



March 2, 2017

Greetings,

The District Advisory Council (DAC) of the North Central Ohio District Church of the Nazarene would like to announce a call for nominations for the position of District Superintendent. Our current district pastor, Steve Ward, is retiring from the position at our July assembly. He and Thais will be deeply missed; his humble servant leadership has produced ten quality years of service to our district. We salute them and thank them both of the years of commitment to the NCO district.

Please find attached two documents:

1. The **profile of our district** that was developed through a variety of means. We held three area focus group meetings composed of 89 people representing 31 churches, an online survey of our district pastors both active and retired with 55 responses, and a survey sent to all church board secretaries for discussion during their January board meetings which produced 104 responses from 26 churches.
2. Additionally, the DAC utilized the responses to build a **position profile** to be used as nominations are reviewed.

All nominations will be screened and vetted for adherence to both the position profile and the Board of General Superintendents' directive that we search for one 'whose ministerial record demonstrates an emphasis on growth, missional effectiveness, evidence of denominational loyalty and fiscal responsibility.'

Logic tells us the wider we cast our net, the stronger the possibility exists we will gather more candidates. We believe the Lord is already preparing our next district leader for us. It is our prayer, and one we certainly hope you'll join us in praying, that this process will bring us together in His divine will, providence, and timing.

Please submit all nominations, with a brief explanation as to why you are nominating this person, to Austin Swallow at aswallow@columbus.rr.com. Nominations should be submitted by March 24, 2017.

Blessings to you and yours during this Lenten season,

The NCO District Advisory Council



North Central Ohio Church of the Nazarene

District Profile

The North Central Ohio District serves to advance God's kingdom by encouraging and resourcing the local church to accomplish the mission of the Church of the Nazarene within each church's unique context. We are fortunate to have a compact geographical area with 63 organized churches, 2 compassionate ministries in 22 counties in the central and northeastern part of Ohio. Our district stretches from the outskirts of Columbus north to Lake Erie, encompassing the cities of Delaware, Marion, Wooster, Mansfield, Sandusky, and the metropolitan Cleveland area, then east along the lake to Ashtabula and the PA border.

Our congregations range in size from 12-1053 (as reported in 2016), most in rural communities. We have 12 churches averaging over 200 in their worship services; 13 churches averaging fewer than 30 in attendance. Along with our Arabic and Hispanic congregations in Cleveland, we continue to experience great outreach and blessings through the ministry of Lighthouse, Inc., and their subsidiary ministry of Heaventrain (a big blue bus that takes Jesus into the toughest neighborhoods of Cleveland each weekend). Our largest churches are in smaller cities; ones with heavy Caucasian populations.

An example of this wide range of socio-economic characteristics is the district's connection to and responsibility in the progressive and prosperous northern suburbs of Columbus in Delaware County contrasted with the extreme poverty and dysfunction of the inner city of Cleveland in Cuyahoga County, our most heavily populated area. Throughout the 42 years of the district's existence, we have been blessed by great success stories but also some strong disappointments.

NCO is very fortunate to have Mount Vernon Nazarene University as part of our district. Throughout the year, MVNU serves as a resource to our ministers and lay leaders through seminars and training events. The University also graciously hosts our assembly and family camp each July.

Our district and the pastors who serve with us are very much a family. There is a strong sense of community, love and support for each other. We have a strong foundation in all auxiliary ministries and our annual camp meeting. We believe that pastoring (serving as a God-called shepherd) is an awesome privilege and responsibility.



North Central Ohio Church of the Nazarene

District Superintendent Position Profile

The sixty-three churches, two NCM's and the 9,500 regular weekly attendees of the North Central Ohio District are seeking the Lord's direction as we search for a new shepherd.

We are praying to connect with a shepherd who

has calloused knees While it should go unsaid, our new leader must be in a close personal relationship with God. We seek someone willing to wrestle with God, to ascertain His direction for our district and to have the courage to spiritually guide us forward within the Nazarene holiness message.

has a compassionate heart A person willing to direct us to look anew at our post-Christian world with compassion, understanding and imagination and with discernment towards the varied cultures found across our district. One also able to cast us forward with new vision; using the tools available today for the lost, the 'different', the 'neglected' of our societies. We are pursuing an empathetic person, one with the heart of encouragement, a restorer of souls.

has a crooked staff Shepherds know their flock, individually and collectively. We are from rust belt communities as well as rural towns. Our southern counties look not to the mission field of Cleveland but to the progressive state capitol of Columbus. While others look at our unity; both among the clergy and the laity, others point to the complacency that besets us all. Our shepherd should challenge us and support us and lovingly correct us when needed.

has some dust on their robes Our new guide must have practical pastoral experience. They must have seen success and failure, been acquainted with grief. One who knows perseverance but also knows when to 'close the book' on an idea whose day is past. A shepherd to provide wise counsel and guidance based on the roads they have traveled. One who knows which of us should lead and which should follow; which to place in the correct location.

has broad shoulders Tucked into our fold is Mount Vernon Nazarene University, a resource of space and talent. We seek a leader who understands themselves and is comfortable enough to take advantage of the connections available at MVNU; one interested in collaboration and innovation; a delegator and mentor.