

1985

MANUAL



MANUAL/1985

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

•
HISTORY
CONSTITUTION
GOVERNMENT
RITUAL
•

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FOREWORD

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 28:19-20, NIV; 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 life-style. This 1985 edition of the *Manual* is the summary of these important positions.

Thus the *Manual* includes a brief historical statement of the church; the church Constitution, which defines our Articles of Faith, our understanding of the church, General Rules for holy living, and principles of organization and government; Special Rules, which address key issues of contemporary society; and policies of church government dealing with the local, district, and general church organization.

The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating and lawmaking body of the Church of the Nazarene. This *Manual* contains the decisions and judgments of ministerial and lay delegates of the Twenty-first General Assembly, which met in Anaheim, Calif., June 23-28, 1985, 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 every-

where 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.

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PART I

Historical Statement

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

I. Near the close of the 19th century, a movement for the spread and conservation of scriptural holiness in organized church form developed almost simultaneously in various parts of the United States. This movement was similar to the Wesleyan revival of the previous century. The manifestation everywhere of a spontaneous drawing in the unity of the Spirit toward closer affiliation of those of like precious faith culminated finally in the organization of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

The great impulse of this movement has been the emphasis placed by the Scriptures upon the fact that, in the Atonement, Jesus Christ has made provision, not only to save men from their sins, but also to perfect them in love.

II. On May 12, 1886, a number of the brethren in Providence, R.I., interested in promoting the Wesleyan doctrine and experience of entire sanctification, organized and held weekly religious services, first in private homes, but after a few months in a rented store on Oxford Street. On January 16, 1887, a Sunday School was organized with 95 members. On July 21, 1887, the People's Evangelical Church was organized with 51 members, with Rev. F. A. Hillery acting as pastor. On November 25, 1888, the Mission Church, Lynn, Mass., was organized with Rev. C. Howard Davis as pastor. On March 13 and 14, 1890, representatives from these churches and other evangelical holiness organizations in southern New England assembled at Rock, Mass., and organized the Central Evangelical Holiness Association. Rev. W. C. Ryder, pastor of the Independent Congregational Church of that place, was elected president. Within the following year the Mission Church, Malden, Mass., the Emmanuel Mission Church, North Attleboro, Mass., and the Bethany Mission Church, Keene, N.H., were organized.

In January, 1894, William Howard Hoople, a businessman in New York City, founded a mission in Brooklyn, which, in the following May, was organized as an independent church with a

membership of 32, and was called the Utica Avenue Pentecostal Tabernacle. After a church edifice was erected, Mr. Hoople was called to the pastorate. The following February, in an abandoned church building, the Bedford Avenue Pentecostal Church was organized, and a little later the Emmanuel Pentecostal Tabernacle. In December, 1895, delegates from these three churches adopted a constitution, summary of doctrines, and bylaws, and formed the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. This association was duly incorporated. Associated with Rev. William Howard Hoople in this work were Revs. H. B. Hosley, John Norberry, Charles H. BeVier, and H. F. Reynolds.

On November 12, 1896, a joint committee from these two associations met in the city of Brooklyn to formulate some plan of union. For the benefit of their counsel and cooperation, several brethren prominent in the work were invited to act with the joint committee. Among this number were Revs. C. Howard Davis, G. W. Wilson, John Norberry, H. F. Reynolds, H. B. Hosley, and Charles H. BeVier. This meeting resulted in the union of the two bodies. It was agreed that the work should be continued under the name of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

III. In October, 1895, a number of persons, under the leadership of Rev. Phineas F. Breesee, D.D., and J. P. Widney, M.D., formed the First Church of the Nazarene at Los Angeles, with 135 charter members. They adopted statements of belief and agreed to such general rules as seemed proper and needful for their immediate guidance, leaving to the future the making of such provisions as the work and its conditions might necessitate. As a result of this organization a number of churches sprang into existence, reaching as far east as Chicago.

IV. As the group from the East and the group from the West came to know each other better, the feeling grew that they should unite. From their conference the following basis of union was prepared and adopted unanimously by both bodies:

BASIS OF UNION

It is agreed that the two churches are one in the doctrines considered essential to salvation, especially the doctrines of justification by

faith and entire sanctification subsequent to justification, also by faith, and as a result, the precious experience of entire sanctification as a normal condition of the churches. Both churches recognize that the right of church membership rests upon experience and that persons who have been born of the Spirit are entitled to its privileges.

We are agreed on the necessity of a superintendency, which shall foster and care for churches already established and whose duty it shall be to organize and encourage the organizing of churches everywhere.

We are agreed that authority given to superintendents shall not interfere with the independent action of a fully organized church, each church enjoying the right of selecting its own pastor, subject to such approval as the General Assembly shall find wise to institute; the election of delegates to the various assemblies; the management of their own finances; and of all other things pertaining to their local life and work.

It is agreed that any church of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America going into this organization which may feel it imperative with them to continue to hold their property in like manner as at present, shall be at liberty to do so.

The first union assembly was held in Chicago in October, 1907. It was agreed that the name of the united body should be The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

V. In 1894 at Milan, Tenn., the New Testament Church of Christ was organized with 14 members by Rev. R. L. Harris to conserve and promote scriptural holiness. The influence of this church soon spread throughout western Texas and Arkansas. Prominent among the leaders was Rev. Mrs. Mary Lee Cagle, formerly the wife of Rev. R. L. Harris, who continued the work after her husband's death.

In 1888 the first holiness churches in Texas were organized by Revs. Thomas Rogers and Dennis Rogers, who came from California.

In 1901 the first Independent Holiness church was organized at Van Alstyne, Tex., by Rev. C. B. Jernigan. This denomination grew and prospered until, in 1903, there were 20 church organizations.

The legal representatives of the Independent Holiness church and the New Testament Church of Christ met at Rising Star, Tex., in November, 1904, where a joint committee framed

a *Manual* and a statement of doctrine and basis of union. The union was fully consummated at Pilot Point, Tex., in November, 1905, and the united body adopted the name Holiness Church of Christ.

VI. In 1907 several representatives from the Holiness Church of Christ accepted the invitation of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene to attend its General Assembly in Chicago, but were not authorized to take any action with reference to organic union. After the assembly invited them into counsel, provisional arrangements were made to incorporate the two churches into one body, when proper action could be taken. Upon the invitation of the Holiness Church of Christ, the Second General Assembly convened at Pilot Point, Tex., at two o'clock Thursday afternoon, October 8, 1908. On the following Tuesday morning, R. B. Mitchum moved: "That the union of the two churches be now consummated," and the motion was seconded by Rev. C. W. Ruth. Revs. John N. Short, J. B. Creighton, C. B. Jernigan, H. B. Hosley, P. E. Breesee, and others spoke favorably regarding the motion. On Tuesday, October 13, 1908, at 10:40 A.M., amid great enthusiasm, the motion to unite was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

VII. In 1898 Rev. J. O. McClurkan and a few others called a meeting of the holiness people of Tennessee and adjacent states to be held in Nashville. At this convention an association known as the Pentecostal Alliance was formed, but its name was later changed to the Pentecostal Mission. From the beginning these people were evangelistic in spirit and had a burning desire to disseminate the doctrine and experience of sanctification. Thus in different sections of the South there came together groups of holiness people known as bands of the Pentecostal Mission. They were decidedly missionary in spirit and soon were sending their representatives to "the regions beyond." Throughout their career they have been characterized by this missionary zeal.

At different times the question of the union of the Pentecostal Mission with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene had been discussed. Finally on February 13, 1915, this union was effected at Nashville, thus uniting both the home and the

foreign work of the Pentecostal Mission and the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

VIII. In November, 1901, the first stage in the present holiness church movement in the British Isles began, when Rev. George Sharpe, who had been for 13½ years a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, accepted a call to the Congregational church at Ardrossan, Scotland. In September, 1906, he became minister of Parkhead Congregational Church, Glasgow; but after a strenuous, successful, and glorious ministry of 13 months, he was evicted for preaching Bible holiness.

On September 30, 1906, the first services of the first distinctively holiness church were held in the Great Eastern Roads Hall, Glasgow. The charter members numbered 80. Other churches were organized and became the Pentecostal Church of Scotland. Visits of Drs. E. F. Walker and H. F. Reynolds to Scotland, and a visit of Rev. George Sharpe and Mrs. Sharpe to the Fourth General Assembly, at Kansas City, led the way to union with the Church of the Nazarene, which was consummated in November, 1915.

IX. The General Assembly of 1919, in response to memorials from 35 district assemblies, changed the name of the organization to Church of the Nazarene.

X. For many years a holiness movement had been developing in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana. It was originated by a group of Methodist laymen and was formally organized in 1917 at Jamestown, N.D., as the Laymen's Holiness Association. Rev. J. G. Morrison was immediately elected field evangelist and, in 1919, president of the organization. With him were associated Revs. Ira E. Hammer, S. C. Taylor, W. G. Bennett, and over 20 other evangelists and workers engaged in a widespread program of holiness evangelism and camp meeting promotion. In 1922, under the leadership of these ministers, more than 1,000 people identified with the Laymen's Holiness Association united with the Church of the Nazarene.

XI. During the quadrennium 1952-56, two holiness groups in Britain merged with the Church of the Nazarene.

The International Holiness Mission, founded in London in

1907 by Mr. David Thomas, businessman and lay preacher, consummated union with the Church of the Nazarene in Leeds, England, October 29, 1952, with General Superintendent Hardy C. Powers officiating. At the time of union, Mr. John Place was president of the International Holiness Mission, and Rev. J. B. MacLagan, who for 22 years had been a minister in the Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles, was superintendent-minister. The union brought 28 churches, over 1,000 constituents, and 36 missionaries in South Africa into the Church of the Nazarene.

For about 25 years the Calvary Holiness church of Britain carried on its ministry of holiness evangelism under the leadership of Rev. Maynard James and Rev. Jack Ford. Union of the Calvary Holiness church with the Church of the Nazarene was consummated June 11, 1955, at Manchester, England, with General Superintendent Samuel Young officiating. About 22 churches and over 600 members came into the church as a result of this union.

XII. The Gospel Workers church of Canada united with the Church of the Nazarene on September 7, 1958. Under the leadership of Rev. Albert Mills, president, and Rev. C. J. McNichol, secretary, the union took place with Mr. Samuel Goff, son of the founder, Rev. Frank D. Goff, of the Gospel Workers church, acting as attorney in the negotiations. The union was completed under the supervision of General Superintendent Samuel Young and added five churches and 200 members to the Canada Central District.

PART II

Church Constitution

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE CHURCH

**ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND
GOVERNMENT**

AMENDMENTS

PREAMBLE

In order that we may preserve our God-given heritage, the faith once delivered to the saints, especially the doctrine and experience of *entire** sanctification as a second work of grace, and also that we may cooperate effectually with other branches of the Church of Jesus Christ in advancing God's kingdom among men, 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 General Rules, and the Articles of Organization and Government here following, to wit:

* * *

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. *The Triune God*

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

Genesis 1

Leviticus 19:2

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Isaiah 5:16; 61:7; 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**

*Words in italics are new words, and words in parentheses are words being deleted, and indicate those Constitutional changes adopted by the 1985 General Assembly which are in the process of ratification by the district assemblies at the time of printing.

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

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* (Original Sin, or Depravity)

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 eradicated 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 which 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 1:18-23; 5:12-14;

7:1-8:9

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Galatians 5:16-23

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; 2:7-10*VI. *Atonement*

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

*Isaiah 53:5-6, 11**Mark 10:45**Luke 24:46-48**John 1:29; 3:14-17**Acts 4:10-12**Romans 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21**1 Corinthians 8:20**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. *Free Agency*

7. We believe that man's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong, and that thus he was made morally responsible; that through the fall of Adam he became depraved so that he cannot now turn and prepare himself by his 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 men, 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 man, though in the possession of the experience of regeneration and entire sanctification, may fall from grace and apostatize and, unless he repent of his sin, 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 1:3-10

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

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

2 Chronicles 7:14

Psalms 32:5-6; 51:1-17

Isaiah 55:6-7

Jeremiah 3:12-14

Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:14-16

Mark 1:14-15

Luke 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14

Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31;

26:16-18

Romans 2:4

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

1 Thessalonians 1:9

2 Peter 3:9

IX. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption

9. We believe that justification is the gracious and judicial act of God by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and com-

plete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

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

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

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

Luke 18:14

John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 5:24

Acts 13:39

Romans 1:17; 3:21-26, 28; 4:5-9,

17-25; 5:1, 16-19; 6:4; 7:5;

8:1, 15-17

1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Galatians 2:16-21; 3:1-14, 26;

4:4-7

Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:1, 4-5

Philippians 3:3-9

Colossians 2:13

Titus 3:4-7

1 Peter 1:23

1 John 1:9; 3:1-2, 9; 4:7; 5:1,

9-13, 18

X. *Entire Sanctification*

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

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

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus, is wrought instantaneously by faith, preceded by entire consecration; and to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

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

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

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Malachi 3:2-3

Matthew 3:11-12

Luke 3:16-17

John 7:37-39; 14:15-23; 17:6-20

Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9

Romans 6:11-13, 19; 8:1-4, 8-14;
12:1-2

"Christian perfection," "perfect love"

Deuteronomy 30:6

Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-40

Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10

1 Corinthians 13

"Heart purity"

Matthew 5:8

Acts 15:8-9

"Baptism with the Holy Spirit"

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Malachi 3:2-3

"Fullness of the blessing"

Romans 15:29

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

Philippians 3:10-15

Hebrews 6:1

1 John 4:17-18

1 Peter 1:22

1 John 3:3

Matthew 3:11-12

Luke 3:16-17

Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9

"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; 3:13-15

Colossians 2:20—3:17

1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:7-8; 5:23

2 Timothy 2:19-22

Hebrews 10:19-35; 12:14;

13:20-21

1 Peter 1:15-16

2 Peter 1:1-11; 3:18

Jude 20-21

XI. *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

XII. *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."

17. We believe in future judgment in which every man shall appear before God to be judged according to his deeds in this life.

18. 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

Psalms 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

XIII. *Baptism*

19. 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 (as) 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* (New Testament), young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

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

Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20

Galatians 3:26-28

Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48;
16:29-34; 19:1-6

Colossians 2:12

1 Peter 3:18-22

Romans 6:3-4

XIV. *The Lord's Supper*

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

Exodus 12:1-14

Luke 22:17-20

Matthew 26:26-29

John 6:28-58

Mark 14:22-25

1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-32

XV. *Divine Healing*

21. We believe in the Bible doctrine of divine healing and urge our people to seek to offer the prayer of faith for the heal-

ing of the sick. Providential means and agencies when deemed necessary should not be refused.

2 Kings 5:1-19

Psalms 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



THE CHURCH

I. *The General Church*

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

II. *The Churches Severally*

23. 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*

24. 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*

25. Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to

Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

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

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

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

25.4. That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

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

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

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

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

V. *The General Rules*

26. 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—

26.1. 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 men [Ephesians 4:32; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 3:18].

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

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

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

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

26.2. 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 which deny its sanctity [Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13-14; Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10].

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

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

(5) Quarreling, returning evil for evil, gossiping, slandering, spreading surmises injurious to the good names of others [2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:15; Ephesians 4:30-32; James 3:5-18; 1 Peter 3:9-10].

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

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

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

26.3. 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

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

27.1. We are agreed on the necessity of a superintendency which 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. (foster and care for churches already established, and whose duty it shall be to organize and encourage the organizing of churches everywhere.)

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

Article II. Local Churches

28. 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

29. 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 elders in good standing shall be members thereof. The General Assembly shall also fix the boundaries of assembly districts, and define the powers and duties of district assemblies. [200, 201]

Article IV. The General Assembly

30.1. *How Composed.* The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers, elected thereto by district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; such ex officio members as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct; and such delegates of districts under the administration of the World Mission and Church Growth de-

partments of the Church of the Nazarene as may be provided for by the General Assembly.

30.2. Election of Delegates. At a district assembly within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary, an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates to the General Assembly shall be chosen as may be provided by the General Assembly, and provided that the ministerial delegates shall be elders of the Church of the Nazarene. Each regular 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 the number of its delegates. [203.25, 301-1.1]

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

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

30.5. General Superintendents. The General Assembly shall elect by ballot from among the elders of the Church of the Nazarene as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall constitute the Board of General Superintendents. Any vacancy in the office of general superintendent in the interim of General Assemblies shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the superintendents of regular districts of the Church of the Nazarene. [305.1]

30.6. Presiding Officers. A general superintendent appointed thereto by the Board of General Superintendents shall preside over the daily meetings of the General Assembly. But if no general superintendent be so appointed or be present, the Gen-

eral Assembly shall elect one of its members as temporary presiding officer. [300.1]

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

30.8. General Court of Appeals. The General Assembly shall elect from among members of the Church of the Nazarene a General Court of Appeals and shall define its jurisdiction and powers. [305.6]

30.9. Powers and Restrictions.

(1) The General Assembly shall have power to legislate for the Church of the Nazarene, and to make rules and regulations for all the departments related to or associated with it in any respect, but not in conflict with this Constitution. [300, 305-5.8]

(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 laymen shall always have the right to a fair and orderly trial and the right to make an appeal.

* * *

AMENDMENTS

31. The provisions of this Constitution may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the General Assembly, and when concurred in by not less than two-thirds of all the regular and mission district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene. Either the General Assembly or any regular or mission district assembly may take the initiative in the matter of proposing such alterations or amendments. As soon as such alterations or amendments shall have been adopted as herein provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the Board of General Superintendents, whereupon such alterations or amendments shall have full force and effect.

PART III

Special Rules

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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

ABORTION

HOMOSEXUALITY

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

CHURCH OFFICERS

AMENDING SPECIAL RULES

A. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

32. 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"—the old patterns of conduct as well as the old carnal mind—and are to "put on the new"—a new and holy way of life as well as the mind of Christ [Ephesians 4:17-24].

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

32.2. 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.

32.3. In listing practices to be avoided we recognize that no catalog, however inclusive, can hope to encompass all forms of evil throughout the world. Therefore it is imperative that our people earnestly seek the aid of the Spirit in cultivating a sensitivity to evil which transcends the mere letter of the law; remembering the admonition: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" [1 Thessalonians 5:21-22].

32.4. Our leaders and pastors are expected to give strong

emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental biblical truths as will develop the faculty of discrimination between the evil and the good.

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

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

33.1. Entertainments which are subversive of the Christian ethic. Our people 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 to the Christian family. 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, and television, it is essential that the most rigid safeguards be observed. The third principle is the obligation to witness against social evils by appropriate forms of influence, and by the refusal to patronize and thereby lend influence to the industries which are known to be the purveyors of this kind of entertainment. This would include the avoidance of the motion picture theater [cinema]. We should also avoid such other commercial ventures including television programs which feature the violent, the sensual, and the pornographic and thus

undermine God's standard of holiness of heart and life [Romans 14:7-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Ephesians 5:1-18; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 Peter 1:13-17]. [904.7, 904.9]

33.2. 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].

33.3. Membership in oath-bound secret orders or societies. The quasi-religious nature of such organizations dilutes the Christian's commitment, and their secrecy contravenes the Christian's open witness [1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1; Ephesians 5:11-16; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17]. [903.2]

33.4. All forms of social dancing. We hold that such practices tend to break down proper inhibitions and reserve between the sexes [Matthew 22:36-39; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 3:1-17]. [904.6]

33.5. 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. [903.3, 904.4]

The Holy Scriptures and human experience together justify the condemnation of the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. The manufacture and sale of liquors for such purposes is a sin against God and the human race. Total abstinence from all intoxicants should be the Christian rule for the individual, and total prohibition of the traffic in intoxicants the duty of civil government [Proverbs 20:1; 23:29—24:2; Habakkuk 2:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-12, 19-20; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:18].

[Only unfermented wine and unleavened bread* should be used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.] [403.7, 404.2, 405, 423.10, 802]

33.6. The unprescribed use of hallucinogenics, stimulants, and depressants, and the misuse and abuse of regularly pre-

*In world areas where this may cause special interfaith difficulties, a district assembly may request the Board of General Superintendents for permission to use common bread.

scribed medicines. Only on competent medical advice and under medical supervision should such drugs be used [Matthew 22:37-39; 27:34; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:24-27].

B. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE AND/OR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

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

34. The Christian family, knit together in a common bond through Jesus Christ, is a circle of love, fellowship, and worship to be earnestly cultivated in a society in which family ties are easily dissolved. We urge upon the ministry and congregations of our church such teachings and practices as will strengthen and develop family ties.

The institution of marriage was ordained of God in the time of man's innocency and is, according to apostolic authority, "honourable in all"; it is the mutual union of one man and one woman for fellowship, helpfulness, and the propagation of the race. Our people should cherish this sacred estate as becomes Christians, and should enter it only after earnest prayer for divine direction, and when assured that the contemplated union is in accordance with scriptural requirements. They should seek earnestly the blessings which God has ordained in connection with the wedded state, namely, holy companionship, parenthood, and mutual love—the elements of home building. The marriage covenant is morally binding so long as both shall live, and therefore may not be dissolved at will [Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:21-24; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; Ephesians 5:21—6:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4].

34.1. Ministers of the Church of the Nazarene are instructed to give due care to matters relating to solemnizing marriages. They shall seek, in every manner possible, to convey to their congregations the sacredness of Christian marriage. They shall provide premarital counseling in every instance possible before performing a marriage ceremony. They shall only solemnize

marriages of persons having the scriptural right to marry. [107-7.1, 411.14]

34.2. Members of the Church of the Nazarene are to seek prayerfully a redemptive course of action when involved in marital unhappiness, in full harmony with their vows and the clear teachings of the Scripture, their aim being to save the home and safeguard the good name of both Christ and His Church. Couples having serious marital problems are urged to seek counsel and guidance of their pastor. Failure to comply with this procedure in good faith and with sincere endeavor to seek a Christian solution, and subsequent obtainment of an unscriptural divorce and remarriage, makes one or both parties subject to discipline as prescribed in 501.

34.3. Though there may exist such other causes and conditions as may justify a divorce under the civil law, only adultery is a scriptural ground for divorce, and only adultery will supply such ground as may justify the innocent party in remarrying [Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9].

34.4. Through ignorance, sin, and human frailties, many in our society fall short of the divine ideal. We believe that Christ can redeem these persons even as He did the woman at Samaria's well. Where the scriptural ground for divorce did not exist and remarriage followed, the marriage partners, upon genuine repentance for their sin, are enjoined to seek the forgiving grace of God and His redemptive help in their marriage relation. Such persons may be received into the membership of the church at such time as they have given evidence of their regeneration and an awareness of their understanding of the sanctity of Christian marriage. [26, 107.1]

C. ABORTION

35. We believe induced abortion to be permissible only on the basis of sound medical reasons that give evidence of life-endangering conditions for the mother. We oppose induced abortion for personal convenience or population control. We also oppose liberalizing the laws which allow induced abortion on demand. There may be pregnancies that require deliberate

termination by therapeutic abortion, but such a decision should be made only on the basis of adequate medical and spiritual counseling [Exodus 20:13; Job 31:15; Psalm 139:3-16; Isaiah 49:5; Luke 1:31, 41-44; Romans 12:1-2].

We further believe that responsible opposition to abortion requires our commitment to the initiation and support of programs designed to provide care for mothers and children.

D. HOMOSEXUALITY

36. We recognize the depth of the perversion that leads to homosexual acts, but affirm the biblical position that such acts are sinful and subject to the wrath of God. We believe the grace of God sufficient to overcome the practice of homosexuality [1 Corinthians 6:9-11]. We deplore any action or statement that would seem to imply compatibility between Christian morality and the practice of homosexuality. We urge clear preaching and teaching concerning Bible standards of sex morality [Genesis 1:27; 19:1-25; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10].

E. CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

37. *Meaning of Stewardship.* The Scriptures teach that God is the Owner of all persons and all things, that men are His stewards of both life and possessions, that God's ownership and man's stewardship ought to be acknowledged, and that men shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of their stewardship. God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving which acknowledges His ownership and man's stewardship. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel [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]. [140, 342.4]

37.1. *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, regional, and general.

37.2. Fund-raising and Distribution. In the light of the scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel and for the erection of church buildings, no Nazarene church should engage in any method of fund-raising which 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, regional, and general programs of the Church of the Nazarene, local churches are urged to adopt and practice a budget plan and to pay general, regional, and district apportionments monthly. [130, 160, 161-61.2, 423.20]

37.3. Support of the Ministry. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of 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. [121]

37.4. Life Income Gifts and Bequests. It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with the residue of one's income and possessions over which the Lord makes the Christian a steward during his life. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribu-

tion of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give attention to the preparation of his 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, regional, and general—is recommended for consideration. [342.3]

F. CHURCH OFFICERS

38. We direct our local churches to elect as church officers only persons who are clearly in the experience of entire sanctification; who are in full sympathy with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully with tithes and offerings. [113.9, 127, 150.1-50.2]

G. AMENDING SPECIAL RULES

39. The provisions of these Special Rules may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of all the members of a given General Assembly.

PART IV

Government

THE LOCAL CHURCH
THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
THE REGION
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PREAMBLE

All life must have law; all organization must have government. He who is Head over all things unto the Church himself gave form and order unto His Body of followers and representatives. We seek as a church to conform to principles of government in accord with the Holy Scriptures and divine providences, that all things may be done scripturally, decently, and in order.

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

In world regions served by the church where cultural and political differences may necessitate, adaptations of local, district, and regional church government procedures contained in Part IV, Chapters I, II, and III may be made. All such adaptations shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

CHAPTER I

THE LOCAL CHURCH

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

100. Organization. Local churches may be organized by the district superintendent, or by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or by an elder authorized by either of them. Official reports of new churches shall be filed in the Church Extension Ministries office. [28, 107, 208.1, 310, 411.12]

100.1. The Multicongregational Church. Organized local churches may enlarge their ministry by establishing Bible classes in various languages using the facilities of these churches. These Bible classes may develop into church-type missions or fully organized churches [100]. This may result in more than one congregation existing in the same building, with the approval of the district superintendent. In such multicongregational churches where not all the individual congrega-

tions are fully organized churches, the District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may grant to such congregations the rights and privileges of an organized local church subject to the following conditions:

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

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

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

102. *Incorporation.* In all places where the statutes will permit, the trustees shall have the local church incorporated, and the said trustees and their successors shall be the trustees of the said corporation. Where not inconsistent with civil law, the Articles of Incorporation shall set forth the powers of the corporation and provide that the corporation shall be subject to the government of the Church of the Nazarene, as from time to

time authorized and declared in its *Manual* by the General Assembly of said church. All the property of this corporation shall be managed and controlled by the trustees subject to the approval of the local church.

102.1. Where property is purchased and developed by the District Advisory Board for a local church or where a new church is formed, upon the repayment of the money invested by the District Advisory Board by the local church, it is deemed advisable that the District Advisory Board transfer the title to the local church. [235.3]

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.

102.3. 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 mortgage, contracts, and other legal documents of the church not otherwise provided for in the *Manual* and subject to the restrictions set forth in 104-4.2.

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 which 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 which can cause the property of the local church to be diverted from the Church of the Nazarene. [101-1.1, 104.2, 106-6.2]

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.

103. Property. The local church considering the purchase of real estate, the erection of churches or church-related buildings, a major remodeling of either, or leasing real property for any reason, shall submit its proposal to the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board for their consideration, advice, and approval. No indebtedness, whether involving a mortgage or not, shall be incurred in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings or a major remodeling of either, without the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. [234-35.6]

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 his decision. Either the church or the district superintendent may appeal such decision to the Board of General Superintendents for a final decision. All such appeals, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto, whether to the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents, shall be in writing. A copy of the appeal, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto by either the church board or the district superintendent shall be sent to the other party involved. The minute record of a church board appeal shall include the appeal resolution, arguments sustaining it, and the record of the vote taken.

104. Restrictions. The local church may not purchase real estate, nor sell, mortgage, exchange, or otherwise dispose of real estate except by two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose, and except upon the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. [113.3, 113.6, 113.13, 236.4]

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

104.2. Trustees and/or a local church may not divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. [113-13.1]

104.3. *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.

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 him, 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 budget allocations.

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

106. *Disorganization of Churches.* A local church may be disorganized by action and formal pronouncement of the Board of General Superintendents. Such action shall be taken only after (a) the district superintendent has consulted with the general superintendent in jurisdiction concerning the possibility of discontinuing a local church organization; and (b) on recommendation of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

106.1. In case a local church becomes disorganized, any church property which may exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but title shall pass to the District Advisory

Board acting as agent for said district where such has been incorporated, or other authorized agents, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the district assembly shall direct; and trustees holding property for the disorganized church shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the District Advisory Board or other appointed agent of the district assembly, with the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction; either conveying said property or delivering the proceeds from the sale thereof as directed by the district assembly or its District Advisory Board.

106.2. No trustee or trustees of a disorganized church may divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. [141-45]

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

106.4. Churches may be declared inactive for a period of transition by action of the Board of General Superintendents on the recommendation of the District Advisory Board.

B. Membership

107. Full Membership. All persons who have been organized into a local church by those authorized so to do, and all who have been publicly received by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the general superintendent, after having declared their experience of salvation, and their belief in the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene, and their willingness to submit to its government, shall compose the full membership of the local church; however, only church members who have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in annual or special church meetings. [28, 34.4, 111, 113.1, 403.8, 411.10, 423.2, 427]

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 General and Special Rules, and the purpose and mission of the Church of the Nazarene. Specific indoctrination and orientation shall be provided to qualify candidates for meaningful church membership.

After consulting with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee, the minister shall receive acceptable candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members [801]. [26, 32-38, 110-10.4, 225]

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

108. *Probationary Membership.* Where a district makes provision, a local church may have probationers who shall have all the privileges of church members, with the exception of voting and holding church office. [203.26]

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

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

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. The pastor of the nearest church should be notified of this change of residence directly or through the Church Growth Division of the General Board. After one year, if a member fails to request a transfer of membership or if that member's address is unknown, the membership may be declared inactive by recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board. After such action, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name "Placed on the Inactive Membership Roll by the church board [date]." If this person reestablishes residence in the community where his membership was declared inactive, full membership may be granted by recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board.

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 7 days of the action of the church board, and a 120-day waiting period including prayer and supplication shall follow these actions. After such action of the church board, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name "Placed on the Inactive Membership Roll by the church board [date]." An inactive member may request in writing that the church board return his or her name to the active role of the church. The request must include a reaffirmation of the vows of membership and renewed participation in the worship activities of the local church. The church board shall respond to the request within 60 days. Full membership may be restored to such a person by recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board.

109.3. Inactive members shall be included in the full membership of the local church with active members and shall be reported to the district assembly accordingly.

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

C. Evangelism and Church Membership Committee

110. The church board shall provide an evangelism and church membership committee of not fewer than three persons acting in an advisory capacity to the pastor, who shall be the chairman. Its duties shall be:

110.1. To promote evangelism in the local church and seek to conserve the fruits of evangelism. [107-7.1, 129.22]

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 the

denominational programs, both general and district, 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. [25-26, 34.4]

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

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

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

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

D. Change of Membership

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

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

E. Termination of Membership

112. *Ministers.* When a licensed or an ordained minister has united with the church membership or ministry of another

denomination, his membership in the local church shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, and there shall be written opposite his name, "Removed by uniting with another denomination." [403.9, 411.10]

112.1. When a 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 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 he holds his membership and the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board of the district in which that church is located.

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

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

112.4. A church board may not remove more than 10 percent of the membership of the local church in any one assembly year without the written approval of the District Advisory Board and the district superintendent. The names of those to be removed and the reason for their removal shall be presented in writing to the Advisory Board by the local church secretary.

F. Church Meetings

113. A meeting of the members of a local church for conference and for the transaction of business shall be known as a church meeting. [104, 113.6, 115, 123, 425]

113.1. Only those persons who have been received into full membership and have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in church meetings. [107]

113.2. 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.

113.3. *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]

113.4. *Presiding Officer:* The pastor, who shall be ex officio president of the local church, or the district superintendent, or the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or someone appointed by the district superintendent or the general superintendent, shall preside at annual or special church meetings. [210.1, 310.1, 423.22]

113.5. *Secretary:* The secretary of the church board shall be the secretary of all church meetings; in his absence a secretary pro tempore shall be elected. [134.4]

113.6. *Annual Meeting.* An annual church meeting shall be held within 60 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.

