

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
Action: ___ Adopted	Vote: ___ For	Action: ___ Adopted	
___ Amended & Adopted	___ Against	___ Amended & Adopted	
___ Referred	___ Abstain	___ Referred	
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CA-701

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
Reference Committee, Kansas City District, Washington Pacific District and
Wisconsin District Resolutions Committees
Manual 903.6 (new paragraph)

RESOLVED that a new *Manual* paragraph be added as follows:

903.6. Gender Inclusive Language

The Church of the Nazarene affirms and encourages the use of gender inclusive language in reference to persons. Publications, including the *Manual* and public language should reflect this commitment to gender equality as expressed in paragraph 903.5.

FURTHER RESOLVED that remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly.

REASONS:

1. The Church of the Nazarene has historically embraced gender equality. Yet, sometimes the words that we use unintentionally may exclude women where the masculine word forms are used. For example, *Manual* paragraph 11 uses the word "son" where "child" would be more inclusive without changing the meaning. The term *child* of God would be more appropriate.
2. Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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___ Rejected		___ Rejected	

CA-700

MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCH OFFICERS
Metro New York District General Assembly Resolutions Committee,
Mid-Atlantic, and Virginia Districts
Manual 39

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 39 be amended as follows:

F. Church Officers

39. We direct our local churches to elect as church officers [only persons] active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (113[9-13].10, 127, 145, 146, 147)

REASONS:

1. One can meet the current requirements listed in paragraph 39 without being a member of the local church.
2. The requirement of membership for a church officer is not listed until paragraph 113.10.
3. In the Church of the Nazarene, church officers must, and should, be active members of the local church in which they serve.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-702

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CHRISTIAN COMPASSION
Reference Committee, East Ohio District General Assembly Delegation,
Eurasia Regional Advisory Council and USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism
Department
Manual 33.3 (new paragraph)

RESOLVED that a new paragraph be added to the *Manual* as follows:

33.3. The Church of the Nazarene believes this new and holy way of life involves practices to be avoided and redemptive acts of love to be accomplished for the souls, minds, and bodies of our neighbors. One redemptive arena of love involves the special relationship Jesus had, and commanded his disciples to have, with the poor of this world; that His Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor and marginalized. Throughout the Bible and in the life and example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor and not simply to offer charity from positions of comfort. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe the Christian's responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love. We believe Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that it drives the Christian beyond their own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in this world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others.

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing *Manual* paragraph 33.3 and subsequent paragraphs be renumbered as appropriate.

REASONS:

1. The Holy Spirit-birthered compassion movement has facilitated the expansion of the kingdom through the Church of the Nazarene in recent

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decades. In 2006 and 2007, the General Board adopted major motions to extend Christian compassion throughout the global church. To facilitate that growth and ensure that compassion stays embedded in our Nazarene culture, it seems imperative that compassion be built not only into the fabric of the church's daily life, but also integrated deeply into the church's authoritative statements.

2. The *Manual* is our official agreed-upon statement of faith, practice and polity. Having compassion statements written into it as biblically, historically, and theologically defining who Jesus is and who we are, is important to laying a solid foundation of compassion for this and future generations.
3. This brings verbiage which is almost identical with appendix paragraph 903.4 (Responsibility to the Poor) into the Covenant of Christian Conduct section of the body of the *Manual*. No changes to the paragraph in the appendix are recommended at this time.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-703

EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
Reference Committee
Manual 903.9

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RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.9 be reconsidered, and that a recommendation be made to include it as is in the 2009 *Manual*, or modify it, or eliminate it from the 2009 and succeeding *Manuals*, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

KEEP, MODIFY, or ELIMINATE?

903.9. Evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The Church of the Nazarene believes that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth and to the subsequent work of heart cleansing, or entire sanctification, through the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

We affirm that the one biblical evidence of entire sanctification, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is the cleansing of the heart by faith from original sin as stated in Acts 15:8-9: "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith." And this cleansing is manifested by the fruit of the Spirit in a holy life. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:22-24).

To affirm that even a special or any alleged physical evidence, or "prayer language," is evidence of the baptism with the Spirit is contrary to the biblical and historic position of the Church. (1997)

REASON:

1. Appendix items must be reconsidered at least every three quadrennia, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-704

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3 EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
4 New England District General Assembly Resolutions Committee
5 *Manual 903.9*
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8 RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.9 be amended as follows:
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10 903.9. Evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit

11 The Church of the Nazarene believes that the Holy Spirit bears witness
12 to the new birth and to the subsequent work of heart cleansing, or entire
13 sanctification, through the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

14 We affirm that the one biblical evidence of entire sanctification, or the
15 infilling of the Holy Spirit, is the cleansing of the heart by faith from original
16 sin as stated in Acts 15:8-9: "God, who knows the heart, showed that he
17 accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made
18 no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith." And
19 this cleansing is manifested by the fruit of the Spirit in a holy life. "But the fruit
20 of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
21 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who
22 belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and
23 desires" (Galatians 5:22-24).

