



TO: Senior Pastors
FROM: Steve Scott – District Superintendent
DATE: January 21, 2020
RE: Approval for Associates in the Local Church- **Manual paragraphs: 159-159.8 (2017-2021)**

Thank you for your continued faithfulness as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ! In the coming new church year, if you plan to renew or add associate/ministerial staff, please read this very carefully. The definition of Associate Staff in the local church includes pastoral staff and school principals, (full time or part time, paid or unpaid), whether district licensed, ordained, or non-credentialed; but does not include office staff, school teachers, or janitorial staff.

The **Manual** requires that all associates in the local church are hired for one year with the approval of the District Superintendent and the local Church Board. If this applies to your church, please complete and email/mail the attached request form(s) to the District office by March 27, 2020. If you have any new associate staff during the next few months, please submit the form as soon as any new associates(s) hiring is completed.

Approval of requests are based on 1) the necessity for additional staff, 2) the financial ability to support staff, and 3) the full payment of "*Shares for Others*" in the current church year. The appropriate Manual paragraphs on Associate Staff are provided on the next page for your reference.

Associates qualify for part time (PSV-PT) or full time (PSV-FT) whether they are paid or not. A full time assigned minister requires at least 30 accountable hours per week. Part time is anything less than 30 hours per week. Both situations should be verified monthly by the local church board.

In order for associate staff to be eligible for any future Pensions & Benefits, they must 1) be a district licensed or ordained minister, 2) serve full time (30+ accountable hours a week), and 3) derive at least 51% of their income from the local church ministry assignment as their primary vocation.

Please remember to schedule an annual evaluation of any/all associate staff to clarify responsibilities and affirm effective leadership. Thank you for developing leaders who have the passion and giftedness to help fulfill your community mission as servants of Christ!

Summary:

1. Complete an associate staff approval form for each associate staff by March 27, 2020.
2. Conduct an annual evaluation of all associate staff
3. Read and comply with **Manual paragraphs 159-159.8** relative to Associates in the Local Church.

- Where applicable, please be aware of the following ruling by the Board of General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene in compliance with government legislation. **Effective September 2008: UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN NATIONALS** (previously referred to as illegal aliens or undocumented immigrants) are not to be employed by a district or local Church of the Nazarene in the U.S.A., while a person holds an undocumented foreign national status.

**U. Associates in the Local Church (Manual of the Church of the Nazarene: 2017-2021)
Sacramento District Church of the Nazarene**

159. There may be those who feel called to prepare themselves for certain vital lay services in the church, either part-time or full-time. The church recognizes the place of such lay workers, and yet it is basically constituted a voluntary institution, with service to God and others the duty and privilege of all its members according to their abilities. When paid associates in the local church, or any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporations of the local congregation, whether ministerial or lay, become necessary for greater efficiency, it must be such as will not devitalize the spirit of free service by all its members or tax the church's financial resources including the payment of all financial apportionments. However, a request may be made in writing for review by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board for exceptions in special cases. (129.27)

159.1. All local paid or unpaid associates who provide specialized ministry within the context of the local church and enter into a relationship of vocational ministry within the church shall be elected by the church board, having been nominated by the pastor. All nominations must have prior approval in writing by the district superintendent, who shall respond within 15 days after receipt of the request. (159.4, 211.13)

159.2. The employment of such associates shall be for no more than one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of the pastor with the prior written approval of the district superintendent and the favorable vote of the church board. The pastor shall be responsible to conduct an annual review of each staff member. The pastor, in consultation with the church board, may make recommendations for staff development or modifications in job description as indicated by the review. The dismissal of all local associates prior to the end of the employment term must be by recommendation of the pastor, approval of the district superintendent, and the majority vote of the church board. Notification of dismissal or non-renewal must be given in writing not fewer than 30 days prior to the termination of employment. (129.27)

159.3. The duties and services of such associates are to be determined and supervised by the pastor. A clear, written statement of responsibilities (job description) shall be made available to associates within 30 days of the beginning of their responsibility.

159.4. No paid employee of the church shall be eligible for election to the church board. If a church board member should become a paid employee of the church, he or she shall not remain a member of the church board.

159.5. In times of pastoral transition, the stability, unity, and ongoing ministry of the local church is crucial. Consequently, the district superintendent (or a representative appointed by the district superintendent) will work closely with the local church board to implement the following steps which (a) may allow the local church to retain some or all staff for at least a period of time during the transition; (b) will still allow the new pastor freedom to develop his/her own team of associates, if desired; and (c) will allow a board and district superintendent discretion to provide transitioning staff a reasonable amount of time to make necessary personal and professional adjustments. First, upon resignation or termination of the pastor, any associates shall also submit their resignations effective concurrently with the pastor. Second, a local church board may request that the district superintendent approve the continued service of any or all associates. This approval, if granted, could continue until 90 days after the new pastor's assumption of duties or until the incoming pastor nominates paid associates for the coming year in harmony with paragraph.

159. Directors of childcare/schools (birth through secondary) shall submit their resignations effective at the end of the school year in which the new pastor assumes the duties of the office. The chief executive officer of any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporation shall submit his or her resignation at the end of that contractual period in which the new pastor assumes the duties of the office. The incoming pastor may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed.

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

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

159.8. Any person serving as paid staff would be ineligible to be called as pastor to the church of which he or she is a member without approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (115, 129.2, 211.10, 225.16)