In cases where the district assembly will convene so that the 60-day period is during the vacation season, the local church may, upon recommendation of the local church board and with the written approval of the district superintendent, hold its annual meeting within 90 days prior to the meeting of the district assembly.

113.7. *Reports.* Reports shall be given at the annual church meeting by the pastor [423.14], the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board [151.4], the president of the Nazarene Youth International [158.3], the president of the Nazarene World Mission Society [159.2], the deacons [404], the deaconesses [415], the local ministers [402.1], the stewards [138], the trustees [144], the secretary [134.2], and the treasurer [135.5] of the church board.

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

The Nominating Committee shall consist of not fewer than three nor more than seven members of the church, including the pastor, and appointed by the pastor, or district superintendent, who shall be chairman of the committee. [38]

113.9. Elections. At the annual church meeting there shall be an election, by ballot, of the stewards [136], the trustees [141, 142.1], the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board [150-51], and the members of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board [149], to serve for the next church year and until their successors are elected and qualified. All those elected as church officers shall be members of that same local Church of the Nazarene. [38]

113.10. 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 136 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 149.4, that committee will constitute the Education Committee of the church board. [149.4-49.6]

113.11. Where laws permit, and in churches where such procedure is approved by a majority vote of the church members present at a duly called annual meeting, after receiving the written approval of the district superintendent, a church may elect one-half its church board members for two-year terms, 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 136 and 141.

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

113.13. Special church meetings may be called at any time by the pastor, or by the church board after having obtained the consent of the pastor or of the district superintendent or of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. [104]

113.14. 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. [120, 123-24, 136, 138, 142.1, 144]

G. The Church Year

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

114.1. The statistical year shall close within 60 days prior to the opening of the district assembly; and the new statistical year shall begin the day following its close. The exact date of the beginning and close of the statistical year within these bounds shall be set by the District Advisory Board. [222.1]

H. Calling of a Pastor

115. An elder or licensed minister [422] may be called to pastor a church by two-thirds favorable vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting at a duly called annual or special meeting of the church, provided that such elder or licensed minister shall have been nominated to the church by the church board, which, after having advised with the district superintendent, made such nomination by majority vote by ballot of all its members; and provided the nomination shall have been approved by the district superintendent. This call shall be subject to review and continuance as hereinafter provided. The initial term of service for a pastor who is an elder shall be for a period of two years. A licensed minister shall serve for one year. [118, 123.2, 129.2, 205.7, 208.6]

116. The pastor of a church which has been organized for less than five years, or has less than 35 voting members, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, may be appointed by the district superintendent with the consent of the general superintendent having jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board. [208.1, 208.3]

116.1. In such a church a pastoral vacancy in the interim

between district assemblies shall be filled by appointment by the district superintendent.

117. In case of disagreement between the church board and the district superintendent regarding pastoral arrangements, the church board or the district superintendent may submit the matter to the general superintendent having jurisdiction for his 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 name, or if a pastoral candidate is found to be unavailable for consideration, the appeal process should terminate immediately, and the district superintendent and church board shall continue with pastoral arrangements.

118. When a pastor who is a licensed minister accepts the call to a local church after the beginning of the church year [114], his ministry shall be for a term including the next church year, and the call may be renewed as hereinafter provided, except that in case his license should not be renewed by the next district assembly, his pastorate shall terminate at the final adjournment of the assembly.

118.1. When a pastor who is an elder accepts the call to a local church after the beginning of the church year [114], his ministry shall be for a term of the next two church years, and the call may be renewed or extended as hereinafter provided.

119. In case a church has not called a pastor prior to the convening of the district assembly, the general superintendent presiding at the district assembly, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board, in concurrence with the delegates from the church, shall make pastoral arrangements. [222.3, 308.1]

120. Acceptance of a call to pastoral relations shall be given by the minister not later than 30 days from the date of the church meeting voting the call.

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

The local church should also make provision for his traveling and moving expenses. [37, 129.7-29.8]

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

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

122.1. 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.

I. Renewing the Call of the Pastor

123. When a minister is called to a local church as pastor, he will serve at least 12 months before a renewal vote is taken.

The call of the pastor who is an elder may be continued for a two-year period and each succeeding two-year period of his pastorate without nomination of the church board, by two-thirds vote by ballot of all church members of voting age present and voting at a church meeting duly called for this purpose; that notice being given from the pulpit at two preceding regular services, the first notice being given at least 6 days prior to the date the vote is taken, and held at least 90 days but not more than 180 days prior to the date of convening the next district assembly, provided such continuance shall be approved by the district superintendent within 30 days after such call. His failure to disapprove shall be considered and treated as approval. [113.13, 208.7]

123.1. In case of disagreement regarding the disapproval of the renewal call by the district superintendent within the specified time, either the church or the district superintendent may submit the matter to the general superintendent having jurisdiction for a decision. From such decision either the local church or the district superintendent may appeal to the Board of General Superintendents.

123.2. A pastor receiving less than two-thirds vote on a renewal call shall terminate his ministry with that church at the close of the district assembly.

123.3. The chairman of the Board of Tellers shall personally inform the pastor of the results of a pastoral renewal vote before any public announcement is made.

123.4. The pastor of a church which has been organized for less than five years, or has less than 35 voting members, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, may be reappointed by the district superintendent with the consent of the general superintendent having jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board.

124. Extended Call. The local church, when voting to renew pastoral relations of the pastor who is an elder, may vote to extend the call to a total of three or four years; or after a pastor has served that church for a minimum of four years, he shall be eligible for an indefinite call. The conditions for either kind of extended call are: (1) The pastoral vote for two years has been

presented and a favorable vote received; (2) that it be considered in the final year of his present call and within the time period for renewing the call of the pastor, namely, at least 90 days but not more than 180 days prior to the date of convening the next district assembly; (3) such extended call shall have been recommended by majority vote by ballot of all members of the church board; (4) approval in writing by the district superintendent before the vote is taken by the church; such a vote must be by two-thirds vote by ballot of church members of voting age present and voting and must be taken at a church meeting duly called for the purpose at least 90 days but not more than 180 days prior to the date of convening the next district assembly.

When the extended call is for an indefinite period of time, the pastoral relationship shall be reviewed at least every four years by the district superintendent meeting with the church board. This review shall occur at least 100 days but not more than 180 days prior to the district assembly. If a vote is called for during this review and at least a majority vote by ballot of all church board members are in favor, the indefinite call shall be continued. In the event that there is not a majority in favor of continuing the indefinite call, the pastoral renewal shall be presented to the church membership for a vote according to 123, with the option of 124 allowing the church board to recommend a three- or four-year extended call. If a vote is not called for during this review by the district superintendent with the church board, the indefinite call will be continued until another four-year review. Any other review is provided for in 126. [113.13]

124.1. It shall be understood that this extended call shall include the two-year renewal call period. In the case of additional renewals of such pastorate, the procedure shall be the same as that stated herein.

125. In case the church meeting for the renewal call is held at a date later than 90 days prior to the convening of the next district assembly, the procedure shall be that of calling a pastor according to 115.

126. In case the district superintendent and the church

board shall be of the opinion that the question of the continuance of pastoral relations beyond the close of any year of an extended pastoral term should be submitted to the church, the district superintendent and the church board by a two-thirds vote of all its members together may order the question submitted for vote at a special church meeting held at least 90 days, but not more than 180 days, prior to the date of convening the next district assembly. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present pastoral relations be continued beyond the end of the present church year?" [113.13]

If, by a two-thirds vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting, the church decides to continue its present pastoral relations, the office of the pastor shall continue as though such vote had not been taken.

If, however, the church fails to decide by such vote to continue the present pastoral relations, the term of office of the pastor shall terminate with the close of the district assembly.

126.1. When in the opinion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, a local church is in crisis—financial, morale, or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the church, the tenure of a pastor may be terminated by the unanimous vote of the District Advisory Board, the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and a majority vote of the local church board.

J. The Church Board

127. *Membership.* Every local church shall have a church board, composed of the pastor, the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, the president of the Nazarene Youth International, the president of the Nazarene World Mission Society, the stewards, and the trustees of the church, and the members of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board when elected as the Education Committee of the church board by the annual church meeting. Elders unassigned by the district are not eligible to serve on the local church board. [38, 113.8-13.10, 136, 141, 149, 158.3, 159.2]

128. *Meetings.* The church board shall have a regular meeting within the first 15 days of each calendar month and shall

meet specially when called by the pastor, the district superintendent, the secretary only with the approval of the pastor, or the district superintendent when there is no pastor.

Between the annual church meeting and the district assembly the newly elected church board may meet for organization purposes, at which time it shall elect a church secretary and a church treasurer as provided hereafter and any other officer which it shall be their duty to elect. [113.6, 129.17-29.18]

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. [162, 425]

129.2. To nominate to the church, after having consulted with the district superintendent, any elder or licensed minister whom it may deem the proper person to become pastor, provided the nomination be approved by the district superintendent. [115, 208.6]

129.3. To recommend to the church, with the approval of the district superintendent, that the call of the pastor be renewed for a term longer than one/two year[s]. [124, 126]

129.4. To arrange for pastoral supply, after conference with the district superintendent, until such time as a pastor shall be regularly called by the church. [209]

129.5. To provide for the development and adoption of an annual budget for the church, all auxiliaries, any day-care/pre-school/weekday schools projecting income and expenditures.

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

129.7. To determine the amount of salary the pastor shall receive, and to review it at least once a year. [121]

129.8. To provide ways and means for the support of the pastor, the pastoral supply, or any other paid workers of the church; to give attention to the continuing educational needs of the pastor and staff. [121, 143.3]

129.9. 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.

129.10. To give proper attention to the support of the district superintendent and the general superintendents, in accordance with the authorized plans.

129.11. To license, or renew the license of, at its discretion, any person who has been recommended by the pastor for (a) local minister, or (b) lay minister. [402.1, 402.3]

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

129.13. 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. [402.5, 403.1]

129.14. To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, renewal of deaconess' license in harmony with 415.

129.15. To elect upon nomination of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, with the approval of the pastor, a director of children's ministries, a director of youth ministries (who may be the NYI president), and a director of adult ministries. [152.5]

129.16. To approve the selection of the administrators of Nazarene day-care/preschool/weekday schools. [423.17]

129.17. To elect a secretary at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. [113.5, 128, 134.1-34.5]

129.18. To elect a treasurer at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. [128, 135.1-35.6]

129.19. To cause careful account to be kept of all money received and disbursed by the church, including any weekday schools and all auxiliaries, and make report of the same at its

regular monthly meetings, and to the annual meeting of the church. [135.3]

129.20. To provide a committee, no fewer than two members of which shall count and account for all money received by the church. [143.3]

129.21. To appoint an auditing committee which shall audit, at least annually, the financial records of the treasurer of the church, the Nazarene Youth International, the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, Nazarene day-care/preschool/weekday schools, and any other financial records of the church.

129.22. To provide an evangelism and church membership committee of no fewer than three persons. [110]

129.23. To function, if advisable, as the Christian Life and Sunday School Board in churches of no more than 50 members. [149.3]

129.24. To appoint a trial committee of five in case written charges are pending against a church member. [501]

129.25. To elect, with the written approval of the district superintendent and upon the nomination of the pastor, such paid assistants as assistant pastors, directors of Christian education, directors of youth work, directors of music, and directors of weekday schools. [158.3, 166, 208.9]

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

129.27. To provide for a long-range planning committee for the church with the pastor as ex officio chairman.

130. The church board, together with the pastor, shall follow plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly for raising apportionments of General Budget funds and District Budget funds made to the local church, and shall raise and regularly pay these apportionments.

131. The church board shall perform the duties of a Christian Life and Sunday School Board in a newly organized church until such board has been regularly elected. [149, 149.3]

131.1. The church board and pastor of the newly organized church shall decide when a chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board will be elected. [129.23]

132. 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. [112.3]

133. The church board may suspend or revoke the license of any locally credentialed person.

134. *Church Secretary.* The duties of the secretary of the church board shall be:

134.1. 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. [122.1, 129.17]

134.2. To present to the annual meeting of the church an annual report of all the activities of the local church, including statistics on membership. [113.7]

134.3. 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 sacred trust in either fireproof or secure safes on the local church premises. 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.

134.4. 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. [113.5]

134.5. To certify in writing to the district superintendent the results of the vote for the calling of a pastor, a pastoral renewal vote, and the vote for an extended pastoral renewal call. Such certification shall be made within one week of the vote.

134.6. 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.

134.7. To sign in conjunction with the pastor all convey-

ances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgage, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual* [102.1, 103-4.2]

135. *Church Treasurer*: The duties of the treasurer of the church board shall be:

135.1. To receive all moneys not otherwise provided for, and disburse the same only on order of the church board. [129.19]

135.2. To make monthly remittances of all district funds to the district treasurer, and of all general funds to the general treasurer, except as otherwise provided. [423.16]

135.3. To keep a correct book record of all funds received and disbursed. [129.19]

135.4. To present a detailed monthly financial report for distribution to the church board. [129.19]

135.5. To present an annual financial report to the annual church meeting. [113.7, 129.19]

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

K. The Stewards

136. The stewards of the church shall be no fewer than 3 nor more than 13 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. [38, 113.6, 113.9, 127]

137. The duties of the stewards are:

137.1. To serve as a church growth committee with the responsibilities of outreach, evangelism, and extension, including sponsoring new churches and missions, with the pastor as ex officio chairman.

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

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

137.4. 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.

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

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

137.7. To provide the elements for the Lord's Supper, and when requested by the pastor, to assist in the distribution of the same. [33.5, 423.10]

138. For faithfulness in the discharge of their duties the stewards shall be amenable to the local church. They shall make a report to the church at the annual church meeting. [113.7]

139. A vacancy in the office of steward may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. [113.13]

L. The Local Stewardship Committee

140. The stewards shall constitute the Stewardship Committee, whose duty it shall be to promote the cause of Christian stewardship in the local church in cooperation with the pastor and the Stewardship Services office of the General Finance Division. [37-37.4]

M. The Trustees

141. The trustees of the church shall be no fewer than three nor 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. [38, 113.9, 127]

142. In all cases where the civil law requires a specific mode of election of church trustees, that mode shall be strictly followed. [113.3]

142.1. Where no particular mode of election is required by civil law, the trustees shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the local church or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose. [113.6, 113.9]

143. The duties of the trustees shall be:

143.1. To hold the title to church property and manage it as trustees of the local church, where the local church is not incorporated, or where the civil law requires it, or where for other reasons it is deemed best by the district superintendent or the District Advisory Board, subject to the guidance and the restrictions as set forth in 102-4.3.

143.2. To give guidance to the development of the physical facilities and to financial planning, unless the church board has provided otherwise.

143.3. To give special attention, under the direction of the church board, to raising money for the support of the church and of the pastor, that he may be free from secular care and anxiety and may give himself wholly to the work of the ministry. [129.8, 129.20]

144. For faithfulness to their trust, the trustees shall be amenable to the local church. They shall report to the annual church meeting. In the interim of annual church meetings, they shall make reports to the church board of which they are a part. [102, 104.2, 106.1-6.2, 113.7]

145. A vacancy in the office of trustee may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. [113.13]

N. Christian Life and Sunday School

146. Christian Life and Sunday School, as an organization of the local church, has as its primary task to reach people for Christ. It promotes the organization and work of Sunday Schools; it plans, promotes, directs, and coordinates the total CL/SS of the local church, including Sunday, weekday, annual/special ministries, and training. The organization shall be supervised by the Christian Life and Sunday School Board under the direct care of the pastor.

146.1. Christian Life and Sunday School shall provide ministry to all age-groups: children, birth to age 12 or completion of

grade six; youth, age 12 or grade seven through age 23; adults, married or 24 years of age and older.

147. The objectives of Christian Life and Sunday School are:

147.1. To locate and reach the largest possible number of unchurched people for Christ and the church.

147.2. To bring the unchurched into the fellowship of the church.

147.3. To teach the Word of God effectively in order to lead people into salvation and the experience of entire sanctification.

147.4. To teach the doctrines of the Christian faith revealed in the Bible and interpreted by the Articles of Faith of the Church of the Nazarene; to develop the simplicity and spiritual power of Christlike character, attitudes, and habits; and to establish Christian homes.

147.5. To prepare believers for membership in the Church of the Nazarene.

147.6. To motivate and equip believers for involvement in appropriate Christian ministry.

147.7. These objectives are to be accomplished through devout and diligent study and teaching of the Bible, in and through any other contributive agencies.

148. *Bylaws.* Each Sunday School shall be organized and administered according to the bylaws in 812.

148.1. The officers and teachers of the Sunday School shall be professing Christians, exemplary in life, and in full harmony with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene.

148.2. The Christian Life and Sunday School year shall be the same as the church year defined in 114.

148.3. At the close of the statistical year it shall be the duty of the pastor to supervise carefully the preparing of the annual statistical report of the Christian Life and Sunday School and the forwarding of it to the district secretary. [114, 423.12]

O. The Christian Life and Sunday School Board

149. Every church shall have a Christian Life and Sunday

School Board composed of a chairman [150.1-50.2, 152.4] and three to nine persons elected at the annual church meeting. They shall elect a secretary and such other officers as deemed necessary. All members shall serve until the close of the next year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

149.1. Ex officio members of the CL/SS Board shall be the pastor, the NWMS president, children's ministries director, youth ministries director, and adult ministries director.

149.2. A vacancy on the CL/SS Board may be filled at a duly called church meeting.

149.3. In churches of 75 members or less the church board may function as the CL/SS Board. [131]

149.4. The church may choose to elect an education committee as a part of the church board at the annual church meeting in lieu of a CL/SS Board. [113.10]

149.5. The church desiring to elect an education committee as a part of the church board must follow the *Manual* requirements for the minimum number of stewards and trustees. [136, 141] Committee members will be elected within the framework of the maximum number of church board members.

149.6. If an education committee [149.4] is elected, the ex officio members [149.1] shall serve along with church board members on this committee.

150. *The Chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board.* The qualifications shall be:

150.1. A member of the local church in which he serves.

150.2. In the experience of entire sanctification and in full sympathy with the doctrine and polity of the Church of the Nazarene. [38]

151. The chairman shall be elected by majority vote by ballot in the annual church meeting. [113.9, 152.4]

151.1. An incumbent chairman may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such election is ordered by the CL/SS Board and approved by the pastor.

151.2. A vacancy in the office of chairman of the CL/SS Board shall be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. [113-13.3]

151.3. The chairman shall be an ex officio member of the

church board, the CL/SS Board, and the district assembly held immediately prior to his year of office. He shall submit a report to the annual church meeting and a monthly report to the church board, and shall preside over the regular meetings of the CL/SS Board or Education Committee of the church board. [201]

151.4. The chairman is responsible for giving strong leadership to the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment, attendance, and leadership training.

152. The duties of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall be:

152.1. To hold regular meetings for the transaction of necessary business. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or the pastor.

152.2. To promote and supervise the growth of the Sunday School in the local church.

152.3. To coordinate the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry of the local church, including decisions regarding curriculum materials to be used. Nazarene materials should always form the basis for biblical study and doctrinal interpretation.

152.4. To submit one or more nominations approved by the pastor to the annual church meeting for chairman of the CL/SS Board. The chairman is not to be present when the nominees are selected.

152.5. To nominate to the church board with the approval of the pastor a director of children's ministries, a director of youth ministries/NYI, and a director of adult ministries. Where advisable, the elected NYI president may be the youth ministries director.

152.6. To elect the Children's, Youth, and Adult councils from nominations by the directors of children's, youth, and adult ministries with approval by the pastor and chairman of the CL/SS Board. The elected NYI Council may be the Youth Ministries Council.

152.7. To elect all age-group Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers from nominations by the directors of chil-

dren's, youth, and adult ministries, with approval by the pastor and chairman of the CL/SS Board.

152.8. To elect a local director of Continuing Lay Training, who shall organize, promote, and supervise training opportunities for the entire membership of the church. The CL/SS Board shall have the option of naming the Continuing Lay Training director as an ex officio member to this board.

153. *Children's Ministries Director* The duties of the local director of children's ministries shall be:

153.1. To organize, promote, and coordinate the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for children from birth to age 12 [completion of grade six].

153.2. To give leadership to the children's division of the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for children in the local church, in cooperation with the CL/SS Board.

153.3. To give leadership for additional Sunday, weekday, annual, and special ministries, evangelism, and fellowship activities for children.

153.4. To nominate to the CL/SS Board the leadership for the various children's ministries, including Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers. The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the chairman of the CL/SS Board.

153.5. To recommend to the CL/SS Board for approval, any supplemental curriculum and resources to be used.

153.6. To provide leadership training for children's workers in cooperation with the CL/SS Board and the director of Continuing Lay Training.

153.7. To chair the Children's Ministries Council. The Children's Ministries Council shall be responsible for planning the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for children in the local church. The council is composed of at least one Sunday School representative and the directors of: children's church, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, quizzing, mission education, and any others deemed necessary. The council size should vary with the number of ministries being offered to children in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

153.8. To submit an annual asking budget to the CL/SS Board and/or church board, and administer funds in accordance with such budget approval.

153.9. To receive all reports, including Sunday School, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, and other children's ministries. A monthly report of Sunday School enrollment, attendance, and children's ministries activities shall be submitted to the chairman of the CL/SS Board.

153.10. To submit a quarterly calendar of children's activities to the CL/SS Board to be coordinated with the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry of the local church.

154. *Youth Ministries Director*: A local church board may assign the following responsibilities of the local youth ministries director to the local NYI president [158.3-58.4]. The duties of the local youth director shall be:

154.1. To organize, promote, and coordinate the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for youth age 12 [seventh grade] through 23 years of age.

154.2. To give leadership to the youth division of the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for youth in the local church, in cooperation with the CL/SS Board.

154.3. To nominate to the CL/SS Board the leadership for the various youth ministries, including Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers. The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the chairman of the CL/SS Board.

154.4. To recommend to the CL/SS Board for approval any supplemental curriculum and resources to be used.

154.5. To provide leadership training for youth workers in cooperation with the CL/SS Board and the director of Continuing Lay Training.

154.6. To chair the Youth Ministries Council. The Youth Ministries Council shall be responsible for planning the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for youth in the local church. [155.4, 155.6, 810]

154.7. To submit an annual asking budget to the CL/SS Board and/or church board, and administer funds in accordance with such budget approval.

154.8. To receive all reports, including Sunday School and other youth ministries and NYI activities. A monthly report of Sunday School enrollment, attendance, youth ministries, and NYI activities shall be submitted to the chairman of the CL/SS Board, and an annual report shall be submitted to the annual meeting of the local church. [113.7, 127]

154.9. To submit a quarterly calendar of youth activities to the CL/SS Board to be coordinated with the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry of the local church.

155. *Adult Ministries Director* The duties of the local director of adult ministries shall be:

155.1. To organize, promote, and coordinate the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for adults from marriage or 24 years of age through senior adult years.

155.2. To give leadership to the adult division of the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for adults in the local church in cooperation with the CL/SS Board.

155.3. To give leadership for additional Sunday, weekday, annual, and special ministries, evangelism, and fellowship activities for adults.

155.4. To nominate to the CL/SS Board the leadership for the various adult ministries, including Sunday School supervisors, teachers, and officers. The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the chairman of the CL/SS Board.

155.5. To recommend to the CL/SS Board for approval any supplemental curriculum and resources to be used.

155.6. To provide leadership training for adult workers in cooperation with the CL/SS Board and the director of Continuing Lay Training.

155.7. To chair the Adult Ministries Council. The Adult Ministries Council shall be responsible for planning the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry for adults in the local church. The Adult Ministries Council is composed of at least one Sunday School representative and the directors of marriage and family life, senior adult ministries, single adult ministries, small-group Bible studies, lay ministries, women's ministries, Cradle Roll Parents, and any others deemed neces-

sary. The council size should vary with the number of ministries being offered to adults in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

155.8. To submit an annual asking budget to the CL/SS Board and/or church board, and administer funds in accordance with such budget approval.

155.9. To receive all reports, including Sunday School enrollment, attendance, and adult ministries activities in the local church. A monthly report shall be submitted to the chairman of the CL/SS Board.

155.10. To submit a quarterly calendar of adult ministry activities to the CL/SS Board to be coordinated with the total Christian Life and Sunday School ministry of the local church.

P. Nazarene Christian Day Schools

156. Nazarene day-care/preschool/elementary, junior high, or high schools may be organized by the local church board(s) after receiving the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. [208.9-8.10, 222.12, 339.8, 423.22, 424]

Q. The Local Nazarene Youth International

158. Youth in the local church may be organized into units of the Nazarene Youth International for the spiritual benefit of young people, cooperation in bringing youth to Christ, and equipping them for the advancement of the work of the church.

158.1. The local units of the Nazarene Youth International may be organized into divisions as needed and shall be in harmony with the Constitution for the local society as approved by the General Assembly. [810]

158.2. The local Nazarene Youth International shall be amenable to the local church and pastor.

158.3. The president of the local Nazarene Youth International shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, consisting of not less than three nor more than seven members of NYI, including the pastor, and appointed by the pastor. This committee shall submit at least two names for the office of

president, providing, however, that a president may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such election is recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the pastor. The president shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting by ballot. His election shall be subject to the approval of the church board. He shall be a member, ex officio, of the church board to which he shall make a monthly report. He shall submit a report to the annual meeting of the local church. [113.7, 114, 127]

A church having a paid staff person with responsibility for the youth program shall have the option for that person to serve in place of an elected NYI president. In such cases the staff person will have the privilege of the floor in church board meetings but no vote. [166.4]

158.4. Each local organization of Nazarene Youth International shall be represented in the district assembly by its newly elected president of which district assembly he shall be a member. He shall report the condition of the society to the district assembly. [201]

R. The Local Nazarene World Mission Society

159. Upon the authorization of the church board, local organizations of the Nazarene World Mission Society may be formed within any age-group in harmony with the Constitution of such local societies approved by the World Mission Department. [811.1]

159.1. The local Nazarene World Mission Society shall be a constituent part of the local church and subject to the supervision and direction of the pastor and the church board. [424]

159.2. The president of the local society shall be nominated by a committee of three to seven active members of the Nazarene World Mission Society appointed by the pastor, who shall serve as chairman. This committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president. The president shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the active members present and voting, and this election shall be subject to the approval of the church board. The president shall be a member of the local church whose society is served, a member ex officio of the

church board, and a member of the district assembly held immediately prior to his year of office. The president shall present a report to the annual meeting of the local church. [113.7, 114, 127, 201]

160. All funds raised by the local society for general interests of the Church of the Nazarene shall be applied to the General Budget apportionment of the local church with the exception of offerings for Alabaster, World Mission Radio, Memorial Roll, Distinguished Service Award, Medical Plan and Retirement Fund, and Christmas Gift Fund.

160.1. The Medical Plan and Retirement Fund is to be held in trust by the general treasurer for the General Council of the Nazarene World Mission Society, to be used for medical aid for active missionaries, pensions and medical aid for retired missionaries, such aid to be granted by the World Mission Department according to the established policy. Funds shall be raised by placing of names on the Memorial Roll, the Distinguished Service Award, and/or offerings.

160.2. After primary consideration has been given to the full payment of the General Budget, opportunities may be given to make offerings for the support of world missionary work, such contributions to be known as "specials."

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

161.1. From gifts and offerings designated for the General Budget and general interests.

161.2. From special offerings such as Easter and Thanksgiving.

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

S. Prohibition of Financial Appeals

162. 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.

163. Members of the Church of the Nazarene who are not authorized by the General Board or one of its divisions shall not solicit funds for missionary or kindred activities apart from the General Budget, from congregations of local churches, or from members of such churches.

T. Use of the Church Name

164. The name of the Church of the Nazarene, any local church, or any corporation or institution which 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*.

U. Church-sponsored Corporation

165. 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 which promotes, sponsors, encourages, or in any manner engages in any activity [whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature] in which members of the Church of the Nazarene are solicited or in any manner sought as prospective participants, customers, tenants, clients, members, or associates, or in any activity [whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature] which 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 and the District Advisory Board.

V. Paid Assistants in the Local Church

166. 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 assistance in the local church, whether ministerial or lay, becomes 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. [129.25]

166.1. All local assistants, paid or unpaid, such as assistant pastors, directors of Christian education, directors of youth work, directors of music, and directors of weekday schools, shall be elected by the church board, having been nominated by the pastor. All nominations must have approval in writing by the district superintendent, who shall respond within 15 days after receipt of the request. [166.4, 208.9]

166.2. The employment of such assistants shall be for no more than one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of the pastor with the written approval of the district superintendent and the favorable vote of the church board. The dismissal of such assistants prior to the end of the employment term must be by recommendation of the pastor, approval of the district superintendent, and the majority vote of the church board. [129.25]

166.3. The duties and services of such assistants are to be determined and supervised by the pastor. A clear, written statement of responsibilities [job description] shall be made available to such assistants within 30 days of the beginning of their responsibility to the local church.

166.4. 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. [166.1]

166.5. Upon the resignation of the pastor, paid and unpaid staff members such as assistant pastors, directors of Christian education, directors of youth work, and directors of music shall submit their resignation effective concurrently with that of the pastor. However, one or more of these associates may remain longer with the approval of the district superintendent and the local church board, but no longer than the date of the new pastor's assumption of duties. The incoming pastor may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed.

166.6. Communication with staff members, the church board, and the congregation regarding the effect of 166.5 on staff members at the time of pastoral change shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent. [206.9]

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

CHAPTER II

THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

A. Bounds and Name

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

The bounds and name of a church assembly district shall be such as shall be declared by the General Assembly, or by the assembly district involved, with the final approval of the general superintendent or superintendents having jurisdiction. [29]

200.1. *The Creation of New Districts.* New districts in the Church of the Nazarene may be created by the division of one district into two or more districts, the combination of two or more districts out of which a larger number of districts may be created, or by the creation of a pioneer area within an existing district [29, 200]. The process of establishing a new district may be initiated by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board of the district(s) involved, either with the approval of the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction or by recommendation of the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction. [378.1]

200.2. Missionary work in the Church of the Nazarene may lead to the establishment of new districts and district assembly boundaries. Regular districts may emerge as quickly as possible according to the following pattern:

Phase 1—The Pioneer District. Such a district represents the beginning stages of work in a given country or area and will be under the supervision of a missionary superintendent.

Phase 2—The National-Mission District. A pioneer district may become a national-mission district when a measure of ability for self-government and for financial support has been demonstrated. A national leader shall be selected as district superintendent.

Phase 3—The Mission District. A district having a national superintendent and having achieved 50 percent self-support.

Phase 4—*The Regular District*. A district having a national superintendent and having achieved full district self-support and having not less than 1,000 nonprobationary district membership.

In each instance the change in designation shall be upon the recommendation of the department of the General Board having supervision of the work and with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board.

200.3. When a recommendation to establish a new district has been made, the matter shall be submitted to the Church Growth Division at International Headquarters for demographic and church member analysis. The report of the Church Growth Division shall be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents. The general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction, after consultation with the district superintendent(s) and District Advisory Board(s), may approve the matter to the district assembly/assemblies for vote. In the case of world mission districts, with the exception of Phase 4 [regular] districts, the matter of the creation and division of districts shall be the responsibility of the World Mission Division with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents.

200.4. 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 shall be submitted to the next General Assembly for action.

B. Membership and Time of Meeting

201. Membership. The district assembly shall be composed of all assigned elders [405-5.3, 406-6.1, 411.9]; all assigned deacons [404-4.3, 411.9]; all assigned licensed ministers [403.8]; the district secretary [216.2]; the district treasurer [219.2]; any lay presidents of Nazarene institutions of higher education, whose local church membership is on the district; the chairman of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board [239.9]; the district age-group ministries directors [children, youth, adult], District Christian Life and Sunday School Board; the president of the District Nazarene Youth International [243.2]; the presi-

dent of the District Nazarene World Mission Society [244.2]; the newly elected chairman or vice chairman of each local Christian Life and Sunday School Board [151.3]; the newly elected president or vice president of each local Nazarene Youth International [158.4]; the newly elected president or vice president of each local Nazarene World Mission Society [159.2]; or an appropriately elected alternate may represent these organizations in the district assembly; those serving in assigned roles of ministry according to 412-33.1; the lay members of the District Advisory Board [221.3]; and the lay delegates from each local church in the assembly district [29, 113.12, 201.1].

