

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

April 2022

This is my 5th report to you as National Director. Elected in April 2017 and assuming the role on 1st November 2017, I quickly became aware of the challenges and opportunities before me, but I had no idea or concept of what these past two years has brought to all of us in the form of COVID-19 and it's many variations. Only time will reveal the extent to which the pandemic has impacted our work. While I believe that the post pandemic church landscape will be altered, I am not sure how she will look. Later in my report I will attempt to address this.

NATIONAL STAFF



AML NASR
(BOOKKEEPER)



YARA CRISTALES
(ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)



ERIC WHITE
(EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT)

THANKSGIVING

We have a wonderful team at the National Office. Executive Assistant Eric White, Bookkeeper Aml Nasr and Administrative Assistant Yara Cristales continue to serve in their existing capacities, albeit from their respective home offices. This has created certain challenges for them, but they have risen to each one with a deep sense of “call” and professionalism as they effectively fulfill National Church and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada responsibilities. This has resulted in a seamless delivery of their ministry duties. Those duties are the hidden, daily mechanisms that most of you are not aware of. I would like you to hear from our Executive Assistant, Mr. Eric White as he articulates some of the accomplishments of this team... Thank you all so very much for your faithfulness.

Reverend Elaine Bumstead continues to serve as Executive Director of N.C.M.C. and in spite of the global challenge presented by the pandemic, I continue to be amazed at the reach of this ministry into the far-flung corners of our world. This past year saw the continuing development of new domestic N.C.M.C. initiatives. Elaine will share more about this in her report. Reverend Bumstead has the ability to bring those far off places into a very personal space for us. She does this through her detailed reporting and sharing of stories and experiences. Reverend Alan Cristales joined Elaine on January 2nd, 2019 and serves as N.C.M.C. Project Manager. Reverend Cristales fulfills an integral part of the team helping to guide and direct projects “on the ground”. Thank you to Elaine, Alan and the N.C.M.C. Committee for your tireless work. (Dell Marie Wergeland, Reverend Dennis Hubert and Reverend John Watton).

NCM CANADA COMMITTEE



REV. ALAN CRISTALES



REV. ELAINE BUMSTEAD



DELL MARIE WERGELAND



REV. DENNIS HUBERT



REV. JOHN WATTON

Thank you also to Helen Theissen for your leadership of N.Y.I. Canada. Your encouragement to the district leadership is invaluable and your representation on the Regional Council is crucial. Thank you to Penny Ure who serves as our N.M.I. Representative on the Global Council. To Reverend Donna Wilson who serves on the Regional Women's Clergy Committee. Thank you

also to Dr. Riley Coulter for your ministry as Director of Stewardship Services, Interfaith Committee and serves on the board of Siloam Mission in Winnipeg.

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

KEVIN SEIBEL (CPD)



RUTH COPELAND-HOLTZ (CCD)



WILÈNE PAUL
(CQD)



MURRAY HERBERT (CWD)



BRIAN CAMBERS
(CAD & BOARD CHAIR)

I am so grateful for the leadership of our National Board Chair, Mr. Brian Cambers. He brings history, experience and Godly wisdom to the role. Many thanks also to the lay representatives on the National Board, Ruth Copeland-Holtz, (Canada Central), Murray Herbert (Canada West), Kevin Seibel (Canada Pacific). This year we welcome our newest Lay member Wilène Paul (Canada Quebec). God has brought together a wonderful team of Christlike leaders.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank our great team of District Superintendents, Reverend Mark Collins (Canada Atlantic), Reverend Randy Barrington (Canada Quebec), Reverend Steve Ottley, (Canada Central), Reverend Rose Brower-Young (Canada West), and Reverend Gordon McCann (Canada Pacific). We place a high value on our ministry partnership.

Special thanks to Dr. William Stewart. Our former National Director has been the editor of our ACORN Communication to retired ministers in Canada. Bill has fulfilled his role for many years sending out a seasonal update. He now feels that it is time to retire. We are so grateful for the way in which he has kept former leaders connected to each other and to the ongoing work of the Church of the Nazarene in Canada. May the Lord continue to richly bless Bill and Rita in these days. The Spring 2022 issue of ACORN under Bill's direction will see the completion of his responsibility.

ACORN NEWSLETTER



DR. WILLIAM STEWART

GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

We are blessed to have one Lay and one Clergy representative from Canada serving on the General Board. They are: Dr. David Falk and Reverend Dale Thistle.

