the district.

B. **Composition**
   1. In phase 3 districts, the council shall have four officers: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer (the NMI officers), plus three or more members according to the needs and size of the district.
   2. A council member may hold more than one position but shall have only one vote.
   3. The executive committee shall be the president and other NMI officers. If desired, at least three other coun-

cil members may be elected or appointed by the district council to serve on the executive committee for a term of service of one convention year or until their successors are elected. The district superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the executive committee.

4. For pioneer, phase 1, and phase 2 districts, refer to Section 2.C.3. below.

C. **Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies**

1. Nominations: The council shall be nominated by a committee of not less than five (5) members of the NMI. All nominees shall be NMI members of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district where they will serve.
   a. The district executive committee shall appoint the nominating committee and determine the number of council members to be elected.
   b. The district superintendent shall serve as the committee chairperson for the nomination of the district president. Upon approval of the district superintendent, the district NMI president may serve as chairperson of the nominating committee for other nominations.
2. Elections: The president and at least three additional members shall be elected by ballot at the annual district convention. The three additional members will be vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The term of service shall be one or two convention years as determined by the district NMI council with the approval of the district superintendent or until their successors are elected. In the event of the election of a new president, the new president shall take office within 30 days of the conclusion of the district convention. A convention year is from the adjournment of the district convention to the adjournment of the next district convention. These four council members will form the executive committee of the council. Three or more other council members may be elected or appointed to serve on the executive committee by the district council.

a. President
   1) The nominating committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president except when the district council recommends a yes or no ballot for an incumbent standing for another term.
   2) Incumbent nominees may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the district council and approved by the district superintendent. An incumbent being reelected by a yes/no ballot must receive a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.
   3) The president shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in the event of one name being presented for the position of president or by majority vote when there are at least two candidates nominated for president. The term of service shall be one or two convention years or until the successor has been elected. The district NMI council and the district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.
   4) On merger of two districts, the two incumbent district presidents may serve as co-presidents. Co-presidents may continue to be elected by the district convention until the district executive committee in conjunction with the district advisory board determines it is preferable to elect a single district president. The co-presidents will lead by consensus. In event of disagreement that cannot be resolved, the matter will be determined by vote of the district executive committee. Only one co-president will represent the district NMI at the district assembly, district committees, and the Global NMI Convention and will be determined by the district executive committee.

b. Vice president shall be elected by ballot in one of the following ways:

1) The nominating committee shall submit one or more names for the office of vice president except when the district council with the approval of the district superintendent recommends a yes or no vote for an incumbent standing for another term; or
2) To the council as a whole with specific council positions to be determined by the council.
3) On a district where there are co-presidents, there is no requirement for a vice president.

c. Secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot by:
1) The nominating committee shall submit one or more names for the offices of secretary and treasurer except when the district council with the approval of the district superintendent recommends a yes or no vote for an incumbent standing for another term; or
2) If the district has a unified treasurer who accounts for district funds including NMI monies, that person shall be the NMI treasurer as an ex officio member of the district NMI council with all rights and privileges, unless otherwise specified by the district council.

d. Additional council members: Other council members, in addition to the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, may be elected by ballot for one or two convention years with responsibilities to be determined by the council. The nominating committee and district superintendent shall recommend the length of the terms of service of one or two convention years. Alternatively, other council members may be appointed by the executive committee or district council with all rights and privileges.

e. Nominations for a youth representative may be requested from the district Nazarene Youth International (NYI).

3. Pioneer, Phase 1, and Phase 2 Districts: In pioneer, phase 1, and phase 2 districts, a district president may be elected by the District NMI Convention or, where there is no such convention, the district superintendent shall appoint a district NMI president who shall promote the purpose of NMI on the district. The president may serve alone or may consult with the district superintendent to appoint other church members of the district to assist the president by serving as the NMI council.
4. Vacancies
   a. President: The executive committee shall nominate one or more names. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the district council present and voting. The person elected shall serve until the adjournment of the next district convention or until a successor has been elected.
   b. Other council members: The executive committee or district council shall fill any vacancy by appointment. The newly appointed council members shall serve until the adjournment of the next district convention or until their successors have been elected.
   c. Unified treasurer: If a district has a unified treasurer serving as the district NMI treasurer, that vacancy shall be filled by the district advisory board.

D. **Duties of Council Members**
1. President
   a. Directs and facilitates the district council to ensure achievement of the purpose of NMI on the district.
   b. Presides at all meetings of the district council, executive committee, and the district convention.
   c. Prepares an annual budget for approval by the District Finance Committee.
   d. Submits annually a written report to the district NMI convention and to the Global NMI Council regional representative; and where applicable, the regional NMI coordinator for Global Mission regions.

e. Assigns duties to other council members as may be required from time to time.
f. Serves as ex officio member of the district committee referenced in the *Manual* paragraph 239.
g. Performs other duties as described in the job description.

2. Vice President
   a. Performs all duties of the president when the president is absent.
   b. Serves in other areas as assigned by the district NMI council.
   c. Performs other duties described in the job description or which may be assigned by the district president as required from time to time.
3. Secretary
   a. Records the minutes of all business meetings.
   b. Provides support and assistance when requested by the president to:
      1) Send report forms annually to local NMI presidents.
      2) Compiles statistical records and submits an annual report to the district president, global NMI director, Global Council representative, and where applicable the regional NMI coordinator for Global Mission regions.
   c. Performs other duties as described in the job description or which may be assigned by the district president as required from time to time.
4. Treasurer
   a. Keeps an accurate account of all funds collected and expended.
   b. Remits funds to designated treasurers in a timely manner.
   c. Furnishes regular itemized reports to the district council and prepares an annual report for the district convention.

d. Arranges with appropriate district personnel the annual audit of the district NMI treasurer's books.
e. Performs other duties as described in the job description or which may be assigned by the district president as required from time to time.

5. Executive Committee
   a. Appoints additional district council members and, as needed, fills vacancies on the council.
   b. Transacts business between council meetings.
   c. Nominates one or more names for president if a vacancy occurs between annual conventions.
6. Other Council Members
   a. Perform duties as requested by the district president and district council.

Section 3. Global Council

A. **Purpose**

The Global NMI Council shall promote the purpose of NMI to mobilize the Church of the Nazarene in missions through 1) praying, 2) giving, 3) educating, and 4) engaging children and youth throughout the denomination utilizing the network of regions, fields, districts, and local churches within the denomination.

B. **Composition**

1. The Global NMI Council shall be composed of the global NMI president, the global NMI director, one representative from each region in the Church of the Nazarene, and the director of Global Mission.
2. The Global NMI executive committee shall be composed of the global NMI president, the global NMI director, the global NMI vice president, the global NMI secretary, one other council member, and the director of Global Mission.

C. **Nominations, Elections, and Vacancies**

1. Nominations and Election of Global NMI Director
   a. The Global NMI executive committee and the jurisdictional general superintendent will form the search

committee to identify potential candidates for the position of global NMI director. Up to two names of potential candidates will be submitted to the Global Mission Committee of the General Board.

b. The Global Mission Committee of the General Board with the jurisdictional general superintendent will consider the names submitted to it and ratify up to two names for election by the Board of General Superintendents.

c. The Board of General Superintendents will elect the global NMI director by ballot from the names submitted to it by the Global Mission Committee of the General Board.

2. Nomination and Election of Global NMI President

a. The nominating committee shall be composed of 6, 7, or 8 people and chaired by the global NMI director. The committee shall be composed of both council members and non-council members representative of Global NMI and will be appointed by the executive committee.

b. The committee shall submit one or more names for election as global president. The nominee(s) shall be approved by the Board of General Superintendents. Nominees shall not be employees of the General Board.

c. From these nominee(s) the Global NMI Convention shall elect a global NMI president by a majority vote by ballot when there are two or more nominees for president and by a two-thirds vote when there is only one nominee.

d. The global president shall serve for a four-year term from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly or until the successor is elected.

e. The global president shall be limited to serving for three full terms of service. A term of service shall be one quadrennium. If a person is elected to fill a

vacancy in the office of global president, that person is also eligible to serve three full terms.