201.1. Local churches in districts of fewer than 5,000 church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: two lay delegates from each local church of 50 or fewer church members, and one additional lay delegate for each successive 50 church members and the final major part of 50 church members. [29, 113.12, 201]

201.2. Local churches in districts of 5,000 or more church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: one lay delegate from each local church of 50 or fewer church members, and one additional lay delegate for each successive 50 church members and the final major part of 50 church members. [29, 113.12, 201]

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

202.1. *Nominating Committee.* Prior to the convening of the district assembly, the general superintendent having jurisdiction may appoint a nominating committee to serve during the district assembly; this committee may prepare nominations for the usual committees and offices in advance of the convening of the district assembly. [309.2]

C. Business of the District Assembly

203. The business of the district assembly shall be:

203.1. To hear or receive reports from all elders and licensed ministers serving as pastors or commissioned evange-

gelists; 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 412-33.1. [403.7-3.8, 411.3, 428]

203.2. To license as licensed ministers, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church boards or the District Advisory Board and who may be judged to be called to the ministry and to renew such license upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [129.13, 402.5, 403.1, 403.3]

203.3. To renew as licensed deaconesses, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church boards and who may be judged to be called to the office of deaconess upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [129.14]

203.4. To elect to the order of elder, or to the order of deacon, persons judged to have fulfilled all the requirements for such orders upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [404.3, 405.3]

203.5. To recognize the orders and credentials of persons coming from other denominations who may be judged qualified and desirable for placement in the Church of the Nazarene upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [403.2, 406]

203.6. To receive, by transfer from other districts, persons having ministerial credentials, elders, deacons, licensed ministers, and those having continuing ministry role commissions, in harmony with 415-19.1, who may be judged as desirable for membership in the district assembly upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [408-8.2]

203.7. To issue a transfer of elders, deacons, licensed ministers, and those having continuing role commissions according to 415-19.1, who desire to transfer to another district upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. [408-8.1]

203.8. To commission or register for one year those persons deemed qualified for the roles of ministry named and defined in 412-33.1 upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board.

203.9. To elect, by two-thirds favorable vote, by ballot, an elder to the office of district superintendent, to serve until the final adjournment of the second district assembly following his 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 credentials for disciplinary reasons. No superintendent shall serve beyond the district assembly following his 70th birthday.

203.10. After a district superintendent of a regular or mission district [200.2] has served a district for at least two assembly years, the district assembly may reelect him for a period of three or four years subject to the following conditions: (1) that he has been reelected for two years; (2) that such an extended election shall have been recommended by majority vote by ballot of a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, chairman of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, president of the District NWMS, and president of the District NYI; and (3) 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.

In the case of additional elections to an extended term of office, the procedure shall be the same as stated herein; but each successive election shall not be for longer than four years for regular and mission assembly districts. [200.2]

203.11. In case the general superintendent and the officers of the district, namely, the District Advisory Board, chairman of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, president of the District NWMS, and president of the District NYI, shall be of the opinion that the services of the district superintendent should not continue beyond the current year of an extended term, the general superintendent having jurisdiction

and the district officers may order the question submitted for a vote of the district assembly. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present district superintendent be continued in office beyond this district assembly?"

If the district assembly, by a two-thirds vote by ballot, decides to continue the district superintendent in office, he 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 term of office shall terminate with the close of that district assembly. [206]

203.12. To elect a district secretary, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified. [216]

203.13. To elect a district treasurer, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified. [219]

203.14. To elect, by ballot, three ordained ministers and three laymen to the District Advisory Board, to serve for a term not to exceed three years, as determined by the district assembly, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

When the district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, it may elect one additional ordained minister and one additional layman for each successive 2,500 members and the final major part of 2,500 members. [221]

203.15. To elect a District Ministerial Credentials Board of not less than 5 nor more than 15 ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the district superintendent, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. This board shall meet prior to the district assembly to consider all matters subject to its authority and, insofar as is possible, to complete its work prior to the district assembly. [226-28]

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

203.17. To elect a District Church Properties Board in keeping with provisions of 234. [204.1]

203.18. To elect, at its discretion, a District Ministerial Be-

nevolence Board, of as many members as the district assembly may choose, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [204.1, 236]

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

203.20. To elect a District Christian Life and Sunday School Board in harmony with the procedure stated in 239, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. [204.1, 212]

203.21. To elect a District Home Missions Board, of equal lay and ministerial membership, of no fewer than 6 nor more than 18, not including the district superintendent, who shall be a member *ex officio*, to serve until the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified; however, the district assembly may order that the District Advisory Board may constitute the District Home Missions Board. [233]

203.22. To elect a standing District Finance Committee of equal lay and ministerial representation to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district superintendent and district treasurer shall be members *ex officio*.

203.23. To elect a District Court of Appeals, consisting of five ordained ministers, including the district superintendent, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [309.1, 506]

203.24. To elect annually, at its discretion, a district colporteur, upon the recommendation of the Communications Division of the General Board. [238]

203.25. To elect, by ballot, at a session within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly, all of the lay delegates and all but one of the ministerial delegates, since one shall be the district superintendent. In areas where travel visas or other

unusual preparations are necessary, the election may be held within 24 months of the meeting of the General Assembly. Every regular and mission district assembly shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates. The district superintendent at the time of the General Assembly shall be one of the ministerial delegates, and the remaining ministerial delegates shall be ordained ministers. In case the district superintendent is unable to attend, or in case there has been a vacancy and the new district superintendent has not been appointed, the properly elected alternate shall be seated in the district superintendent's place. The Nominating Committee shall submit ballots containing at least three times the number of delegates eligible from that district, in each category, ministerial and lay. From these nominees, the allowed delegates and alternates in equal numbers shall be elected. Delegates elected are expected to attend faithfully all meetings of the General Assembly from opening to closing unless providentially prevented. [30.1-30.3, 301.1, 303, 330]

203.26. To establish, at its discretion, a system of probationary membership for its local churches, but probationers must not be counted as full members for purposes of representation.

203.27. To provide for the auditing of all district treasurer's books annually, either by an elected District Auditing Committee or by an auditing firm or certified public accountant.

203.28. To present to the General Assembly, through the district secretary, a full official journal for the preceding quadrennium, bound in permanent binding. [205.4, 217.7]

203.29. To grant a retired relation to any minister in good standing requesting it. [407-7.2]

203.30. To place in the retired relation, at its discretion, any minister in good standing who is disqualified for active ministerial labors because of physical disability or old age. [407.3]

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

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

204. *Other Rules Pertaining to the District Assemblies.* The district assembly may authorize, where civil law permits, the District Advisory Board to incorporate. After incorporation as above provided, the District Advisory Board shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation. [203.18, 222.6]

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

204.2. The district superintendents of national-mission and mission districts shall be chosen either by election or appointment under the guidance of the general superintendent in jurisdiction with recommendations from the World Mission or Church Growth divisions. A national-mission or mission district that subsequently fails to agree upon an appointment or election of a district superintendent may through a vote of the Board of General Superintendents revert to pioneer district status and be directed by a missionary superintendent until such time as it can meet the requirements for Phase 2 [national-mission] or Phase 3 [mission] status.

204.3. When the presiding officer of a district assembly deems that it is impossible to continue with the business of the district assembly and therefore adjourns the district assembly, because of uncontrollable physical disaster or local disturbance, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, shall appoint all district officers not elected prior to the adjournment of the district assembly, to serve for a period of one year.

D. The District Assembly Journal

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

205.1. The journal shall be signed by the presiding officer and the district secretary.

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

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

205.4. The journal should be edited carefully with the view to its examination by the General Assembly. [203.28, 217.7]

205.5. The full official journal for each quadrennium shall be bound in permanent binding, one copy being preserved in the district assembly files and one copy in the General Assembly files. [217.5, 217.7]

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

205.7. The journal should 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 would entitle them to consideration if applying for benefits from the Pensions Board having the responsibility for the pensions and benefits program of that district. [115]

E. The District Superintendent

206. The district superintendent who is elected by the district assembly shall be elected to a term of two full assembly years and to the final adjournment of the district assembly at which his successor is elected or appointed and qualified. The district superintendent who is appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction shall serve the remainder of that church year and two succeeding assembly years and until the final adjournment of the district assembly at which his successor is elected or appointed and qualified.

207. If for any cause a vacancy shall occur in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the general superintendents,

jointly and severally, may fill the vacancy, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairman of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, and the presidents of the District NWMS and NYL. [309]

208. The duties of a district superintendent shall be:

208.1. To organize, recognize, and supervise local churches within the bounds of his assembly district, subject to the approval of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. [100, 310, 411.12]

208.2. To visit the local churches in his assembly district at least once a year, insofar as is possible, 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 he may deem proper.

208.3. To have special supervision of all the missions of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of his assembly district.

208.4. To appoint someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district secretary. [216.1]

208.5. To appoint someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district treasurer. [219.1]

208.6. To advise with the church board concerning the nomination of an elder or a licensed minister to pastor a local church and to approve or disapprove such nomination. [115, 129.2]

208.7. To approve or disapprove the renewal of the call of a pastor. [123]

208.8. 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. [402.1, 402.3]

208.9. To approve or disapprove in writing for nomination by the pastor to the local church board such paid local assistants as assistant pastors; ministers or directors of Christian education; directors of children's, youth, and adult work; direc-

tors of music; and directors of weekday schools. [129.25, 166-66.7]

208.10. To approve or disapprove, with the District Advisory Board, requests from local churches to operate Christian day school programs. [156, 222.12, 339.8, 424]

208.11. To execute and sign, along with the secretary of the District Advisory Board, all legal documents of the district. [222.6]

208.12. To nominate to the District Advisory Board and to supervise any paid assistants on the district. [246]

208.13. To appoint pastors in keeping with 116 and 116.1.

208.14. The district superintendent may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board, appoint the members of the church board [stewards, trustees], the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, and other church officers [secretary, treasurer] if a church has been organized for less than five years, or has less than 35 voting members, and is receiving regular financial assistance from the district.

209. The district superintendent, with the consent of the church board, may appoint a pastoral supply to fill a vacancy in the office of pastor until the next district assembly. Such appointed pastoral supply shall be subject to removal by the district superintendent when his services are not satisfactory to the church board and the local church. [129.4, 402.6, 431]

210. The district superintendent is authorized to perform for a local church within the bounds of his assembly district all the functions of pastor when that local church is without a pastor or pastoral supply. [422]

210.1. The district superintendent may preside at the annual, or a special, meeting of a local church, or appoint someone to represent him. [113.4]

211. If for any reason the general superintendent having jurisdiction fails to be present or to appoint a representative to be present in his 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. [308]

212. The district superintendent may fill vacancies in the District Ministerial Studies Board [229.1], the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board [239.7], the District Ministerial Credentials Board [226.1], the District Auditing Committee [203.27], the District Home Missions Board [203.21], the District Church Properties Board [203.17], and the District Finance Committee [203.22].

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

213. The district superintendent shall be ex officio chairman of the District Advisory Council [245], the District Advisory Board [221.2], and the District Ministerial Credentials Board [227.1].

213.1. The district superintendent shall be a member ex officio of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, the District Home Missions Board, the District Church Properties Board, the District Finance Committee, the council of the District Nazarene Youth International, and the council of the District Nazarene World Mission Society. [203.21-3.22, 234, 239, 810, 811.2]

214. All official acts of the district superintendent shall be subject to review and revision by the district assembly, and subject to appeal. [507.3]

E. The District Secretary

216. The district secretary, elected by the district assembly, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified. [203.12]

216.1. If the district secretary shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the district superintendent shall appoint someone to succeed him. [208.4]

216.2. The district secretary shall be a member ex officio of the district assembly. [201]

217. The duties of the district secretary shall be:

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

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

217.3. To forward all statistical charts to the general secretary to be audited before their publication in the official journal. [324.6]

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

217.5. To cause to be bound in permanent binding for district files the full official journal for each quadrennium. [205.5]

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

217.7. To present to the General Assembly, for the district assembly, the full official journal for the preceding quadrennium, bound in permanent binding. [203.28, 205.4-5.5]

217.8. To do whatever else may pertain to his office.

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

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

G. The District Treasurer

219. The district treasurer, elected by the district assembly, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified. [203.13]

219.1. If the district treasurer shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the district superintendent shall appoint someone to succeed him. [208.5]

219.2. The district treasurer shall be a member ex officio of the district assembly. [201]

220. The duties of the district treasurer shall be:

220.1. To receive all such moneys from his district as may be designated by the General Assembly, or by the district as-

sembly, 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 the District Advisory Board.

220.2. To keep a correct record of all moneys received and disbursed and to render an annual report to the district assembly, to which he shall be amenable.

H. The District Advisory Board

221. The District Advisory Board shall be composed of the district superintendent *ex officio* and three ordained ministers and three laymen elected annually or for terms not to exceed three years, by ballot by the district assembly, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified.

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

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

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

221.3. The lay members of the District Advisory Board shall be *ex officio* members of the district assembly. [201, 221]

222. The duties of the District Advisory Board shall be:

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

222.2. To give information to and consult with the district superintendent respecting the ministers and local churches of the assembly district. [426]

222.3. To inform and advise with the general superintendent regarding the pastoral arrangements for the coming year. [119]

222.4. To appoint an investigating committee consisting of three or more ordained ministers in case an accusation is filed against an elder, a deacon, or a licensed minister. [502-2.1]

222.5. To select a trial court in case charges are made against an elder, a deacon, or a licensed minister. [502.2-2.3]

222.6. 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. [204]

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

222.8. In states 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. [106.1, 222.6]

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

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

222.11. To recommend the renewal of license for the licensed minister serving as pastor. [403.5]

222.12. To approve or disapprove requests from local

churches to operate Christian day school programs. At the discretion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, a District Christian Day Schools 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 day school, and to help establish, support, and monitor such weekday schools. [156, 208.10, 424]

222.13. To elect or dismiss any paid assistants employed by the district. [246-46.1]

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

223. The District Advisory Board may issue a transfer of membership to an elder, a deacon, a licensed minister, a minister of Christian education [419], or a deaconess [415], who desires to transfer to another district assembly, before the meeting of the district assembly in which such person's membership is held. Such transfers may be accepted by the receiving District Advisory Board, granting to those transferred full rights and privileges of membership on the district on which it is received. The receiving district assembly shall have final approval of all such Advisory Board transfer receptions. [203.6-3.7, 408-8.2]

224. The District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent, may suspend a licensed deaconess when it is required for the good of the church, after a conference with the church board of the local church of which the licensed deaconess is a member, and after giving her a fair hearing.

225. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting credentials from another evangelical denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, his credentials 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. [403.2, 406, 427]

I. The District Ministerial Credentials Board

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

226.1. A vacancy occurring in the Ministerial Credentials Board in the interim of the district assemblies may be filled by the district superintendent. [212]

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

227.1. The district superintendent shall serve as chairman ex officio of the board; however, upon his request the board may elect an acting chairman to serve in such relationship until the close of the next district assembly. [213]

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

228. The duties of the Ministerial Credentials Board shall be:

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

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

228.3. To carefully inquire of each candidate and make any other investigation they deem 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 General and Special Rules; and the polity of the church; evidence of graces, gifts, intellectual, moral, and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for the ministry to which the candidate feels called.

228.4. To review for approval for reappointment any local preacher who has been appointed as supply pastor if he or she is to continue his or her service after the district assembly following his or her appointment. [402.6]

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

228.6. To investigate reports concerning an ordained minister indicating that he or she has placed his or her church membership with any other church or that he or she has joined with the ministry of another denomination or group, or is participating in independent activities without duly authorized permission, and make recommendation to the district assembly relative to his or her retention on the roll of elders. [112.1, 411.11]

228.7. To recommend to the district assembly the retired relation for any minister upon his or her request or who, in the discretion of the board, is unable to continue in the active ministerial labors because of physical disability. [203.29-3.30, 407]

J. The District Ministerial Studies Board

229. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be composed of five or more ordained ministers, elected by the district assembly within six months of a General Assembly, to serve for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. [203.16]

229.1. Vacancies occurring in the District Ministerial Studies Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by the district superintendent. [212]

229.2. The chairman and the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board are authorized to enroll a student in the Directed Studies Program, in consultation with the district superintendent. [230.1-30.2, 434.3]

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

230.1. The board shall elect from among its members a permanent chairman and a permanent secretary, who with the other members shall have the responsibility of examining and advancing candidates through the Minister's Directed Studies Program to the completion of study requirements for ordination. They shall maintain a record of all grades until he is ordained. [230.5, 434.3]

230.2. The chairman shall assign to the other members of the board the responsibility for and supervision of all candidates enrolled in the five courses of the Directed Studies Program. Such assignment shall continue as long as the candidates remain actively enrolled during the committee member's term of office unless otherwise mutually arranged.

230.3. The chairman 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 chairman, the secretary shall do his work pro tempore.

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

230.5. The other members of the board shall attend faithfully the meetings of the board and shall supervise the candidates assigned to them by (1) fraternal encouragement, counsel, and guidance; (2) tutoring in specific subjects when needed and feasible; and (3) administering of or arranging for written ex-

aminations in cooperation with the Pastoral Ministries office. [230.1]

231. The board may establish classes or seminars in order to assist licensed ministers or other candidates in the pursuit of the various courses of study, and establish, subject to approved district funding, central libraries of all books for loan when necessary.

231.1. The board shall cooperate with the district superintendent and the Pastoral Ministries office in seeking ways to encourage, aid, and guide the candidates who are pursuing the courses of study in a Nazarene college or seminary.

231.2. The board shall carry out its responsibilities in conformity with the official *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*.

231.3. The board shall report all relevant data concerning the candidate to the District Ministerial Credentials Board upon request and recommend to the district assembly placement and advancement, and in conjunction with the Pastoral Ministries office, recommend graduation from the various courses of study.

231.4. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be responsible, in cooperation with the regional college and the Pastoral Ministries office, and under the general guidance of the district superintendent, for the promotion on the district of continuing education for ordained ministers and other staff ministers.

K. The District Home Missions Board

233. The District Home Missions Board shall be composed of equal lay and ministerial membership, of no fewer than 6 nor more than 18, not including the district superintendent, who shall be a member *ex officio*. Members may be elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified; however, the District Advisory Board may constitute the District Home Missions Board. [203.21]

233.1. The District Home Missions Board shall seek by all means—by the diffusion of home missionary information, by

the holding of local meetings and district conventions, by the employment of speakers who have the vision and spirit, by careful study of its metropolitan areas, and by any other contributive agency—to stir the people to holy zeal and devotion for, and liberality toward, the sacred cause of home missions.

233.2. The District Home Missions Board, under direction of the district assembly, and in cooperation with the district superintendent, may have charge of all home mission work conducted by the assembly district within its bounds.

L. The District Church Properties Board

234. The District Church Properties Board shall be composed of the district superintendent *ex officio* and no fewer than two ordained ministers and two laymen elected annually by ballot by the district assembly, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and 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. [203.17]

235. The duties of the District Church Properties Board shall be:

235.1. To advance the cause of building churches and church-related buildings within the bounds of the assembly district, in cooperation with Church Extension Ministries.

235.2. To verify and conserve the titles to church property.

235.3. To assist local churches to incorporate. [102]

235.4. To consider propositions submitted by local churches relating to the purchase of real estate or the erection of church buildings or parsonages, and to advise them concerning the propositions submitted. [103]

235.5. 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.

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

M. The District Ministerial Benevolence Board

236. The District Ministerial Benevolence Board shall be composed of as many members as the district assembly may elect, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [203.18]

236.1. The District Ministerial Benevolence Board shall have full power to dispense local benevolence according to its judgment, subject to the approval of the district assembly.

N. The District Finance Committee

237. The duties of the District Finance Committee shall be:

237.1. To make recommendation to the district assembly concerning all budgets and the allocation of those budgets to the local churches.

237.2. To do whatever else the district assembly may direct in areas of district finance.

O. The District Colporteur

238. A district colporteur may be elected annually by the district assembly upon the recommendation of the Communications Division of the General Board; he shall labor under the jurisdiction of the district superintendent and shall be amenable to the district assembly. [203.24]

238.1. The district colporteur shall cooperate with the Communications Division in the systematic distribution of gospel literature.

P. The District Christian Life and Sunday School Board

239. The District Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall be composed of the district superintendent, the district NWMS president, the district NYI president, and the chairman of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, who comprise the Executive Committee, and three additional members who are 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. Thereafter, each year, one person shall be elected by the district assembly or the District CL/SS Convention to serve the full term of three years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The chairman of the CL/SS Board is to be elected annually by the district assembly or the CL/SS Convention from two or more nominees submitted by the District Nominating Committee; or when there is an incumbent chairman, he or she may be reelected by a favorable "yes" or "no" vote when such vote has been recommended by the District CL/SS Board with the approval of the district superintendent. [240]

239.1. When the district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, two CL/SS Board members may be elected to serve for a term of three years, two for a term of two years, and two for a term of one year. Thereafter, each year, two persons may be elected to serve for the full term of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Where possible, four of the nine should be laymen.

239.2. The District CL/SS Board shall meet to organize within one week following their election. They shall elect a secretary, a treasurer, a district director of adult ministries, a district director of children's ministries, a district director of Continuing Lay Training, who together shall be ex officio members. They shall also elect other district directors from nominations by the Executive Committee of the board as deemed necessary. The district NYI president shall serve as district director of youth ministries.

239.3. They shall elect a Children's Ministries Council whose chairman 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, quizzing, children's church, and any others deemed necessary.

239.4. There shall be a Youth Ministries Council whose chairman shall be the district NYI president and whose members shall be the District NYI Council.

239.5. They may elect an Adult Ministries Council whose chairman 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, laymen's retreat, small-group Bible studies, women's ministries, Cradle Roll Parents, and any others deemed necessary.

239.6. The chairman of the District CL/SS Board is responsible for giving leadership to the Sunday School by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance, shall coordinate all programs relating to children's, youth, and adult ministries, and prepare for the board a written report for printing in the annual assembly journal.

239.7. Vacancies occurring in the CL/SS Board, including the chairman, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, shall be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. [212]

239.8. The District CL/SS Board shall hold a meeting immediately preceding or at the same time as the district assembly to complete its work for the year and to prepare a report to be presented to the district assembly. Additional meetings may be held whenever necessary.

239.9. The chairman of the District Board shall be an ex officio member of the district assembly.

240. The District CL/SS Board shall arrange for an annual District CL/SS Convention, an NYI Convention in conjunction with the District NYI Council, and other conventions to be held at some time during the year or immediately preceding the meeting of the district assembly. [239]

240.1. The District CL/SS Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine if elections for the District CL/SS Board members and chairman will be held in the district assembly or in the District CL/SS Convention.

240.2. At the District CL/SS Convention the chairman of the CL/SS Board and age-group ministries directors of all local churches are expected to be present and take part as opportunity affords.

241. The district may be divided into zones with zone chairmen appointed by the District Board, who shall work under the supervision of that board.

242. The District CL/SS Board shall have full supervision of all Sunday School interests of the district.

242.1. The District CL/SS Board shall plan and implement district or zone Continuing Lay Training classes.

242.2. The District CL/SS Board shall report to the Headquarters Christian Life and Sunday School Division accurate Sunday School statistics.

242.3. The District CL/SS Board shall assist the CL/SS Division of the General Board in securing information relating to district and local Sunday School interests.

242.4. The District CL/SS Board shall recommend to the District Finance Committee the annual District CL/SS Board budget.

Q. The District Nazarene Youth International

243. The District Nazarene Youth International shall be composed of the local organizations of Nazarene Youth International of the assembly district.

243.1. It shall be governed by the Constitution of the District Nazarene Youth International approved by the General Assembly. [810]

243.2. The president of the District Nazarene Youth International shall be elected by its annual convention and shall serve without salary. When so elected and approved, he shall be a member *ex officio* of the district assembly. [201]

R. The District Nazarene World Mission Society

244. The District Nazarene World Mission Society shall be composed of the local Nazarene World Mission Societies within the boundaries of the assembly district. The district society shall be auxiliary to the General Nazarene World Mission Society. [811.2-11.3]

244.1. The District Nazarene World Mission Society shall be governed by the Constitution of the District Nazarene World Mission Society approved by the World Mission Department. It shall be subject to the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the district assembly. [811.2]

244.2. The president of the District Nazarene World Mission Society shall serve without salary and shall be a member *ex officio* of the district assembly. [201]

S. The District Advisory Council

245. The district boards shall form an advisory council over which the district superintendent shall preside, said council to meet, if possible, once each six months for counsel and advice as to the best methods of forwarding the work of the assembly district. [213]

T. District Paid Assistants

246. When paid assistants become necessary for the greater efficiency of the district administration, such persons, ministerial or lay, shall be nominated by the district superintendent, after having secured the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. They shall be elected by the District Advisory Board. The employment of such assistants shall be for no more than one year, but may be renewed by recommendation of the district superintendent and the majority vote of the Advisory Board. [208.12]

246.1. Dismissal of such assistants prior to the end of the employment period must be by the recommendation of the district superintendent and the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. [222.13]

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

246.3. Within 30 days after a new district superintendent assumes his administrative duties on the district, the term of service of the paid assistants shall be considered concluded, unless otherwise stipulated by national labor law. [Such clerical assistants as office secretaries shall not be included in the above provisions.]

U. Disorganization of a District

247. 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]

247.1. In case a district becomes officially disorganized, any church property which shall exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of the General Board, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the General Assembly shall direct; and trustees holding property, or corporations created to hold property, for the disorganized district shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the appointed agent of the General Board, and turn the funds over to such agent. [106.1, 222.6]

CHAPTER III

THE REGION

A. Origin and Purpose

280. In the growth of the church worldwide, there has developed a grouping of several organized districts into geographical areas identified as regions. These regions are a clustering of districts amenable to general government, providing, on the one hand, a sense of area and cultural identification so that their peoples have an awareness of representation in the life of the international church, and on the other hand, a grouping of sufficient size and strength to perform such functions as may be assigned to them. The composition of the regions shall be by action of the General Board, upon recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents.

B. Functions

280.1. The present principal duties of the regions are:

(1) To nominate persons to the General Assembly and General Conventions for elections to the General Board and General Councils; and

(2) In harmony with *Manual* provisions, to establish and maintain such schools and colleges or other institutions as they shall determine.

280.2. Nominations for the General Board shall be made as provided in 330-30.5.

280.3. Educational institutions, whether established by a General Board department or in some other way, shall, when qualified, be governed by their respective regional boards in harmony with provisions of the *Manual* and the Education Services office.

280.4. Where deemed feasible by the Board of General Superintendents, a regional council shall be constituted to facili-

tate the work of the region and to semilegislatively deal with matters pertaining to the respective region under the chairmanship of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. All conclusions reached may be implemented immediately with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents but shall be subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The composition of this council shall be: the district superintendents of Phase 4 [regular], Phase 3 [mission], and Phase 2 [national-mission] districts; a pastor and layman from Phase 4 [regular] districts; General Board members from the region; the presidents of theological training institutions in the regions; the regional auxiliary organizations' General Council representatives; two District Christian Life and Sunday School Board chairmen from the districts within the region; and regional and mission directors in World Mission-administered regions. The officers of the council shall be a chairman who would be the general superintendent in jurisdiction and a secretary and treasurer elected by the council. As the church grows and needs arise, the General Assembly may provide for further administrative organization and may assign further duties to the regions.

280.5. The Church of the Nazarene at the time of the printing of this *Manual* is divided into the following regions:

- (1) Africa
- (2) Asia-Pacific
- (3) Canada
- (4) Caribbean
- (5) Central U.S.A.
- (6) East Central U.S.A.
- (7) Eastern U.S.A.
- (8) Eurasia
- (9) Mexico and Central America
- (10) North Central U.S.A.
- (11) Northwest U.S.A.
- (12) South America
- (13) South Central U.S.A.
- (14) Southeast U.S.A.
- (15) Southwest U.S.A.

CHAPTER IV

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. Functions and Organization

300. The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to the provisions of the church Constitution. [30.1-30.9]

300.1. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the general superintendents, jointly and severally. [30.6, 307.2]

300.2. The General Assembly shall elect its other officers and organize itself for the transaction of its business according to its wisdom and pleasure. [30.7]

B. Membership of the General Assembly

301. The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers from each Phase 4 [regular] district, the district superintendent serving as one of the ministerial delegates, the remaining ministerial delegates and all the lay delegates elected thereto by the district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; the general superintendents emeriti and retired; the general superintendents; the general secretary; the general treasurer; the editor of the *Herald of Holiness*; the directors of the several divisions, ministries, and services of the General Board; the secretary of Education Services; the regional directors; the director of the General Nazarene World Mission Society; the presidents of the educational institutions under the office of Education Services; one missionary delegate for each of the first 25 or fewer missionaries from each of the world mission regions as determined according to 280; and one additional missionary delegate for the next 50 missionaries or the final major fraction thereof, nominated by the Mission Councils in each area and elected by the World Mission Department. In the absence of such nomination

the missionary representative shall be elected by the World Mission Department.

301.1. Each Phase 4 [regular] district shall be entitled to representation in the General Assembly by: one ordained minister and one layman for the first 2,000 or fewer church members, and one additional ordained minister and one additional layman for the next 1 to 3,500 members [2,001 to 5,500], and for each successive additional 1 to 3,500 members [5,501 to 9,000, 9,001 to 12,500, etc.].

301.2. Each Phase 3 [mission] district shall be entitled to one delegate to the General Assembly for the first 2,000 members and one additional delegate for the next 1 to 3,500 members [2,001 to 5,500] and for each successive additional 1 to 3,500 members [5,501 to 9,000, 9,001 to 12,500, etc.]. The first delegate shall be the district superintendent, and for successive delegate eligibility the district shall alternate between laymen and ordained ministers.

301.3. A Phase 1 [pioneer] or Phase 2 [national-mission] district shall be entitled to one delegate to the General Assembly. The district superintendent shall be the delegate. The district shall elect an alternate who must be a member of the district when elected and at the time of the General Assembly.

301.4. The right of a ministerial delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly electing him shall be vacated in case he shall accept a pastoral charge or the office of district superintendent on another assembly district, or if he shall leave the active, full-time ministry of the Church of the Nazarene prior to the convening of the General Assembly.

301.5. The right of a lay delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly electing him shall be vacated in case he shall remove his church membership to some local church on another assembly district prior to the convening of the General Assembly.

C. The Time and Place of Meeting

302. The General Assembly shall meet in the month of June, every fourth year, at such time and place as shall be

determined by a General Assembly Commission composed of the general superintendents and an equal number of persons chosen by the Board of General Superintendents. The general superintendents and said commission shall also have power, in case of an emergency, to change the time and place of the meeting of the General Assembly.

302.1. The General Assembly shall open on Sunday with a full day of devotional and inspirational services. Provision shall be made for the orderly and careful transaction of business, and for such services at the close of the session as it may order. The General Assembly shall fix the time at which its session shall adjourn. [30.4]

D. Special Sessions

303. The Board of General Superintendents, or a majority thereof, by and with the written consent of two-thirds of all the district superintendents, shall have power to call a special session of the General Assembly in case of an emergency, the time and place thereof to be determined by the general superintendents and a commission chosen by the Board of General Superintendents.

303.1. In case of a special session of the General Assembly, the delegates and alternates to the last preceding General Assembly, or their duly elected and qualified successors, shall serve as delegates and alternates to the special session.

E. General Assembly Arrangements Committee

304. The general secretary, the general treasurer, and three persons appointed by the Board of General Superintendents at least one year before the convening of the General Assembly shall constitute the General Assembly Arrangements Committee.

304.1. The General Assembly Arrangements Committee shall have authority to arrange all necessary details regarding offices, exhibits and space, entertainment and meals, and whatever else may be needful to contribute to the comfort, convenience, and efficiency of the General Assembly, and enter into contracts necessary to provide the same.

304.2. The General Assembly Arrangements Committee with the general superintendents shall formulate a program for the General Assembly, including anniversaries for each of the general interests; a Communion service; and other religious services for the first three days of the General Assembly or until a committee on public worship shall have been appointed; all of which program shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

F. Business of the General Assembly

305. The business of the General Assembly, subject to Part II, Article IV, Section 9, of the church Constitution, shall be: [30.9]

305.1. To elect, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided that the first ballot shall be a "yes" or "no" ballot for the general superintendents then serving, and any vacancies remaining after the first ballot shall be filled by ensuing ballots until the elections are completed. No elder shall be considered eligible for election to the office of general superintendent who has at any time surrendered his credentials for disciplinary reasons. No person shall be elected to the office of general superintendent who has not reached the age of 35 years, or has reached the age of 68 years. [30.5, 306, 410.1-10.3, 900.1]

305.2. To elect a general superintendent to the emeritus relation when deemed advisable, provided he shall have become disabled or shall have reached his 68th birthday, and shall have served as general superintendent for at least two terms, with a term defined as the length of time that is served from one General Assembly to the next. It is thereby understood that his election to emeritus relation is of life tenure. [314.1]

305.3. To place in the retired relation a general superintendent who has attained to the age of 68 years, or who, in the judgment of the General Assembly, has become disqualified by physical disability, or by old age, or by any other disqualifica-

tion that would prevent him from caring adequately for the work of the general superintendency; and provided that he has served in the office of general superintendent for a reasonable term of years. The General Assembly may grant retired relation when a general superintendent who has attained the age of 65 years requests it.