I met with these men on Thursday 27th January, 2022 for an update on their service on the General Board. David has served on this committee for many years and Dale assumed my previous role on that committee as Vice Chair which then places him on the Executive of the General Board. The Chair and Vice Chair of each committee have seats on the Executive Board. We are well served by the aforementioned.

In consultation with these brothers, I have been informed that Reverend Thistle will allow his name to be presented for re-election to the role, but Dr. David Falk wishes to retire from his long service on the General Board. Thank you, David, for the way in which you have represented Canada and served so faithfully on the Global Missions Committee of the Board.

GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



REPS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
DR. DAVID FALK, REV. IAN FITZPATRICK & REV. DALE THISTLE

At the 2023 General Assembly the Canadian Caucus (Canadian delegates) will meet to elect the Canadian General Board nominees for the next Quadrennium (or whatever the term will be between General Assemblies). These nominees (along with other nominees from around the globe) will then be presented to the General Assembly for election.

NEW CANADIAN “SPONSORED MISSIONARIES”:

We are delighted that Reverend Gaston & Lucy Echeguia will be moving to Seville, Spain to serve as Sponsored Missionaries. This category of missionary places responsibility on the individual/s to raise their own funds. These funds must be raised within the boundaries of the district in which the missionary is a member. The initial period of service in Seville will be two years during which time Gaston and Lucy will minister in a very needy area of the city. They will also be working with the West Mediterranean Field Strategy Co-ordinator in church planting initiatives in southern Spain. We pray that the Lord will richly bless Pastor Gaston and Lucy in their preparation for and implementation of their ministry.



SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

This area of my responsibility continues to be a high priority as we seek to secure quality coverage at a fair and reasonable price for all. I am always mindful of the fact that this “price” is downloaded to the local church and becomes part of their overall costs in hiring a pastor.

To that end we work diligently with our brokers from Charterhouse (Judy Godin & Simon Hecks) who represent us to Canada Life. I do thank Judy Godin for her work on our behalf. Even though we are moving into a new year of coverage with minimal increase to the premium, we do need to be aware of increasing LTD (Long Term Disability) demands on the insurance industry and eventually this will be passed along to the customer. I should say that LTD demand has been exacerbated by COVID. In the next year we will be working closely with each district to examine LTD coverage and other parts of the plan, but for now we are grateful for a status quo premium cost.

The premiums for this year (Effective 1st April 2022) are as follows...

Family Coverage: \$ 479.67 + applicable Provincial Tax. (Increase of 0.03%) 2021 = \$479.55

Single Coverage: \$ 219.59 + applicable Provincial Tax. (Increase of 1.81%) 2021= \$215.69

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHURCH

Once again, this past year I have not been able to travel much. Pat and I did travel to speak at the Atlantic District Clergy & Spouse Retreat, however most of the time I feel like I am “all dressed up with nowhere to go”. I am very busy facilitating the work from the office, but this is the sum and substance of my work. I have discovered that the autonomous nature of district organization and function makes it very difficult for a National leader to fulfill his or her mandate. In spite of the limitations, I am thankful to partner with such a diverse group of laity and clergy across this great land, I do not take this for granted and am fully aware of district boundaries and autonomy. We look forward to the 2022 District Assembly Season. Regardless of how District Assembly is delivered across our country, I anticipate some sort of engagement with our people. I also look forward to preaching at Big Lake Camp this July (Canada Atlantic District).

May the Lord continue to help us engage all people in conversations about our life changing Lord, and may we always remember that He is with us in every situation, and that he goes ahead of us preparing the way and establishing the groundwork for transformation. Thank God for His prevenience.

CONNECTING THE CHURCH ACROSS THE COUNTRY

One of my tasks is to discover, facilitate and implement ways to bring us together across the vastness of our landmass. I would now present to you some of the ways in which we are accomplishing this.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT MEETINGS

I have met with our District Superintendents almost a dozen times since our last Annual Meeting. This is an intentional increase and regardless of COVID my desire is to continue with frequent leadership meetings. We meet as an Administrator’s Fellowship to pray and discuss the mission. We hear each other’s heart and we place a high value on a Canadian expression of ministry lived out in the unique contexts of each district and province. As discussions become recommendations to the National Board, we then convene as the Executive Committee under the leadership of Brian Cambers. In addition to the aforementioned meetings, there is an abundance of phone calls, texts and emails. We are connected indeed!