3. Nomination and Election of Global Council Members
   a. Each district NMI council may submit one or two names to the Global NMI Office from its region as the regional representative for a nominating ballot.
      1) These persons shall be residents of and members of a Church of the Nazarene in the region they will represent.
      2) The provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a regional boundary from the place of church membership.
      3) Employees of the General Board are not eligible for nomination.
   b. From these names on the nominating ballot, each region in caucus at the Global NMI Convention shall choose by ballot two nominees. The two with the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominees; however, the two nominees shall not be from the same district. If this happens, the person with the second highest number of votes is replaced by the person with the next highest number of votes from a different district.
   c. The region in caucus shall then elect one person by a majority vote to represent the region on the Global Council.
   d. Council members shall serve for a four-year term from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly or until their successors are elected.
   e. The term of service shall be limited to three consecutive terms. A term shall be one quadrennium (four years). If a person is elected to fill a vacancy of a Global Council member, that person is also eligible to serve three consecutive full terms. A person may be elected to serve again after not serving for at least one full term.

4. Nomination and Election of Global NMI Executive Committee
   a. The Global NMI Council shall in its first meeting, which may be before the adjournment of the General Assembly, nominate and elect a vice president, a secretary, and one additional member for the Global NMI executive committee.
   b. Election shall be by ballot by a majority vote of those present and voting.
5. Nomination and Election of NMI Representative to General Board
   a. The Global NMI Council shall nominate one member of the council to represent NMI on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene.
   b. The General Assembly shall elect the NMI representative by ballot by a majority vote.
6. Vacancies
   a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of global NMI president between Global NMI Conventions, a new global president shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Global Council from nominees selected by the executive committee in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The person will perform the duties of the global president until the adjournment of the next General Assembly. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Global Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction.
   b. If a vacancy occurs in the Global NMI executive committee between Global NMI Conventions, the Global Council shall nominate one or more people. The vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote by ballot of the Global NMI Council.
   c. If a vacancy occurs on the Global NMI Council between Global Conventions, each district executive committee on the region concerned shall be requested to submit one nominee from the region to

the Global NMI executive committee. From these names, the executive committee shall present two names as nominees. The vacancy shall then be filled by a majority vote by the district NMI presidents on the region. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Global NMI executive committee in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

d. If a vacancy occurs in the office of global NMI director, the same process shall be followed for the nomination and election of the global director (see Article V, Section 3.C.1.).

e. If a vacancy occurs in the NMI representative to the General Board, the Global NMI executive committee shall submit one nominee after consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The Global NMI Council shall elect the General Board representative by a majority vote.

D. **Duties**

1. Global President
   a. Presides at the meetings of the Global Council, executive committee, and the Global NMI Convention.
   b. Serves as an ex officio member of the General Assembly.
   c. Assigns duties to other council members as may be required from time to time.
   d. Performs other duties as described in the job description.
2. Vice President
   a. Performs the duties of the president when the president is absent.
   b. Performs other duties as described in the job description or which may be assigned by the global president as required from time to time.
3. Executive Committee: Transacts business between council meetings.

4. Global Council Member
   a. Cooperates with the global NMI president and global NMI director in promoting the purpose of NMI.
   b. Promotes NMI in the region he or she represents.
   c. Submits a report of the NMI work in the region to each Global NMI Council meeting.
   d. Acts on any legislation passed by the General Assembly relevant to regional representation.
   e. Performs other duties as described in the job description or as may be assigned by the global president from time to time.
5. Global Director
   a. Serves as the executive officer of NMI.
   b. Advances the mission interests of NMI throughout the districts around the world in cooperation with the Global Council.
   c. Interprets the NMI Handbook and Constitution.
   d. Directs the personnel and business of the Global NMI Office.
   e. Serves as editor-in-chief of all NMI publications.
   f. Makes an annual financial and statistical report to the Global Council, the Global Missions Committee, and the General Board.
   g. With the global president, directs the organization and program of the Global Convention in collaboration with the Global Council.
   h. Prepares the Global Convention report, both financial and statistical, with a condensed version through the Global Mission Office for the General Assembly.
   i. Serves as an ex officio member of the General Assembly.
   j. Performs other duties as described in the job description.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Electronic Meetings and Communications

A. **Meetings**

All NMI conventions, councils, committees, subcommittees, and task forces shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media if all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate in the meeting.

B. Communications

Unless members indicate otherwise, all communications required of this Constitution may be sent electronically.

Section 2. Local Activities and Meetings

A. **Ongoing Activities**

1. There shall be regular, ongoing missions activities for missions information, inspiration, and prayer held each month.
2. Activities may take the form of meetings, missions services, missions speakers, missions lessons, missions activities and events, missions moments, NMI emphases, etc.
3. The pastor, NMI president, and the council shall work cooperatively in planning both missions education and involvement for the local church.
4. In church plants and church-type missions, the district-appointed leader of the congregation is encouraged to ensure missions education and involvement for the local congregation.

B. **Annual Meeting**

1. The annual meeting shall be held no later than 30 days prior to the district convention.
2. Voting and election to the local council shall be limited to NMI members who are 15 years of age and older.

C. **Council Meetings**

The local council shall meet a minimum of four times a year to plan, report, evaluate, inform, inspire, and carry

out the work of the local organization. In addition, special meetings may be called by the president. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. District Meetings

A. **Convention**

1. There shall be an annual district convention to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization.
2. The time and place of the convention shall be decided by the district council in consultation with the district superintendent.
3. Membership
   a. Only members of the respective district shall be eligible to serve as ex officio or elected delegates.
   b. Ex officio members of the convention shall be the district NMI council, district superintendent, all assigned ministers and full-time salaried associate ministers of local churches; lay members of the district advisory board; the local NMI presidents of the assembly year just ending and newly elected NMI presidents or newly elected vice presidents if the newly elected president cannot attend; Global NMI Council member; retired assigned ministers; retired missionaries; missionaries on home assignment; and missionary appointees; and any former district presidents who retain their membership on the district.
   c. Elected delegates from each local church or church-type missions shall be NMI members (15 years of age or older). The number of maximum elected delegates shall be based on the following formula: two delegates from each local NMI of 25 members or fewer, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members or major portion thereof. Membership shall be based on the NMI membership reported at the local NMI annual meeting when elections take place.
4. The delegates present shall constitute a quorum.

B. **Council**

The district council shall meet a least biannually to transact business in the interim between the annual district conventions. In addition, special meetings may be called by the president. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Global Meetings

A. **Convention**

1. There shall be a Global Convention of Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the General Assembly to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization. A majority of delegates as registered in attendance shall constitute a quorum.
2. The time and place of the Convention shall be decided by the Global Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The Global Council shall approve all official locations.
3. Membership
   a. Ex officio members of the Global Convention shall be members of the Global Council; district NMI presidents regardless of organizational status of the district, or in the event a district president cannot attend, the district vice president may be allowed to represent that district with all rights and privileges.
   b. Delegates and alternates to the Global Convention shall be elected by ballot at a district convention. Alternates may be elected on a separate ballot or at the recommendation of the district council on the same ballot as the delegates. Delegates and alternates may be elected by a plurality vote by ballot on approval by a two-thirds vote of the district convention upon recommendation of the district council. (Refer to 3.c. for determining the number of delegates and time of election).

c. Elected delegates to the Global NMI Convention shall be based on the following formula: two delegates from each phase 3 and phase 2 district of 1,000 or fewer NMI members excluding associates, and one additional delegate for each additional 700 members or major portion thereof. Membership shall be based on the NMI membership reported at the district convention when elections take place. The district NMI nominating committee shall nominate delegates. (See *Manual* paragraph 200.2 for definition of district phases.) The district NMI council shall determine the number of alternates the district convention shall elect.

d. One global commissioned missionary delegate for every Global Mission region of 50 or fewer global commissioned missionaries, or two global commissioned missionary delegates for each region with 51 or more global commissioned missionaries shall be nominated and elected from and by the assigned global commissioned missionaries serving in that region by ballot issued from the global NMI director's office. The first ballot will be a nominating ballot to determine at least two names for the election by majority ballot.

e. Delegates are to be elected by ballot by the district convention within 16 months of the Global Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.

f. Any elected delegate shall be residing at the time of the Global Convention on the district where he or she held membership at the time of the election. If any elected delegate moves off the district, the privilege of representing the former district is forfeited. This provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a district boundary from the place of church membership.

g. In the event that the district president, district vice president, elected delegate, duly elected alternate delegate, or designated alternate delegates are unable to attend the Global Convention and this fact is identified after the last district convention before the Global Convention, then replacement alternate delegates may be appointed by the district NMI council, or in the event of no district council, the district NMI president with the approval of the district superintendent.