Should a general superintendent who has attained the age of 65 years request retirement in the interim of General Assemblies, his request may be granted by the General Board in regular session upon recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents. [314.1]

305.4. To fix a suitable retirement pension for each retired general superintendent.

305.5. To elect a General Board, as provided in 330.1-314, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [329, 901.1]

305.6. To elect a General Court of Appeals, consisting of five ordained ministers, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [30.8, 507, 901.2]

305.7. To elect boards of control for educational institutions serving multiregional areas, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified and in accordance with the following provisions:

a. The boards of control shall be comprised of persons from the respective areas served by the institution.

b. In instances where the institution serves a multiregional area, election of that board shall be conducted in the General Assembly regional caucus(es) composed of delegates from the regions primarily served by the schools.

305.8. To do anything else, in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, that wisdom may dictate for the general welfare of the Church of the Nazarene and the holy cause of Christ, subject to the church Constitution. [30.9]

305.9. To reference all resolutions, recommendations, and implementing legislation from commissions and special committee reports and other documents to assembly standing com-

mittees, special committees, or regional caucuses for consideration before being presented to the assembly.

G. The General Superintendents

306. The general superintendents, elected by the General Assembly, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [305.1]

306.1. A general superintendent shall hold no other general office in the church during his term of office as general superintendent. [311]

306.2. The general superintendents shall be members ex officio of the General Assembly. [301]

307. The duties of the general superintendents shall be:

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

307.2. To preside over the General Assembly and over the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, jointly and severally. [300.1, 333.2]

307.3. To ordain, or appoint others to ordain, in connection with the ordained ministers present, those who have been duly elected to be elders or deacons. [411.5]

308. A general superintendent shall preside over each district assembly; or, should he be hindered, shall make suitable arrangements for such presidency. [202, 211]

308.1. The general superintendent, presiding over a district assembly, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board, in concurrence with the delegates of local churches, shall appoint pastors over such local churches as have not regularly called pastors. [119, 222.3]

309. The general superintendents, jointly and severally, may appoint district superintendents over assembly districts where vacancies occur in the interim of district assembly sessions, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairman of the District CL/SS Board, and the presidents of the District NWMS and NYI. [207]

309.1. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall appoint an ordained minister to fill a vacancy that may occur in a District Court of Appeals in the interim of sessions of the district assembly. [203.23, 506]

309.2. The general superintendent having jurisdiction may, prior to the convening of the district assembly, appoint a nominating committee to serve during the annual session of the district assembly. [202.1]

310. The general superintendent having jurisdiction may, after consulting with the district superintendent, organize local churches or recognize the local churches already organized, wherever there may seem to be need and providential openings. Official reports shall be filed in the Church Extension Ministries office. He may appoint pastors to have charge of such local churches until such time as pastors may be duly elected. [100, 208.1, 411.12]

310.1. The general superintendent having jurisdiction may preside at the annual, or a special, meeting of a local church, or appoint someone to represent him. [113]

311. The general superintendents shall not be members of any of the general boards of the Church of the Nazarene. [306.1]

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

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

313. The office of any general superintendent may be declared vacant, for cause, by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents, supported by a majority vote of all the district superintendents of Phase 4 [regular] and Phase 3 [mission] districts.

H. General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

314. All general superintendents emeriti and retired general superintendents shall be members ex officio of the General Assembly. [301]

314.1. A general superintendent who has been elected to the emeritus relation or placed in the retired relation shall not be a member of the Board of General Superintendents and shall be relieved of all official responsibility. However, in the event that an active general superintendent should be incapacitated by illness, hospitalization, or other unavoidable emergency necessitating his absence from any assignment, the Board of General Superintendents is empowered to call into temporary assignment any retired general superintendent. [305.2-5.4, 900.1]

314.2. A general superintendent shall qualify for full pension at the end of 16 years of service as a general superintendent.

I. The Board of General Superintendents

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

316. Vacancy. If a vacancy occurs, by death or otherwise, in the Board of General Superintendents, in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, the question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Board of General Superintendents. Upon receipt of the board's decision, the general secretary shall notify at once all district superintendents of Phase 4 [regular] districts. When an election is called for, the district superintendents of the Phase 4 [regular] districts shall elect, by a two-thirds vote of all eligible to vote, an elder of the Church of the Nazarene to fill the vacancy and to perform the duties of the general superintendent until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly.

316.1. The general secretary shall report the result of the vote to the Board of General Superintendents, which shall announce the same to the Church of the Nazarene through the *Herald of Holiness*.

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

317.1. To have supervision of the missionary work of the Church of the Nazarene throughout the world. [343.6]

317.2. To recommend, in consultation with the respective directors of the World Mission Division and Church Growth Division, changes in the assignment of the areas under the administration of these General Board departments subject to the approval of the General Board.

317.3. To have supervision of all general boards and the departments of the General Board. The policies and plans adopted by the board or department shall have the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The Board of General Superintendents shall have the privilege of making to the General Board and to the departments thereof such recommendations as they shall deem advisable. They shall approve or disapprove all nominations made by the World Mission Department to the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene for appointment as missionaries. [336.6, 339.1, 343.6]

317.4. To function as a nominating committee, in conjunction with the General Board Executive Committee, to bring one or more names to the General Board for election of a general secretary and a general treasurer.

317.5. To declare vacant with cause by a two-thirds vote the office of general secretary, general treasurer, *Herald of Holiness* editor, Nazarene Publishing House manager, or division director. [336.4]

317.6. To fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the General Court of Appeals in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly. [508, 901.2]

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

317.8. To approve the appointments and elections made by the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene in filling vacancies that may occur in its membership. [332-32.1]

317.9. To fill vacancies, upon nomination made by the remaining members thereof, on the corporate board of the Nazarene Publishing House. [See General Board Bylaws]

317.10. To appoint one of the general superintendents to serve on the General Council of the Nazarene Youth International. [901.3]

317.11. To appoint general superintendents to serve as advisors of all institutions of higher education affiliated with the Education Services office and to serve as responsible general superintendents for all divisions of the General Board. [901.5]

317.12. To arrange, in conjunction with the Pastoral Ministries, Directed Studies for local ministers, licensed ministers, and those serving in ministerial roles, lay or credentialed. [434-35]

317.13. The Board of General Superintendents, with the General Board, is authorized and empowered to apportion the General Budget to the several assembly districts. [333.7]

317.14. To approve in writing the restoration of credentials to a former elder as required. [409.3, 410.3]

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

319. The Board of General Superintendents shall consider and pass upon plans for district centers, which plans shall not be carried out until they have been approved in writing by the Board of General Superintendents. [222.10]

320. The Board of General Superintendents shall have discretionary power in the ordaining of divorced persons to the office of elder or deacon in the Church of the Nazarene, provided such divorced persons have scriptural grounds for divorce. [405.3, 411.14]

321. The Board of General Superintendents may declare vacant with cause the office of a district superintendent of any Phase 3 [mission] or Phase 2 [national-mission] district upon recommendation of the general superintendent having jurisdiction.

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

J. The General Secretary

323. The general secretary, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified, or until removed according to 317.5 or General Board Bylaws. [900.2]

323.1. The general secretary shall be a member ex officio of the General Assembly. [301]

323.2. If in the interim of sessions of the General Board a vacancy should occur in the office of the general secretary for any cause, it shall be filled by the General Board, upon nomination as provided in 317.4. [333.21]

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

324. The duties of the general secretary shall be:

324.1. To record correctly and preserve the journal of the proceedings of the General Assembly.

324.2. To record correctly and preserve all general statistics of the Church of the Nazarene.

324.3. To preserve all documents belonging to the General Assembly, and promptly deliver the same to his successor.

324.4. To preserve carefully, in permanent form, all decisions rendered by the General Court of Appeals. [510]

324.5. To file and preserve all surrendered credentials of ministers and deliver them only on proper order made by the district assembly of the assembly district from which they were received. [409.3]

324.6. To audit assembly district statistical charts for publication. [217.3]

324.7. To do faithfully whatever else may be necessary for the fulfillment of his office.

325. The general secretary shall be custodian of, and hold in trust, such legal documents as belong to the general church.

325.1. The general secretary is authorized to collect available historic material relating to the rise and development of our denomination, and shall be the custodian of all such records and material.

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

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

K. The General Treasurer

327. The general treasurer, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until his successor is elected and qualified or until removed according to 317.5 or General Board Bylaws. [900.3]

327.1. The general treasurer shall be a member *ex officio* of the General Assembly. [301]

327.2. The general treasurer shall be amenable to the responsible general superintendent for the Finance Division, the Board of General Superintendents, and the General Board.

328. The duties of the general treasurer shall be:

328.1. To have the custody of all funds belonging to the general interests of the Church of the Nazarene.

328.2. To receive, and disburse on order, the funds of the Church Growth Department, Christian Life and Sunday School Department, Communications Department, Finance Department, World Mission Department, and such other funds as properly belong to the General Board, or to any of its divisions; the general superintendents' fund; the general contingent fund; the General Assembly expense fund; other general benevolent church funds; the funds of the General Nazarene Youth International; and the funds of the General Nazarene World Mission Society. [329.3]

328.3. To give bond for the faithful performance of his du-

ties, in a reliable surety company, in a good and sufficient sum, as the General Board may direct.

328.4. To furnish such reports to the boards and divisions, for whose funds he may be custodian, as may be required by them.

328.5. To furnish to the General Board an annual report of all finances of the Church of the Nazarene, including investments. [333.12]

328.6. To safeguard annuity funds invested in real estate by proper insurance policies and to provide against the lapsing of such policies.

328.7. To secure monthly reports of receipts and disbursements from all schools, orphanages, rescue homes, and other institutions of the Church of the Nazarene.

L. The General Board

329. The General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, a religious and charitable corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri at Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A., shall be composed of members who shall be elected by ballot by the General Assembly from among the persons nominated as provided in 330.1-31.4. To be elected a member of the General Board as a representative of a church region, one must be a resident on that region as well as a member of a local church on that region. [306.5, 332]

329.1. No one shall be eligible for election to the General Board or shall remain a member of the General Board who is an employee of the General Board, or an employee of any division or institution controlled by the General Board, or deriving a major part of its operating funds from the General Board or general church funds, or an employee of any of our educational institutions, except as provided in 330.3.

329.2. The general secretary shall be *ex officio* secretary of the General Board.

329.3. The general treasurer of the Church of the Nazarene shall be *ex officio* treasurer of the General Board and also of the divisions thereof. [328.2]

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

330.1. After the delegates to the General Assembly have been elected, each Phase 4 [regular] and Phase 3 [mission] district delegation shall meet to select candidates for nomination to the General Board in the following manner. Each Phase 4 [regular] district may present names of two ordained ministers and two laymen. Each Phase 3 [mission] district may present names of one ordained minister and one layman.

The names of these candidates shall be sent immediately to the office of the general secretary to be placed on ballots for presentation to the General Assembly delegates from each region. [203.25]

330.2. From the list of these candidates, the General Assembly delegates from each region shall nominate to the General Assembly as follows:

Each region of 30,000 or fewer members shall nominate one ordained minister and one layman; each region exceeding 30,000 and up to 80,000 members shall nominate two ordained ministers, one district superintendent and one pastor or evangelist, and two laymen; and one additional layman and one additional ordained minister for regions exceeding 80,000 members, with the following provisions:

(1) On those regions whose membership is in excess of 80,000, one ordained minister shall be a pastor or evangelist; another shall be a district superintendent; and the other ordained minister may be in either category.

(2) No district shall be entitled to more than two members on the General Board, and no region shall be entitled to more than six members (with the exception of institutional representatives and auxiliary members). Whenever more than two candidates from a district receive a higher number of votes than candidates from other districts on the region, those on another district receiving the next highest number of votes shall be selected as nominees from the region. [305.5, 901.1]

(3) In each region the layman/laymen, 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 layman and the ordained minister who receive the next highest number of votes shall be the additional nominees. [902.11]

330.3. The General Assembly Committee on Ministry and Education shall nominate to the General Assembly four persons from the educational institutions, two ordained ministers and two laymen. [329.1]

330.4. The General Council of the Nazarene Youth International shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the General Council. [382.1]

330.5. The General Council of the Nazarene World Mission Society shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the General Council. [383.3]

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

331.1. Each nominee presented by the respective regions shall be elected by the General Assembly by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. [902.11]

331.2. From the nominees presented by the General Assembly Committee on Ministry and Education, the General Assembly shall elect two, one of whom shall be an ordained minister and one a layman.

331.3. From the nominees presented by the General Council of the Nazarene Youth International, the General Assembly shall elect one. [382.1, 901.3]

331.4. From the nominees presented by the General Council of the Nazarene World Mission Society, the General Assembly shall elect one. [383.3, 901.4]

332. The members of the General Board shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [305.5] In the event that a member of the General Board shall move his church membership or residence during the quadrennium from the region which he represents, his membership shall be terminated immediately. The vacancy so created shall be filled promptly. However, if his move or change occurs after the sec-

and annual meeting of the quadrennium, he may complete the term for which he was elected. [329]

332.1. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the General Board, and also the departments thereof, shall be filled upon nomination by the Board of General Superintendents, who shall present to the general secretary, as soon as feasible, the names of two eligible persons from whom for regional representation the Advisory Boards of the districts of the region on which the vacancy occurred shall elect one by a majority vote by mail, each 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 by mail. For representation from NYI and NWMS nominees shall be submitted to the respective General Councils to elect one by a majority vote by mail.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL BOARD

333. The General Board shall promote the financial and material affairs of all the departments of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to such instructions as may be given by the General Assembly. It shall coordinate, correlate, and unify the plans and activities of the several constituent departments so that a unified policy may be established by and in all the activities of the Church of the Nazarene. It shall have the power to direct the auditing of the accounts of all divisions and institutions relating to or associated with the Church of the Nazarene, with a view to securing such uniformity of method and completeness of form as shall be most efficient; and it shall be an advisory body in the business and administrative affairs of the several divisions of the General Board and of all the organizations and institutions that are a part of, related to, or associated with this denomination. These divisions, organizations, and institutions shall give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the General Board.

333.1. The General Board shall have power to buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell and convey and donate, or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of both real and personal property, sold, devised, bequeathed, donated, or otherwise con-

veyed to it in trust for any lawful purpose, and to execute such trust; to borrow and to loan money in the execution of its lawful purposes.

333.2. 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 departments as required by its articles of incorporation and bylaws, to serve for the quadrennium and until their successors are elected and qualified. The general superintendents, jointly and severally, shall preside over the meetings of the General Board. [335.1-35.2]

333.3. Meetings. The General Board shall meet in annual session, at a time specified by the bylaws of the said board, at Kansas City, Mo.; however, the hour, date, and place of the annual meeting may, by resolution unanimously adopted at any regular or special meeting, be changed to suit the best interests of the General Board and its departments.

333.4. Special meetings of the General Board may be called by the chairman, the president, or the secretary.

333.5. Finance Department. The General Board shall choose a Finance Department. The Finance Department shall have charge of the proper investment of trust funds. The General Board, after first referring to this department all budget askings submitted by the several divisions and offices of the General Headquarters for the ensuing year, shall receive from the department a report of its recommendations concerning each request. This department shall perform any other work assigned to it by the General Board. It shall keep accurate minutes of all its meetings and submit them to the General Board for approval. [342]

333.6. General Budget. The General Budget shall be the grand total of all division budgets and other funds to be raised by the whole denomination for the support, maintenance, and promotion of its general activities.

From the statements of budget requests submitted by the various divisions and agencies of the church, and from the statements of the general treasurer, the General Board shall determine the amount to be allotted from the General Budget

to each division and fund. When the General Budget with its proposed allotment to each division shall have been agreed upon, it shall be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents for its consideration, suggestions, or amendments before final adoption by the General Board.

333.7. When the total amount of the General Budget has been fixed for the next fiscal year by the General Board, the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents are authorized and empowered to apportion the General Budget to the several assembly districts on a basis of equity to both the district and general interests affected. [317.13]

333.8. The General Board shall have authority to increase or diminish the amount requested by any division 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.

333.9. The General Board shall approve appropriations from the General Budget for the Nazarene Theological Seminary and the Nazarene Bible College as it may deem advisable in line with the availability of funds.

333.10. The General Board shall review and make necessary adjustments in the salaries and related benefits of the general superintendents in the interim of General Assemblies.

333.11. *Reports.* The General Board shall, at its annual meeting, receive a detailed report of the activities of the divisions for the past year, including a financial report. Each division shall also submit a proposed expenditures budget for the ensuing year.

333.12. The general treasurer shall annually present to the General Board a detailed financial report of receipts and disbursements of all funds of which he 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 divisions of the General Board. The general treasurer shall be responsible to the General Board for the faithful performance of his duties.

333.13. The General Board shall meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and shall elect a general secretary, a general treasurer, and the editor[s] of the *Herald[s] of Holiness* 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.

333.14. The General Board shall elect the editor[s] for the *Herald[s] of Holiness* and its equivalent publications, upon nomination by the Communications Department. Such nomination[s] shall have been approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

333.15. The General Board shall elect a Pensions Board U.S.A. following each General Assembly, who shall serve until the adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [General Board Bylaws]

333.16. The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House Board following each General Assembly, who shall serve until the adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. [376]

333.17. The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House manager in the manner prescribed by 333.19 and General Board Bylaws. [General Board Bylaws]

333.18. The General Board shall properly relate any commission or committee authorized by the General Assembly or General Board to some division or divisions, or to the board as a whole, and assign its work, responsibility, and budget.

333.19. *Division Directors.* The General Board shall elect a division director, by ballot, for each of its several divisions, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed from office as provided by 317.5. They shall be nominated according to the following procedures: 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 department, shall submit one or more names to the General Board for election by majority vote.

333.20. Executives' Salaries. The General Board shall establish and document a "performance evaluation" and salary administration program which includes the division director and ministry/service directors and provides for a salary structure which recognizes both levels of responsibility and merit. The General Board shall annually review and approve the salaries of division directors, the Nazarene Publishing House manager, and such other officers as may be authorized and elected by the General Board.

333.21. 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 317.4, shall fill any vacancy which may occur in the offices listed in 333.13, 333.19, and any other executive offices created by the General Assembly, General Board, or their elected departments.

334. The retirement for all officers and any other director listed in 333.13 and 333.19, and any other agency head employed by the General Assembly or its elected commissions, the General Board and its divisions, shall occur at the time of the General Board meeting following their 70th birthday. Where there are vacancies, they shall be filled in accordance with *Manual* procedures.

M. General Board Organization

ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

335. In the conduct of the work of the General Board the church recognizes that there are two distinct areas of responsibility: **POLICY** and **OPERATIONS**. Policy is the primary responsibility of the General Board. In matters of operations the Board of General Superintendents shall select one of their members to superintend the work of each Headquarters division for the General Board. These assigned responsible general superintendents in conjunction with their respective division directors

shall assure the effective conduct of the work of the divisions and shall provide an annual report to the appropriate General Board department.

335.1. Department: The General Board shall organize itself into departments to conduct, on behalf of the General Board, a review of the plans, programs, and budgets proposed by the assigned divisions [317.3] and to recommend to the General Board for approval, amendment, or rejection.

335.2. Executive Committee: The General Board shall elect a president and a vice president who shall serve along with the five department chairmen as the Executive Committee. It shall act on behalf of the General Board in the interim between meetings in harmony with the General Board policy. The general secretary and the general treasurer shall serve *ex officio* with the Executive Committee in the same manner as they serve the General Board. The chairman of the Board of General Superintendents shall preside at all meetings and serve as liaison between the Executive Committee and the Board of General Superintendents.

335.3. Division: The highest unit of the Headquarters organization to which is assigned program, service, or administrative responsibilities which have a logical relationship to each other. The functions of a division shall relate to basic, ongoing needs for the fulfillment of the mission of the church. A division, therefore, shall tend to be a permanent part of the organizational structure. A responsible general superintendent shall be assigned to each respective division.

335.4. Ministry or Service: A unit of a division, to which is assigned a specific area of responsibility. The task of a ministry or service normally related to current needs to accomplish the mission. As those needs change, ministries or services may be modified, merged, or terminated as necessary to assure the highest degree of efficiency and effectiveness to the total organization. Changes in ministries or services may be made upon the recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents and approval of the General Board, or such change may be initiated by the General Board.

335.5. Board: An agency which functions in a subsidiary capacity to the General Board and is administratively related to a department/division whose membership needs to include representative persons or qualified specialists in a related technical field and assigned a special area of program, service, or administrative responsibility. Such a board may or may not be separately incorporated.

335.6. Commission: A unit created by the General Assembly, the General Board, or the Board of General Superintendents, with a specific function assigned. It shall report back to its creating unit, or upon request to the General Board.

335.7. Auxiliary: A subsidiary organization having its own constitution and bylaws approved by the General Assembly, but related to a division or ministry/service in a helping role.

DEPARTMENT FUNCTION

335.8. The General Board shall have the following departments whose members are designated by vote of the General Board:

- I. Christian Life and Sunday School Department
- II. Church Growth Department
- III. Communications Department
- IV. Finance Department
- V. World Mission Department

335.9. All business transacted by said departments shall be coordinated as appropriate with the responsible general superintendent for the related Headquarters division and submitted for the approval of the General Board.

335.10. Each department of the General Board shall be constituted until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until successors are elected and qualified unless otherwise specified.

336. The responsibilities of each General Board department shall include:

336.1. To meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and organize by choosing a chairman, a vice chairman, a recording secretary, and three persons to serve along with the officers as the Personnel

Committee, one of whom should be designated to serve with the chairman on the Search Committee.

336.2. To submit to the General Board, in conjunction with the Board of General Superintendents, one or more nominees from which a division director shall be elected according to 333.19. [The Communications Department shall follow this same procedure toward the election of the Nazarene Publishing House manager and the editor of the *Herald of Holiness*.]

336.3. To approve the nomination of any ministry or services director according to General Board Bylaws.

336.4. To call, by two-thirds vote, for the termination of a division director [the Communications Department may call for the termination of the Nazarene Publishing House manager or *Herald of Holiness* editor]. The Personnel Committee of the respective department shall join with the Board of General Superintendents to constitute a committee to consider termination and to submit its recommendation to the General Board for resolution. The report is to include the precise vote of the joint committee. [317.5]

336.5. To convene as many days prior to the plenary meetings of the General Board as may be necessary to transact its business. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or the recording secretary when budget for such has been justified and approved by the responsible general superintendent.

336.6. To carry forward the work assigned, to review and recommend for approval an annual budget for its respective divisional office, to account to the General Board for funds and expenditures, and to report annually to the General Board.

336.7. To prepare minutes of all meetings which shall be submitted via the general secretary to the responsible general superintendent and the Board of General Superintendents in accordance with 317.3. Upon approval of the recommendations in the minutes, the minutes will be forwarded to the General Board for consideration. If the Board of General Superintendents is not in agreement with any recommendation, the recommendation shall be referred back to the department prior to final submission to the General Board, for further consider-

ation with the responsible general superintendent of the Board of General Superintendents.

336.8. To operate within the policies established by the General Assembly and the General Board and be responsive to the guidance of the Board of General Superintendents.

336.9. To review and forward to the Board of General Superintendents and General Board the respective quadrennial division report of all work done during the preceding four years, including funds received from all sources and the amounts and purposes for which disbursed, and a program of activities for the succeeding quadrennium. This report when approved shall become a part of the report of the General Board to the General Assembly.

HEADQUARTERS PLANNING AND BUDGET COUNCIL

337. There shall be a Headquarters Planning and Budget Council to coordinate operations for the General Board. It shall be composed of the general superintendents, the division directors, the general secretary, the general treasurer, and the secretary of Education Services. The chairman shall be elected by the Board of General Superintendents, and the secretary shall be elected by the council. The Board of General Superintendents is the authoritative body concerning the recommended program and budget priorities.

The functions of the council shall be:

337.1. To establish and maintain a long-range plan for the general church operations which includes certain basic elements such as: (a) goals and objectives; (b) environmental considerations; (c) programs; (d) resource requirements; and (e) provision for annual review and update.

337.2. To establish a planning cycle correlated with the fiscal year which: (a) provides for a review and evaluation of both existing and proposed programs; and (b) establishes priorities for budget planning purposes.

337.3. To develop a proposed operating budget that is balanced within the total amount of funds approved in advance by the General Board Finance Department. The presidents of Nazarene Theological Seminary and the Nazarene Bible Col-

lege shall submit the proposed budgets of their respective institutions to the Board of General Superintendents and share in the prioritizing deliberations of the council. In such deliberations each general superintendent shall serve as advocate for the portion of the operation for which he is responsible. The vote for the proposed budget will be participated in by the general superintendents only. This proposed operating budget will then be submitted to the Finance Department.

337.4. To monitor budget expenditures to provide early visibility of variations from the authorized budget and to initiate corrective action as necessary.

DIVISION FUNCTION

338. A division is the Headquarters operational office of a department of the General Board. Each division shall be composed of the ministry/services assigned to it by the General Board.

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL DIVISION

339. The functions of the Christian Life and Sunday School Division are:

339.1. To develop and promote age-group curriculum materials that are biblically sound and in harmony with the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene and which reflect the best age-level educational philosophy and objectives for continuity in the learning experiences from childhood through adulthood.

339.2. To promote the organization and work of Sunday Schools for all ages and foster any schools, classes, and ministries which will enhance Christian learning through the local Churches of the Nazarene.

339.3. To administer the activities of the General Nazarene Youth International, which is an auxiliary of the Christian Life and Sunday School Division [382].

339.4. To provide for training throughout the church by the development of courses of study, texts, and special classes.

339.5. To provide general, regional, and district training conferences, seminars, and workshops for Sunday School, children's, youth, and adult leaders.

339.6. To provide texts, periodicals, and other resources for equipping local and district leaders.

339.7. To plan and provide for a coordinated General Christian Life and Sunday School Convention in accordance with the bylaws of the Sunday School and NYI.

339.8. To register, support, and resource all Nazarene Christian day schools and day-care centers.

CHURCH GROWTH DIVISION

340. The functions of the Church Growth Division are:

340.1. To contribute to the growth of God's kingdom by encouraging growth in the Church of the Nazarene.

340.2. To promote aggressive evangelism in all of its many forms throughout the denomination.

340.3. To encourage and assist local churches and district leaders to pursue an aggressive program of church planting. [100]

340.4. To increase the effectiveness of the Christian ministry by providing resources in education, development, guidance, and support for pastors and all ministers serving in the various roles of ministry described in 412-33.1.

340.5. To provide administrative and pastoral support to Nazarene chaplains, to recruit and endorse qualified elders for specialized ministries, and to maintain a ministry to Nazarene service members and families in the global community.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

341. The functions of the Communications Division shall be:

341.1. To communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the doctrine of entire sanctification, publicizing the Church of the Nazarene and its worldwide ministries through radio, television, audiovisuals, and the printed page.

341.2. To work with all divisions of the general church in planning, producing, and promoting print and nonprint media resources sponsored by those divisions.

341.3. To have the general supervision and management of all editorial and publication concerns affecting the interests of the Church of the Nazarene internationally. This will include

responsibility for the work of the Book Committee, the Music Committee, the various editorial committees of the denomination, international publications [in cooperation with, and with the advice of, the World Mission director], and national or international electronic media.

341.4. To edit and publish the *Herold of Holiness*.

341.5. To conduct the operations of the Nazarene Publishing House.

FINANCE DIVISION

342. The functions of the Finance Division are:

342.1. To facilitate the budget planning, preparation, and review process of the services and programs of the general church and to recommend long-range financial policies.

342.2. To be responsible for Headquarters Personnel Services, Equipment Services, Property Services, and any other services necessary for congenial, effective, and efficient functioning of the Headquarters operation.

342.3. To provide services which promote Christian stewardship of life's residual resources, including gifts, bequests, estate planning, and deferred giving.

342.4. To challenge the people of the Church of the Nazarene to greater stewardship of time, talent, and other resources in harmony with the basic beliefs of the church.

342.5. To provide pension and benefit programs for ministers and district-credentialed lay employees of local churches on U.S. districts participating in the Pensions and Benefits Fund, and to provide guidelines, consultation, and review on behalf of the General Board for pension plans in other areas of the international church.

342.6. To administer the General Church Loan Fund.

WORLD MISSION DIVISION

343. The functions of the World Mission Division are:

343.1. To establish and conduct ministries of the Church of the Nazarene in assigned world regions.

343.2. To supervise and administer the work of organizing and supporting churches, districts, dispensaries, hospitals, mis-

sion schools, and such other compassionate ministries as may be approved. [700-755, 901.5]

343.3. To administer the activities of the General Nazarene World Mission Society, which is an auxiliary of the World Mission Division. [383]

343.4. To approve or disapprove nominations for membership on the General Council of the Nazarene World Mission Society. [383, 811.3]

343.5. To work with all divisions and ministries to provide materials for the establishment of the church in areas under its administration.

343.6. To make nominations of missionaries, both lay and ministerial, to be appointed and commissioned by the General Board, provided all such nominations shall have been first duly approved in writing by the Board of General Superintendents. [317.1, 317.3]

343.7. To prepare and publish upon approval of the General Board the Statement of Policy of the World Mission Division, which shall regulate various aspects and programs of the division.

343.8. To authorize, supervise, and correlate all mission education programs and material for the Church of the Nazarene, in cooperation with the Mission Education Committee.

EDUCATION SERVICES

344. Education Services is a staff function which shall serve the church in matters pertaining to Nazarene institutions of education, in order to strengthen the bonds between the institutions and the church at large. Activities of Education Services shall be under the direction of a secretary who shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents. The secretary shall report to the responsible general superintendent for staff and commissions.

345. The functions of the Education Services office are:

345.1. To provide a medium by which the college presidents, the General Board, and the general superintendents can interact in matters affecting both the institutions and the general church.

345.2. To provide a supporting and advisory relationship to all institutions of higher education in the Church of the Nazarene, except those under the World Mission Division. [901.5]

345.3. To propose institutional classification and standards and recommend supporting territory of each.

345.4. To prepare recommendations for the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board for the establishment, merger, or discontinuation of institutions of higher education within the Church of the Nazarene, except those under the World Mission Division.

345.5. To obtain from each institution affiliated with Education Services (1) an annual statistical report on profile forms provided by the office; (2) an annual fiscal statement duly audited by a certified public accountant; (3) the financial budget for the current year; and (4) the latest annual or semiannual report of the president of the institution to the Board of Trustees, and to preserve these reports in permanent files.

345.6. Using the materials listed in 345.5 to prepare annual reports both for the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board, and to recommend to the General Board at its annual meeting any grants to be allotted to these institutions.

345.7. To provide support and encouragement to all institutions in carrying out their mission to provide for the historical, literary, practical, and devotional study of the Bible, moral education, and instruction in the holiness ethic and life-style.

345.8. To provide director services for the Education Council; the Nazarene College Consortium; Phi Delta Lambda; the Nazarene Athletic Association; and the cochairmen of the annual Nazarene Student Leadership Conference.

345.9. To prepare an annual report of activities, plans, and recommendations for submittal to the General Board.

N. General Church-related Boards

PENSIONS BOARD

375. There shall be a Pensions Board, or equivalent authorized body, with fiduciary responsibility for each church-related pension plan. A pension plan may be authorized by the General

Board to serve at organizational, district, multidistrict, national, regional, or multiregional level as the needs may dictate. All proposed pension plans must have the approval of the General Board.

375.1. The General Board shall establish and maintain guidelines which are relevant to all General Board-authorized pension programs worldwide. The guidelines shall be the basis for the General Board authorization of any proposed pension plan.

375.2. All changes in the articles of incorporation, constitution, or bylaws of any authorized pension plan must be approved by the General Board before they can become effective.

