



CHURCH OF THE  
NAZARENE

**SOUTHWESTERN  
OHIO DISTRICT  
ASSEMBLY 2026**

*Thankful for our **past**.  
Confident for our **future**.*

**67<sup>th</sup> District Assembly**

**District Finance Committee Report**

**Finance Committee  
(2026-27 Church Year)**

We, your Finance Committee, submit the following recommendations: “Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and the local Church of the Nazarene shall be regarded by all of its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of the Church of the Nazarene are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them for the support of the whole church, local, district, educational, and general. The tithe, provided to the local Church of the Nazarene, shall be considered a priority over all other giving opportunities which God may lay upon the hearts of His faithful stewards, in support of the whole church.” (*Manual* 32.1)

1. That each church prepare an annual operational budget for the year ahead.
2. That each church contemplating involvement in an auxiliary ministry such as day-care centers, homes for the elderly, Christian schools, etc., follow carefully the procedure of *Manual* 161. The general secretary may be contacted for information about government tax and nonprofit corporation laws.
3. That each local church consider the pastor's and full-time associate pastor's annual, non-accruing vacation on the following basis and that the district do the same for the district superintendent:
  - a. 1-5 years of service in the denomination, at least two weeks
  - b. 6-15 years of service in the denomination, at least three weeks
  - c. 16-24 years of service in the denomination, at least four weeks
  - d. 25 or more years of service in the denomination, at least five weeks
  - e. We recommend that attendance at general assembly and conventions, district assembly, annual camp meeting and other district activities not be counted as vacation time.
  - f. That the pastor be granted a one week professional advancement leave a year with pay.
4. That since the pastor and pastoral staff are obligated on Sunday, they should be encouraged to take off one weekday of their choosing each week.
5. That each local church should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor during each fifth consecutive year of service in accordance with *Manual* 139.10. At the local church board's discretion, such a program should also be implemented for members of the pastoral staff.
6. That each local church consider covering the expense of its pastor, pastoral staff and spouses for the following:
  - a. In preparation for the 2027 General Assembly we recommend that each local church consider the cost of defraying the expenses for this event when planning their annual budget.
  - b. Annual camp meeting
  - c. District assembly and other district activities (Ministers' & Spouses' Retreat, etc.)
7. That each local church reimburse its pastor and pastoral staff for Self-Employment tax paid and that the district reimburse the District Superintendent and District Superintendent Assistant/District Secretary.
8. That each local church carry Ohio Workers' Compensation on all pastors and other

employees.

9. That each local church participate in the general church retirement program for its pastor by paying its P&B allocation in full. We further encourage participation in the Nazarene 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan, sponsored by the Nazarene Board of Pensions and Benefits, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220.
10. That each local church review the pastor's and paid assistants' salaries annually. Consideration should be given to cost-of-living increase in addition to merit increases.
11. That our churches recognize their responsibility to provide an automobile reimbursement and/or professional expense reimbursement account for the pastor commensurate with the pastoral duties in relation to the ministry of the church. Churches are encouraged to recognize that a portion of the cost of employing a pastor includes automobile, travel, and professional expenses, even if that necessitates reviewing and/or adjusting the salary level so the local church can both pay a salary and reimburse these expenses. All reimbursement programs should be set up to be an accountable reimbursement plan per IRS guidelines.
12. That pulpit supply preachers be given an honorarium with a minimum of \$100 per service plus reimbursement of travel paid at the prevailing mileage rate as set by the IRS.
13. That the district give financial assistance in the amount of \$500 to each commissioned and registered full-time evangelist from our district who attends the General Assembly.
14. That the district provides a continuing education reimbursement for district assigned ministers pursuing a degree through an educational institution of the Church of the Nazarene. Each pastor enrolled in such a program is eligible for reimbursement of up to \$500 per church year for up to three years. Payment(s) will be made with proof of successful completion of the course(s). Application must be made to the District Office before the beginning of the class(es).
15. That the district provides a group term life insurance program for full-time district assigned ministers and retired assigned ministers, their spouses and dependent children with Minnesota Life in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the company. Applicants must sign the application and return it to the district office for insurance to be in effect. We strongly recommend that each local church provide additional term life insurance for the local pastor and for full-time employees who do not qualify for the district insurance program. Member's benefits through Minister's Life:

	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Accidental Death and Dismemberment</i>
Member age to 65	\$10,000	\$10,000
Member age 65-69	6,000	6,000
Member age 70 or over	3,000	3,000
Spouse	10,000	0
Dependent children	5,000	0

16. We recommend that each local church consider the healthcare cost of its pastor and pastoral staff when developing their compensation package. We further recommend that churches who have members who are commissioned evangelists and retired ordained ministers give mindful attention to their healthcare costs.
17. That each local church consult *Manual* 169-169.3 before hiring ministerial staff. The *Manual* requires the approval of the district superintendent in writing. District policy for approval of paid ministerial staff requires:
  - a. That the local church adequately care for its senior pastor and existing

ministerial staff.