B. **Council Meetings**

The Global NMI Council shall meet annually during the quadrennium to transact business pertaining to the organization. A majority of council members in office shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII. Funds

Section 1. Raised by Local Churches

A. **World Evangelism Fund**

1. All funds raised for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) shall be sent to the general treasurer.
2. World Evangelism Fund is based on the following formula: every church shall contribute 5.5 percent of their income.
3. Churches may solicit WEF funds through various means, such as Faith Promise, Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings, regular WEF offerings, Prayer and Fasting offerings.

B. **Approved Mission Specials**

1. Opportunity shall be given to contribute to Approved Mission Specials over and above WEF giving.
2. Additional Approved Mission Specials may be approved and authorized by appropriate personnel at Nazarene Global Ministry Center.

3. The Global NMI Council shall authorize all Approved Mission Specials that are promoted and raised through NMI from the global level.

C. **Funds Exclusive**
No part of the World Evangelism Fund and Approved Mission Specials raised by the local or district church shall be used for any local or district purpose or causes other than Nazarene missions.

D. **Local Expenses**
The local church board shall ensure a suitable budget for the operation of NMI in the local church, including consideration of reimbursement of expenses for the local leadership.

Section 2. Raised by Districts

The District Finance Committee shall ensure that a suitable budget exists for the operation of NMI on the district, including consideration of reimbursement of expenses for the district leadership.

Section 3. Remuneration

The ministry of NMI shall be a love service to the church. No salaries shall be paid to leaders elected at any level—local, district, global, with the exception of the global director, who is employed by the Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

Adequate remuneration shall be provided for the expenses of council members at all levels—local, district, and global.

Article VIII. Policies and Procedures

The Global NMI Council shall establish additional policies and procedures for NMI to be contained in the NMI Handbook along with the NMI Constitution.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, when not in conflict with applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Church of the Nazarene,

the NMI Constitution, and any other rules of order that NMI may adopt, shall govern the organization.

Article X. Amendments

The NMI Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a Global Convention of Nazarene Missions International.

III. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

812. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifetime of being and making Christlike disciples in the nations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International is:

A. Be a people of prayer, engaged in the Word, making Christlike disciples.
B. Intentionally develop relationships with unreached people so that they become Christlike disciples making Christlike disciples.
C. Teach the Word of God to children, youth, and adults so that they are saved, sanctified wholly, and maturing in Christian experience that results in a life of compassion, evangelism, Christian education, and disciple making.
D. Encourage everyone to faithfully engage in a discipleship ministry such as Sunday School/Bible studies, small groups, and other disciplemaking ministries.

ARTICLE I. SDMI MEMBERSHIP

Responsibility List

Each local church should assume responsibility for reaching all unsaved persons in the community. Each SDMI ministry shall have a Responsibility List. A Responsibility List should include each person for whom the name and contact/follow-

up information has been obtained. Once a person is added to the Responsibility List, the local church should actively seek to minister to that person as he or she is brought into the fellowship of that church. Teachers/leaders of each ministry shall facilitate regular communication and connection between group members and those on the Responsibility List.

The total of all individuals on the SDMI Responsibility List is to be reported in the Annual Pastor's Report, APR. The Responsibility List includes all age groups for Sunday School, discipleship meetings, Bible studies, and all SDMI ministries.

SECTION 1. Participants in the following ministries shall be included on the Responsibility List:

a. Cradle Roll: Children under four years of age who, along with their parents, do not attend any SDMI ministry may be enrolled on the Responsibility List as Cradle Roll.
b. Home Department: Any person physically or vocationally unable to attend a regular SDMI ministry may be enrolled in the Home Department and listed on the Responsibility List.
c. Nursing Home/Convalescent Center/Health Care Facility, etc.: Any resident confined to one of these centers who participates in a regular study of approved curriculum.
d. Church-Type Mission: Any group sponsored by the local church or district who meets weekly for at least a half hour to study biblical principles and/or approved curriculum with the goal of becoming an organized local Church of the Nazarene.
e. Childcare/Schools: Any group of students in a Nazarene childcare/school (birth-secondary) sponsored/operated by a local Church of the Nazarene.
f. Child Development Centers (CDC): Sponsored/operated by a local Church of the Nazarene.

SECTION 2. Removal of Names

Removing names should be done only with the approval of the pastor when the person:

a. moves out of town.

b. joins another Sunday School class, discipleship group, or church.
c. specifically asks to have his or her name removed.
d. dies.

ARTICLE II. SDMI ATTENDANCE

The purpose of counting and reporting SDMI attendance in the local church is to help measure the effectiveness of that church's effort to make Christlike disciples. All SDMI efforts should lead each participant to become a disciple of Christ, a member of the church, and a disciplemaker.

SDMI attendance includes Sunday School sessions and Discipleship Groups. These categories shall be counted each week by the local church according to the guidelines listed below and in Article I, Section 1 above.

The regional SDMI office needs reports of the Responsibility List and average weekly SDMI attendance from each district in order to compile an accurate record of SDMI growth within the denomination annually.

SECTION 1. Definitions and Reports

The attendance of all Discipleship Groups shall be defined as persons involved in a study of the Bible and its application of the biblical principles for Christlikeness.

a. For most churches, the number of Sunday School/Bible study sessions held will be 52 and shall be reported. The District SDMI Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine any valid exceptions and the frequency of the reporting.
b. A local church having more than one type of discipleship ministry group should combine weekly attendance figures and report a single annual average in the APR.
c. Since discipleship ministries can begin or end any time during the church year, the yearly average should be determined by dividing accumulative figures by the number of weeks the ministries were conducted.

ARTICLE III. LOCAL SDMI BOARD

Responsibilities of the local SDMI Board are defined in *Manual* 145-145.10 and include:

1. Work with the pastor and the local church board to develop/organize an SDMI Board.
2. Work with the pastor to develop and implement a strategic plan for discipleship in the local church that is in line with the church's strategies/objectives and in harmony with the district vision and the mission of the Church of the Nazarene.
3. Research, create, develop curriculum consistent with the Church of the Nazarene theology and mission prepared by the publishing interest of the Church of the Nazarene, coordinate and follow-up: training programs for intentional discipleship, leadership development for all church members for church advancement, training for ministry workers involved in all age group ministries, and special projects.
4. Evaluate and report at the annual meeting current local church education and discipleship ministries/projects clearly articulating their outcomes.
5. Approve curriculum consistent with the Church of the Nazarene theology and mission/resources/materials that the local SDMI ministries can use.

ARTICLE IV. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. The Sunday School shall be divided into classes for children and youth on the basis of age or school grade. For adults the classes should be determined by common interests, mission, topic, etc. Where appropriate, intergenerational classes may also be considered.

SECTION 2. When the number of classes within the children's, youth, or adult age groups increase, attention should be given to age level organization with a supervisor appointed by the local SDMI Board.

SECTION 3. The duties of the department supervisor shall be determined by the local SDMI Board. Suggested responsibilities are listed in the SDMI handbook.

ARTICLE V. SDMI MINISTRIES TEACHERS AND LEADERS

SECTION 1. SDMI Ministries include Sunday School for all ages, small groups, marriage ministries, men's ministries, women's ministries, children's ministries, Vacation Bible School, interest groups, etc. The ministry/department supervisors and teachers/leaders shall be appointed annually according to *Manual* 145.8.

SECTION 2. The SDMI Board, in consultation with the pastor, may declare the position of any officer or teacher/leader vacant in cases of proven unsound doctrine, imprudent conduct, or neglect of duty.

SECTION 3. All teachers/leaders and substitutes should be persons of prayer, engaged in the Word, and intentionally being and making Christlike disciples.