375.3. All authorized pension plans shall submit an annual report to the General Board through Pensions and Benefits International in the form and format requested.

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE BOARD

376. Paragraphs relating to the Nazarene Publishing House Board are to be studied, documented, and defined in the General Board Bylaws for the quadrennium 1985-89. Copies of the bylaws are to be available to the church upon request to the general secretary.

O. General Committees and Agencies

THE GENERAL BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

378. Following the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents shall appoint a General Boundary Committee of seven members to serve for the ensuing quadrennium whose duty shall be:

378.1. To work in cooperation with any districts on division or boundary adjustments. The written approval of the Board of General Superintendents shall be required before such votes are taken by the district assemblies. [200.1]

THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMITTEE

379. Following the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents shall appoint a Christian Action Committee secretary and three members who reside within convenient

travel distance of Kansas City, Mo., one of whom shall be the general secretary, who shall report the committee's work to the General Board.

The duties of the General Christian Action Committee shall be:

379.1. To provide for our people constructive information on such matters as alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, and gambling.

379.2. To emphasize the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the Christian home and to point out the problems and evils of divorce.

379.3. To lend encouragement to our people who are serving in places of leadership in temperance organizations and in similar organizations working for civic righteousness.

379.4. To alert our people regarding the Lord's Day observance, oath-bound secret orders, the theater, including the movies, worldliness of other types, and such related subjects as may need emphasis.

379.5. To assist and encourage each district to establish a Christian Action Committee; and to provide each district committee with information and material on current moral issues to be disseminated to each local church for appropriate action.

379.6. To monitor moral issues of national and international importance, and to present the scriptural viewpoint to the appropriate organizations for their consideration.

THE GENERAL CHURCH PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

380. There shall be a General Church Properties Committee appointed by the Board of General Superintendents to provide the general oversight of the general church properties. This committee shall be convened at the call of the Board of General Superintendents.

The duties of the General Church Properties Committee shall be:

380.1. To review any request for new building on general church property held in the name of the General Board and make recommendation to the General Board concerning building location. Any building proposal must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of the General Board.

380.2. To approve general design for any new building proposed in keeping with 380.1 and to make recommendations concerning the same.

380.3. To study detailed building plans and make recommendation for their approval to the General Board.

380.4. To receive a General Budget impact study report from the General Board Finance Committee before making final recommendations to approve building construction. Such impact study should reflect initial building costs and project use costs for a minimum of five years.

380.5. To inspect final construction of building and recommend acceptance of completed project to the General Board.

P. The General Nazarene Youth International

382. The General Nazarene Youth International shall be composed of all district and local Nazarene Youth International units.

It shall be governed by the Constitution of the General Nazarene Youth International approved by the General Assembly. [810]

382.1. The General Nazarene Youth International shall be represented on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene by one member elected by the General Assembly from nominations made by the General Council of the General Nazarene Youth International. [330.4, 331.3]

382.2. There shall be a General Quadrennial Convention, which shall meet at a time fixed by the General Council in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents. The General Quadrennial Convention shall be composed of such members as are designated in 810.

Q. The General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society

383. The General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society shall be composed of the general president, general director, and of that number of members prescribed by the Constitution of the General Nazarene World Mission Society and elected in accordance therewith.

383.1. The General Council shall be governed by the Constitution of the General Nazarene World Mission Society. This organization shall be auxiliary to the World Mission Department. [811.3]

383.2. The General Council shall approve by two-thirds ballot vote a general director who shall be nominated by the director of the World Mission Division and the Board of General Superintendents. In the event the nomination is not approved, the director of the World Mission Division and the Board of General Superintendents shall submit further nominations until one is approved by two-thirds ballot vote of the General Council. The general director shall be an ex officio member of the General NWMS Council and a member of the staff of the World Mission Division.

383.3. The General Nazarene World Mission Society shall be represented on the General Board by one member elected thereto by the General Assembly from nominations made by the General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society. [330.5, 331.4]

383.4. There shall be a Quadrennial Convention held under the direction of the General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society at the same time as, or immediately preceding, the regular meeting of the General Assembly. This convention shall elect the General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society in harmony with the Constitution. The convention shall elect a general president, who shall be a member ex officio of the General Council of the General Nazarene World Mission Society. [811.3]

R. Administrative Boards

384. Wherever an administrative board of the Church of the Nazarene has been established to administer the business of the Church of the Nazarene in a country/countries/region, such a board shall be the established authority of the Church of the Nazarene in that country/countries/region.

The membership of the Administrative Board shall consist of those persons duly elected or appointed as district superintendents in that country/countries/region and additional repre-

sentation of ordained ministers and laymen as approved by the General Board and 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. Any business transacted by the Administrative Board shall be subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The minutes of the annual and special meetings of the Administrative Board shall be submitted to the general secretary for reading and approval by the General Board.

S. National Boards

385. Wherever in world mission areas a national board of the Church of the Nazarene is necessary for the acquiring, holding, selling and conveying of property, or any other business relative to the Church of the Nazarene for which no other provision is made in the *Manual*, such a board shall be established and shall be recognized as the lawful authority of the Church of the Nazarene in that country for the above stated purposes.

Where only one district of the Church of the Nazarene is organized in the country, the duly elected District Advisory Board shall be the national Administrative Board to conduct business as outlined above.

Where there are two or more organized districts in the country, the national Administrative Board shall be composed of the duly appointed or elected district superintendents of the assembly districts of the Church of the Nazarene in said country, and one or more members of each District Advisory Board, if the World Mission Division, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, so recommends.

A copy of the national articles of organization or incorporation of such board shall be filed immediately with the general secretary. All business transacted by the national Administrative Board shall be subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The minutes of the annual and special meetings of the national Administrative Board shall be submitted to the general secretary for reading and approval by the General Board.

T. The Fiscal Year

386. The fiscal year for all general interests of the Church of the Nazarene shall end at a time specified in the bylaws of the General Board.

PART V

Ministry and Christian Service

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER
CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL
REGULATIONS
CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY
EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

CHAPTER I

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER

400. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes and insists that all believers have committed unto them a dispensation of the gospel which they are to minister unto all people.

We also recognize and hold that the Head of the Church calls some men and women to the more official and public work of the ministry. As our Lord called unto Him whom He would, and chose and ordained His 12 apostles "that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" [Mark 3:14], so He still calls and sends forth messengers of the gospel. The church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, will recognize the Lord's call.

The church also recognizes on the basis of Scripture and experience that God calls individuals to a lifetime of ministry who do not witness to a specific call to preach.

When the church discovers this divine call, the proper steps should be taken for its recognition and endorsement, and all suitable help should be given to open the way for the candidate to enter the ministry.

401. The perpetuity and efficiency of the Church of the Nazarene depend largely upon the spiritual qualifications, the character, and the manner of life of its ministers. [411.15]

401.1. The minister of Christ is to be in all things a pattern to the flock—in punctuality, discretion, diligence, earnestness; "by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left" [2 Corinthians 6:6-7].

401.2. The minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must know that he or she has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and that he or she is sanctified wholly by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. He or she must have a deep sense of the fact that souls for whom Christ died are perishing, and

that he or she is called of God to proclaim or make known to them the glad tidings of salvation.

401.3. The minister must likewise have a deep sense of the necessity of believers going on unto perfection and developing the Christian graces in practical living, that their "love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment" [Philippians 1:9]. He or she must have a strong appreciation of both salvation and Christian ethics.

401.4. The minister must have gifts, as well as grace, for the work. He or she will have a thirst for knowledge, especially of the Word of God; he or she must have sound judgment, good understanding, and clear views concerning the plan of redemption and salvation as revealed in the Scriptures. Saints will be edified and sinners converted through his or her ministry. He or she must be an example in prayer.

CHAPTER II

CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL REGULATIONS

A. The Local Minister

402. 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.

402.1. Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called of God to preach or to pursue lifetime ministry through the church may be licensed as a local minister for one year by the church board of a local church having an elder as pastor, upon the pastor's recommendation; or by the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor, if the granting of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. The candidate must first be examined as to his or her personal experience of salvation, knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible, and the order of the church; he or she must also demonstrate that the call is evidenced by grace, gifts, and usefulness. A local minister shall make a report to the local church at its annual church meetings. [113.7, 129.11, 208.8]

402.2. 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.

402.3. The license of a local minister may be renewed by the church board of a local church having an elder as pastor, upon the recommendation of the pastor; or by the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor, provided that

the renewal of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. [129.11, 208.8]

402.4. Local ministers shall pursue the 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 subjects in the course of study.

402.5. 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. [129.13, 403.1, 434]

402.6. A local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor must be approved by the Ministerial Credentials Board if he or she continues this service after the district assembly following the appointment. [209, 228.4]

B. The Licensed Minister

403. A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by the district assembly through the granting of a ministerial license, authorizing the minister for, and appointing him or her to, a larger sphere of service and to greater rights and responsibilities than those pertaining to a local minister, as a step toward ordination as an elder or a deacon. [403.7]

403.1. When there are members of the Church of the Nazarene who feel called to the 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 passed the complete first-year course of study for ministers, or if enrolled in a Nazarene college or seminary, have completed one-fourth of the units prescribed in the college or college-seminary program, or one-third of the Bible college ministerial curriculum; (3) have been recommended for such work by the church board of the local church of which they are members, to which recommendation shall be attached the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; (4) have given evidence of grace, gifts,

and usefulness; (5) have been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the district within the bounds of which they hold their church membership, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work; (6) have promised to pursue immediately the course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination; and (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 the office of the ministry. [129.13, 205.7, 402.5, 411.14]

403.2. Licensed ministers from other evangelical denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, may be licensed as ministers by the district assembly, provided they present the credentials issued to them by the denomination in which they formerly held their membership; and further provided that they (1) have passed a course of study equivalent at least to the course of study prescribed by the Church of the Nazarene for local ministers; (2) have been recommended by the church board of the local Church of the Nazarene of which they are members; (3) have given evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (4) have been carefully examined under the direction of the district assembly regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work; and (5) have promised to pursue immediately the course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination. [203.5, 411.14]

403.3. A minister's license shall terminate with the close of the next district assembly. It may be renewed by vote of the district assembly, provided (1) that the candidate for renewal shall file with the district assembly the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; and provided (2) that the candidate shall have completed at least two subjects in the year's course of study required, not including subjects in the reading course; and provided (3) that the candidate has been recommended for the renewal of license by the church board of the local church of which he or she is a member, upon the nomina-

tion of the pastor. In case, however, he or she shall not have passed the course of study required, the license may be renewed by the district assembly only upon submittal of a written explanation for this failure. Such explanation shall be satisfactory to the Ministerial Credentials Board and approved by the general superintendent presiding. [203.2]

403.4. To qualify for ordination, candidates must achieve graduation from the course of study within eight years from the granting of the first district license. Any exception, due to unusual circumstances, must be recommended to the district assembly, including a specified time limit, by the Ministerial Credentials Board and be subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

A licensed minister who is disqualified from ordination by reason of age or failure to complete the course of study within the prescribed time limit may be granted renewal of minister's license upon recommendation of the District Advisory Board and the Ministerial Credentials Board.

403.5. In the case of licensed ministers who are serving as pastors, the recommendation for the renewal of minister's license shall be made by the District Advisory Board rather than by the local church board. [222.11]

403.6. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to each licensed minister a minister's license signed by himself, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

403.7. Such licensed ministers shall be vested with authority to preach the Word; and, provided they pass annually the required studies of the course of study and are acting as pastors, or are involved in a full-time active ministry recognized by the district on which their membership is held, they shall also be vested with authority to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper in their own congregations, and to officiate at marriages where the laws of the state do not prohibit. [33.5, 423, 423.3, 802, 803]

403.8. All licensed ministers shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, and shall report to this body annually. [201, 203.1, 428]

403.9. In case a licensed minister has united with the church membership or ministry of another denomination, his or her church membership and ministerial membership in the Church of the Nazarene shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, and the district assembly shall cause to be entered into its minute record the following statement: "Removed from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another denomination." [107, 112]

C. The Deacon

404. 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. [405.3]

404.1. 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.

404.2. 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 under the direction of a supervising elder 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.

404.3. One who is called of God to this ministry, and who has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same, who has successfully completed the full course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as

deacon, who 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, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board to the district assembly, may be elected to deacon's orders by two-thirds vote of the district assembly; provided he or she has been an assigned minister not less than two consecutive years; and provided further that any disqualification which 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. [411.14]

404.4. 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

405. 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.

405.1. 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 administer 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. [33.5, 411.12, 422-23.3, 423.10]

405.2. 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.

405.3. One who is called of God to this ministry, and who has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same,

who has successfully completed the full course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as elder, who 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, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board of the district assembly, may be elected to elder's orders by two-thirds vote of the district assembly, provided he or she has been an assigned minister not less than two consecutive years either as a pastor or as a registered evangelist, and has spent the major portion of that time actively in the field, or has served four consecutive years full-time as associate or assistant pastor; or one year as pastor and two consecutive years as an assigned associate or assistant pastor; or has served four years as an assigned teacher in the religion department of one of our Nazarene institutions of higher education, or in a Christian ministry in such other institutions and assigned roles approved by the Board of General Superintendents; and provided further that any disqualification which may have been imposed by a district assembly has been removed in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed; and provided further that his or her marriage relationship does not render him or her ineligible for ordination. [203.4, 320, 411.14, 434]

E. The Recognition of Elder's Orders

406. Elders from other evangelical denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene and presenting their ordination papers, may have their orders recognized by the district assembly, after satisfactory examination by the District Ministerial Credentials Board as to personal experience and doctrine, provided that: (1) they complete satisfactorily an examination on the history of the Church of the Nazarene; (2) they file with the district assembly the Questionnaire for Candidates for Ordination and Elders Requesting Recognition of Credentials, carefully filled in; and (3) they meet all requirements for ordination as outlined in 405-5.3. [203.5, 225, 411.14, 434]

406.1. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall

issue to the elder so recognized a certificate of recognition signed by himself, the district superintendent, and the district secretary. [411.6]

406.2. When the orders of an elder from another church shall have been duly recognized, the credentials issued by said church shall be returned to him or her inscribed in writing or stamped across the face as follows:

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

_____, General Superintendent

_____, District Superintendent

_____, District Secretary

F. The Retired Minister

407. 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. [203.29-3.30]

407.1. Any minister who is in good standing may request a retired relationship and, at his or her request, shall be placed in the retired relation by his or her district assembly upon recommendation by the Ministerial Credentials Board. [203.29, 228.7]

407.2. Any minister who is in good standing may request a retired relationship, and upon recommendation by the Ministerial Credentials Board, may be placed in either the "assigned" or "unassigned" retired relation by his or her district assembly. [203.29, 228.7]

407.3. Any minister who is in good standing, but who is disqualified by physical disability or old age from engaging in such active ministerial labors as will afford sufficient income for support, may, upon recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board, be placed in the retired relationship by his or her district assembly. [203.30]

407.4. 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 may

be in an "assigned retired" relation. However, a minister in an "unassigned" status at retirement will be in an "unassigned retired" relation. [201, 411.9]

407.5. The minister, having attained his or her 65th birthday and applied for pension benefits or assistance from the Pensions Board having responsibility for the pensions and benefits program on the district in which he or she is serving, shall be required to be placed in retired relationship by the district assembly as a condition to receiving or continuing to receive financial assistance.

G. The Transfer of Ministers

408. When an elder, deacon, or licensed minister 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. [203.6-3.7, 223]

408.1. The transfer of a licensed minister shall be valid only when accompanied by a detailed record of the licensee's grades in the course of study for licensed ministers, properly certified by the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the issuing district assembly. The minister being transferred shall actively pursue the matter of the reporting of his or her grades in the course of study to the receiving district.

408.2. 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. [203.6]

H. The Resignation or Removal from the Ministry

409. When a minister ceases from an assigned ministry to pursue a calling or vocation other than the Christian ministry in the Church of the Nazarene, he or she may resign his or her ordination and return the credential of elder or deacon to the district assembly in which he or she holds standing, to be placed in the care of the general secretary. The record in the district minutes will show that he or she was "removed from the Roll of Ministers, having resigned his or her orders."

409.1. A minister may be removed from the Roll of Ministers if he or she receives a Letter of Commendation from his or her local church and does not use it in joining another Church of the Nazarene by the time of the next district assembly, or if he or she declares in writing that he or she has withdrawn from the Church of the Nazarene, or if he or she leaves for parts unknown, or if he or she joins another denomination either as a member or a minister, or if he or she fails to submit an annual report as required in 403.8 and 411.9; the District Ministerial Credentials Board may recommend and the district assembly may order that he or she be removed from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene.

409.2. An elder, deacon, or licensed minister may be expelled from the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene either through voluntary surrender of his or her credentials to avoid judicial action or through judicial processes and disciplinary action according to 502-5.

409.3. When an elder or deacon has been deprived of his or her credentials by expulsion or any other disciplinary action, or has surrendered his or her credentials for any reason, such credentials shall be sent to the general secretary to be filed and preserved subject to the order of his or her district assembly. [324.5]

409.4. Pastors and local church boards are advised not to engage a person who has lost his or her credentials as an elder, deacon, or licensed minister by action of a board of discipline in any official capacity such as a supply minister, song director, Sunday School teacher, or other until his credentials are re-

stored, except on written approval of both the district superintendent where such credentials were lost and the general superintendent in jurisdiction of that district.

409.5. When an unretired elder or deacon ceases from the active ministry and takes full-time secular employment, after a period of four years he or she shall be required to resign from elder's orders and return his or her credentials to the general secretary. The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall report to the district assembly, "_____ resigned from elder's orders."

Exceptions may be granted in exceptional cases, upon written request to the Ministerial Credentials Board.

This action should be considered nonprejudicial to his or her character.

I. The Restoration of Ministers to Church Membership and Standing

410. Any minister who is expelled or withdraws under charges may reunite with the Church of the Nazarene only with the consent of the district assembly of the assembly district from which he or she withdrew or was expelled. Should two appeals for restoration be denied, a request may be granted by the Board of General Superintendents to transfer responsibility for restoration to another district where placement may be considered.

410.1. If for any reason the name of an elder or deacon shall be removed from a district assembly roll, that elder or deacon shall not be recognized in any other district without having secured the written consent of the district assembly from whose roll his or her name was removed.

410.2. When an elder or deacon in good standing has filed his or her credentials, such credentials may, at any subsequent time, 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 credentials shall have been recommended by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

410.3. When an elder is deceased whose credentials were filed without prejudice to his character and standing as an el-

der, the elder's family, may, upon written request to the general secretary, and approval by the district superintendent of the district where such filing is recorded, receive said elder's certificate of ordination.

J. General Regulations

Terms and Definitions

Assigned—A licensed minister, deacon, or elder who is active in one of the listed roles.

Unassigned—A minister in good standing but not presently active full-time in a recognized assignment.

Filed Credential—A minister in good standing who, because of inactivity in the ministry, has filed his or her credential with the general secretary.

Surrendered Credential—A minister who, because of misconduct, accusations, confessions, or result of action by a board of discipline or voluntary action because of the above, has turned in his or her credential.

Return of Credential—Pertains to a minister who has filed his or her credential.

Restoration of Credential—Pertains to a minister who has surrendered his or her credential.

Resigned—A minister in good standing who, for personal reasons, has decided he or she no longer wishes to be considered as a minister, but instead become a layman on a permanent basis.

[Note: An elder or deacon who has filed his or her credential is still an elder or deacon. An elder or deacon who has surrendered his or her credential is still an elder or deacon but is under discipline and thus is denied the privileges of an elder or deacon since he or she has been suspended or expelled.]

411. In case a licensed minister, deacon, or elder shall, without the written approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership or the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents, regularly conduct independent church activities which are not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or be connected with the operating staff of an indepen-

dent church of another religious group, he or she shall be subject to trial under the law dealing with the discipline of a minister. [411.11, 502]

411.1. The licensed minister, deacon, and elder shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. [426]

411.2. Any claim to participation by a licensed minister, deacon, elder, 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, full-time, 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.

411.3. A licensed minister assigned as pastor or full-time associate or assistant pastor of a Church of the Nazarene shall be a voting member of the district assembly. [201]

411.4. No person shall be ordained elder or deacon after passing his or her 60th birthday, except that a licensed minister in active service at the present time, who has served as a full-time pastor for 15 consecutive years or more, and who has completed all other requirements for ordination, and is barred only by the age restriction, should be considered an eligible candidate for ordination, subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents.

411.5. 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. [307.3]

411.6. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to the person so ordained a certificate of ordination signed by himself, the district superintendent, and the district secretary. [406.1]

411.7. In case the credentials of an elder or deacon have been misplaced, mutilated, or destroyed, a duplicate certificate may be issued upon the recommendation of the District Advi-

sory Board. Such recommendation shall be made directly to the general superintendent in jurisdiction and upon his approval shall be issued by the general secretary. On the back of the certificate, the original number should be identified along with the word DUPLICATE. If the general superintendent or the district secretary signing the original certificate is not available, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the 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, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

This certificate is given to take the place of former certificate of ordination given to (name) , on the day of (month) , A.D. 19 , by the (ordaining) (organization) , at which date he was ordained and former ordination certificate signed by and .

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

 , General Superintendent

 , District Superintendent

 , District Secretary

411.8. All elders and deacons shall hold church membership in some local church. [429]

411.9. 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. [29, 201, 203.1, 407.4, 428]

411.10. In case an ordained minister has united with the church membership or ministry of another denomination, his or her church membership and ministerial membership in the Church of the Nazarene shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, and the district assembly shall cause to be entered into its minute record the following statement: "Removed from the

membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another denomination." [107, 112]

411.11. No ordained minister shall regularly conduct independent church activities which are not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or carry on independent missions or church activities, or be connected with the operating staff of an independent church or other religious group or denomination, without the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board or the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents.

When the said activities are to be conducted on more than one district, or a district other than the district on which said minister holds ministerial membership, the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents must be obtained prior to the participation in said activities. The Board of General Superintendents shall notify the respective District Advisory Boards that a request for said approval is pending before their board.

Should an ordained minister fail to comply with these requirements, he or she may, on recommendation by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Ministerial Credentials Board, and by action of the district assembly, be dropped from the membership 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. [112-12.1]

411.12. 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 in the general Church Extension Ministries office by the district superintendent. [100, 208.1, 319]

411.13. Membership in the district 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 Chapter III.

411.14. Persons who obtain divorce under the civil law where the scriptural ground for divorce, namely, adultery, does not exist and who subsequently remarry are ineligible for the office of the ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. [320, 403.1-3.2, 404.3, 405.3, 406]

411.15. It shall be the duty of every minister of the Church of the Nazarene to hold in trust and confidence any communication of a confidential nature given him or her by a counselee of the congregation while he or she is acting in his or her professional character as a licensed or ordained minister of the Church of the Nazarene. The public dissemination of such communication without the express written consent of the declarant is expressly condemned. Any Nazarene minister who violates the above regulation subjects himself or herself to the disciplinary sanctions set forth in Part VI, Subsection III of this *Manual*.

411.16. Any elder or deacon within 48 hours of the filing of a request for divorce or legal termination of a marriage by the minister or within 48 hours of the physical separation of the minister and the spouse of the elder or deacon for the purpose of discontinuing the physical cohabitation 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; (c) at the meeting designated in subsection b above, the elder or deacon shall explain the circumstances of the action taken and the marital conflict as well as the biblical grounds for justification as to why said elder or deacon should be permitted to continue to serve as an elder or deacon in good standing. If an elder or deacon fails to comply with the subsections above, such noncompliance shall cause said elder's or deacon's name to be stricken from the Roll of Ministers at the next annual district assembly.

411.17. When an elder, deacon, or district licensed minister suffers a moral lapse of adultery or other sexual immorality, and of his or her own volition confesses this to the district superin-

tendent, he or she may apply to the District Advisory Board for consideration of restoration of credentials after two full years have elapsed. During these two years he or she shall not preach, teach a Sunday School class, or hold any other position of leadership in the church or worship services. The Advisory Board shall then have one year for consideration and investigation as to his or her amendment of life and other requirements. During this year the Advisory Board shall, if it so decides, recommend restoration to the District Ministerial Credentials Board. The District Ministerial Credentials Board may, by a three-fourths vote of its membership, recommend restoration to the Board of General Superintendents. The Board of General Superintendents shall take this recommendation under study and advisement for one year and may approve or disapprove. If after this process, which shall be no fewer than four full years, the Board of General Superintendents shall approve recommendation of restoration, the recommendation may be presented to the next district assembly for action. If voted favorably by the assembly, he or she shall serve at least one year in a ministerial assignment as a licensed minister before restoration of credentials.

411.18. If an elder, deacon, or district licensed minister suffers a moral lapse and, contrary to making a voluntary confession as stated in the above paragraph, shall have to be confronted and/or accused, and then shall either confess to guilt or be found guilty by a board of discipline, he or she shall surrender his or her credentials or license and shall not be eligible to apply for restoration until four years have passed, at which time the process of the above paragraph may begin, requiring a total of at least six years.

CHAPTER III

CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY

412. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes only one order of the preaching ministry, that of the elder. It also recognizes that the ordained elder, the ordained deacon, or the licensed minister preparing for ordination may serve the church in various capacities. Christ has called some to be "apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" [Ephesians 4:11-12]. The church recognizes the following categories of service in which a district assembly may place an elder, deacon, or, as circumstances warrant, a licensed minister: pastor, evangelist, missionary, teacher, administrator, chaplain, and special service. Service within these categories that qualifies as being an "assigned minister" would include that service for which ministerial training and ordination are normally required, or greatly desired. The *Handbook on Ministerial Studies* shall provide guidelines for each category of ministry which 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.

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

412.2. 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.

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

The roles of ministry are listed in alphabetical order for convenience.

A. The Administrator

413. The administrator is an elder or a deacon who has been elected by the General Assembly as a general official; or an elder, deacon, or licensed minister who has been elected or employed by the General Board to serve in the general church; or an elder who has been elected by the district assembly as district superintendent; or an elder, deacon, or licensed minister who has been elected or employed full-time in the service of a district. Such person is an assigned minister.

B. The Chaplain

414. The chaplain is an elder or a deacon who has been approved by the Chaplaincy Advisory Council and the Board of General Superintendents, and commissioned an institutional chaplain or by his or her government as a military chaplain. His or her district shall list him or her as an assigned minister.

C. The Deaconess

415. 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 desiring to begin the pursuit of the role of deaconess in the future shall complete the requirements for ordination to the order of deacon as their credential for this role of ministry, or may pursue the requirements for lay minister.

D. The Educator

416. The educator is an elder, deacon, licensed minister, or layman serving as an educator.

416.1. When an educator having a ministerial credential has been employed to serve on the administrative staff or fac-

ulty of one of the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene, the district shall designate such a person as an assigned minister.

E. The Evangelist

417. The evangelist is an elder or licensed minister who devotes himself or herself 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 two levels of itinerant evangelism to which a district assembly may assign ministers: registered evangelist and commissioned evangelist. An evangelist who gives full time to 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.

417.1. A registered evangelist is an elder, or a licensed minister, who has indicated a purpose to devote full time to evangelism. Such registration shall be for one year. Renewal by subsequent district assemblies shall be granted on the basis of actual full-time work in evangelism in the year prior to the assembly.

417.2. A commissioned evangelist is an elder who has met all the requirements of a registered evangelist for two full years. The commission is for one year and may be renewed by subsequent district assemblies for one who continues to meet the requirements.

417.3. An elder or licensed minister desiring to enter the field of evangelism between district assemblies may be recognized by the general office of Evangelism Ministries upon recommendation of the district superintendent. The registration or commission shall be voted by the district assembly upon recommendation by the district superintendent.

417.4. Guidelines and procedures for certification of evangelists' roles will be contained in the *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*.

F. The Lay Minister

418. All Christians should consider themselves ministers of Christ and seek to know the will of God concerning their appropriate avenues of service. [400 and *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*]

418.1. Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called to serve as a church planter, bivocational pastor, teacher, lay evangelist, stewardship minister, church staff minister, and/or other specialized ministry within the local church, but who does not at the present time feel a special call to become an ordained minister, may pursue a course leading to a certificate of lay ministry.

418.2. The church board, upon the recommendation of the pastor, shall examine the lay minister as to personal experience of salvation, knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible and the work of the church, and satisfy itself as to the lay minister's qualifications for such ministry.

418.3. The local church board shall issue to each lay minister a certificate signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board. The certificate of the lay minister may be renewed annually by the church board upon the recommendation of the pastor.

418.4. The lay minister shall report annually to the church board.

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.

418.5. The course of study will depend upon the specific area of ministry chosen. [See *Handbook on Ministerial Studies* for the outline of such study.] However, the provision for taking the course, and for grading and recording the same, will be made at the local level.

G. The Minister of Christian Education

419. An elder, deacon, or licensed minister employed in a ministerial capacity in a Christian education program of a local

church may be assigned as a minister of Christian education.

419.1. 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.

II. The Minister of Music

420. 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 less than one year of vocal study under an accredited teacher and is pursuing the course of study or its equivalent prescribed for ministers of music or has completed the same; (5) is regularly engaged as a minister of music; (6) has been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the assembly district within the bounds of which the person holds his or her church membership, regarding his or her intellectual and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for such work. [203.8]

420.1. Only such persons who maintain a full-time employment in this ministry as their primary assignment and vocation and have ministerial credentials shall be considered assigned ministers.

I. The Missionary

421. The missionary is an elder, deacon, licensed minister, or layperson who has been appointed by the General Board to minister for the church through the World Mission Department or through the Church Growth Department. A missionary with an appointment and having a ministerial credential shall be considered an assigned minister.

J. The Pastor

422. A pastor is a minister [115] who, under the call of God and His people, has the oversight of a local church. A pastor in charge of a local church is an assigned minister. [210]

423. The duties of a pastor are:

423.1. To preach the Word.

423.2. To receive persons as members of the local church according to 107 and 107.1.

423.3. To administer the sacraments in harmony with 403.7.

423.4. To care for the people by pastoral visitation, particularly the sick and needy.

423.5. To comfort those who mourn.

423.6. To reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine.

423.7. To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of the converted, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith. [24]

423.8. To have the care of all departments of local church work.

423.9. To appoint the teachers of the Sunday School in harmony with 148.1.

423.10. To administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter. A licensed minister who has not complied fully with the provisions of 403.7 [see also 802] shall arrange for the administration of the sacrament by an elder.

423.11. To read to the congregation the Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene and the Special Rules contained in 1-26, 32-38, both inclusive, within each year [114], or have this section of the *Manual* printed and distributed annually to the members of the church.

423.12. To supervise the preparation of all statistical reports from all departments of the local church, and present promptly all such reports through the district secretary to the district assembly. [114.1, 148.3]

423.13. To give leadership to the evangelism, education, devotion, and expansion programs of the local church in harmony

with the district and general church promotional goals and programs.

423.14. To submit a report to the annual church meeting, including a report on the status of the local church and its departments, and an outline of areas of future needs with recommendations for reference by the church to any of its officers or departments for study and/or implementation in future steps for growth and progress.

423.15. To appoint an investigating committee of three in case of accusation filed against a church member.

423.16. To see that all General Budget funds raised through the local missionary society are remitted promptly to the general treasurer; and that all District Budget funds are remitted promptly to the district treasurer. [135.2]

423.17. To nominate to the church board all persons who are paid employees of the local church, and to have supervision of the same. [166.1-66.3]

423.18. To sign in conjunction with the church secretary all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual* [102.1, 103-4.2]

423.19. To notify the pastor of the nearest church when a member or friend of a local church or any of its departments moves to another locality in the same assembly district where vital association with the previous local church is impractical, giving the member's or friend's address. If the move is to a locality beyond the assembly district, the pastor shall immediately inform the Moving Nazarene Services of the Church Growth Division, giving the name and the new address.

423.20. To arrange, together with the church board, according to plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly, for the raising of the apportionment of the General Budget funds, and the apportionment of the District Budget funds, made to the local church; and to raise these apportionments [37.2, 130, 160]

423.21. The pastor may, when requested by a member, grant a transfer of church membership, a certificate of commendation, or a letter of release. [111-11.1, 112.2]

423.22. The pastor shall be, *ex officio*, president of the local church, chairman of the church board, head of the church schools and any weekday Nazarene school organization, the Nazarene Youth International, the Nazarene World Mission Society, and all other subsidiary organizations in connection with the local church. [127, 146, 156, 158.2, 159.1]

424. 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 weekday school organization.