24 To affirm that even a special or any alleged physical evidence, or
25 "prayer language," is evidence of the baptism with the Spirit is contrary to the
26 biblical and historic position of the Church. (1997)

27 The Church of the Nazarene has never endorsed speaking in tongues or
28 the use of a special prayer language, or any other exceptional physical or
29 spiritual manifestations, as proof of baptism with the Spirit. While the
30 possibility of the Holy Spirit manifesting itself in such fashion is not beyond
31 the power of God to accomplish, it in no way serves to distinguish those who
32 enjoy the gift of the Holy Spirit from those who do not. Relying on speaking in
33 tongues, or other extraordinary manifestations, as proof of such baptism
34 contradicts the understanding of the Church of the Nazarene and the common
35 Christian experience of the last two millennia. While we cannot prohibit such
36 rare and exceptional movement on the part of the Spirit, should the Spirit see fit
37 so to act, the Church of the Nazarene does not recognize such activity as
38 something to be approved, endorsed, or encouraged, as it is contrary to our
39 understanding of God as desirous of making Himself known to His people in
40 clear and understandable ways.
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COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-705

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3 COVENANT OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT—GLUTTONY
4 Virginia District
5 *Manual* 34.7 (new paragraph)
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8 RESOLVED that a new paragraph be added to the *Manual* as follows:
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10 34. We hold specifically that the following practices should be avoided:

11
12 34.7 The practice of gluttony. Our people should seek to maintain the
13 health and fitness of their bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
14 (Proverbs 23:19-21; Matthew 11:19; 23:25; 1 Corinthians 9:27;
15 Galatians 5:23; Philippians 3:19; Titus 1:8; 2:12; Hebrews 12:16; 2 Peter 1:6)
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18 REASONS:
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- 20 1. The issues that we address in our Covenant of Christian Conduct must
21 not only be biblically-based but principled and consistent. Since our
22 bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we have advised against
23 smoking tobacco based solely on the medical fact that smoking is a
24 leading cause of preventable disease and death, it is inconsistent to not
25 include the other leading cause of preventable disease and death which
26 is overweight/obesity.
27
28 2. Gluttony and smoking are both preventable choices that lead to
29 diseases. (Overweight/Obesity is the second leading cause of
30 preventable death the United States, surpassed only by smoking—
31 United States Department of Health and Human Services.)
32
33 3. In membership classes this inconsistency is often brought to light and
34 puts us in the hypocritical position of condemning the health risks of
35 smoking while remaining silent about the more socially acceptable but
36 almost equally devastating health risks of obesity which results from
37 gluttony.
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39 4. We should include gluttony or eliminate our exclusive condemnation of
40 tobacco and simply address the principle of not knowingly doing any
41 harm to our bodies which are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
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COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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___ Rejected		___ Rejected	

CA-706

WORKING WITH IMMIGRANTS
USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Department

RESOLVED that the 27th General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene go on record affirming the following:

1. Provide pastoral care and crisis intervention to immigrants and to build bridges with the immigrant community, regardless of their legal status.
2. Provide technical and financial assistance to local churches in compassionate ministry with undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers.
3. Become more informed and active citizens, using our voices and votes to speak for the voiceless, to defend the poor and the vulnerable, and to advance the common good.
4. Encourage our leaders to show their support for congregations composed of or working with immigrants who may or may not have documents.

REASONS:

1. Whereas, God has demonstrated a profound love for the needy and disenfranchised; and,
2. Whereas, Jesus exemplified proactive consideration for the marginalized in society, i.e., the outsiders; and,
3. Whereas, Christians have a responsibility to ensure fair and equitable treatment of aliens and strangers.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-707

USE OF THE WORD "ETHNIC"
USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Department

RESOLVED that the 27th General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene go on record affirming the following:

That the word "ethnic" be considered an acceptable descriptive term when referring to immigrants and international people groups.

REASONS:

1. Whereas, by resolution, the word "ethnic" was eliminated from all current and future policy statements of the Church of the Nazarene at the 24th General Assembly; and,
2. Whereas, the term "ethnos" is a Greek term that the Bible uses in identifying the nations of the earth and was used by our Lord in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19); and,
3. Whereas, the common use of the term generally refers to "immigrant" or "international", and, to a lesser extent, minority; and,
4. Whereas, there is now general consensus that the original resolution lacked sufficient academic research.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-708

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CREATION
Indianapolis District Resolutions Committee
Manual 903.8

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.8 be amended as follows:

903.8. Creation

The Church of the Nazarene believes in the biblical account of creation [(“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”—Genesis 1:1).] We oppose any godless interpretation of the origin of the universe and of humankind. [However, the church accepts as valid all scientifically verifiable discoveries in geology and other natural phenomena, for we firmly believe that God is the Creator. (Articles I. 1., V. 5.1, VII.)] The biblical account states that God created the heavens and earth. (“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”-Genesis 1:1). Also, the biblical account explains: “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day” (Exodus 20:11a). And, Jesus taught: “...at the beginning of creation, God made them male and female” (Mark 10:6). The church affirms that the truth of God’s Word and the truth of all valid scientific evidences are the same truth. (2005)

REASONS:

1. This statement simply affirms what the authoritative and divinely inspired Word clearly states regarding creation.
2. In a statement on creation, doesn’t it make sense to state what the scriptures say regarding the subject?
3. It is very important to acknowledge and include the statement Jesus made regarding creation.
4. This statement acknowledges valid scientific evidence, but clarifies that such cannot contradict the divinely inspired Word of God.