ARTICLE VI. SDMI MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1. The local SDMI superintendent shall be elected each year according to *Manual* 113.10-113.11 and 127. The duties of the SDMI superintendent shall be to:

a. Coordinate the SDMI under the supervision of the pastor.
b. Plan regular meetings for ministry leaders and teachers.
c. Provide training opportunities for present and prospective teachers and leaders.
d. Annually evaluate, develop, and implement with the SDMI Board a discipleship strategy to reach those on the Responsibility List.
e. Regularly report the SDMI statistics to the designated zone, district, or field office.
f. Encourage attendance at local, zone, district, field, regional, and global SDMI functions.

SECTION 2. The duties of the age-group directors are outlined in *Manual* 147.1-147.9 and 148.2.

SECTION 3. The SDMI Board shall elect a person to keep the SDMI records. He or she shall keep an accurate record of the Responsibility List, attendance, visitors, and other statistics as may be required for all SDMI ministries.

SECTION 4. Where appropriate, the SDMI Board shall elect a treasurer to keep accurate account of all moneys raised by SDMI each week and authorize the disbursement according to the direction of the Board. A monthly report shall be given to the SDMI Board.

SECTION 5. All curriculum and other resources used in SDMI ministries shall be approved by the SDMI Board or superintendent and pastor.

ARTICLE VII. SDMI ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION

SECTION 1. SDMI is under the care of the pastor, accountable to the local church board, under the general supervision of the SDMI Board and the immediate leadership of the superintendent and age-group directors.

SECTION 2. If a church who has employed a director of Christian education wishes that person to fulfill the responsibilities of the SDMI superintendent, the church should elect another lay person to represent SDMI on the local church board as a voting member. We encourage all possible efforts be made to train and resource local lay leaders for leadership in SDMI.

SECTION 3. When a pastor/leader/director to children, youth, or adults is employed by a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board, the SDMI Board, and/or NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for children, youth, or adult ministries to the age-level staff member. In that case, the staff member serving children, youth, or adult ministries carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a local Children's Ministries (CM) director, NYI president, or Adult Ministries (AM) director. However, the responsibility of the local CM di-

rector, NYI president, or AM director remains to provide vital lay leadership, support, and representation for local age-group ministries. The pastor and age-group ministry staff member consult with the SDMI Board and NYI Council to define the roles and responsibilities of the three lay positions.

ARTICLE VIII. SDMI CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1. District SDMI Convention

It is important that each district plan a District SDMI Convention annually in order to provide inspiration, motivation, training, and the business of reports and elections. The promotion of Sunday School and small group disciplemaking ministries should be a highlight of each convention.

a. Ex-officio members of the District SDMI Convention shall be: the district superintendent; all pastors, assigned ordained ministers, assigned district licensed ministers, retired assigned ministers, full-time associates; district SDMI chair; district directors of CM and AM; district NYI president; district NMI president; all local SDMI superintendents, local CM and AM directors, local NYI presidents; elected members of the District SDMI Board; lay members of the District Advisory Board; any Nazarene full-time professors of Christian education with membership on that district; and field, regional, and global SDMI officers.
b. In addition to the delegates listed above, each local church in the annual meeting shall elect additional SDMI delegates to the Convention. This number shall be 25 percent of the number of officers, teachers, and leaders of the local SDMI ministries. In case elected delegates cannot attend the convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of the votes received.
c. The District SDMI Board shall appoint a nominating committee to select twice the number of nominees for the elected positions of district SDMI chair and the three elected members of the District SDMI Board, which are then to be elected by plurality vote at the District SDMI

Convention. These nominees must be members of the Church of the Nazarene, actively involved in one of the ministries of SDMI, and should be selected from the various age groups (children, youth, and adult teachers/workers).

d. The delegates to the District SDMI Convention may elect the district SDMI chair (*Manual* 242) and the three elected members of the District SDMI Board and delegates to the Global SDMI Convention.

SECTION 2. Global SDMI Convention

In conjunction with each General Assembly, SDMI shall observe a Global Convention with delegates in one or more locations around the world. Elected delegates (and guests) shall meet for the purpose of inspiration, motivation, and training to equip and enrich involvement in fulfilling the mission and purpose of SDMI globally.

The Global Convention shall also include regional forums composed of the Regional SDMI Council, the regional director, the regional SDMI coordinator, and the elected district SDMI delegates from that region. The forums shall meet for the purpose of electing a nominee for consideration to serve as the SDMI representative on the General Board. The Global SDMI Council and Global SDMI director will then select one name from those nominated and submit that one name to the General Assembly for approval (*Manual* 332.6).

a. Ex-officio delegates to the Global SDMI Convention shall be: district superintendents, district SDMI chairs, district directors of CM and AM; SDMI regional coordinators, SDMI field coordinators, CM and AM regional coordinators; and directors and staff of the global SDMI office. In addition, professors of Christian education at Nazarene colleges, universities, and seminaries may attend as delegates.

b. In addition to the ex-officio delegates, each district should elect four additional delegates or a number equal to ten percent of the organized churches on the district, whichever is greater.

c. The following guidelines should be followed in elections for the Global SDMI Convention delegates:
   1. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, district SDMI chair, and at least three others appointed by the District SDMI Board. They shall select three times the number of nominees to be elected.
   2. The District SDMI Convention shall elect an equal number of delegates and alternates representing the various SDMI ministries (including teachers/workers of youth). Those elected should be persons who are presently and actively involved in the respective area from which they are elected. The number of alternates elected should include alternates for ex-officio district officers. Persons should not be elected who will serve as delegates to the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention or the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention because the three conventions run concurrently.
   3. Delegates shall be elected by ballot in the District SDMI Convention 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.
   4. As nearly as possible, elect an equal number of laity and clergy—50 percent laypersons and 50 percent assigned ministers, elders, deacons, or licensed ministers. When the total number is uneven, the extra representative shall be a layperson.
   5. District SDMI leaders elected prior to and holding office at the time of the Global Convention shall be the ex-officio members of the convention.
   6. All elected and ex-officio delegates present in the District SDMI Convention shall be eligible to vote for Global SDMI Convention representatives.
   7. A plurality vote shall be sufficient for election.
   8. If any elected delegates cannot attend the Global SDMI Convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of votes received. If elected delegates and alternates

are unable to attend, the district superintendent and district advisory board are authorized to fill such vacancies.

9. At the convening of the Global SDMI Convention, each delegate shall reside on and be a member of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district he or she was elected to represent.
10. Delegates who attend the convention should have financial assistance from the district comparable to expenses provided from the district for NMI and NYI Convention delegates.
11. If the election of delegates for the Global SDMI Convention does not take place at the District SDMI Convention, delegates shall be elected at the District Assembly.

ARTICLE IX. GLOBAL SDMI COUNCIL

SECTION 1. Purpose

To promote the total program of SDMI by working with regional, field, district, and local SDMI leaders in connecting global strategies for effective disciplemaking.

SECTION 2. Composition

a. The Global SDMI Council shall meet at least annually, either in person or by electronic media, and consist of the regional SDMI coordinator from each Global Mission region and the Global SDMI director, who chairs the meeting.
b. The regional SDMI coordinators are to be appointed by the respective regional director in consultation with the Global SDMI director.

SECTION 3. Duties of the regional SDMI coordinators shall be:

a. To represent and champion the purposes of SDMI on their region.
b. To provide vision and inspiration related to the implementation of strategies and tools consistent with the regional vision for the church.
c. To research, create, develop, coordinate, and follow-up training initiatives for intentional discipleship leadership

development for regional, field, and district church advancement, connecting all the ministries of the church to the task of making Christlike disciples.

d. To attend and submit a report at the annual Global SDMI Council meeting.

e. To bring the nominee(s) for SDMI General Board representative, selected by their regional forum, to the Global SDMI Council. The Council will present one name to the General Assembly for election as the SDMI representative to the General Board (*Manual* 332.6).

ARTICLE X. SDMI AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the General Board members present and voting.

PART X

Forms

THE LOCAL CHURCH

THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

BILLS OF CHARGES

I. THE LOCAL CHURCH

NOTE: The following forms may be prepared and used by the local church as needed.

813. Local Minister's License

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that _____ is licensed as a Local Minister in the Church of the Nazarene for one year, provided that _____ spirit and practice are such as become the gospel of Christ, and _____ teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

By Order of the Church Board of the _____ Church of the Nazarene.