425. The pastor shall not contract bills, create financial obligations, count monies, or disburse funds for the local church unless authorized and directed by majority vote of the church board or by majority vote of a church meeting; such action, if taken, must be approved in writing by the District Advisory Board and shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the church board or of the church meeting. [129.1, 129.19-29.20]

426. The pastor shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. [222.2, 411.1]

427. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting credentials from another denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application for membership in a local church, the pastor may not receive such applicant without first having obtained the favorable recommendation of the District Advisory Board. [107, 225]

428. For the exercise of this office the pastor shall be amenable to the district assembly, to which he or she shall report annually and give brief testimony to his or her personal Christian experience. [203.1, 403.8]

429. 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. [411.8]

430. *Pastoral Service* includes the ministry of a pastor, an associate pastor, and/or an assistant pastor, who may specialize in such ways as minister of Christian education, minister of music, minister of visitation, or minister of youth. An elder, a deacon, or a licensed minister called to any of these levels of

pastoral service in connection with a church or mission may be considered an assigned minister.

431. Supply Pastors. A district superintendent shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

(1) A supply pastor may be a Nazarene elder, deacon, or licensed minister 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 granted a certificate of authorization to supply on the form provided, and 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.

K. The Song Evangelist

432. A song evangelist is a member of the Church of the Nazarene whose intention is to devote the major portion of his or her time to the ministry of evangelism through music. A song evangelist who has a ministerial credential and who gives full time to 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.

432.1. Guidelines and procedures for certification of song evangelists' roles will be contained in the *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*.

L. Special Service

433. An elder, deacon, or licensed minister 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.

433.1. An elder or deacon employed in a ministerial capacity as an officer in a church-related organization serving the church, or approved upon careful evaluation of his or her district assembly to serve with an educational institution, evangelistic, or missionary organization not directly related to the church, may be appointed to special service subject to 411.11.

CHAPTER IV

EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

A. For Ministers

434. The ministerial course of study is designed to assist in the training of God-called ministers whose service is vital to the expansion and extension of the holiness message into new areas of evangelistic opportunity. We recognize the importance of a clear understanding of our mission based on Christ's commission to His Church in Matthew 28:19-20, to "go and make disciples" (NIV). Much of the training is primarily theological and biblical in character, leading toward ordination in the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. Students are enrolled, advanced, and graduated from the course of study by the District Ministerial Studies Board. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall direct and grade all examinations and determine the placement of each student in the course through his examination.

434.1. *College or College-Seminary Program.* When a candidate elects to pursue preparation for the ministry in one of the liberal arts colleges of the church, or any other college approved by Education Services, and/or Nazarene Theological Seminary, the candidate shall be graduated from the course of study when transcripts from either college or seminary or both show a minimum credit in the following subject areas:

	<i>Term Hours</i>	<i>Semester Hours</i>
Biblical Literature.....	18	12
Theology (including one semester of Doctrines of Holiness).....	18	12
Homiletics, Practices, and Religious Education (including some credit in each of these fields).....	18	12

	<i>Term Hours</i>	<i>Semester Hours</i>
Church History (including one course in the History and Polity of the Church of the Nazarene with special concentration in the <i>Manual</i>).....	12	8
Evangelism and Missions	6	4
English, Literature, and Speech.....	18	12
Philosophy and Psychology (including some credit in each)	12	8
History and Social Science	12	8
(This would include all History courses other than Church History; Social Science would include Sociology, Economics, and Political Science.)		
Science.....	6	4
(This would include any Physical or Natural Science, such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.)		
Total	120	80

434.2. Nazarene Bible College. Licensed ministers shall be graduated from the course of study when they have satisfactorily completed the approved three-year Bible college ministerial program of studies.

434.3. Directed Studies. A four-year program of Directed Studies is available, which shall be directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board. Pastoral Ministries will provide a handbook on the courses of study as the official guide for the District Ministerial Studies Board. All grades shall be reported to Pastoral Ministries for a permanent record.

434.4. Preparation for the ministry pursued in non-Nazarene schools or under non-Nazarene auspices shall be evaluated in conformity with the curricular requirements stated in the *Handbook on Ministerial Studies* provided by Pastoral Ministries.

434.5. All courses, academic requirements, and official administrative regulations shall be provided by Pastoral Ministries in a *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*. This *Handbook* and such revisions as become necessary shall be approved by a Course of Study Advisory Committee, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents. The Course of Study Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents.

B. General Guidelines for Preparation for Christian Ministry

435. General guidelines for preparation for Christian ministry are:

435.1. The required courses of study, together with the necessary procedures concerning their completion for song evangelists, ministers of music, and deaconesses, are to be found in the *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*. Language and cultural adaptations may be made with the approval of Pastoral Ministries. Write to Pastoral Ministries, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

435.2. In regions administratively related to the World Mission Division, all courses of study, as stated in the *Handbook on Ministerial Studies*, may be adapted to the needs and available literature in those districts with the approval of Pastoral Ministries. [434.5]

PART VI

Judicial Administration



CHURCH DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE OF A LAYMAN

DISCIPLINE OF A MINISTER

RULES OF PROCEDURE

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

I. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

500. The object of church discipline is not the punishment of offenders, but vindication of the truth, purification of the church, warning of the careless, and reformation and salvation of the guilty. Members of the church who do violence to the General or Special Rules, 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 ministers be orthodox in doctrine and holy in life. Thus the purpose of the discipline of a minister is not punitive or retributive, but is to determine the ministerial standing and church relations of a minister accused of misconduct.

II. DISCIPLINE OF A LAYMAN

501. If a request is made for investigation of a lay member accused of unchristian conduct, such charges 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. This board shall conduct a hearing as soon as practicable and determine the issues involved. After hearing the testimony 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. Repentance, apology, or restitution may be required.

501.1. 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.

501.2. When a layman has been expelled from membership in the local church by a local board of discipline, he 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 shall be received into the membership of that local church using the approved form for the reception of church members. [26, 32-38, 112.1-12.4, 801]

III. DISCIPLINE OF A MINISTER

502. If an elder, deacon, or licensed minister is accused of conduct unbecoming a minister, or of teaching doctrines out of harmony with the doctrinal statement of the Church of the Nazarene, or of serious laxity in the enforcement of the General or Special Rules of the church, 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 immorality cannot be signed by any person involved in the alleged misdeed. The written accusation must be filed with 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, within 10 days, give written notice to the accused that accusations have been filed, using certified or registered mail, or by personal delivery. 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, but no later than three days after notification.

502.1. When a written accusation is filed, the District Advisory Board shall appoint a committee of three or more elders 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 by placing such notice in the mail addressed to the accused, using certified or registered mail, or by personal delivery, within three days after they are filed with the District Advisory Board. The accused and his 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 has not been informed as specified herein. [222.4]

502.2. In case charges are filed, the District Advisory Board shall appoint five ordained ministers of the district to hear the case and determine the issues; these five ordained ministers 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 repentance, confession, restitution, suspension, cancellation of credentials, expulsion from the ministry or membership of the church, or both, public or private reprimand, or such other discipline as may be appropriate including suspension or deferment of discipline during a period of probation not to exceed one year. [222.5]

502.3. 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.

502.4. It is provided that in no case shall disciplinary action be taken against a missionary by a Phase 2 [national-mission] district as such.

502.5. The decision of a board of discipline shall be unanimous, shall be written and signed by all members, and shall include a finding of "guilty" or "innocent" as to each charge and specification.

502.6. 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 which is to hear the charges.

502.7. The procedure at any hearing shall be according to Rules of Procedure hereinafter provided. [322.4-32.5, 403.9, 411.11, 505]

502.8. 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 502.2.

502.9. 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 502.2.

503. 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 General Court of Appeals for those in the United States and Canada, or to the Regional Court of Appeals in other world regions. 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 which 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.

504. 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 credentials, the minister

shall thereupon immediately suspend all ministerial activity; and, if he refuses to do so, his right of appeal shall be for that reason forfeited.

504.1. When the decision of a board of discipline provides for suspension or cancellation of credentials and the accused minister desires to appeal, he shall file with the secretary of the court to which the appeal is made, at the time the notice of appeal is filed, his written credentials as a minister, and his right of appeal shall be conditioned upon his compliance with this provision. When such credentials are so filed, they shall be safely kept by the said secretary until the conclusion of the case, and thereupon the same shall either be cancelled or returned to the minister as the court may direct.

504.2. 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.

IV. RULES OF PROCEDURE

505. 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 effective and authoritative in all cases. Any steps that are thereafter taken in any proceeding shall be in accordance with such change or amendment. [502]

V. DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

506. Each organized district shall have a District Court of Appeals composed of five ordained ministers elected annually by the district assembly. This court shall hear appeals of church

members concerning any action of a local church or church board when they are aggrieved or adversely affected by such action. 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. [203.23, 309.1]

506.1. The District Court of Appeals shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all appeals of laymen or churches from the action of a board of discipline appointed to discipline a layman.

VL GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

507. The General Assembly shall elect five 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:

507.1. To hear and determine all appeals from the action or decision of any District Board of Discipline.

507.2. To hear and determine appeals concerning the action of any district assembly affecting the interests of a minister amenable to that assembly.

507.3. To hear and determine appeals from the action of any district superintendent in matters affecting the interests of a minister. When such appeals are so determined by said court, such determination shall be authoritative and final. [214, 305.6]

508. Vacancies which may exist in the General Court of Appeals during the interim between sessions of the General Assembly shall be filled by appointment of the Board of General Superintendents. [317.6]

509. 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.

510. The general secretary shall be custodian of all permanent records and decisions of the General Court of Appeals. [324.4]

VII. REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

511. There shall be a Regional Court of Appeals for each region other than the United States and Canada. Each Regional Court of Appeals shall consist of five 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*.

VIII. GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

512. The right to a fair and impartial hearing of charges pending against an accused minister or layman 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 that he is innocent 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.

512.1. The cost of preparing the record of a case, 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 or layman who appeals shall have the right to present oral as well as written argument upon his appeal, but this right may be waived in writing by the accused.

512.2. A minister or layman 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 ac-

cusers face-to-face and to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution.

512.3. 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.

512.4. A minister or layman 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.

512.5. A minister or layman shall not be required to answer charges for any act which occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges, and no evidence will be considered at any hearing for any matter which occurred more than five years before the charges were filed.

512.6. A minister or layman 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 VII

Boundaries



**ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS—UNITED STATES
AND CANADA**

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS—WORLD MISSION

CHAPTER I

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS— UNITED STATES AND CANADA

600. The following are Phase 4 [regular] or Phase 3 [mission] districts in the United States and Canada, whose boundaries have been established and recognized at the time of the 1985 General Assembly: [200-200.4]

601. AKRON DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Ohio in the counties of Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe, Noble, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas.

602. ALABAMA NORTH DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Alabama north of Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Shelby, Taladega, Clay, and Randolph counties.

603. ALABAMA SOUTH DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Alabama south of Lamar, Fayette, Walker, Jefferson, St. Clair, Calhoun, and Cleburne counties.

604. ALASKA DISTRICT shall include the state of Alaska, and for administrative purposes the Yukon Territory.

605. ARIZONA DISTRICT shall include the state of Arizona and that portion of the state of Utah lying south of the northern boundary of Beaver, Piute, Wayne, and San Juan counties along with Clark and Lincoln counties in the state of Nevada.

606. CANADA ATLANTIC DISTRICT shall include the four Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

607. CANADA CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

608. CANADA PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include the province of British Columbia.

609. CANADA WEST DISTRICT shall include the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories.

610. CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of California beginning at the northern

intersection of the Santa Clara-Stanislaus county lines, proceeding east along the northern boundary of the Stanislaus county line, and continuing east along the Stanislaus River to the intersection of Calaveras and Tuolumne county lines; then east along the northern boundary of the Tuolumne county line to the intersection with Alpine County; then south on a line along the western border of Alpine, Mono, and Inyo counties to the intersection with Kern County; then to include all of Kern County west of U.S. Highway 6 and north of the Tehachapi Mountains as the southern boundary of the district. The western boundary of the district shall be a line drawn along the western boundaries of Kern, Kings, Fresno, Merced, and Stanislaus county lines to the intersection with the San Joaquin county line.

611. CENTRAL FLORIDA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Florida between a line on the south made up by the north and westerly county lines of Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Oksechobee, and St. Lucie counties; and on the north by a line formed by the southern extent of Township 18, south, from the Atlantic Ocean north of Oak Hill to the east line of Lake County, then south to the north line of Orange County, then due west following the southern extent of Township 19, south, to the Gulf of Mexico near Homosassa.

612. CENTRAL LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT shall include the state of Texas, except that portion within the boundaries of the New Mexico District, and the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado.

613. CENTRAL OHIO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Ohio in the counties of Athens, Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington.

614. CHICAGO CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Illinois that lies east of the west boundaries of McHenry, Kane, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, and Ford counties, and north of the north line of Champaign County and that part of Vermillion County which lies north of U.S. High-

way 10, including the city of Danville but not including the town of Oakwood.

615. COLORADO DISTRICT shall include the state of Colorado.

616. DAKOTA DISTRICT shall include the states of North and South Dakota.

617. DALLAS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Texas east of the 97th meridian, excepting that portion of Dallas County west of said meridian and with the exception of that portion of Denton County east of said meridian; and north of a line beginning at the east border of the north line of Sabine County and continuing west on the north boundary of San Augustine County to Grisby, thence west through Alto and Teague to the 97th meridian, and including the towns and cities on this line.

618. EASTERN KENTUCKY DISTRICT shall be composed of that portion of the state of Kentucky east of the eastern boundaries of Gallatin, Owen, Scott, Fayette, Jessamine, Garrard, Lincoln, Pulaski, and Wayne counties.

619. EASTERN LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT shall include the geographical area of the New York District and the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

620. EASTERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Michigan known as the Lower (Southern) Peninsula that lies east of the west boundaries of Tuscola, Genessee, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Lenawee counties.

621. EAST TENNESSEE DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Tennessee which lies east of the west boundary line of Macon, Trousdale, Wilson, Rutherford, Bedford, and Lincoln counties.

622. GEORGIA DISTRICT shall include the state of Georgia.

623. HAWAII PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include the state of Hawaii and the Marianas Islands.

624. HOUSTON DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Texas lying east of the 97th meridian and south of a line beginning at the east border of the north line of Sabine County and continuing west through Alto and Teague to the

97th meridian, with the exception of the towns and cities on this line.

625. ILLINOIS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Illinois lying south of the north boundary of Adams, Brown, Cass, Menard, Logan, DeWitt, Piatt, and Champaign counties and that portion of Vermillion County south of U.S. Highway 10 and including the town of Oakwood.

626. INDIANAPOLIS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Indiana south of the 40th parallel east of a line formed by the west boundary of Boone, Hendricks, and Morgan counties; north of the south boundary of Morgan, Johnson, and Shelby counties; and east of the west boundary of Decatur, Jennings, and Jefferson counties.

627. INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Idaho south of the Salmon River; that portion of the state of Oregon embracing the following counties, namely, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Grant, Harney, and Malheur; that portion of the state of Nevada embracing the following counties, namely, Humboldt, Pershing, Lander, Elko, Eureka, and White Pine; and that portion of the state of Utah lying north of the southern boundary of Millard, Sevier, Emery, and Grand counties.

628. IOWA DISTRICT shall include the state of Iowa.

629. JOPLIN DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Kansas lying east of the west boundaries of Coffey, Woodson, Wilson, and Montgomery counties and south of the north boundary of Coffey, Anderson, and Linn counties; and that portion of the state of Missouri lying south of the north boundary of Bates, Henry, Benton, and Morgan counties and west of the east boundary of Morgan, Camden, Laclede, Wright, Douglas, and Ozark counties.

630. KANSAS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Kansas lying west of the east boundaries of the following counties, namely, Marshall, Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee, Lyon, Greenwood, Elk, and Chautauqua.

631. KANSAS CITY DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Kansas lying east of the west boundary of Nemaha, Jackson, Shawnee, and Osage counties and north of the north

boundary of Coffey, Anderson, and Linn counties; and that portion of the state of Missouri lying west of the east boundary of Mercer, Grundy, Livingston, Carroll, Saline, and Pettis counties and north of the north boundary of Bates, Henry, Benton, and Morgan counties.

632. KENTUCKY DISTRICT shall be composed of that portion of the state of Kentucky west of the eastern boundaries of Gallatin, Owen, Scott, Fayette, Jessamine, Garrard, Lincoln, Pulaski, and Wayne counties.

633. LOS ANGELES DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of California lying south of the northern boundary of San Luis Obispo and Kern counties, with the exception of that portion of Kern County north of the Tehachapi Mountains; that portion of Los Angeles County lying north of a line beginning at the Pacific Ocean and Imperial Boulevard and continuing in a northeasterly direction along Imperial Boulevard, Alameda Street, Washington Boulevard, Rio Hondo River, the crest of Puente Hills, and the San Dimas Canyon Road to the southern boundary of the Angeles National Forest and the San Bernardino county line; and the whole of Inyo County.

634. LOUISIANA DISTRICT shall include the state of Louisiana.

635. MAINE DISTRICT shall include the state of Maine.

636. MICHIGAN DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Michigan known as the Lower (Southern) Peninsula that lies west of the west boundaries of Tuscola, Genessee, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Lenawee counties, and that part of the Upper Peninsula that lies east of the east county lines of Delta and Alger counties.

637. MINNESOTA DISTRICT shall include the state of Minnesota.

638. MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT shall include the state of Mississippi.

639. MISSOURI DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Missouri lying east of the western boundaries of the counties of Putnam, Sullivan, Linn, Chariton, Howard, Cooper, Monteau, Miller, Pulaski, Texas, and Howell.

640. NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT shall include all Navajo churches previously on the North American Indian District.

641. NEBRASKA DISTRICT shall include the state of Nebraska.

642. NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT shall include the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and that portion of the state of Connecticut east of a line running north from Bridgeport, Conn., excluding Bridgeport, to the Massachusetts line.

643. NEW MEXICO DISTRICT shall include the state of New Mexico and that portion of the state of Texas west of the 103rd meridian.

644. NEW YORK DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of New York which lies south of the southern boundary of Delaware, Greene, and Columbia counties; that portion of the state of New Jersey lying north of a line drawn between Phillipsburg and Long Branch, including the city of Long Branch; that portion of the state of Connecticut west of a line running north from Bridgeport, Conn., including Bridgeport, to the Massachusetts line; and the island of Bermuda.

645. NORTH ARKANSAS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Arkansas that lies north of a line formed by Interstate 40 from the Tennessee state line to the city limits of North Little Rock at the Dark Hollow Interchange of Highways I-40, 67, and 167; thence due north to Jacksonville Boulevard at Bel-air and northeasterly along Jacksonville Boulevard to McCor Street, north to a point approximately four blocks beyond the intersection of Lansing and Hill Boulevard; then west to a point approximately one block north of the intersection of Lockridge with Crestwood, north to Riderwood Road and Greenhurst, west to Lowrance at a point approximately a block north of Tanglewood, Lowrance Drive to 63rd Street, west on High Street, south on High and Baucum to Crystal Street; thence westerly to the intersection of Hilliard with the west boundary of Burns Park, south along the park boundary to the Arkansas River; thence westerly along the Arkansas and Maumelle rivers to Pinnacle Valley Road, south on Pinnacle Valley Road to State Route 10, and west on Route 10 and the south-

erly line of Sebastian County to the Oklahoma state line. The towns and cities on Highway 10 and Sebastian county line are on the South Arkansas District.

646. NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT shall include the state of North Carolina.

647. NORTH CENTRAL OHIO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Ohio in the counties of Ashland, Ash-tabula, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Geauga, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Marion, Medina, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Wayne, and Wyandot.

648. NORTH FLORIDA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Florida lying north of a line formed by the southern extent of Township 18, south, from the Atlantic Ocean north of Oak Hill to the east line of Lake County, then south to the north line of Orange County, then due west following the southern extent of Township 19, south, to the Gulf of Mexico near Homosassa.

649. NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Oklahoma east of the line formed by the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway from Oklahoma City, in a northerly direction to the Arkansas River, including the towns and cities thereon except Oklahoma City; thence the Arkansas River to the Kansas state line; and north of U.S. Highway 62 from Oklahoma City to Henryetta; thence U.S. Highway 266 to Warner; thence U.S. Highway 64 to the Arkansas state line.

650. NORTHEASTERN INDIANA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Indiana lying north of the 40th parallel and south and east of a line starting at the 40th parallel on the Hamilton and Madison county lines, running due north to the Miami county line, west to the Cass county line, north to the north-west corner of Miami County, thence east to the Wabash county line, following the Fulton and Kosciusko county lines to Marshall County, thence north to the Michigan state line.

651. NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT shall include the following counties of the state of California: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz,

San Benito, Monterey, and that portion of Solano County lying west of a line drawn due southward from the point where the line of Solano and Napa counties turns sharply westward to the channel of Suisan Bay.

652. NORTHWEST DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Washington east of the Cascade Mountains; that portion of the state of Idaho north of the Salmon River; and Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla counties in the state of Oregon.

653. NORTHWEST INDIANA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Indiana lying north and west of a line starting at the 40th parallel on the Hamilton and Madison county lines, running due north to the Miami county line, west to the Cass county line, north to the northwest corner of Miami County, thence east to the Wabash county line, following the Fulton and Kosciusko county lines to Marshall County, thence north to the Michigan state line.

654. NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Oklahoma that lies north of U.S. Highway 66, not including the towns and cities thereon with the exception of that portion of Oklahoma County north of a line from the North Canadian River to MacArthur Avenue on 36th Street, west of MacArthur from 36th to 39th Street, north of 39th Street from MacArthur to May Avenue, west of May Avenue from 39th to 50th streets, and north of 50th Street from May Avenue to the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway, and west of a line formed by the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway running northeasterly from Oklahoma City to the Arkansas River, not including the towns and cities thereon, and thence northwesterly up the Arkansas River to the Kansas state line.

655. NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Illinois north of the south boundary of Hancock, Schyler, Mason, Tazewell, and McLean counties and west of the east boundary of McLean, Livingston, LaSalle, DeKalb, and Boone counties.

656. NORTHWESTERN OHIO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Ohio west of the west boundary of Pick-

away, Franklin, Delaware, Marion, Wyandot, Seneca, Sandusky, and Ottawa counties and north of the north boundary of Preble, Montgomery, Greene, and Fayette counties.

657. OREGON PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Oregon west of the east boundary of Wasco County, south of the north boundary of Wheeler County, and west of the east boundary of Wheeler, Crook, Deschutes, and Lake counties.

658. PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT shall be composed of Clinton County and that part of the state of Pennsylvania lying east of the boundary line between Potter and Tioga counties and east of a line drawn from a point at the northern crest of the Allegheny Mountains to Duncannon, thence following the Susquehanna River to the Maryland state line; and that portion of the state of New Jersey which lies south of a line drawn between Long Branch and Phillipsburg, including the city of Phillipsburg.

659. PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, with the exception of Clinton County, which belongs to the Philadelphia District, shall include that portion of the state of Pennsylvania west of the boundary line of Potter and Tioga counties, thence following a line due south through Clinton County, to the crest of the Allegheny Mountains, and south along this crest to the Maryland state line.

660. ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT shall include the states of Montana and Wyoming.

661. SACRAMENTO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of California embracing the following counties, namely, Modoc, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Calaveras, Amador, San Joaquin, Mono, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, and that portion of Solano County lying east of a line beginning at the point where Napa, Solano, and Yolo counties meet, and running southward on the Napa-Solano county line to where the line turns sharply west; from that point due south to the Suisun Bay; then due east along the Bay Channel to the westernmost tip of the Sacramento county line; and that portion of the state of Nevada embracing the

following counties, namely, Washoe, Storey, Lyon, Douglas, Churchill, Mineral, Esmeralda, and Nye.

662. SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Texas lying between the 97th meridian and the 103rd meridian, south of the 32nd parallel, except that all the incorporated city of Midland and none of the incorporated city of Hillsboro shall be included in the San Antonio District.

663. SOUTH ARKANSAS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Arkansas that lies south of a line formed by Interstate 40 from the Tennessee state line to the city limits of North Little Rock at the Dark Hollow Interchange of Highways I-40, 67, and 167; thence due north to Jacksonville Boulevard at Bel-air and northeasterly along Jacksonville Boulevard to McCor Street, north to a point approximately four blocks beyond the intersection of Lansing and Hill Boulevard; then west to a point approximately one block north of the intersection of Lockridge with Crestwood, north to Riderwood Road and Greenhurst, west to Lowrance at a point approximately a block north of Tanglewood, north on Lowrance Drive to 63rd Street, west to High Street, south on High and Baucum to Crystal Street; thence westerly to the intersection of Hilliard with the west boundary of Burns Park, south along the park boundary to the Arkansas River; thence westerly along the Arkansas and Maumelle rivers to Pinnacle Valley Road, south on Pinnacle Valley Road to State Route 10, and west on Route 10 and the southerly line of Sebastian County to the Oklahoma state line. The towns and cities on U.S. Highway 10 and Sebastian county line are on the South Arkansas District.

664. SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT shall include the state of South Carolina.

665. SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Oklahoma east of a line formed by the Santa Fe Railway from the Red River in a northerly direction to Oklahoma City, excluding the towns and cities thereon, but including that portion of Norman and Oklahoma City lying east of a line from the southern city limits of Norman along U.S. Highway 77 northerly to State Highway 9, east to 24th Street, northerly to Robinson Drive, west to 18th Street, north

to Rock Creek Road, east to Air Depot Avenue, then northerly on Air Depot Avenue to the Oklahoma county line, west on Oklahoma county line to Eastern Avenue, north on Eastern Avenue to I-35 to U.S. Highway 62; and south of U.S. 62 from Oklahoma City to Henryetta; thence U.S. Highway 266 to Warner; thence U.S. Highway 64 to the Arkansas state line, including the towns and cities thereon.

666. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of California lying south of a line beginning in Los Angeles County at the Pacific Ocean and Imperial Boulevard and continuing in a northeasterly direction along Imperial Boulevard, Alameda Street, Washington Boulevard, Rio Hondo River, the crest of Puente Hills, and the San Dimas Canyon Road to the southern boundary of Angeles National Forest and the San Bernardino county line; and of the northern boundary of San Bernardino County.

667. SOUTHERN FLORIDA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Florida lying south of and including the counties of Manatee, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie.

668. SOUTHWEST INDIAN DISTRICT shall include all churches previously on the North American Indian District excluding any Navajo churches.

669. SOUTHWEST INDIANA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Indiana that lies south of the 40th parallel west of a line formed by the east boundary of Montgomery, Putnam, and Owen counties; south of the north boundary of Monroe, Brown, and Bartholomew counties; and west of the east boundary of Bartholomew, Jackson, Scott, and Clark counties.

670. SOUTHWEST LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT shall include the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and that portion of the state of Texas west of the 103rd meridian.

671. SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Oklahoma that lies west of a line formed by the Santa Fe Railway running northerly from the Red River to Oklahoma City, including the towns and cities thereon, except the portion of Oklahoma City and Norman included in the

Southeast Oklahoma District north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 77 and the southern city limits of Norman; also excepting that portion of Oklahoma County above specified.

672. SOUTHWESTERN OHIO DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Ohio west of the west boundary of Scioto, Pike, Ross, and Pickaway counties and south of the north boundary of Preble, Montgomery, Greene, and Fayette counties.

673. TENNESSEE DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Tennessee that lies west of the east boundary of Sumner, Davidson, Williamson, Marshall, and Giles counties, and the city of Fulton, Ky.

674. UPSTATE NEW YORK DISTRICT shall include all the portion of the state of New York north of and including Delaware, Greene, and Columbia counties.

675. VIRGINIA DISTRICT shall include the state of Virginia.

676. WASHINGTON DISTRICT, with the exception of Clinton County, which belongs to the Philadelphia District, shall include that portion of the state of Pennsylvania lying west of a line drawn from a point at the northern crest of the Allegheny Mountains to Duncannon, including the town of Duncannon and west of the Susquehanna River and east of the crest of the Allegheny Mountains; all of the states of Delaware and Maryland; that portion of the state of West Virginia composed of the counties of Hardy, Grant, Mineral, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson; and the District of Columbia.

677. WASHINGTON PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Washington west of the Cascade Mountains.

678. WEST TEXAS DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of Texas north of the 32nd parallel and west of the 97th meridian, excepting the portion in Dallas County west of said meridian, with the addition of that portion of Denton County east of said 97th meridian.

679. WEST VIRGINIA NORTH DISTRICT shall include that portion of the state of West Virginia north of Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Fayette, Nicholas, Greenbrier, and Pocahontas counties; and west of Pendleton and Grant counties.

680. WEST VIRGINIA SOUTH DISTRICT shall include that

portion of the state of West Virginia south of Mason, Jackson, Roane, Clay, Braxton, Webster, and Randolph counties.

681. WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT shall include the state of California.

682. WISCONSIN DISTRICT shall include the state of Wisconsin and that portion of the state of Michigan known as the Upper Peninsula lying west of the east county lines of Delta and Alger counties.

CHAPTER II

ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS— WORLD MISSION

700. The following are Phase 4 [regular] or Phase 3 [mission] districts outside the United States and Canada, whose boundaries have been established and recognized at the time of the 1985 General Assembly: [200-200.4]

701. ARGENTINA CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include the following boundaries within the country of Argentina: all of Buenos Aires Province north of Highway 226 from Mar del Plata on the southeast coast to Banderale on the northwest boundary of the province; and that part of Santa Fe Province south of Highway 9 between Rosario and the point at which the highway intersects the Santa Fe-Cordoba Province boundary line.

702. AUSTRALIA NORTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include the continent of Australia excepting the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia.

703. AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN DISTRICT within the continent of Australia shall include the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania.

704. BARBADOS DISTRICT shall include the country of Barbados.

705. BELIZE DISTRICT shall include the country of Belize.

706. BOLIVIA LA PAZ DISTRICT shall include the following boundaries within the country of Bolivia: the provinces of Ingavi, Pacajes, Aroma, Loayza, and Gualberto Villarroel; those sections of the provinces of Los Andes, Murillo, and Inquisivi that are not included in the Bolivia Titicaca District and the Bolivia Los Yungas District; Canton Lambate of Sud Yungas Province and Canton Totora of the province of Sajama in the department of Oruro.

707. BRAZIL SOUTH MINAS-CENTRO OESTE DISTRICT shall include the following states in the country of Brazil: Minas Gerais, Goias, and the Distrito Federal.

708. BRAZIL SOUTH RIO-SAO PAULO DISTRICT shall include the following states in the country of Brazil: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Espirito Santo.

709. BRITISH ISLES NORTH DISTRICT shall include Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the English counties of Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, and Cleveland.

710. BRITISH ISLES SOUTH DISTRICT shall include Wales, and all of England except the counties of Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, and Cleveland.

711. CAPE VERDE DISTRICT shall include the country of Cape Verde.

712. COSTA RICA DISTRICT shall include the country of Costa Rica.

713. CUBA DISTRICT shall include the country of Cuba.

714. EL SALVADOR DISTRICT shall include the country of El Salvador.

715. GUATEMALA CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include the following departments in the country of Guatemala: Jalapa, Jutiapa, Santa Rosa, Esquintla, Sacatepequez, Chimaltenango, and Guatemala City.

716. GUATEMALA LAS VERAPACES DISTRICT shall include in the country of Guatemala the departments of Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz.

717. GUATEMALA NORTH DISTRICT shall include in the country of Guatemala the department of El Peten.

718. GUYANA DISTRICT shall include the country of Guyana.

719. HAITI CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include that portion of the Republic of Haiti lying south of the Artibonite River with the southern boundary being the line between the Central and Southeast departments and the western boundary being Highway 204 from Fauche to the boundary line between the Central and Southeast departments.

720. HAITI LA GONAIVE DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Haiti the island of La Gonave.

721. JAMAICA DISTRICT shall include the country of Jamaica.

722. JAPAN DISTRICT shall include the nation of Japan.

723. KOREA CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Korea all of Kyonggi Province south of the 38th parallel, excluding I-chun and Yoju districts.

724. KOREA EAST DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Korea all of Kangwon Province south of the 38th parallel, plus I-chun and Yoju districts of Kyonggi Province.

725. KOREA HONAM DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Korea all of North and South Cholla provinces and Cheju Island.

726. KOREA SOUTH DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Korea all of North and South Ch'ungh'ong provinces.

727. KOREA YOUNG NAM DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Korea all of North and South Kyongsang provinces.