- b. That all ministry allocations be paid in full or be in a working agreement with the district superintendent.
18. We encourage our local churches to take Nazarene Missions Team trips and to participate in other major mission specials after having met all ministry allocations (District, Education, P & B, and World Evangelism) for the previous year.
19. That each church observe the first Sunday of October as Nazarene Bible College Sunday and the last Sunday of January as Nazarene Theological Seminary Sunday by receiving an offering and/or budgeting an appropriate amount. These offerings are to be sent directly to these institutions.
20. *Ministry Fund Allocations – Funding the Mission.* Recognizing the connectional nature and the global mission of the Church of the Nazarene, each local church is encouraged to give proportionately in support of the missional efforts of the global church. The biblical principle of tithes and offerings is the accepted means of supporting the mission of the local church and we ask that churches operate by the same principle in funding the global mission. The ministry allocations of a local church shall be determined by a set percentage of current income contributed to each of the connectional ministries of the entire church, including the World Evangelism Fund, Pensions & Benefits, the regional college (Mount Vernon Nazarene University), and the District Ministries Fund.

Church income is to be defined as any donation received by the church that qualifies as a charitable contribution. Mission giving is to be reported in total income, however, designated contributions to the World Evangelism Fund and Mission Specials are excluded from total income prior to the application of allocation percentages. Contributions should be made monthly and based on that month's income. The percentage of income to be contributed to each connectional ministry shall be:

World Evangelism Fund	5.5%
District Ministries Fund	4.0%
Educational Fund (MVNU)	2.50%
Pensions & Benefits	2.00%

Unusual circumstances that are clearly outside the church's normal activity will be considered for an adjustment to church income. The adjustment should be requested during the affected assembly year and approved by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board. Upon district approval, a leadership team at the Global Ministry Center will consider the request based on the circumstances, church giving patterns and history of denominational faithfulness.

We suggest budget allocations be made as follows:

District: Online through Church Center via the link on [fundingthemission.org](http://fundingthemission.org), or alternatively, via: <https://swonaz.churchcenter.com/giving/to/district-allocations>. If online capabilities are not available, checks can also be mailed to: Lee Van Houten, 5648 Neptune Way, Fairfield, OH 45014

WEF and P&B: through [www.fundingthemission.org](http://www.fundingthemission.org)

MVNU: Online through Church Center via the link on [fundingthemissions.org](http://fundingthemissions.org), or alternatively, via: <https://swonaz.churchcenter.com/giving/to/mvnu>. If online capabilities are not available, checks can also be mailed to: MVNU, 800 Martinsburg Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Monthly remittance forms are available at [www.swonaz.org](http://www.swonaz.org) by clicking the District Allocation 2026/27 Coupons link.

*All churches should enter their income at [www.fundingthemission.org](http://www.fundingthemission.org) at least monthly even if you continue to make all your allocation payments through the district.*

21. We encourage every church to utilize the Church of the Nazarene Foundation to facilitate planned and deferred gifts from their members to any Nazarene ministry, including gifts to the local church, and to use the Foundation to manage investment accounts, endowments or charitable trusts. Visit [www.NazareneFoundation.org](http://www.NazareneFoundation.org) or call 866-273-2549.
22. That the District Advisory Board set district operating budgets and adjust as necessary between assemblies in harmony with *Manual 225.19*.
23. Projected District budget for the 2026-2027 assembly year:

	<b>Budget 2025-26</b>	<b>Actual Jun-May</b>	<b>Budget 2026-27</b>
<b>DISTRICT FUND EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
4101-00 DS Salary	\$ 99,200.00	\$ 101,732.31	\$ 104,200.00
4103-00 Office Secretaries Salary	\$ 50,400.00	\$ 57,270.21	\$ 52,200.00
4104-00 District Secretary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,150.06	\$ 5,500.00
4105-00 DS Assistant Salary	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,950.04	\$ 7,300.00
4107-00 Custodian Salary	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,981.12	\$ 4,400.00
4109-00 District Treasurer	\$ 15,900.00	\$ 15,900.00	\$ 16,500.00
4110-00 Recurring Gifts	\$ 5,812.51	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 5,828.00
4111-00 Min Training Coordinator Salary	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,900.00
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 190,812.51</b>	<b>\$ 197,533.74</b>	<b>\$ 199,828.00</b>
<b>Parsonage Expenses</b>			
4214-00 DS Housing Allowance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,999.92	\$ 15,000.00
4106-00 DS Assistant Housing Allowance	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 13,999.96	\$ 14,000.00
<b>Total Parsonage Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,999.88</b>	<b>\$ 29,000.00</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>			
4314-00 DS Self Employment Tax	\$ 17,472.60	\$ 17,472.52	\$ 18,237.60
4315-00 DS Annuity Contribution	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 30,999.96	\$ 31,000.00
4316-00 DS Health Insurance	\$ -		\$ 25,000.00
4317-00 Workers Compensation	\$ 400.00	\$ 236.70	\$ 250.00
4320-00 Secretary Health Ins Reimb	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
4321-00 DS Assistant Self Employment	\$ 3,947.40	\$ 3,947.32	\$ 4,100.40
4325-00 FICA Employer Portion	\$ 4,153.95	\$ 4,685.73	\$ 4,329.90
6600-00 Payroll Expenses	\$ -		\$ -
4326-00 Other Personnel Insurance-Life	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,466.05	\$ 23,500.00
4331-00 DS Retirement Annual Contribution	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 85,873.95</b>	<b>\$ 86,208.28</b>	<b>\$ 111,817.90</b>

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>Jun-May</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
Professional Expenses			
5040-00 DS Professional Expenses	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 18,162.08	\$ 20,000.00
5041-00 Other Professional Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,627.89	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Professional Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 21,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,789.97</b>	<b>\$ 23,000.00</b>
District Office Expenses			
6024-00 Office Space Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,184.90	\$ 10,000.00
6025-00 Office Space Utilities	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,541.40	\$ 6,000.00
6026-00 Office Space Telephone	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,850.34	\$ 3,600.00
6027-00 Office Space Insurance	\$ 6,607.00	\$ 6,275.12	\$ 6,607.00
6028-00 Office Equipment & Maintenance Contracts	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,039.02	\$ 6,000.00
6031-00 Stationary and Supplies	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,668.25	\$ 5,000.00
6032-00 Postage	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,478.31	\$ 1,700.00
6033-00 Audit Fee	\$ 6,165.00	\$ 6,336.00	\$ 6,500.00
6034-00 Real Estate Taxes	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 9,623.49	\$ 9,850.00
6036-00/01 ACH/CC Payment Fees		\$ 398.95	\$ 500.00
<b>Total District Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 52,922.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,395.78</b>	<b>\$ 55,757.00</b>
District Activities			
7022-00 Retreats	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
7024-00 Camp Meeting	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 8,134.30	\$ 8,000.00
7025-00 Flowers & Gifts	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 942.85	\$ 1,200.00
7026-01 NMDC Expenses	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,025.00	\$ 6,000.00
3353-01 NMDC Income	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ (6,265.00)	\$ -
7027-00 Benevolence Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 31.50	\$ 1,000.00
7029-00 Ministerial Assessment Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,541.29	\$ 4,000.00
7030-00 Education Assistance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
7031-02 District Insurance Expense	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 196.80	\$ 200.00
3354-02 District Insurance Income	\$ (1,250.00)	\$ (164.00)	\$ (200.00)
7033-00 District Assembly	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,028.46	\$ 7,500.00
7034-00 District Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,995.37	\$ 2,000.00
7035-00 District Conference Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,813.41	\$ 3,000.00
7037-00 Ministry Training/Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
7038-00 General Assembly Reserve	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
7039-00 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 361.43	\$ 1,000.00
7041-00 Background Checks	\$ 100.00	\$ (294.65)	\$ 100.00
7042-00 Counseling Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 1,000.00
7043-00 Website/Computer Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,134.47	\$ 7,000.00
7044-00 - Retired Pastor Subsidy	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
7046-00 NMI Allocation Supplement	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 39,600.00
7047-00 NDI Allocation Supplement	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
7048-00 NYI Allocation Supplement	\$ 37,100.00	\$ 37,100.00	\$ 37,100.00
<b>Total District Activities</b>	<b>\$ 180,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 168,561.23</b>	<b>\$ 176,500.00</b>
7055-00 Retreat Center Supplement	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 34,547.93	\$ -
8002-00 Support to local churches-non New Start	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 69.03	\$ -
<b>GRAND TOTAL DISTRICT FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 596,608.46</b>	<b>\$ 586,105.84</b>	<b>\$ 595,902.90</b>

24. That the chairman of this committee ensure that the Finance Report as adopted by the district assembly is available on a secure page of the district website, and that a link to access the Finance Report is provided to church board secretaries, treasurers, and pastors. It shall be the responsibility of the local church board secretary to review the Finance Report with church board members at the first meeting of the church board following district assembly.
25. That all finances pertaining to the district, not herein mentioned, be handled by the District Advisory Board.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
FINANCE COMMITTEE, District Advisory Board  
Paul Lail, *Chair*