Done at _____, this _____ day of _____, (year).

_____
Chairperson

_____
Secretary

814. Recommendation to the District Assembly

(to be completed annually for district licensed ministers)

(Check the appropriate board.)

☐ The Church Board of the _____

☐ The District Advisory Board of the (*Manual* 225.13) _____ recommends _____ to the (Ministerial Credentials Board) District Assembly for:

- ☐ **District Minister's License**
- ☐ **Renewal of District Minister's License**
- ☐ **Renewal of Deaconess' License**
- ☐ **Renewal of Director of Christian Education License**
  Ministry Role Certification (*Manual* 503-528)

☐ **CED—Christian Education Minister** (ministers employed by a local church school)

- ☐ **EDU—Education** (employed to serve on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene)
- ☐ **EVR—Evangelist, Registered** (is devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel as his or her primary ministry, promoting revivals and spreading the gospel abroad in the land)
- ☐ **GA—General Assignment, Missionary** (appointed by the General Board through the Global Mission Committee to minister for the church)
- ☐ **GA—General Assignment, Other** (elected or employed to serve in the General Church)
- ☐ **PAS—Pastor**
- ☐ **PSV-FT—Pastoral Service Full-Time**
- ☐ **PSV-PT—Pastoral Service Part-Time** (associate pastor, performing pastoral service in connection with a church, in specialized areas of ministry recognized and approved by the appropriate governing, licensing and endorsing agencies)
- ☐ **SER—Song Evangelist, Registered** (devotes the major portion of his or her time to the ministry of evangelism through music as his or her primary assignment)
- ☐ **SPC—Special Service/Interdenominational** (in active service in a manner not otherwise provided for, which must be approved by the district assembly upon recommendation by the District Advisory Board. Persons designated SPC are required to maintain relationship with the Church of the Nazarene and will submit in writing to the District Advisory Board annually, the nature of their ongoing connection with the Church of the Nazarene.)
- ☐ **STU—Student**
- ☐ **U—Unassigned**

Review the minimal requirements for ordination (*Manual* 533.3, 534.3) and also the procedures for formalization of relationship, either paid or unpaid. (*Manual* 159-159.3) This is important for establishing and maintaining the candidate's history of ministry.

If a Ministry Role designation of PSV-FT or PSV-PT is recommended for the coming year, has the written approval of the district superintendent been received (129.27; 159-159.2)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

_____

_____

If a designation other than "STU" or "U" is indicated above, describe the formal relationship that exists with the candidate, as approved by the church board and the district superintendent.

_____

_____

We certify that _____ has fulfilled all the requirements for such a request.
By vote of the Board this _____ (date) and by receipt of a letter of permission from the district superintendent this _____(date).

_____
Chairperson

_____
Secretary

Referred ☐ Reported ☐ Disposition _____

NOTE: Please mark both a recommendation for licensing and a recommendation for the individual's ministry role certification.

815. Certificate of Commendation

This certifies that _____ is a member of the Church of the Nazarene at _____ and is hereby commended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

_____
Pastor

Date _____, _____ (year)

NOTE: When a certificate of commendation is given, that person's membership immediately ceases in the local church issuing the certificate. (111.1)

816. Letter of Release

This certifies that _____ has been until this date a member of the Church of the Nazarene at _____ and, at h_____ request, is granted this letter of release.

_____
Pastor

Date _____, _____ (year)

NOTE: Membership terminates immediately upon issuance of a letter of release. (112.2)

817. Transfer of Members

This certifies that _____ is a member in the Church of the Nazarene at _____ and at h_____ request, is hereby transferred to the Church of the Nazarene at _____ in the _____ District.

When the reception of this transfer is acknowledged by the receiving local church, membership in this local church will cease.

_____
Pastor

_____
Address

Date _____ (year)

NOTE: A transfer is valid for three months only. (111)

818. Transfer Acknowledged

This certifies that _____ has been received into membership by the Church of the Nazarene at _____ this _____ day of _____, _____ (year).

_____
Pastor

_____
Address

II. THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

819. Official district forms may be secured from the General Secretary, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, USA

III. BILLS OF CHARGES

Section 1. In Trial of a Church Member

Section 2. In Trial of an Ordained Minister

Section 3. In Trial of a Licensed Minister

820. Bills of Charges may be secured from the General Secretary, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, USA

PART XI

Appendix

GENERAL OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

I. GENERAL OFFICERS

900. General Superintendents

Eugénio R. Duarte
David W. Graves
David A. Busic
Gustavo A. Crocker
Filimão M. Chambo
Carla D. Sunberg

900.1. General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

Eugene L. Stowe, Emeritus
Jerald D. Johnson, Emeritus
Donald D. Owens, Emeritus
Jim L. Bond, Emeritus
W. Talmadge Johnson, Emeritus
James H. Diehl, Emeritus
Paul G. Cunningham, Emeritus
Nina G. Gunter, Emerita
Jesse C. Middendorf, Emeritus
Stan A. Toler, Emeritus
Jerry D. Porter, Emeritus
J. K. Warrick, Emeritus

900.2. General Secretary

David P. Wilson

900.3. General Treasurer

Keith B. Cox

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
GLOBAL MINISTRY CENTER
17001 PRAIRIE STAR PARKWAY
LENEXA, KS 66220, USA

II. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

901. General Board

MEMBERS BY CHURCH REGIONS

Minister	Layperson
Africa Region	
Arsenio Jeremias Manjate	Sibongile Gumedze
Solomon Ndlovu	Benjamin Langa
Stanley Ushe	Angela M. Pereira B. D. V. Moreno
Asia-Pacific Region	
Kafoa Muaror	Leonila Domen
Min-Gyoo Shin	Joung Won Lee
Canada Region	
D. Ian Fitzpatrick	David W. Falk
Central USA Region	
Ron Blake	Judy H. Owens
East Central USA Region	
D. Geoffrey Kunselman	Carson Castleman
Eastern USA Region	
Samuel Vassel	Larry Bollinger
Eurasia Region	
Sanjay Gawali	David Day
David Montgomery	Vinay Gawali
Mary Schaar	Christoph Nick
Mesoamerica Region	
Elias Betanzos	Carmen L. Checo de Acosta
Walliere Pierre	Abraham Fernandez Gamez
Antonie St. Louis	Plinio E. Urizar Garcia
North Central USA Region	
Jim Bond	Larry McIntire

Northwest USA Region

Randall J. Craker
Joel K. Pearsall

South America Region

Adalberto Herrera Cuello
Galdina Arrais
Fernando Oliveira
Jacob Rivera Medina
Amadeu Teixeira
Emerson Natal

South Central USA Region

Terry C. Rowland
Cheryl Crouch

Southeast USA Region

Larry D. Dennis
Michael T. Johnson
Dwight M. Gunter II
Dennis Moore

Southwest USA Region

Ron Benefiel
Daniel Spaite

Education

John Bowling
Bob Brower

Nazarene Missions International

Philip Weatherill

Nazarene Youth International

Adiel Teixeira

Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International

Milon Patwary

902. General Court of Appeals

Hans-Günter Mohn, *Chairperson*
Janine Metcalf, *Secretary*
D. Ian Fitzpatrick
Donna Wilson
Brian Powell

903. Global Council of Nazarene Youth International

Gary Hartke, Nazarene *Youth International Director*
Adiel Teixeira, *Council Chair*
Ronald Miller, Africa
Janary Suyat de Godoy, Asia-Pacific
Diego Lopez, Eurasia
Milton Gay, Mesoamerica

Christiano Malta, South America
Justin Pickard, USA/Canada

904. Global Council of Nazarene Missions International

Lola Brickey, *Global Director*
Philip Weatherill, *President*
Dawid De Koker, Africa Region
Pauline Sheppard, Asia-Pacific Region
Penny Ure, Canada Region
Carla Lovett, Central USA Region
Kathy Pelley, East Central USA Region
Sharon Kessler, Eastern USA Region
Cathy Tarrant, Eurasia Region
Blanca Campos, Mesoamerica Region
Rhonda Rhoades, North Central USA Region
Debra Voelker, Northwest USA Region
Antonio Carlos, South America Region
Mary Runion, South Central USA Region
Teresa Hodge, Southeast USA Region
Martha Lundquist, Southwest USA Region
Verne Ward, Global Mission Director
The General Superintendent in Jurisdiction (Adviser)