728. MEXICO CENTRAL DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the states of Puebla, Guerrero, Tlaxcala, Hidalgo, Morelos, Queretaro, Mexico, Veracruz north and west of the city of Veracruz, and the Federal District.

729. MEXICO NORTHEAST DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the states of Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and Coahuila.

730. MEXICO NORTHWEST DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the states of Baja California and Sonora.

731. MEXICO SOUTH DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the state of Chiapas.

732. MEXICO SOUTH PACIFIC DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the state of Oaxaca.

733. MEXICO WEST DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of Mexico the states of San Luis Potosi, Michoacu, Nayarita, Guanajuato, and Jalisco.

734. MIDDLE EUROPEAN DISTRICT shall include West Germany (including West Berlin) and Switzerland.

735. MOZAMBIQUE LIMPOPO DISTRICT

736. MOZAMBIQUE MANIACAZE DISTRICT

737. MOZAMBIQUE MAPUTO DISTRICT

738. MOZAMBIQUE M'WENGANE DISTRICT

739. NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT shall include the country of New Zealand.

740. NICARAGUA DISTRICT shall include the country of Nicaragua.

741. PANAMA DISTRICT shall include the country of Panama.

742. PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS DISTRICT shall include in the country of Papua New Guinea the Western and Southern provinces.

743. PERU NORTH DISTRICT shall be composed of the following departments of the country of Peru: Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, Cajamarca, Amazonas, San Martin, La Libertad, Ancash, the part of Huanuco north of the Trans-Amazon Highway, the part of Loreto north of the Trans-Amazon Highway, to the border of Brazil.

744. PHILIPPINES LUZON DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of the Philippines all of the Philippine Government Regions of 1 through 4 excluding Rizal Province (which includes Region 4a—Metro Manila).

745. PHILIPPINES WESTERN VISAYAN DISTRICT shall include in the Republic of the Philippines all of the Philippine Government Region 6 (principally the island of Panay and the Negros Occidental portion of the island of Negros).

746. PUERTO RICO DISTRICT shall include the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

747. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA EUROPEAN DISTRICT shall include the work among the Europeans in southern Africa.

748. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA WESTERN CAPE DISTRICT shall include that portion of the Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa as follows: The eastern border shall be the 22nd meridian from the Indian Ocean to the 29th parallel; the northern border shall be the 29th parallel; the western and southern borders shall be the Atlantic and Indian oceans respectively.

749. SOUTHERN AFRICA NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT

750. SOUTHERN AFRICA SOUTH SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

751. SWAZILAND NORTH DISTRICT shall include all of the Kingdom of Swaziland north of the Usutu River plus one

church at the site of the Usutu pulp mills on the south side of the river.

752. TAIWAN DISTRICT shall include the Republic of China (Taiwan).

753. TRANS SOUTH AFRICA NATAL DISTRICT shall include, within the Republic of South Africa, the Natal Province and that portion of the Cape Province east of the western Transvaal border, or any area of the Cape Province not included in any other district.

754. TRANS SOUTH AFRICA NORTHERN DISTRICT shall include, within the Republic of South Africa, the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and the Northern Cape down to the 29th parallel in the south.

755. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DISTRICT shall include the country of Trinidad and Tobago.

PART VIII

Ritual

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
THE RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
MATRIMONY
THE FUNERAL SERVICE
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
CHURCH DEDICATIONS

800. THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

800.1. The Baptism of Believers

DEARLY BELOVED: Baptism is the sign and seal of the new covenant of grace, the significance of which is attested by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans as follows:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" [Romans 6:3-5].

The earliest and simplest statement of Christian belief, into which you now come to be baptized, is the Apostles' Creed, which reads as follows:

"I 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

"I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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? If so, answer, "I will."

Response: I will.

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Will you obey God's holy will and keep His commandments, walking in them all the days of your life?

Response: I will.

The minister, giving the full name of the person and using the preferred form of baptism—sprinkling, pouring, or immersion—shall say:

_____, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

800.2. The Baptism of Infants or Young Children

When the sponsors shall have presented themselves with the child [or children] before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED: While we do not hold that baptism imparts the regenerating grace of God, we do believe that Christ gave this holy sacrament as a sign and seal of the new covenant. Christian baptism signifies for this young child God's gracious acceptance on the basis of His prevenient grace in Christ, and points forward to his [her] personal appropriation of the benefits of the Atonement when he [she] reaches the age of moral accountability and exercises conscious saving 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] 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."

The minister may then ask the parents or guardians to name the child; he shall then baptize the child, repeating his [her] full name and saying:

_____, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister may then offer the following prayer or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that Thou wilt take this child into Thy loving care. Abundantly enrich him [her] with Thy 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 man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents [guardians] with loving care, that with wise counsel

and holy example they may faithfully discharge their responsibilities to both this child and to Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

800.3. The Dedication of Infants or Young Children

When the parents or guardians have presented themselves with the child [or children] before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" [Matthew 19:13-14].

In presenting this child for dedication you not only signify 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 [guardians] as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to this child and to assist _____ by nurturing his [her] growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

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 thou wilt take this child into Thy loving care. Abundantly enrich him [her] with Thy 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 man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents [guardians] with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example they may faithfully discharge their responsibilities both to this child and to Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

800.4. The Dedication of Infants or Young Children (Ritual for Single Parent or Guardian)

When the parent or guardian has presented himself or herself with the child (or children) before the minister at his call, the minister shall say:

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" [Matthew 19:13-14].

In presenting this child for dedication you not only signify 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 a parent [guardian], 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 this parent [guardian] as he [she] endeavors to fulfill his [her] responsibilities to this child and to assist _____ by nurturing his [her] growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

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 Thou wilt take this child into Thy loving care. Abundantly enrich him [her] with Thy 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 man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parent [guardian] with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example he [she] may faithfully discharge his [her] responsibilities both to this child and to Thee. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

801. THE RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

The prospective members having come forward to stand before the altar of the church, the pastor shall address them as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: The privileges and blessings which we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. There is in it such hallowed fellowship as cannot otherwise be known.

There is such helpfulness with brotherly watch care and counsel as can be found only in the Church.

There is the godly care of pastors, with the teachings of the Word; and the helpful inspiration of social worship. There is cooperation in service, accomplishing that which cannot otherwise be done.

The doctrines upon which the church rests as essential to Christian experience are brief. We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We especially emphasize the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that man is born in sin; that he needs 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.

Do you heartily believe these truths? If so, answer, "I do."

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with it, as set forth in the General Rules and Special Rules of the Church of the Nazarene? 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.

The minister shall then say to the person or persons:

I welcome you into this church, to its sacred fellowship, responsibilities, and privileges. 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 leading others to Christ.

He shall then take each one by the hand, and with appropriate words of personal greeting welcome each into the church.

(Alternate form for members joining by letter of transfer.)

_____, formerly a member [members] of the Church of the Nazarene at _____, comes [come] to join the fellowship of this local congregation.

Taking each by the hand, or speaking to the group, the minister shall say:

It gives me pleasure on behalf of this church to welcome you into our membership. We trust that we will be a source of encouragement and strength to you and that you, in turn, will be a source of blessing and help to us. May the Lord richly bless you in the salvation of souls and in the advancement of His kingdom.

802. THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The administration of the Lord's Supper may be introduced by an appropriate sermon and the reading of 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Luke 22:14-20, or some other suitable passage. Let the minister then give the following invitation:

The Lord himself ordained this holy sacrament. He commanded His disciples to partake of the bread and wine, emblems of His broken body and shed blood. This is His table. The feast is for His disciples. Let all those who have with true repentance forsaken their sins, and have believed in Christ unto salvation, draw near and take these emblems, and, by faith, partake of the life of Jesus Christ, to your soul's comfort and joy. Let us remember that it is the memorial of the death and passion of our Lord, also a token of His coming again. Let us not forget that we are one, at one table with the Lord.

The minister may offer a prayer of confession and supplication, concluding with the following prayer of consecration:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption: Hear us, we most humbly beseech Thee. Grant that, as we receive these Thy creatures of bread and wine according to the holy institution of Thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in remembrance of His passion and death, we may be made partakers of the benefits of His atoning sacrifice.

We are reminded that in the same night that our Lord was betrayed, He took bread and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise, after supper, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me."

May we come before Thee in true humility and faith as we partake of this holy sacrament. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then may the minister, first partaking himself, with the assistance of any other ministers present, and when necessary, of the stewards, administer the Communion to the people.

While the bread is being distributed, let the minister say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was broken for you, preserve you blameless, unto everlasting life. Take and eat this, in remembrance that Christ died for you.

As the cup is being passed, let the minister say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve you blameless unto everlasting life. Drink this, in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

After all have partaken, the minister may then offer a concluding prayer of thanksgiving and commitment. [233.5, 203.7, 206.1, 223.3, 223.10]

803. MATRIMONY

At the day and time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married—having been qualified according to law—standing together, the man on the right hand and the woman on the left, 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 this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church. This holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and first miracle that He wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and St. Paul commended as being honorable among all men. 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 that, if either of you knows any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it: for be well assured that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's Word allows are not joined together by God, neither is their matrimony lawful.

If no impediment be alleged, then shall the minister 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 her, comfort her, 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, 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:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Response (by the father, or whoever gives the bride in marriage): I do.

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 groomsmen 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:

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life, send Thy blessing upon these Thy servants, this man and this woman,

whom we now bless in Thy name; that as Isaac and Rebekah lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and 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 not man put asunder. Amen.

The minister shall then add his 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. [488.7]

804. THE 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:

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" [John 14:1-3].

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall 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 Thee. We know Thou dost love us and canst turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before Thee with reverent and submissive hearts.

Thou art our Refuge and Strength, O God—a very present Help in time of trouble. Grant unto us Thine abundant mercy. May those who mourn today find comfort and healing balm in Thy sustaining grace.

We humbly bring these petitions in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A HYMN OR SPECIAL SONG

SELECTIONS OF SCRIPTURE:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9).

(Other passages which might be used are: Matthew 5:3-4, 6, 8; Psalm 17:1-5, 11, 13-14; 46:1-5, 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:

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand

at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. . . .

"Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 54-58).

"I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours: and their works do 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 which 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, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

PRAYER:

Our Heavenly Father, God of all mercy, we look to Thee in this moment of sorrow and bereavement. Comfort these dear ones whose hearts are heavy and sad. Wilt Thou be with them, sustain and guide them in the days to come. Grant, O Lord, that they may love and serve Thee and obtain the fullness of Thy promises in the world to come.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" [Hebrews 13:20-21].

805. 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 duly chosen to serve in our church for the ensuing year. Let us consider God's instructions to us from His Holy Word.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" [Romans 12:1-2].

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" [2 Timothy 2:15].

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

*Available from the Nazarene Publishing House.

teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" [Colossians 3:16].

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things" [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 its auxiliary organizations. 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 are 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 a 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 duly 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 he 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.

806. 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

Auxiliary Constitutions



**NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL
NAZARENE WORLD MISSION SOCIETIES
SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

CHAPTER I

810. CONSTITUTIONS FOR NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

The 1985 General Assembly referred the Constitution and Bylaws of NYI to the General Board for resolution and to harmonize with the structured Christian Life and Sunday School Division.

Copies may be obtained by writing the Youth Ministries office.

[Until the new Constitution and Bylaws are announced the 1980 provisions are in force.]

* * *

CHAPTER II

811. CONSTITUTIONS FOR NAZARENE WORLD MISSION SOCIETIES

811.1. Local Nazarene World Mission Society

ARTICLE I. Name

This society shall be called the Nazarene World Mission Society of the _____ Church of the Nazarene.

ARTICLE II. Object

The object of this society shall be to enlist the members of the church in active missionary service, in united prayer, and in the study of the salvation needs of the world; to promote a wider knowledge of the mission fields of the Church of the Nazarene; to inspire and challenge the youth to open minds and willing hearts for God-called missionary service on the mission fields of the church; and to raise funds, as elsewhere provided for in this Constitution, for extending the kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world. This society shall be a constituent part of the local church and subject to the supervision of the pastor and the church board.

ARTICLE III. *Membership*

The membership of the local NWMS shall be divided into two classes: active and associate.

SECTION 1. *Active Members*

Any person who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene may become an active member of the society in that local church to participate in the achieving of the above-stated objectives. Voting and holding office shall be limited to active members who are 15 years or older, except in children's and youth groups.

SECTION 2. *Associate Members*

Any person who is not a member of the Church of the Nazarene may become an associate member of the society to participate in the achieving of the above-stated objectives.

ARTICLE IV. *Officers*SECTION 1. *Election of the Council*

The officers of the society shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and secretaries for mission education, publicity, LINKS, World Mission, membership, and prayer and fasting. An officer may serve in more than one position if desired.

The vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by ballot annually by plurality vote, by members of the society.

All other secretaries may be elected by the society or appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two other council members elected by the council.

In consultation with the pastor, a local council may add an additional officer, namely, a Work and Witness coordinator. The nomination and election of this officer shall follow the same procedure specified for officers other than the local president.

These officers and secretaries, together with chapter chairpersons, children's and youth directors, and pastor, shall constitute the local NWMS Council.

Any duly elected District NWMS Council member shall automatically be a member *ex officio* of the local NWMS Council of the church of which he or she is a member.

SECTION 2. *Election of President*

The president shall be nominated by a committee of not less than

three nor more than seven active members of the Nazarene World Mission Society appointed by the pastor, who shall serve as chairperson. This committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president, providing, however, that any incumbent president may be re-elected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such election is recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the pastor. The president shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the active members present and voting. This election shall be subject to the approval of the church board. The president shall be a member of the local church whose society is served, a member ex officio of the church board, a member of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, and a member of the district assembly.

NOTE: Where there are two or more chapters in the local society, follow the plan provided for in Article VIII.

See local bylaws for duties of officers, appointment of directors, assistants, and committees.

SECTION 3. Vacancies

Any vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled by ballot by majority vote by the members of the society at any regular meeting. Vacancies occurring in any other elected office shall be filled by a plurality vote of active NWMS members present at any regular monthly meeting of the society.

In the case of a vacancy in the office of the local president, the Executive Committee shall nominate one or more names for the office of president.

ARTICLE V. *Representation at District Convention*

Local representation at the District NWMS Convention shall be composed of:

1. The pastor of the local church, full-time salaried associate ministers of local churches, and the local NWMS president, members of the District NWMS Convention by virtue of office; and the president-elect (if there is a change). In the event that the local president is unable to attend or serve, the local vice president is seated in his or her place. In the event the local vice president is unable to attend or serve, the newly elected vice president may be seated in his or her place.

2. Two elected delegates for the first 25 active NWMS members or less, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 active members or major portion thereof.

ARTICLE VI. *Meetings*SECTION 1. *Monthly*

There shall be one or more meetings for mission information, inspiration, and prayer held each calendar month; a minimum of 12 meetings a year.

SECTION 2. *Annual*

The annual meeting of the society shall be held at least 30 days prior to the district assembly, at which meeting officers for the ensuing year shall be elected.

Chapter officers shall be elected and/or appointed before the District Convention.

Officers shall assume their duties by the close of the district assembly.

ARTICLE VII. *Funds*SECTION 1. *General Budget*

All funds raised by this society for the General Budget shall be sent directly to the general treasurer.

Funds for the support of General Budget shall be raised in the following manner: (1) from the regular missionary society General Budget offerings; (2) from prayer and fasting offerings if the local church so desires; (3) from special offerings such as the Easter and Thanksgiving offerings.

SECTION 2. *Specials*

Opportunity shall be given to contribute to world mission specials over and above the General Budget apportionment such as Alabaster and World Mission Radio. Additional world mission specials may be approved and authorized by the World Mission Division.

SECTION 3. *Medical Plan Fund*

The Medical Plan Fund shall be held in trust by the general treasurer for the General Nazarene World Mission Society and shall be used for medical aid for active and retired missionaries, such aid to be granted by the World Mission Division according to the established policy. Funds shall be raised by (1) placing names on the Memorial Roll by the payment of \$30.00 for that purpose (\$15.00 for duplicates); (2) presenting a Distinguished Service Award to a chosen recipient to be honored for service to the Kingdom by the payment of \$100 for that purpose; (3) receiving one or more special offerings a year for Medical Plan.

SECTION 4. General Funds Exclusive

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

SECTION 5. Local Expense

A local expense fund shall be provided either by assessment or freewill offerings (the amount to be determined by local needs). A percentage of the local expense funds may be set aside to help defray the expenses of the delegates to the District Convention.

NOTE: Since our church is strictly opposed to engaging in any form of merchandising to raise funds for the support of the church and its missionary programs, local societies shall refrain from engaging in the sale of merchandise or food as an organization or in the name of the Nazarene World Mission Society.

ARTICLE VIII. Chapters**SECTION 1. Chapters**

This society may have one or more chapters as may be authorized by the Executive Committee, and approved by the pastor and local church board. These together shall constitute the local society. A chapter is an integral part of the local society, the division being made for the matter of convenience.

A local society may request the organization of women's chapters, men's chapters, chapters including both men and women, youth chapters, and children's chapters. Age groupings should correspond with the Christian Life and Sunday School Division.

SECTION 2. Election

These chapters meeting in joint session shall elect the officers authorized in Article IV. The Executive Committee of the local society shall have general oversight of the work of the various chapters, receiving all literature for distribution to the various chapters, and keeping records and sending reports for the combined chapters.

SECTION 3. Chapter Officers

The officers of each chapter shall be chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and secretaries for mission education, publicity, LINKS, World Mission, membership, and prayer and fasting.

These officers shall be elected by ballot annually by the members of the chapter prior to the District Convention. (Officers of the local society may hold office in any chapter.) The chapter chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and two other members elected by the chapter shall constitute the chapter Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. Nomination of Chapter Officers

Chapter officers shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the pastor.

A chapter chairperson is a member of the local NWMS Council.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting at the General Convention of the Nazarene World Mission Society, and by the approval of the World Mission Department.

811.2. District Nazarene World Mission Society**ARTICLE I. Membership**

All local Nazarene World Mission Societies within the boundaries of _____ District shall be members of the District Nazarene World Mission Society. The activities of this society shall be under the supervision of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, the district assembly, and the District NWMS Council.

ARTICLE II. District Convention**SECTION 1. Purpose**

There shall be an annual District Convention of the Nazarene World Mission Society for the purpose of hearing reports, uniting in prayer for the work, making aggressive plans for propagating missionary information and inspiration in the local societies, and conducting any business pertaining to the district organization.

The time and place of the annual NWMS Convention shall be decided by the District NWMS Council in consultation with the district superintendent.

SECTION 2. Membership

The District Convention shall be composed of the District NWMS Council, the district superintendent, pastors and full-time salaried associate ministers of the local churches, NWMS zone chairpersons, the presidents of local societies, two delegates from each local society having an active membership of 25 or less, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 active members (or major portion thereof); and General NWMS Council members, retired missionaries, retired elders, missionaries on furlough, missionary appointees who hold their church membership on the district, and any former district presidents who

reside on the district which they served. The membership of the District Convention shall also include the newly elected NWMS presidents, or newly elected vice presidents if the newly elected presidents cannot attend.

ARTICLE III. *Officers*

SECTION 1. District Council

The officers of this society shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and secretaries for mission education, publicity, LINKS, World Mission, membership, and prayer and fasting. The 10 named officers shall constitute the District NWMS Council. The district superintendent shall be ex officio member of the District NWMS Council.

The District Executive Committee shall be composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two other council members (elected by the District Council). The district superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

When a district council in consultation with the district superintendent shall desire, an additional officer may be added to the District Council, namely, a Work and Witness coordinator. The nomination and election of this officer shall follow the same procedure specified in Article III, Section 2, for officers other than district presidents.

SECTION 2. Election of Officers

The District President

The District Convention shall elect a district president who shall be:
(a) elected by two-thirds favorable vote by ballot from two or more nominees presented by a nominating committee, appointed by the District Executive Committee, and chaired by the district superintendent;
(b) or in case of reelection, the district president may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the District NWMS Council with the approval of the district superintendent. The district president shall serve without salary.

Other Officers

The other district officers shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot by the convention from two nominees presented for each office by a nominating committee appointed by the District Executive Committee.

Or, the District Convention may elect a district treasurer and eight others to serve on the District NWMS Council. Or the district treasurer may be elected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the District NWMS Council, with the approval of the district superintendent. They shall be elected by majority vote by ballot from nominees submitted by a nominating committee appointed by the District

Executive Committee. Where deemed advisable, these nominees may be selected and presented in such a way that each zone is represented on the District Council on the basis of proportionate representation in relation to its active NWMS membership.

The eight council members thus elected, along with the district president and district NWMS treasurer, shall organize, assigning each member responsibilities in accordance with Section 1.

SECTION 3. Election of Youth Representatives

The District Convention may elect by ballot one, and not more than two, youth members to the District NWMS Council.

The Nominating Committee appointed by the District Executive Committee shall nominate twice the number to be elected.

SECTION 4. Vacancies

A vacancy in the district presidency shall be filled by a majority vote of the District NWMS Council, two nominees having been submitted by the District NWMS Executive Committee in consultation with the district superintendent.

All other vacancies occurring in the District Council between annual conventions shall be filled by majority vote of the District NWMS Council.

ARTICLE IV. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting at the General Convention of the General Nazarene World Mission Society and by the approval of the World Mission Department.

811.3. General Nazarene World Mission Society

ARTICLE I. Membership

All district and local Nazarene World Mission Societies shall constitute the General Nazarene World Mission Society. It shall be auxiliary to the World Mission Division.

ARTICLE II. General Convention

SECTION 1. Time and Place

There shall be a General Convention of the Nazarene World Mission Society preceding the General Assembly. The time and place shall be decided upon by the General Council in consultation with the responsible general superintendent and the World Mission Division.

SECTION 2. Members of the General Convention

1. This convention shall be composed of the following members: members of the General Council; district NWMS presidents; two delegates from each regular or mission district of 1,000 or fewer active NWMS members, and one additional delegate for each additional 700 active members (or major part thereof), delegates to be elected by ballot by the District Convention within 20 months of the General Convention. It is suggested that the number to be nominated on the ballot be three times the number of delegates to be elected. (See Bylaws, Section 7.)

There shall also be one delegate from each Phase 1 (pioneer) or Phase 2 (national-mission) district, this delegate to be the district NWMS president; one missionary delegate for each of the first 25 or fewer missionaries from each of the following world mission regions: (1) Africa Region; (2) Asia-Pacific Region; (3) Caribbean Region; (4) Eurasia Region; (5) Mexico and Central America Region; and (6) South America Region; and one additional missionary delegate for the next 50 missionaries or final major fraction thereof, nominated by the mission councils in each region, and elected by the World Mission Department.

2. Any elected General Convention delegate must be at the time of the General NWMS Convention residing on the district where he or she held membership at the time of his or her election. If any elected delegate moves off the district, the privilege of representing the former district is forfeited. (Not intended to apply to those living near district boundaries where their home residence may be across the line from the place of regular church participation.)

3. In the event the district president cannot attend the General Convention, the district vice president (*ex officio*) shall be allowed to represent the district.

4. In the case of world mission districts, General Convention representation shall be governed by the divisions of the general church and their respective policies. However, when district presidents of Phase 1 (pioneer) or Phase 2 (national-mission) districts cannot attend, the district president may designate alternates to be seated.

ARTICLE III. General Council**SECTION 1. Nomination and Election of the General President**

The general president shall be elected from nominees selected by a nominating committee composed of the General Council region representatives, the general director, and one other representative from each

geographic region appointed by the Executive Committee of the General Council. No two members of the Nominating Committee may be from the same district. The general director shall serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

The committee shall submit the names of two and not more than three persons for general president. The nominations shall be approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

From these nominees the General Convention shall elect by two-thirds majority vote by ballot a general president.

The term of general president shall be limited to two full terms of service.

The general president shall be an ex officio member of the General Council and shall serve without salary.

SECTION 2. Election of the General NWMS Council

The members of the General NWMS Council shall consist of one representative per region.

A member of the General Council shall be a member of and resident in the region, except in the case where the council member moves from that region within 12 months prior to the General Convention.

All council members (except general president and general director, otherwise provided for) shall be elected by the General Convention by majority vote by ballot. The two from different districts receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot in the caucus voting shall be declared General Council nominees. In the case of a tie between second and third or any decisive position, the regional caucus shall meet to vote off the tie.

The term of service of a General Council member shall be limited to two full consecutive terms.

The director of the World Mission Division shall be an ex officio member of the General Council.

SECTION 3. Nomination of General Council Members

Regional representatives on the General Council shall be nominated by regional caucuses, held at the General Convention, each district on the region having the privilege of submitting two names from the district to the caucus.

The region in caucus shall elect by ballot the nominees from the region (twice the number to be elected). Of the nominees submitted to the General Convention for election, no two shall be from the same district.

SECTION 4. Council Organization

The general director shall be nominated by the director of the World Mission Division, in consultation with the responsible general superintendent for the World Mission Division, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the General Council before being submitted to the World Mission Department for approval by a majority vote with the recommendation submitted for election by the Board of General Superintendents. The general director shall be an *ex officio* member of the General NWMS Council and a member of the staff of the World Mission Division.

The council shall also elect from its own number a vice president and two other members, who with the general president and general director shall constitute the Executive Committee, three of whom shall constitute a quorum.

The General Council shall be authorized to elect a man to serve as a voting member of the council whose responsibility is to encourage the continued involvement of men in the missions program of the church.

Council members shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Convention, except as provided for in Section 2, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The council shall assign to its members responsibility for the various emphases and projects.

SECTION 5. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall:

1. In case of vacancy in the general presidency in the interim between sessions of the General Convention, submit the names of two nominees for general president in accordance with Article IV, Section 1, of the General Constitution.

2. Transact any business deemed necessary between sessions of the General Council.

SECTION 6. General Superintendent Adviser

One general superintendent shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents as adviser to the General Council to serve for the quadrennium.

SECTION 7. General Board Representative

The General Council shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the council, one of whom shall be elected by the General Assembly as a member of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene as a representative of the General Nazarene World Mission Society.

SECTION 8. Council Meeting

The council shall meet a minimum of three times during the quadrennium. A majority shall constitute a quorum. A condensed report of the business transacted in each meeting of the council shall be referred to the World Mission Division for approval.

ARTICLE IV. Vacancies**SECTION 1. General President**

Should a vacancy occur in the office of general president in the interim between sessions of the General Convention, a general president shall be elected from nominees selected by the Executive Committee of the General Council in consultation with the general superintendent adviser by two-thirds vote of all district presidents to fill the vacancy and to perform the duties of general president until adjournment of the next quadrennial convention; provided the question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the General Council in consultation with the general superintendent adviser.

SECTION 2. Council

Should a vacancy occur in the council during the quadrennium, the Executive Committee shall present two names as nominees approved by the director of the World Mission Division and the Board of General Superintendents. The vacancy shall then be filled by a majority vote by ballot of the members of the council provided that the question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy is approved by the director of the World Mission Division and the Board of General Superintendents.

SECTION 3. Executive Committee

Should a vacancy occur in the Executive Committee during the quadrennium, two names as nominees from the council shall be presented. The vacancy shall then be filled by a majority vote by ballot of the council.

ARTICLE V. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a General Convention of the General Nazarene World Mission Society, and by the approval of the World Mission Department.

CHAPTER III

812. BYLAWS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Sunday School is threefold:

1. To teach the Word of God effectively until pupils are saved, sanctified wholly, and maturing in Christian experience.
2. To help Christians grow spiritually by involving them in a reaching, teaching, and soul-winning ministry.
3. To locate and visit unchurched people until they become enrolled and regular in attendance.

ARTICLE I. *Membership*

Responsibility List [Enrollment]

Each local church should assume responsibility for reaching all persons in the community who are not actively involved in another local church. The traditional enrollment list should be looked upon as the active responsibility list. This list shall include all persons who declare their willingness to attend with some degree of regularity.

Each local church should also maintain two additional lists:

1. The extended ministry [outreach] responsibility list shall include all persons who are regularly contacted or involved in an extended Sunday School ministry. [Article I, Section 2c]
2. A prospect list which includes the names of all who have not agreed to attend with any degree of regularity but who have a possibility of being brought into the local church.

SECTION 1. The local Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall determine whether the following shall be included on the Sunday School active responsibility list [enrollment], the extended ministry [outreach] responsibility list, or the prospect list:

a. CRADLE ROLL PARENTS: Children under four years of age who, along with their parents, do not attend Sunday School may be enrolled in the Cradle Roll Parents Department.

—The children are considered as prospects for the Sunday School preschool classes, and the parents in the corresponding adult classes.

—When the supervisor has been appointed he is responsible for regular visits and program materials to be taken to these families.

—When they begin attending Sunday School with some degree of

regularity, they should be transferred to the Sunday School active responsibility list [enrollment] of the corresponding age-group class.

—If they have not started attending by the child's fourth birthday, they should be transferred to the prospect list of the Kindergarten and Adult departments and dropped from the Cradle Roll Parents list.

—Until they begin attending with some degree of regularity they shall continue to be listed on the prospect responsibility list.

b. HOME DEPARTMENT: Any person physically or vocationally unable to attend a regular Sunday School class may be enrolled in the Home Department.

—The Christian Life and Sunday School chairman and adult ministries director, in consultation with the pastor, shall appoint a Home Department supervisor each church year whose responsibility is to visit and present the Sunday School lesson each week.

—Those persons visited weekly and taught the Sunday School lesson shall be listed on the active responsibility list.

—If there is no regular weekly visit or Sunday School lesson taught, these persons should be listed on the extended ministry responsibility list [outreach].

c. BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: Any group assembled under the sponsorship of the local church for the purpose of studying the Bible, which would include some persons who are on the Sunday School active responsibility list [enrollment] and some who are not. These persons who are not shall be added to the extended ministry responsibility list [outreach].

d. NURSING HOME/CONVALESCENT CENTER/HEALTH CARE FACILITY: Any residents confined to one of these centers who attend a weekly session sponsored by the local church may be listed on the active responsibility list [enrollment] or the extended ministry responsibility list [outreach] according to the following:

1. If the resident actively participates in a weekly study of the Nazarene Sunday School curriculum he shall be included on the active responsibility list [enrollment];

2. If the resident attends a weekly service but is unable to actively participate or if the Nazarene Sunday School curriculum is not taught, he shall be added to the extended ministry responsibility list/enrollment [outreach];

3. If there is any question, list all names on the extended ministry responsibility list [outreach].

e. EXTENSION SUNDAY SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH-TYPE MISSION: Any group sponsored by the local church who meets weekly in another

location to study the Sunday School lesson with the goal of becoming an organized Church of the Nazarene shall be added to the active responsibility list [enrollment] of the sponsoring church by designated name/location of the new work.

f. NAZARENE WEEKDAY SCHOOLS: Any group of students in a Nazarene weekday school under the sponsorship of the local church shall be included on the prospect responsibility list.

Any groups not listed above who meet weekly under the sponsorship of the local church shall be evaluated by the local Christian Life and Sunday School Board to determine whether they meet the criteria for listing on the extended ministry [outreach] responsibility list or on the prospect list.

SECTION 2. Once a person is listed on any responsibility list the local church should actively seek to minister to that person until he is brought into the fellowship of that church. Dropping names should be done only with the approval of the pastor after every effort to reach the person has been made by the local church.

Names should only be dropped from the lists:

- a. When they die
- b. When they move out of town
- c. When they join another Sunday School
- d. When they specifically ask to have their names removed

ARTICLE II. Attendance

Counting Sunday School Attendance

The purpose of counting Sunday School attendance in the local church is to measure the effectiveness of that church's ministry to the community each week. All Sunday School ministry efforts should lead to bringing people into the fellowship of the local church.

It is important to remember that even though some people may be involved in more than one Sunday School ministry, they shall be counted only once in the Sunday School attendance. If people are involved in a Sunday School ministry other than Sunday morning, they shall be counted in the following Sunday morning's attendance.

Sunday School attendance represents the number of different persons being ministered to by the local church through a study of the Bible or other approved curriculum materials each week. This ministry may include a regular Sunday School, extension Sunday School and/or church-type mission, and other extended ministries. These categories of Sunday School ministries shall be counted and reported separately each week by each local church, according to the criteria listed below.

