

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE | GARY HARTKE, GENERAL SECRETARY

24 August 2023

Memo To: Superintendents of All Phase 3 and Phase 2 Districts

From: Dr. Gary Hartke, General Secretary

Reference: *MANUAL* CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

One portion of the Constitution of the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* was amended by the Thirtieth General Assembly held in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 12-15 June 2023. According to *Manual* paragraph 26, "A two-thirds vote is required on each constitutional amendment item by any Phase 3 or Phase 2 district assembly." For the amendment to be accepted, it requires ratification by not less than two-thirds of the Phase 3 and Phase 2 district assemblies.

Attached is the document with changes/additions highlighted and noted (new text is underlined; brackets [] indicate text to be deleted). Also, for your convenience, we have included the rationale. Please duplicate or forward this document to your district delegation for review **in advance** of the district assembly. **The actions to ratify the amendment to the constitution are not to be debated or amended by the district assembly.**

Once the district has taken action on the amendment, please record the results on the Official Record form. The form requires the electronic or manual signature of a general superintendent or regional director, and the signature of the district superintendent. After the signatures have been obtained, the form may be forwarded by electronic means to the General Secretary's Office (gensec@nazarene.org). We look forward to receiving your Official Record forms within 30 days of the date of the district assembly.

All *Manual* constitutional amendment documents and forms are available on the General Assembly documents website at <https://gadocs.nazarene.org/index.php/s/MCA> in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Korean.

May God bless you as you fulfill this important responsibility.

attachments

cc: Board of General Superintendents
Dr. Verne Ward III, Global Missions Director
Regional Directors

GLOBAL MINISTRY CENTER

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BY THE
THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Adopted at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
June 2023

The _____ District shall consider concurrence or non-concurrence (by **two-thirds vote** of district assembly delegates) with action of the Thirtieth General Assembly held in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 12-15 June 2023, amending the constitution of the Church of the Nazarene.

NOTE: Changes are highlighted. New text is underlined; brackets [] indicate text to be deleted.

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 15, Article of Faith XV, be amended as follows:

XV. Second Coming of Christ

15. We believe that at the end of the age the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed as Lord of all. He will come again in glory and power to establish fully the kingdom of God that He proclaimed and initiated in His life and ministry. As the Triune God first created heaven and earth, God will renew them in the new creation where He will dwell eternally with His redeemed people. [; that w] 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. In that day, God, who in the cross triumphed over all evil powers, will complete His loving purposes for creation. There will be no more suffering, injustice, or death, and God will wipe away every tear.

REASONS:

We believe that at the end of the age the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed as Lord of all.

God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ who is lord of all creation. We believe this has been and is forever true, but not fully acknowledged in the present age. In the day of His appearing, this will be fully known to all creation.

- Philippians 2:5-11
- I Corinthians 13:12-13
- Matthew 24
- I Thessalonians 4:16-17

He will come again in glory and power to establish fully the kingdom of God that he proclaimed and initiated in his life and ministry.

The already/not-yet Kingdom has come in Christ Jesus and will be fully realized in the final day.

- Luke 4:18-21
- I Corinthians 15:24-25, 28
- Matthew 6:9-13
- Deuteronomy 10:17

As the Triune God first created heaven and earth, God will renew them in the new creation where He will dwell eternally with His redeemed people.

As God created the universe, the whole Creation will be renewed, restored, re-created in the final day in accord with the will and purposes of God.

- Revelation 21:1-8
- Romans 8:18-22
- Isaiah 65:17-25
- Isaiah 66:22-23
- Acts 3:21
- II Peter 3:7-13
- II Corinthians 5:17

In that day, God, who in the cross triumphed over all evil powers, will complete His loving purposes for creation.

Christ Jesus, the Christus Victor, defeated all the powers of sin and death for all time. The loving purposes of God will be consummated in His return.

- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Matthew 28:18
- Philippians 1:6
- Revelation 12:10-12

There will be no more suffering, injustice, or death, and God will wipe away every tear.

- Revelation 21:1-8