905. Nazarene Institutions of Higher Education

GLOBAL NAZARENE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Africa Region

Africa Nazarene University
Nairobi, Kenya—Serving Eastern Africa
Nazarene Bible College of East Africa
Nairobi, Kenya—Serving the East Field
Nazarene Theological College
Honeydew, South Africa—Serving the South Field
Nazarene Theological College of Central Africa
Malawi, Central Africa—Serving the South East Field

Nazarene Theological Institute
Serving the Central and West Fields
Seminário Nazareno de Cabo Verde
Santiago, Cape Verde
Seminário Nazareno em Moçambique
Maputo, Mozambique—Serving the Lusophone Field
Southern Africa Nazarene University
Manzini, Swaziland—Serving Southern Africa)

Asia-Pacific Region

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
Rizal, Philippines
Indonesia Nazarene Theological College
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Japan Nazarene Theological Seminary
Tokyo, Japan
Korea Nazarene University
Choong Nam, Korea
Melanesia Nazarene Bible College
Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea
Melanesia Nazarene Teachers College
Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea
Nazarene College of Nursing
Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea
Nazarene Theological College
Thornlands, Queensland, Australia
Philippine Nazarene Bible College
Baguio City, Philippines
South Pacific Nazarene Theological College
Suva, Fiji
Southeast Asia Nazarene Bible College
Bangkok, Thailand
Taiwan Nazarene Theological College
Peitou, Taiwan
Visayan Nazarene Bible College
Cebu City, Philippines

Eurasia Region

Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College
Karak, Jordan—Serving the Eastern Mediterranean

European Nazarene College
Serving Europe and the Eurasia Fields

Nazarene Nurses Training College
Washim, Maharashtra, India

Nazarene Theological College-Manchester
Manchester, England

South Asia Nazarene Bible College
Bangalore, India—Serving India and South Asia

Mesoamerica Region

Caribbean Nazarene College
Santa Cruz, Trinidad—Serving the English, Dutch and French Antilles

Instituto Bíblico Nazareno
Coban, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala—Serving Northern Guatemala

Séminaire Théologique Nazaréen d'Haiti
Petion-Ville, Haiti—Serving the country of Haiti

Seminario Nazareno de las Américas
San José, Costa Rica—Serving Latin America and the Central Field

Seminario Nazareno Dominicano
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic—Serving the country of Dominican Republic

Seminario Nazareno Mexicano
Mexico City D.F., Mexico—Serving Mexico North and South Fields

Seminario Teológico Nazareno
Guatemala City, Guatemala—Serving the Central America Field

Seminario Teológico Nazareno Cubano
La Lisa, La Habana, Cuba—Serving the country of Cuba

South America Region

Faculdade Nazarena do Brasil
São Paulo, Brazil—Serving the country of Brazil
Seminario Bíblico Nazareno Chile
Santiago, Chile—Serving the country of Chile
Seminario Nazareno Boliviano
La Paz, Bolivia—Serving the country of Bolivia
Seminario Teológico Nazareno del Cono Sur
Buenos Aires, Argentina—Serving the South Cone Field
Seminario Teológico Nazareno del Perú
Chiclayo, Peru—Serving the country of Peru
Seminário Teológico Nazareno do Brasil
São Paulo, Brazil—Serving the country of Brazil
Seminario Teológico Nazareno Sudamericano
Quito, Ecuador—Serving the North Andean Field

USA/Canada Region

Ambrose University College
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Eastern Nazarene College
Quincy, Massachusetts, USA
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Olathe, Kansas, USA
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Mount Vernon,Ohio, USA
Nazarene Bible College
Lenexa, Kansas, USA
Nazarene Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Northwest Nazarene University
Nampa, Idaho, USA
Olivet Nazarene University
Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, California, USA
Southern Nazarene University
Bethany, Oklahoma, USA

Trevecca Nazarene University
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

III. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

906. Annuities. The General Board and institutions of the church are prohibited from using annuity gifts until such have become their valid property by the death of the annuitant. Such gifts are to be carefully invested in funds usually accepted as trust funds by the courts of the land. (2017)

907. Debt. No entity may collateralize charitable pledges for the purpose of underwriting debt. (2017)

908. Bible Societies.

1. **Approved Bible Societies.** The Church of the Nazarene places special emphasis upon the Bible as the written revelation of God, and we believe that it is the primary agency to win new followers to Jesus Christ, and because there is an increasing need for more copies of the Scripture; therefore be it Resolved,

First, That the General Assembly express its hearty approval of and sympathy with the work of the United Bible Societies around the world.

Second, That we endorse the observance of Universal Bible Sunday, directing attention on this day to the essential place the Scriptures should occupy in the lives of Christian people.

2. **Offering for Bible Societies**

Resolved, That the Church of the Nazarene designate the second Sunday of December of each year as a special time for the presentation of this important matter and the taking of an offering for each nation's Bible Society. The Bible Society chosen shall be members (associate or full), of the worldwide fellowship of the United Bible Societies or in the absence of a member society, such other Bible Society designated by the district; also that a special effort be made to have all of our churches take part in such an offering. All churches should consult their district office for instructions regarding how to send their contributions to their respective country's Bible society. (2017)

909. *Manual* Editing Resolution. Be it *Resolved*, That the Board of General Superintendents appoint and authorize a *Manual* Editing Committee to harmonize conflicting statements that may appear in the record of the actions of the Twenty-ninth General Assembly in regard to changes in the *Manual;* and also to make such editorial changes in the text of the present *Manual* as will correct the language without altering the meaning; also to make such editorial changes in the copy of the newly adopted matter as may serve to correct the language without altering the meaning.

The *Manual* Editing Committee is hereby further authorized to substitute plainly understood words or expressions for confusing words or expressions, to revise the numbering of paragraphs, sections, and other divisions of the *Manual* in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-ninth General Assembly, and also to prepare the index in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-ninth General Assembly.

Further resolved that the supervision of all translations of the *Manual* shall be a duty of the *Manual* Editing Committee. (2017)

910. *Manual* Appendix Review. Any item remaining in Sections III and IV of the Appendix (paragraphs 906-933) for three quadrennia without reconsideration shall be referred by the Committee on Reference to the proper committee of the General Assembly for the same consideration as a resolution to the General Assembly. (2013)

911. Tenure of Committees. Any special committee created for any purpose, unless specified otherwise, will cease to exist at the following General Assembly. (2017)

912. General Assembly Business.

(From the 2017 General Assembly Rules of Order)

Resolutions and Petitions

Rule 14. Presenting Resolutions to the General Assembly. District assemblies, a committee authorized by the district assembly, regional councils, the General Board or any of its recognized departments, official boards or commissions of the

general church, the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention, the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention, or five or more members of the General Assembly, may present resolutions and petitions for the consideration of the General Assembly in accordance with the following rules:

a. Resolutions and petitions shall be printed or typewritten on the official form furnished by the general secretary.
b. Each resolution or petition presented will include the subject and the name of the delegates or group making the presentation.
c. All resolutions that call for action that requires expenditures must include an estimated cost to complete the action.
d. Proposals for changes in the church *Manual* must be presented in writing and shall give paragraph and section of *Manual* to be affected and the text of the change, should it be adopted.
e. They shall be presented to the general secretary **no later than 01 December** prior to the convening of the assembly to be numbered and sent to the Reference Committee for reference in accordance with Rule 24 and *Manual* 305.1.
f. Any resolutions which are non-*Manual* items must indicate which entity has responsibility to enact legislation.

Rule 15. Resolutions and Petitions for Late Reference. Resolutions, petitions, and other items may be presented to the general secretary for reference to a legislative committee no later than **01 June.** Resolutions from global conventions which meet just prior to the General Assembly, will be processed for consideration.

Rule 16. *Manual* Changes. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the *Manual* Editing Committee to be harmonized with other *Manual* provisions.