SECTION 1. Regular Sunday School Session. A regular Sunday School session shall be defined as an organized group of people who meet weekly at a specified time and place. The purpose of this meeting must be to study the Bible, using Sunday School curriculum approved by the Christian Life and Sunday School Board. This will constitute the regular Sunday School weekly attendance.

a. Attendance counts shall be closed no later than the halfway point of the regular Sunday School session. This shall also apply to unified or special services.

b. An enrollee in a local Sunday School shall be considered present in his local Sunday School when attending on that Sunday, a local, zone, district, region, or general church-sponsored function as a retreat, assembly, camp meeting, and so on, as long as he is not counted in another local Sunday School where he is attending. Such functions shall include not less than one-half hour of Bible study.

c. All regular Sunday School sessions shall be used in determining the average attendance for the year, and that attendance shall be reported monthly to the district. For most churches, the number of Sunday School sessions held will be 52. In some geographical areas weather will occasionally prohibit regular Sunday School sessions. The District Christian Life and Sunday School Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine any valid exceptions.

SECTION 2. Extension Sunday School and/or Church-Type Missions. Extension Sunday Schools and/or church-type missions are defined as a group of people meeting under the sponsorship of a local church or a district with the purpose of someday becoming a fully organized church. This meeting must be held at least a half hour weekly to study the Bible, using an approved Sunday School curriculum. The attendance figures of any extension Sunday School or church-type mission shall be listed separately from the regular Sunday School session. The attendance at such extension Sunday Schools or church-type missions is to be reported to the district monthly and included in the total Sunday School attendance for the district.

a. If a local church sponsors an extension Sunday School or church-type mission in close geographical proximity to the church, this attendance should be reported under the sponsoring church's attendance and listed by name and location. If a local church sponsors more than one new work, each new work should be listed by name and location.

b. If a district or local church is promoting a large group of church planting situations and the local church sponsors are some distance from the new work, these extension Sunday Schools and/or church-type

missions may be listed separately, if desired, by the district, with their own name and location.

c. *Extended Ministry (outreach).* The attendance of all extended ministries shall be counted as the extended ministry attendance for the local church. Extended ministry attendance shall be defined as persons involved in a study of the Bible for at least one-half hour, but not otherwise meeting the criteria of a regular Sunday School session (Section 1) or extension Sunday School and/or church-type mission (Section 2). For example, this could include Home Department or Bible study groups. If the local church has more than one type of extended ministry, all figures should be added together in one total and reported separately each month from the regular Sunday School total and from the extension or church-type ministry total.

d. Since extended ministries and new works 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.

e. Attendance totals for the week, month, and year should be recorded as follows:

Regular Sunday School Attendance	125
Extension Sunday School/Church-Type Mission (Blue Valley)	15
Extended Ministries (outreach)	25

SUMMARY: The General Christian Life and Sunday School Division needs to have correct enrollment and attendance figures from each district in order to compile an accurate report of Sunday School growth within the denomination each year.

SECTION 3. Christian Day-Care/Preschool/Weekday Schools. We recognize that many Nazarene churches will conduct regular Bible study and Christian training in their Nazarene day-care/preschool/weekday school. The attendance in these programs should be counted and reported annually to the denomination by means of the pastor's annual report only.

ARTICLE III. *Classes and Departments*

SECTION 1. The Sunday School shall be divided into classes for children and youth on the basis of school grade. For adults the classes should be determined by common interests.

SECTION 2. When the number of classes within the children's, youth, or adult division increase, attention should be given to departmentalization with a supervisor appointed by the Christian Life and Sunday School Board.

SECTION 3. The duties of the department supervisor shall be to: (a) coordinate the work of the teachers within the department; (b) conduct departmental meetings when necessary; (c) insure that each teacher within the department has the necessary curriculum, additional resources, and equipment available when needed; (d) be responsible for ordering all necessary curriculum and materials for the department [give order to ordering secretary]; (e) work with the corresponding age-group director of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board to promote Sunday School enrollment and attendance and implement any special campaigns; (f) present training needs of the department's teachers to the corresponding age-group director for presentation to the Christian Life and Sunday School Board; (g) keep accurate enrollment and attendance records for the department and see that all absentees and prospects are contacted regularly; (h) work with the teachers in the department to see that the entire area is attractive and conducive to learning; and (i) be responsible for the securing of substitute teachers within the department.

ARTICLE IV. *Teachers*

SECTION 1. The department supervisors and teachers shall be appointed annually according to *Manual*.

SECTION 2. While the ideal is for each teacher to serve for the entire year, in certain circumstances it may be advisable to appoint teachers for a shorter term.

SECTION 3. In case of properly proved unsoundness of doctrine, imprudent conduct, or neglect of duty, the Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall have the right to declare the office of any officer or teacher vacant according to *Manual*.

SECTION 4. All Sunday School teachers and substitutes should: (a) attend workers' meetings regularly; (b) contact each student, absentee, and prospect on a regular basis; (c) avail themselves of all training opportunities provided; (d) provide fellowship opportunities for the class periodically; (e) be responsible for seeing that the teaching area is attractive and conducive to learning; (f) prepare an effective lesson each week; and (g) be alert to salvation opportunities for each student.

ARTICLE V. *Officers and Their Duties*

SECTION 1. Under the direction of the pastor, the duties of the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall be to: (a) be superintendent of the Sunday School; (b) plan regular teachers' and workers' meetings; (c) provide training opportunities for teachers, sub-

stitute teachers, and prospective teachers; (d) communicate Sunday School enrollment and attendance campaign plans to all workers; (e) report the statistics of the Sunday School to the zone chairman each month; and (f) encourage attendance at district and general Christian Life and Sunday School functions.

SECTION 2. The duties of the age-group directors are outlined in the *Manual*.

SECTION 3. The Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall elect a person to keep the Sunday School records. He shall keep an accurate record for the entire Sunday School, of the responsibility list (enrollment), extended ministry list, prospect list attendance, visitors, and other items as may be required.

SECTION 4. The Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall elect a treasurer to keep an accurate account of all monies raised by the Sunday School each week and authorize the disbursement according to the direction of the board. A monthly report shall be given to the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board.

SECTION 5. The Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall appoint a person to be responsible for ordering the Sunday School curriculum and other resources requested by the age-group directors and/or department supervisors. He shall distribute to the appropriate age-group director all information received from Nazarene Publishing House and prepare the order after approval of the chairman and pastor.

ARTICLE VI. *Administration and Supervision*

SECTION 1. The Sunday School is under the care of the pastor, amenable to the local church board, and under the general supervision of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board and the immediate leadership of the chairman and age-group directors.

SECTION 2. If a church who has employed a full-time director of Christian education wishes to elect that person as chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board, the procedure is as follows: (a) the local church Nominating Committee would recommend to the annual church meeting that no chairman be elected for the coming church year, and that the full-time associate will serve as chairman; (b) the congregation should affirm the decision by majority vote; (c) the full-time associate will become the chairman of the Christian Life and Sunday School Board and will attend church board meetings to discuss Christian education interests but will not be a voting member. [166.4]

The same procedure should be followed for full-time paid associates who are requested to serve as the local age-group directors.

It shall be understood that these are temporary arrangements, and that all possible effort should be made to train and resource local lay leaders for these positions as soon as possible.

ARTICLE VII. Conventions

SECTION 1. District Conventions. It is important that each district plan a District Christian Life and Sunday School Convention annually in order to provide inspiration, motivation, and training for all Christian Life and Sunday School workers. The promotion of Sunday School should be a highlight of each convention.

a. Ex officio members of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Convention shall be: the district superintendent; all pastors, district licensed ministers, full-time associates, and district and local Christian Life and Sunday School Board chairmen; all district and local children's, youth, and adult directors; elected members of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board; and any Nazarene full-time professors of Christian education with membership on that district.

b. Each local Sunday School shall elect additional representatives equal to 25 percent of the officers and teachers of the school in the annual church meeting.

c. The Christian Life and Sunday School Board shall serve as a nominating committee to select twice the number of nominees to be elected by plurality vote. These nominees should be members of the Church of the Nazarene, be actively involved in one of the ministries of Christian Life and Sunday School, and should be selected from the various age-groups (children, youth, adult workers). In case elected representatives cannot attend, alternate representatives shall be designated in the order of the votes received.

d. The representatives to the District Christian Life and Sunday School Convention may elect the District Christian Life and Sunday School chairman and the elected members of the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board according to 238, and representatives to the General Christian Life and Sunday School Convention at the proper time.

SECTION 2. General Convention

a. Ex officio representatives to the General Christian Life and Sunday School Convention shall be: directors and staff of the Christian Life and Sunday School Division, professors of Christian education at Nazarene colleges and seminary, district superintendents, district chairmen, district directors of children, district directors of youth, and district directors of adults.

b. Each district should elect four additional representatives which is the number equal to the district ex officio members (excluding NYI president who is elected by the NYI Convention) or a number equal to 1 percent of the Sunday School officers on the district, whichever number is larger.

c. The following guidelines should be adhered to in elections for General Christian Life and Sunday School Convention representatives:

(1) The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, District Christian Life and Sunday School Board chairman, and at least three others appointed by the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board. They shall select three times the number of nominees to be elected.

(2) The District Convention shall elect an equal number of representatives from all Christian Life and Sunday School ministries (excepting youth). Those elected should be persons who are presently and actively involved in the respective area to which they are elected.

Persons should not be elected who will serve as delegates to the General Nazarene World Mission Society Convention or the General Nazarene Youth International Convention, because the three conventions run concurrently.

(3) Representatives shall be elected by ballot in the District Christian Life and Sunday School Convention (except NYI delegates) within 16 months prior to the General Convention. The District NYI Convention shall elect youth delegates within 16 months of the General NYI Convention according to the General NYI Constitution.

(4) As nearly as possible, elect an equal number of laymen and clergy—that is, 50 percent laymen and 50 percent full-time active ministers, elders or licensed ministers. When the total number is uneven, the extra representative shall be a layman.

(5) Incumbent district Christian Life and Sunday School leaders newly elected prior to and holding office at the time of the General Convention shall be the ex officio members of the convention.

(6) All elected and ex officio representatives present in the District Convention shall be eligible to vote.

(7) A plurality vote shall be sufficient for election.

(8) In case elected representatives cannot attend, alternate representatives shall be designated in the order of the votes they receive on a new ballot. The number of alternates elected should include alternates for ex officio members.

(9) If a district cannot finance the full number of representatives to the General Christian Life and Sunday School Convention as prescribed in the *Manual*, it may elect as many persons as the district can afford to

send, as determined by the District Christian Life and Sunday School Board.

(10) Representatives who attend the convention should have financial assistance from the district comparable to expenses provided from the district for Nazarene Youth International and Nazarene World Mission Society convention delegates.

(11) If no convention is held, representatives shall be elected at the district assembly.

ARTICLE VIII. *Amendments*

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a General Assembly.

PART X

Forms



**THE LOCAL CHURCH
THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
BILLS OF CHARGES**

CHAPTER I

813. THE LOCAL CHURCH

813.1. Recommendation to the District Assembly

The Church Board of the _____ Church of the Nazarene at _____ recommends _____ to the _____ District Assembly for *

We certify that _____ has fulfilled all the requirements for such request.

By vote of the Church Board this _____ day of _____, 19_____

Chairman

Secretary

Credentials

*District minister's license
Renewal of district minister's license

Ministry Role Certificates

Christian education minister's commission
Song evangelist's registration
Renewal of deaconess' license
Consecration as deaconess
Minister of music commission

NOTE: This form may be used for different recommendations. Fill in at asterisk the appropriate certificate desired.

813.2. 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 _____, 19_____

NOTE: When a certificate of commendation is given a person, his membership immediately ceases in the local church issuing the certificate. [111.1]

813.3. 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 _____, 19_____

NOTE: Membership terminates immediately upon issuance of a letter of release. [1123]

813.4. Transfer of Members

This certifies that _____
is an active/inactive member in good standing 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 _____, 19_____

NOTE: A transfer is valid for three months only. [111]

813.5. Transfer Acknowledged

This certifies that _____
has been received into membership by the Church of the Nazarene at
_____ this _____ day of _____
19_____.

Pastor

Address

813.6. 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 that _____ 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 _____, the _____ day of _____, 19_____

Chairman

Secretary

CHAPTER II

814. THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Official district forms may be secured from the General Secretary, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

CHAPTER III

815. BILLS OF CHARGES

Section 1. In Trial of a Church Member

Section 2. In Trial of an Elder

Section 3. In Trial of a Licensed Minister

Bills of Charges can be secured from the General Secretary, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

PART XI

Appendix



GENERAL OFFICERS

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

INTERPRETATION OF CHURCH LAW

CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

CHAPTER I

900. GENERAL OFFICERS

900.1. General Superintendents

Eugene L. Stowe

Jerald D. Johnson

Charles H. Strickland

John A. Knight

William M. Greenhouse

Raymond W. Hurn

General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

D. I. Vanderpool, Emeritus

Samuel Young, Emeritus

Edward Lawlor, Emeritus

George Coulter, Emeritus

V. H. Lewis, Emeritus

Orville W. Jenkins, Emeritus

900.2. General Secretary

B. Edgar Johnson

900.3. General Treasurer

Norman O. Miller

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

6401 THE PASEO

KANSAS CITY, MO. 64131

CHAPTER II

901. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS,
AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

901.1. General Board

MEMBERS BY CHURCH REGIONS

(1) <i>Africa Region</i>	
L. B. Smith	D. Mahlangu
(2) <i>Asian Region</i>	
Jung-Doo Kim	E. B. Bansod
Young-Baek Kim	Ozias Liboon
(3) <i>Canada Region</i>	
William Stewart	Bob Rimington
(4) <i>Central U.S.A. Region</i>	
William Griffin	John Dickey
Kenneth Jewell	Richard Jones
C. Neil Strait	Vernon Lamm
(5) <i>East Central U.S.A. Region</i>	
Harold Graves	L. Thomas Skidmore
Jack Archer	Paul Gamertsfelder
(6) <i>Eastern U.S.A. Region</i>	
Dallas Mucci	Ronald Mercer
Howard Chambers	Merritt Mann
(7) <i>Europe, Middle East Region</i>	
David Tarrant	Manfred Dannewitz
(8) <i>Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Region</i>	
S. Onesimo Pot	Enrique Rojas D.
Danilo R. Solla G.	Jose J. Trevino A.
(9) <i>North Central U.S.A. Region</i>	
Jim Diehl	D. Ray Cook
Paul Cunningham	Leland King
(10) <i>Northwest U.S.A. Region</i>	
Melvin McCullough	Leon Doane
Don Wellman	Willard Friesen

(11) *South America Region*

Joaquim A. Lima
Solomon Barboza

Lidia D'Allessandro
Jacy A. DaSilva

(12) *South Central U.S.A. Region*

W. M. Lynch
Ponder Gilliland

David McClung
L. Glenn McArthur

(13) *South Pacific Region*

Max Stone

John Green

(14) *Southeast U.S.A. Region*

Talmadge Johnson
Millard Reed

Mark Greathouse
Odie Page

(15) *Southwest U.S.A. Region*

Robert Scott
Harold Bonner

David Barton
Howard Wooten

(16) *Ministry and Education*

Stephen Nease

Homer Adams

(17) *Nazarene World Mission Society*

Lela Jackson

(18) *Nazarene Youth International*

Woodie Stevens

901.2. General Court of Appeals

Paul Benefiel
Ponder Gilliland
Stephen Nease

Bruce Taylor
Gordon Wetmore, Secretary

**901.3. General Council of the
Nazarene Youth International**

Woodie Stevens, General President
David Wine, General Secretary
Emmanuel Doorsamy, Africa Region
Ernesto Bullock, Asian Region
David Murray, Canada Region
Bob Kring, Central U.S.A. Region
Michael M. Hancock, East Central U.S.A. Region
Ron McCormick, Eastern U.S.A. Region
Paul Tarrant, Europe and Middle East Region

Francisco Cardona Garcia, Mexico, Central America,
and the Caribbean Region

Caleb Herrera, North American Minority Representative

Michael A. Pitta, North Central U.S.A. Region

Randall Craker, Northwest U.S.A. Region

Abraham Guzars, South America Region

James Russom, South Central U.S.A. Region

Murray Watkinson, South Pacific Region

Bruce Oldham, Southeast U.S.A. Region

Russ Martin, Southwest U.S.A. Region

Cherie Tinker, Member-at-large

Dinora Y. Matamoros, Member-at-large

Teresa Beth Ulmet, Member-at-large

Dan Chung, NSLC Cochairman

Larry Leonard, Director, Department of Youth

Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, General Superintendent Adviser

901.4. General Council of the Nazarene World Mission Society

Mrs. Lela Jackson, President

_____, General Director

Mrs. Valerie Zanner, Africa Region

Mrs. Percida B. Mateo, Asian Region

Mrs. Marion Rich, Canada Region

Mrs. Carol Pounds, Central U.S.A. Region

Mrs. Barbara Flemming, East Central U.S.A. Region

Mrs. Doris Carnahan, Eastern U.S.A. Region

Mrs. Miep Holleman, Europe and Middle East Region

Rev. Farrell Chapman, Mexico, Central America,
and the Caribbean Region

Mrs. Betty Bowers, North Central U.S.A. Region

Miss Juanita Gardner, Northwest U.S.A. Region

Mrs. Stella de Bauza, South America Region

Dr. W. Stephen Gunter, South Central U.S.A. Region

Rev. W. John Kerr, South Pacific Region

Mrs. Genell Johnson, Southeast U.S.A. Region

Mrs. Evelyn Sutton, Southwest U.S.A. Region

Rev. Richard Gammill, Work and Witness

Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, General Superintendent Adviser

901.5. Nazarene Institutions of Higher Education

(G= graduate level; U= undergraduate level)

GENERAL CHURCH INSTITUTIONS

Nazarene Theological Seminary (G), Kansas City, Missouri

Nazarene Bible College (U), Colorado Springs, Colorado

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION**CANADA REGION**

Canadian Nazarene College (U), Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

CENTRAL U.S.A. REGION

Olivet Nazarene College (G), Kankakee, Illinois

EAST CENTRAL U.S.A. REGION

Mount Vernon Nazarene College (U), Mount Vernon, Ohio

EASTERN U.S.A. REGION

Eastern Nazarene College (G), Quincy, Massachusetts

EURASIA REGION

British Isles Nazarene College (U), Manchester, England

NORTH CENTRAL U.S.A. REGION

Mid-America Nazarene College (G), Olathe, Kansas

NORTHWEST U.S.A. REGION

Northwest Nazarene College (G), Nampa, Idaho

SOUTH CENTRAL U.S.A. REGION

Bethany Nazarene College (G), Bethany, Oklahoma

SOUTHEAST U.S.A. REGION

Trevecca Nazarene College (G), Nashville, Tennessee

SOUTHWEST U.S.A. REGION

Point Loma Nazarene College (G)

San Diego, California

CHURCH GROWTH DIVISION INSTITUTIONS**SOUTHWEST U.S.A. REGION**

Nazarene Indian Bible College (U)

Albuquerque, New Mexico

WORLD MISSION DIVISION INSTITUTIONS**AFRICA REGION**

Africa Nazarene Theological College (U)

Florida, Republic of South Africa

- Africa Nazarene Theological College (U)
 Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Africa
 Africa Nazarene Theological College (U)
 Swaziland

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

- Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (G)
 Metro Manila, Republic of the Philippines
 Australasian Nazarene Bible College (U)
 Thornlands, Queensland, Australia
 Indonesia Nazarene Bible College (U)
 Yog ya Karta, Indonesia
 Japan Christian Junior College (U)
 Chiba Shi, Japan
 Japan Nazarene Theological Seminary (U)
 Tokyo, Japan
 Korean Nazarene Theological Seminary (U)
 Cheonan City, Korea
 Luzon Nazarene Bible College (U)
 Baguio City, Republic of the Philippines
 Taiwan Nazarene Theological College (U)
 Taiwan, Republic of China
 Visayan Nazarene Bible College (U)
 Iloilo City, Republic of the Philippines

CARIBBEAN REGION

- Caribbean Nazarene Theological College (U)
 Port of Spain, Trinidad

EURASIA REGION

- European Nazarene Bible College (U)
 Schaffhausen, Switzerland

MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA REGION

- Seminario Nazareno de las Americas (U)
 San Jose, Costa Rica
 Seminario Nazareno Mexicano, A.C. (U)
 Mexico City, Mexico

SOUTH AMERICA REGION

- Seminario e Instituto Biblico da Igreja do Nazareno (U)
 Sao Paulo, Brazil

CHAPTER III

902. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

902.1. Parliamentary Procedure

We recommend the adoption of *Robert's Rules of Order* where applicable when no definite method of parliamentary procedure is indicated in the *Manual*. [1980]

902.2. 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, and that such gifts are to be carefully invested in funds usually accepted as trust funds by the courts of the land. [1980]

902.3. Debt

No institution may incur any debt on the strength of pledges, and pledges are not to be counted as assets. [1980]

902.4. 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 only effective 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.

Third, That the General Assembly authorize its general secretary, or an alternate whom he may appoint, to attend during the ensuing quadrennium each annual session of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society held in December at Bible House in New York City.

(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 the American Bible Society in the United States, and the respective Bible Societies in Canada and the British Isles; also that a special effort be made to have all of our churches take part in such an offering. [1980]

NOTE: It is understood that our churches in Scotland send their contributions to the National Bible Society in Scotland; the churches in England, to the British and Foreign Bible Society; and the churches in Canada, to the Canadian Bible Society. The churches of the United States forward contributions to our denominational Headquarters, 6801 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131, for the support of the American Bible Society.

902.5. Athletics

The schools and colleges of the Church of the Nazarene shall be bound by such regulations regarding intercollegiate activities as shall be recommended by Education Services and adopted by the General Board. [1976]

902.6. Dramatics

WHEREAS, There is danger in the excessive use of dramatic productions in our schools and colleges; be it

Resolved, That this practice be carefully restricted and greater emphasis be placed on the spiritual exercise that leads to sound Christian experience. [1980]

902.7. *Manual* Editing Resolution

Be it *Resolved,* That the members of the *Manual* Editing Committee appointed by the Board of General Superintendents be and they are hereby constituted the *Manual* Editing Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Manual* Editing Committee be and they are hereby authorized to harmonize conflicting statements which may appear in the record of the actions of the Twenty-first 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 farther authorized to substitute plainly understood words or expressions for confusing words or expressions, to revise the numbering of chapters, paragraphs, sections, and other divisions of the *Manual* in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-first General Assembly, and also to prepare the index in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-first General Assembly.

Further resolved that the supervision of all translations of the *Manual* shall be a duty of the *Manual* Editing Committee. [1985]

902.8. *Manual* Appendix Review

Any item remaining in Chapters III and V of the Appendix for three quadrennia (12 years) 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. [1976]

902.9. Tenure of Committees

Resolved, That any special committee created for any purpose, unless specified otherwise, will cease to exist at the following General Assembly. [1980]

902.10. General Assembly Business

(From the 1985 *Delegate's Handbook*)

RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS

Rule 26. Presentation. District assemblies, a committee authorized by the district assembly, the General Board or any of its recognized divisions, official boards or commissions of the general church, or five members or more 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 presented in triplicate and typewritten on the official form furnished by the general secretary.

b. Each resolution or petition presented will include the subject and the name of delegates or group making the presentation.

c. They shall be presented to the general secretary at least 90 days prior to the convening of the assembly to be numbered and sent to the Reference Committee in order that they may be printed in the *Delegate's Handbook*.

Rule 27. Resolutions and Petitions for Late Reference. With the consent of the assembly, resolutions, petitions, and other items for consideration by the assembly may be presented to the general secretary for reference to a legislative committee no later than 5 P.M. on the second day of business.

Rule 28. Proposals for *Manual* Changes. 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. Such resolutions, proposals, or petitions shall be submitted no later than March 1 of the year in which the General Assembly is held. These shall be referred to committees in accordance with Rule 37. These committees shall consider such proposals and report their recommendations to the General Assembly. If adopted, the proposals shall be submitted to the *Manual* Editing Committee to be harmonized with other *Manual* provisions.

902.11. Restrictions on Membership General Church Boards

Resolved, That no person shall serve on more than one of the following boards: General Board, Nazarene Theological Seminary Trustees, Nazarene Bible College Trustees. [1976]

CHAPTER IV

903. INTERPRETATION OF CHURCH LAW

Judiciary Actions

903.1. Has the District Advisory Board the right to transfer a member of the district assembly to another denomination?

Ans. The District Advisory Board has no authority to transfer a member of the district assembly to another denomination; however, the District Advisory Board may issue a Certificate of Commendation as provided in the *Manual* [1976]

903.2. Relating to Special Rule 33.3, "membership in oath-bound secret orders or societies."

(a) Does this mean that the Church of the Nazarene will not permit its members to hold their former insurance in this class of orders, provided that the fees are paid for this purpose only and there is no fellowship with the organization?

(b) Does a church have the right to maintain the membership of a person when he holds membership in a secret order solely for the purpose of keeping his insurance while it bars from membership other persons because they are members of the same order?

Ans. (a) (b) According to 33.3 of our *Manual* one cannot be a member of the Church of the Nazarene while holding membership in an oath-bound secret order.

903.3. Special Rule 33.5 relating to "using of tobacco in any of its forms, or trafficking therein."

Does this prohibit church membership in the Church of the Nazarene to a person who is employed in a store, either as clerk or manager, where among other things he is obliged to sell tobacco?

Ans. There is a distinction between trafficking as the owner of a business and selling as a clerk; and, therefore, we would not interpret the selling as a clerk as violating the letter of the *Manual*.

903.4. At a church meeting called for the purpose of voting on the recall of a pastor, is it legal to count the votes of members not present at the time of such voting?

Ans. It would be illegal to count the votes of members not present when voting on the recall of a pastor.

903.5. If a licensed minister meets all the requirements for the renewal of his license according to 403.3, is the district assembly obliged to renew such license?

Ans. A district assembly is not under obligation according to 403.3 to renew said license.

903.6. A church has a debt on its property. It elects a finance committee of three who are members of the church board with instructions to receive and disburse all money which applies to the church debt. Has the church the right to make this committee custodian of that part of the church funds and to receive and disburse the same independent of the regularly elected church treasurer?

Ans. The church does have such a right.

903.7. A pastor resigns. The district superintendent calls the church board together to consider the appointment of a man to fill the vacancy until the next district assembly. He finds that the church board had previously held a meeting and elected a man for the pastorate for the remainder of the district assembly year, and also had called him for the year following. Is the church acting within its rights?

Ans. The church is not acting within its rights.

903.8. In case a district superintendent and pastor fail to investigate charges filed against a minister in their assembly district as directed in 502 of the *Manual*, does this incriminate the district superintendent or the pastor for failure to make this investigation?

Ans. A district superintendent would be incriminated if he failed to investigate written accusations against a minister in his assembly district. The fact of his amenability to his district assembly is evidence that he will be subject to charges for failing to discharge his official duty. [1928]

903.9. Clarify the status of an elder who may be dropped from the local membership roll on account of absence of over a six-month period, which is unsatisfactorily explained, and the nonsupport of the church during this period. If a local church drops his name from the roll, what is his assembly relationship?

Ans. It is the opinion of the Committee on Judiciary that the dropping of an elder from the church roll of which he is a member, under the conditions mentioned, cannot affect his status as a member of his assembly district but does place responsibility on such elder to comply with 411.8. [1976]

CHAPTER V

**904. CURRENT MORAL AND
SOCIAL ISSUES****904.1. Prayer and Bible in Schools
and Local, State, and Federal Governments
of the United States of America**

The Church of the Nazarene recognizes that the founders of the United States of America were very conscious of the law of God and those Christian principles that may be found in the Holy Scriptures as a basis for a just and enduring civil government.

As a consequence the nation has given reverent recognition and honor to God in many ways throughout its history. The First Amendment of the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The free exercise of prayer and Bible reading were not considered to be in opposition to the Constitution.

However, since certain atheistic, secular, or even some religious forces have set about to destroy the time-tested fabric of this national life, the Church of the Nazarene firmly resolves to support:

- (1) All present references to God found on the national currency and the pledge of allegiance and other reverent usage,
- (2) The present system of chaplaincy in federal, state, and local governments,
- (3) Voluntary prayer and Bible reading in any public, government, or private institutions,
- (4) The traditional practice of public school baccalaureate, and
- (5) Prayer and other religious observances by public and civic organizations. [1976]

904.2. War and Military Service

We believe 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 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. [1980]

904.3. Race and Discrimination

We wish to reiterate our historic stand of Christian compassion for men of all races. We believe that God is the Creator of all men, and that of one blood are all men created.

We believe that each individual, regardless of race, color, 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 "Follow peace with all men" [Hebrews 12:14] should guide the actions of our people. We urge that each member of the Church of the Nazarene humbly examine his personal attitudes and actions toward other races, 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 will come when the hearts of men 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. [1980]

904.4. Tobacco and Its Effects on Health and Morals

In view of our historic stand on the use of tobacco and its attendant evils; and

WHEREAS, medical evidence documented by numerous social, governmental, and health agencies throughout the world, have condemned its use as a health hazard, and have shown conclusively that its use may produce and result in changes in normal bodily physiology, both serious and permanent; and

WHEREAS we are admonished to maintain our bodies as the temple of the Holy Ghost [1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20]; and

WHEREAS we are concerned about the protection of our youth against any enemy of health and morals; and

WHEREAS the above-mentioned organizations and agencies have condemned the use of tobacco; and

WHEREAS cancer, cardiovascular, and pulmonary societies have conducted a concerted campaign against smoking, be it

Resolved, That the Church of the Nazarene continue to speak out against this social evil and that the Christian Action Committee of the general church, when feasible, encourage these agencies and organizations which have conducted campaigns against smoking. [1980]

904.5. The Church and Human Freedom

Concerned that our great Protestant heritage be understood and safeguarded, we remind our people that both political and religious freedom rest upon biblical concepts of the dignity of man as God's creation and the sanctity of his individual conscience. We encourage our people to participate in political 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 which elected them when carrying out a public trust. Further, we resist any invasion of these principles by religious groups seeking special favors.

We believe that the role of the Church is to be prophetic and constantly to remind the people that "righteousness exalteth a nation" [Proverbs 14:34]. [1985]

904.6. Modern or Folk Dancing

The Church of the Nazarene is opposed to all forms of social or folk dancing in public or private gatherings, even under the guise of physical education classes. [53.4] [1980]

904.7. Magazines, Literature, Radio, and Other Electronic Media

Since 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, and other electronic media, it is essential that the most rigid safeguards be observed to keep our homes from becoming secularized and worldly.

While we recognize these agencies are of great value in the propagation of the gospel and the salvation of souls, we do deplore the low moral tone of much current literature, comic magazines, articles and pictures of some magazines, and the contents of many books.

We do likewise deplore the content of many radio and television programs and other electronic media. Due to the rapid decline in quality of programming suitable for Christian viewing and the fact that television is one of the major factors in the communication breakdown in families, which in turn is a major cause in the rising divorce rates; and due to the fact that television stresses by implication the use of alcohol, the acceptance of the practice of homosexuality, the practice of promiscuity, and the philosophy of secular humanism; and due to the apparent lack of discrimination in home television, resulting in an inconsistency in regard to our official stand on the movie theater; and due to the availability of uncensored movies in the home through Home Box Office, we urge our people to avoid programs which glamorize the world's philosophy of secularism, sensualism, and materialism.

We especially recommend that reading, listening, and viewing on the Lord's Day be consistent with our high standards of holiness and that unless providentially hindered we do not allow anything [even religious radio and television programs] to become a substitute for church attendance.

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 mediums.

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. [1980]

904.8. Public Swimming and Recreational Activities

Recognizing the increasing trend toward immodesty of dress in public places of recreation such as beaches and swimming places, we remind our people of our traditional concept of "modesty that becometh holiness" and urge that Christian judgment be exercised in the matter of swimming or sunbathing in public places. [1980]

904.9. Pornography

Pornography is an evil which is undermining the morals of society. Printed and visual materials which degrade the dignity of mankind 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. [1985]

904.10. Women's Rights

Resolved, That while man and woman are created equal spiritually in God's sight [Galatians 3:28], that in the interests of the Christian family, moral and ethical standards, Christian modesty and simplicity, we emphasize the distinction as male and female and stress that we respect the God-given distinction so each may fulfill his or her highest place in the home and in the kingdom of God. We support the right of women to use their God-given spiritual gifts within the church. We affirm the historic right of women to be elected and appointed to places of leadership within the Church of the Nazarene. We oppose any legislation which would be against the scriptural teachings of the place of womanhood in society. [1980]

905. Evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit

We believe 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: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us: and put no difference between us and them, purifying 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, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" [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. [1985]

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