



*Sacramento District*  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

***Interview Guidelines for Ministerial Candidates***

**Ministerial Credentials Board**

*Sacramento District Church of the Nazarene / 2020*

### **The Responsibilities of the Ministerial Credentials Board:**

*To carefully inquire of each candidate and make any other investigation deemed 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 Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, 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.*

[paragraph 231 - The Manual of the Church of the Nazarene]

### **The Purpose of the Ministerial Credentials Board:**

The Sacramento District Ministerial Credentials Board interviews ministerial candidates with an outlined approach to address critical issues relative to the course of study placement of a candidate in a given year. According to the interview guidelines, each year includes a review question related to four of the Articles of Faith of the Church of the Nazarene. The guidelines are designed so that over the four years or more of a candidate's course of study, all 16 Articles of Faith will be reviewed in the interview setting.

The appropriate year of assigned Articles is determined by the corresponding number of years in which the student has met with the Sacramento District Ministerial Credentials Board. This may or may not be the same as the designated Course of Study year for each student.

In the event that a candidate has transferred from another District it will be the desire of the Board to review any Articles of Faith not previously addressed by the Sacramento District with the candidate.

## First Year

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry?
3. Give us a scriptural summary from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you.
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. The Triune God
  - b. Jesus Christ
  - c. The Holy Spirit
  - d. The Holy Scriptures
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement? Please be prepared to address the specific issues contained in the Covenant.
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?

***We encourage you to develop clarity in your calling, to faithfully serve in ministry, and to diligently complete the necessary coursework & training in God's Word for ministry.***

## Second Year

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry?
3. Give us a scriptural summary from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you?
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. Sin, Original and Personal
  - b. Atonement
  - c. Prevenient Grace
  - d. Repentance
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement?
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?

***We encourage you to develop a hunger for God's Word, to be a compassionate evangelist to a lost world, and to establish a life of holy integrity and accountability.***

## Third Year

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry?
3. Give us a scriptural summary from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you?
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption
  - b. Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification
  - c. The Church
  - d. Baptism
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement?
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?

***We encourage you to surrender YOUR plans for GOD'S plan, and to embrace the authority of God's Word for the ethical and moral foundation of your ministry.***

## Fourth Year

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry?
3. Give us a scriptural summary from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you?
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. The Lord's Supper
  - b. Divine Healing
  - c. Second Coming of Christ
  - d. Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement?
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?

***We encourage you to focus on your gifted areas of ministry, to develop effective skills for ministry, and to actively engage in your future ministry options in preparation for ordination.***

## *Fifth Year & Beyond*

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry?
3. Share with us what you have experienced as both meaningful and frustrating to you in ministry in the past year?
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. The Holy Scriptures
  - b. Sin, Original and Personal
  - c. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption
  - d. Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement?
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?

***We encourage you to continue embracing God's call for ministry in your life, and to continue developing a passion for proclaiming the gospel to a world that needs Jesus Christ.***

## Ordination Year

You may use an unmarked Bible, without any written notes, to assist you with any questions the Credentials Board may ask during the interview.

1. Please give us a brief introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life. (family, employment, personal interests)
2. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry? What does Ordination mean to you?
3. Give us a scriptural summary from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you?
4. Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith. Please select at least two scriptural references from the recommended listing for each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand each Article.

You will have 12-15 minutes to give a full presentation in response to this question, in which you will be able to use your Bible, without notes or projected images. Please be prepared to stand before the committee and speak in a presentation manner.

- a. The Holy Scriptures
  - b. Sin, Original and Personal
  - c. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption
  - d. Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification
5. Who mentors you, how often do you meet, and in what ways do you interact?
  6. As a believer, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene:
    - a. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?
    - b. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.
    - c. Do you tithe consistently?
    - d. Summarize *The Covenant of Christian Conduct for the Church of the Nazarene (The Manual, Part III)*. Is your personal lifestyle in true harmony with this statement?
    - e. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual integrity is ever in question?
  7. Questions for the spouse of an Ordinand (*when applicable*):
    - a. Share with us what it means for you to be a member of the church body.
    - b. Describe the confidence you have in your spouse as a spiritual leader in your home and as a minister in the church.
    - c. Will you commit to hold your spouse accountable, and will you commit to inform this Board if you ever question your spouse's spiritual integrity?

***As a candidate for Ordination we encourage you to remain humble and obedient as God reveals His plan for your future ministry in the gospel of Jesus Christ!***

**The Mission of the Sacramento District  
Church of the Nazarene**

*Build a dynamic team of pastors &  
churches who engage in the call of God to  
make Christ like disciples in the nations!*

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