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CA-709

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CREATION CARE
Intermountain District Resolutions Committee
Manual 903.9 (new paragraph)

RESOLVED that the following paragraph be added to the *Manual* and that subsequent paragraphs be renumbered accordingly:

903.9 Creation Care

With deep appreciation of God's creation we believe we are to strive to exhibit the stewardship qualities that help preserve His work. We acknowledge verifiable scientific principles about natural phenomena as expressions of His creation that help us understand, monitor and predict our influence on the planet's ecology. Recognizing we have been given a stake in sustaining the integrity of our surroundings, we accept the individual and collective responsibilities of doing so.

(Genesis 2:15, Psalms 8:3-9; 19:1-4; 148).

REASONS:

1. This declaration provides encouragement to Nazarenes around the world to give thoughtful attention to their personal responsibility in the stewardship of creation.
2. This declaration recognizes the verifiable impact of individuals and communities on the welfare of the environment and encourages leadership at home and in the community that is informed by scientific findings and consistent with the biblical call to be stewards of God's creation.

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CA-710

COVENANT OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT – MEMBERSHIP
IN OATH-BOUND SECRET ORDERS
Kansas District
Manual 34.3

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 34.3 be amended as follows:

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

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

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

REASON:

1. The rationale for the reference to *Manual* paragraph 112.1 is that because of the quasi-religious nature of their organization, membership in the Masonic Lodge is tantamount to that of membership in another church. An illustration of this is a Masonic funeral ritual.

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CA-711

CONFORMITY WITH CIVIL LAW
Anaheim District Advisory Board

RESOLVED that any decision or ruling of any elected or appointed official in the Church of the Nazarene, at the general, regional, district, or local levels, shall conform to civil law in the jurisdiction in which the decision or ruling is to be implemented.

REASONS:

1. Romans 13:1-5 tells us that we should submit to the governing authorities, and that they have not only been allowed to be in power, but established by God.
2. Conflict with local and national laws compromises the witness and effectiveness of the church.
3. Conflict with local and national laws creates civil and financial liability for local churches and districts.

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CA-712

PORNOGRAPHY
Reference Committee
Manual 903.10

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RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.10 be reconsidered, and that a recommendation be made to include it as is in the 2009 *Manual*, or modify it, or eliminate it from the 2009 and succeeding *Manuals*, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

KEEP, MODIFY, or ELIMINATE?

903.10. Pornography

Pornography is an evil that is undermining the morals of society. Printed and visual materials that degrade the dignity of humankind and are contrary to the scriptural view of the sanctity of marriage and the wholesomeness of sex are to be abhorred.

We believe that we are created in the image of God and that pornography degrades, exploits, and abuses men, women, and children. The pornography industry is motivated by greed, is the enemy of family life, has led to crimes of violence, poisons minds, and defiles the body.

To honor God as Creator and Redeemer, we urge active opposition to pornography by every legitimate means and the making of positive efforts to reach for Christ those who are involved in this evil. (1997)

REASON:

- Appendix items must be reconsidered at least every three quadrennia, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-713

ABUSE OF THE UNEMPOWERED
Reference Committee
Manual 903.3

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.3 be reconsidered, and that a recommendation be made to include it as is in the 2009 *Manual*, or modify it, or eliminate it from the 2009 and succeeding *Manuals*, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

KEEP, MODIFY, or ELIMINATE?

903.3. Abuse of the Unempowered

The Church of the Nazarene abhors abuse of any person of any age or sex and calls for increased public awareness through its publications and by providing appropriate educational information.

The Church of the Nazarene reaffirms its historical policy that all those who act under the authority of the Church are prohibited from sexual misconduct and other forms of abuse of the unempowered. When placing people in positions of trust or authority, the Church of the Nazarene will presume that past conduct is usually a reliable indicator of likely future behavior. The Church will withhold positions of authority from people who have previously used a position of trust or authority to engage in sexual misconduct or abuse of the unempowered, unless appropriate steps are taken to prevent future wrongful behavior. Expressions of remorse by a guilty person shall not be considered sufficient to overcome the presumption that future wrongful conduct is likely, unless the expressions of remorse are accompanied by an observable change of conduct for a sufficient length of time, to indicate that a repeat of the wrongful misconduct is unlikely. (1997)

REASON:

1. Appendix items must be reconsidered at least every three quadrennia, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

COMMITTEE		ASSEMBLY	
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CA-714

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DRAMATICS
Reference Committee
Manual 902.4

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 902.4 be reconsidered, and that a recommendation be made to include it as is in the 2009 *Manual*, or modify it, or eliminate it from the 2009 and succeeding *Manuals*, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.

KEEP, MODIFY, or ELIMINATE?

902.4. 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. (1997)

REASON:

1. Appendix items must be reconsidered at least every three quadrennia, according to *Manual* paragraph 902.6.