913. Historic Sites and Landmarks. District and regional assemblies may designate places of historic significance within their boundaries as Historic Sites. At least 50 years must elapse after a place achieves historic significance before it is recognized as a Historic Site. A Historic Site does not have to

have original buildings or structures surviving in order to be designated. The assembly secretary shall report newly designated Historic Sites to the general secretary, reporting the action taken, information on the site, and the site's significance.

District and regional assemblies can ask the General Assembly to designate places of denomination-wide significance as Historic Landmarks. Nominations are restricted to previously designated Historic Sites. The general superintendents or a committee appointed for the purpose of screening nominations must concur with a nomination before it receives General Assembly consideration.

The general secretary shall keep a register of Historic Sites and Landmarks and publicize them appropriately (paragraph 327.2). (2009)

IV. CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

914. Organ Donation. The Church of the Nazarene encourages its members who do not object personally to support donor/recipient anatomical organs through living wills and trusts.

Further, we appeal for a morally and ethically fair distribution of organs to those qualified to receive them. (2013)

915. Discrimination. The Church of the Nazarene reiterates its historic position of Christian compassion for people of all races. We believe that God is the Creator of all people, and that of one blood are all people created.

We believe that each individual, regardless of race, color, gender, or creed, should have equality before law, including the right to vote, equal access to educational opportunities, to all public facilities, and to the equal opportunity, according to one's ability, to earn a living free from any job or economic discrimination.

We urge our churches everywhere to continue and strengthen programs of education to promote racial understanding and harmony. We also feel that the scriptural admonition of He-

brews 12:14 should guide the actions of our people. We urge that each member of the Church of the Nazarene humbly examine his or her personal attitudes and actions toward others, as a first step in achieving the Christian goal of full participation by all in the life of the church and the entire community.

We reemphasize our belief that holiness of heart and life is the basis for right living. We believe that Christian charity between racial groups or gender will come when the hearts of people have been changed by complete submission to Jesus Christ, and that the essence of true Christianity consists in loving God with one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself.

Therefore, we renounce any form of racial and ethnic indifference, exclusion, subjugation, or oppression as a grave sin against God and our fellow human beings. We lament the legacy of every form of racism throughout the world, and we seek to confront that legacy through repentance, reconciliation, and biblical justice. We seek to repent of every behavior in which we have been overtly or covertly complicit with the sin of racism, both past and present; and in confession and lament we seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Further, we acknowledge that there is no reconciliation apart from human struggle to stand against and to overcome all personal, institutional and structural prejudice responsible for racial and ethnic humiliation and oppression. We call upon Nazarenes everywhere to identify and seek to remove acts and structures of prejudice, to facilitate occasions for seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and to take action toward empowering those who have been marginalized. (2017)

916. Abuse of the Unempowered. The Church of the Nazarene abhors abuse of any person of any age or sex and calls for increased public awareness through its publications and by providing appropriate educational information.

The Church of the Nazarene reaffirms its historical policy that all those who act under the authority of the Church are prohibited from sexual misconduct and other forms of abuse of the unempowered. When placing people in positions of

trust or authority, the Church of the Nazarene will presume that past conduct is usually a reliable indicator of likely future behavior. The Church will withhold positions of authority from people who have previously used a position of trust or authority to engage in sexual misconduct or abuse of the unempowered, unless appropriate steps are taken to prevent future wrongful behavior. Expressions of remorse by a guilty person shall not be considered sufficient to overcome the presumption that future wrongful conduct is likely, unless the expressions of remorse are accompanied by an observable change of conduct for a sufficient length of time, to indicate that a repeat of the wrongful misconduct is unlikely. (2009)

917. Responsibility to the Poor. The Church of the Nazarene believes that Jesus commanded His disciples to have a special relationship to the poor of this world; that Christ's Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor. Throughout the Bible and in the life and example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor and not simply to offer charity from positions of comfort. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe that the Christian responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love.

Finally, we understand Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that holiness compels the Christian beyond his or her own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in our world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others. (2013)

(Exodus 23:11; Deuteronomy 15:7; Psalms 41:1; 82:3; Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; Jeremiah 22:16; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:10)

918. Gender Inclusive Language. The Church of the Nazarene affirms and encourages the use of gender inclusive language in reference to persons. Publications, including the *Manual* and public language should reflect this commitment to gender equality as expressed in paragraph 501. Language changes shall not be applied to any scriptural quotations or references to God. (2009)

919. The Church and Human Freedom. Concerned that our great Christian heritage be understood and safeguarded, we remind our people that both political and religious freedom rest upon biblical concepts of the dignity of humankind as God's creation and the sanctity of one's own individual conscience. We encourage our people to participate in appropriate activity in support of these biblical concepts and to be ever vigilant against threats to this precious freedom.

These freedoms are constantly in danger, therefore we urge election of persons to public office at all levels of government who believe in these principles and who are answerable only to God and the constituency that elected them when carrying out a public trust. Further, we resist any invasion of these principles by religious groups seeking special favors. And we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have been denied such freedom, either by political or societal restrictions.

We believe that the role of the Church is to be prophetic and constantly to remind the people that "righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34). (2017)

920. Affirmation and Declaration of Human Freedom. Whereas, as Nazarenes, we embrace the divine call to a life of holiness, wholeness, and restorative living where all things and all peoples are reconciled to God. In response, the Holy Spirit brings freedom to the marginalized, oppressed, broken, and hurting, and justice to right injustices and cease selfish influence caused by sin, until all things are restored in God's reign.

Consistent with our Wesleyan-holiness heritage and character, we confront the contemporary scourge of modern slavery, illegal or forced labor, and the trafficking of human beings and bodies.

And, in keeping with these affirmations,

We resolve that members and congregations of the International Church of the Nazarene will:

1. As a holiness people, in our pursuit of justice, recognize that we are called to repent of any injustices in our past, amend our present, and create a just future;
2. Call to account those who oppress others;
3. Engage in compassionate care for those caught up in illegal or forced labor, organ harvesting, and sex slavery (along with any other emerging oppression as yet unknown to us);
4. Listen actively for and amplify the cries of the oppressed;
5. Denounce injustices and work humbly against the causes of injustice;
6. Act in solidarity with our sister and brother against whatever binds in order to move together toward freedom; and
7. Come alongside those who are vulnerable through godly practices that bring redemption, restoration, healing, and freedom (1 John 3:8).

Built upon our Wesleyan-holiness Christian heritage and call to holiness, we make the following affirmations:

1. We affirm that the pursuit of justice, reconciliation, and freedom is at the heart of God's holiness being reflected in people. We commit ourselves and our ecclesial resources to working for the abolition of all forms of slavery, trafficking, and oppression, and to participate in intentional networks, conversations, and actions that provide hopeful alternatives.
2. We affirm that churches should faithfully respond to the impulse of God's holy love by working for God's reign to be ever more visible. We are called to be faithful witnesses in thought, word, and deed, to the holy God who hears the cries of those who are oppressed, imprisoned,

trafficked, and abused by economic, political, selfish, and evil systems and persons. God calls us to respond in humility with compassion and justice.

3. We affirm that acting justly involves the compassionate care for those in our immediate surroundings and also being able to name injustice, and denounce the powers that cause it. Acting justly and loving mercy have often brought the people of God in conflict with the ruling powers and principalities of the day. God's justice calls us beyond equal treatment, tolerance of one another's differences, or simply reversing the role of oppressed and oppressor. By Jesus' example, we are called to a justice whereby we are willing to give ourselves up for the sake of another.
4. We affirm that Christian justice requires a deep commitment to both personal and corporate confession, repentance, and forgiveness as necessary steps.
5. We affirm that we must advocate for just and hopeful practices in all areas of life. Reflecting the compassionate hope of Christ and love for all people, we identify with the conditions that bring dehumanizing circumstances. We will speak for those who are not heard, and come alongside the vulnerable by offering practices that bring redemption, restoration, healing, and freedom.
6. We affirm that we are called to become a people who embody a hopeful alternative to oppression and injustice. We are called to reflect the holy God in holy lives, bringing justice in motive and practice to people, circumstances, systems, and nations. While we may not end all suffering, as the body of Christ we are compelled to bring the holiness of God in healing fashion to the redemptive enterprise of restoring all things.
7. We affirm that as a collaborative network we must think deeply, work holistically, and engage locally and globally. Complex issues drive modern slavery; therefore, multiple solutions must be undertaken.

These will proceed from the fabric of who we are in Christian community naturally flowing into what we do.

We therefore pledge:

1. To work separately and together, as individuals and institutions, consistent with our Wesleyan-holiness identity to serve with compassion and to prophetically challenge oppressive systems;
2. To support, encourage, resource, plan, and engage together in effective, wise, sustainable action;
3. To labor as a worshipping community, with Christ at the center, infused with the power of the Spirit as a movement of hope;
4. To think deeply, pray with expectation, and act with courage.

For this we live and labor until God's reign comes "on earth as it is in heaven." (2017)

921. Value of Children and Youth. The Bible commands every Christian to, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" (Proverbs 31:8). The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 11:19) admonishes us to communicate God's grace to our children. Psalm 78:4 declares, "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." Jesus affirms this in Luke 18:16, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

As a response to this biblical perspective, the Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom. We believe God directed us to attend to all children—to love, nurture, protect, uphold, guide, and advocate for them. It is God's plan that we introduce children to the life of salvation and growth in grace. Salvation, holiness, and discipleship are possible and imperative in the lives of children. We recognize that children are not a means to an end, but full participants in the Body of Christ. Children are disciples in training, not disciples in waiting.

Thus, holistic and transformational ministry to children and their families in every local church will be a priority as evidenced by:

- providing effective and empowering ministries to the whole child—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
- articulating Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children;
- connecting children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community;
- discipling children and training them to disciple others;
- equipping parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.

Since the church's educational institutions (Bible schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries) prepare students for leadership, they play a crucial role in carrying out the vision and mission of communicating the value of children. They join local churches and families in taking responsibility to prepare members of the clergy and laity to raise the next generation of children and youth to be biblically and theologically literate and to meet the known and unforeseen challenges for evangelizing, discipling, and transforming their societies. The Church of the Nazarene envisions an intergenerational faith community where children and youth are loved and valued, where they are ministered to and incorporated into the Church family through a wide variety of means and methods, and where they have opportunities to minister to others in ways consistent with their ages, development, abilities, and spiritual gifts. (2009)

922. War and Military Service. The Church of the Nazarene believes that the ideal world condition is that of peace and that it is the full obligation of the Christian Church to use its influence to seek such means as will enable the nations of the earth to be at peace and to devote all of its agencies for the propagation of the message of peace. However, we realize that we are living in a world where evil forces and philosophies are actively in conflict with these Christian ideals and that there

may arise such international emergencies as will require a nation to resort to war in defense of its ideals, its freedom, and its existence.

While thus committed to the cause of peace, the Church of the Nazarene recognizes that the supreme allegiance of the Christian is due to God, and therefore it does not endeavor to bind the conscience of its members relative to participation in military service in case of war, although it does believe that the individual Christian as a citizen is bound to give service to his or her own nation in all ways that are compatible with the Christian faith and the Christian way of life.

We also recognize that, as an outgrowth of the Christian teaching and of the Christian desire for peace on earth, there are among our membership individuals who have conscientious objection to certain forms of military service. Therefore the Church of the Nazarene claims for conscientious objectors within its membership the same exemptions and considerations regarding military service as are accorded members of recognized noncombatant religious organizations.

The Church of the Nazarene, through its general secretary, shall set up a register whereon those persons who supply evidence of being members of the Church of the Nazarene may record their convictions as conscientious objectors. (2017)

923. Creation. The Church of the Nazarene believes in the biblical account of creation ("In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."—Genesis 1:1). We are open to scientific explanations on the nature of creation while opposing any interpretation of the origin of the universe and of humankind that rejects God as the Creator (Hebrews 11:3). (1, 5.1, 7) (2017)

924. Creation Care. With deep appreciation of God's creation we believe we are to strive to exhibit the stewardship qualities that help preserve His work. Recognizing we have been given a stake in sustaining the integrity of our surroundings, we accept the individual and collective responsibilities of doing so. (2009)

(Genesis 2:15, Psalms 8:3-9; 19:1-4; 148)

925. Evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Church of the Nazarene believes that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth and to the subsequent work of heart cleansing, or entire sanctification, through the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

We affirm that the one biblical evidence of entire sanctification, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is the cleansing of the heart by faith from original sin as stated in Acts 15:8-9: "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith." And this cleansing is manifested by the fruit of the Spirit in a holy life. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:22-24).

To affirm that even a special or any alleged physical evidence, or "prayer language," is evidence of the baptism with the Spirit is contrary to the biblical and historic position of the Church. (2009)

926. Pornography. Pornography is an evil that is undermining the morals of society. Printed and visual materials that degrade the dignity of humankind and are contrary to the scriptural view of the sanctity of marriage and the wholesomeness of sex are to be abhorred.

We believe that we are created in the image of God and that pornography degrades, exploits, and abuses men, women, and children. The pornography industry is motivated by greed, is the enemy of family life, has led to crimes of violence, poisons minds, and defiles the body.

To honor God as Creator and Redeemer, we urge active opposition to pornography by every legitimate means and the making of positive efforts to reach for Christ those who are involved in this evil. (2009)

927. Christian Modesty of Dress. Recognizing the increasing trend toward immodesty of dress in public places, we remind our people of the Christian concept of modesty as an expres-

sion of holiness and urge that Christian modesty be exercised at all times in public. (2017)

928. Wellness. The scripture calls all believers to balance, health, and wholeness through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Gluttony is the practice of consuming to the detriment of body, community, and spiritual life. While obesity may arise due to genetics, cultural constraints, or physical limitations, gluttony, on the other hand, reflects a way of life that consumes God's good creation: food, resources and relationships that harm both persons and community. The practice of Christian stewardship calls us to seek to maintain the health and fitness of our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit and to live temperate lives with all the resources and relationships God provides. (2009)

(Proverbs 23:19-21; Matthew 11:19; 23:25; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Galatians 5:23; Philippians 3:19; Titus 1:8; 2:12; Hebrews 12:16; 2 Peter 1:6)

929. Substance Abuse. The Church of the Nazarene continues to strongly object to substance abuse as a social malignancy. We encourage church members to take an active and highly visible role and to participate in education and rehabilitation relative to substance abuse and the incompatibility of such use with a Christian experience and a holy life. (2013)

930. Alcohol Desocialization. The Church of the Nazarene publicly supports the desocialization of alcohol consumption. We encourage civic, labor, business, professional, social, voluntary, and private agencies and organizations to assist in such desocialization to counteract the advertising and media promotion of the social acceptability of the "alcohol culture." (2013)

931. Tobacco Use and Advertising. The Church of the Nazarene urges its people to continue to speak out against the use of tobacco, both as a health hazard and a social evil. Our historic stand is based on God's Word, where we are admonished to maintain our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

Our stand opposing the use of tobacco in all its forms is strongly supported by medical evidence, documented by numerous

social, governmental, and health agencies around the world. They have demonstrated that it is a major health hazard, and have shown conclusively that its use may produce changes in normal bodily physiology, both serious and permanent.

We recognize that our young people are greatly influenced by the millions of dollars that are spent on tobacco advertising, and its twin evil, beverage alcohol. We endorse a ban on all advertising of tobacco and beverage alcohol in magazines, on billboards, and on radio, television, and other media. (2013)

932. HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). Since 1981, our world has been confronted with a most devastating disease known as HIV/AIDS. In view of the deep need of HIV/AIDS sufferers, Christian compassion motivates us to become accurately informed about HIV/AIDS. Christ would have us to find a way to communicate His love and concern for these sufferers in any and every country of the world. (2013)

933. Use of Social Media. First and foremost, the content that we share should be respectful. As in all interpersonal relationships, we believe that the content of our social media should also be a reflection of the sanctified hearts for which we strive. Clergy and laity alike must be mindful of how their activities on social media affect the image of Christ and His church and impact its mission within their communities. Our activities should be life giving and affirming and should seek to uplift all persons. (2017)

(Proverbs 15:4, 15:28, 16:24; Ecclesiastes 5:2-4; Matthew 15:11; Galatians 5:13-15; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:62; 2 Timothy 2:16; James 3:1-13)

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