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS CANADA (& SPOUSES)



NATIONAL PRAYER TEAM & HALF MILLION MOBILIZATION

During this past year a great team of prayer warriors has been established. We meet monthly to intercede for our nation. This is of great value, some of which we see and most of which we don’t see yet. This team is committed and courageous. Thank you, Pastor Mark Collins, for your partnership in this venture.

In addition to the aforementioned prayer emphasis specific to Canada, we have been heavily engaged with the regional “Half-Million Mobilization” emphasis. We are grateful to be part of a movement of God whose instruction comes from Him. So, throughout this process, and even before we have been listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit regarding steps forward.

NMI - NYI - SDMI

I have also had quarterly virtual meetings and ongoing consultation meetings with our Auxiliary Department leaders & councils. I am so thankful for the leadership provided by in each of these ministries. Helen Theissen represents N.Y.I. to the USA/Canada Region, Penny Ure does the same as N.M.I. liaison, and I represent the interests of N.D.I. (formerly S.D.M.I.).

AUXILIARY LEADERS - CANADA



S.D.M.I. Chairs: Reverend Andrew Barker (Atlantic), Reverend Julien Lexandre (Quebec), Mrs. Cindy Stavropoulos (Central), Mrs. Leah Baker (West), Reverend Lorna Bartram.

N.Y.I. Presidents: Ms. Annette Smith (Atlantic), Mr. Robenson Augustin (Quebec), Mrs. Marg Stahlbaum (Central), Reverend Ryan Wood (West), Reverend Matt Wood (Pacific) and Mrs. Helen Theissen.

N.M.I. Presidents: (Atlantic), Reverend Dianna Bradshaw (Quebec), Reverend Donna Wilson (Central), Mrs. Myrna Dipert (West), Reverend Anne Scarrow (Pacific).

I can report to you the establishment of a healthy relationship with each of these ministry departments. These gatherings are not only bringing us closer together, but they are providing a valuable space for sharing portable mission examples and ideas that benefit every district in Canada.



ALL CANADA PASTOR’S MEETINGS

These continue to be a very important part of our “connection” plan. We look forward to our times together. It is amazing to see our pastors join for a time of prayer, hearing God’s Word of encouragement and challenge, enjoying breakout discussion groups and simply being together. We have realized that there are so many ways to “meet” and when we emerge from this pandemic, we plan to continue to use the tools that have allowed us to come together. This is thrilling to say the least.

NATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE

In March 2020, we met in Calgary for the first “National” Assessment Centre and we had 7 candidates in attendance. I want to make it clear that the idea of Ministerial Assessment did not begin with this National Director, but has been the passion of former National Directors, Dr. William Stewart and Dr. Clair MacMillan. I have read their work and tried to build on it. Their foundational work has provided a way for us to assist Boards of Ministry on each district. It is required that before a Board of Ministry interview for a District License each candidate will have attended the Ministerial Assessment Centre. We just had our second “National” weekend experience using Zoom and we had 10 candidates in attendance. I believe that this tool is one that

provides a forum for assessment and national identity as Nazarenes. I want to thank my logistics committee, Reverend Rose Graham, Mrs. Claudia Avila and Mrs. Yara Cristales. For their tireless work. My thanks are also extended to the Assessment Team: D.S's Mark Collins, Steve Ottley, Rose Brower-Young, Gordon McCann, Randy Barrington, Laypeople: John Graff (West), Denise Holland (Central), Kevin Seibel (Pacific), Brian Cambers (Atlantic) and Claudia Avila (Quebec). Also, to Reverends David & Nadine Filsinger (Strengthfinders Assessors) and James Greengrass (EQ-i Assessor). I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Reverend Juan Carlos Espino and his wife Janina for their tremendous translation work.

CLERGY DEVELOPMENT:

Holtz Foundation: The Dave and Ruth Holtz Education Endowment was established in 2000 to assist those who have a call to full-time ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. It is designed specifically to help fund post-graduate studies. The fund is managed by the Church of the Nazarene Canada. We have a Foundation Board of Directors that receives applications and letters of recommendation from the District Superintendent of the applicant.

The annual interest yield allows us to provide support in the amount of \$2,500 to three successful applicants. This has been a very active portfolio with maximum dispersion for the past 4 years and we have already authorized one application in this first quarter of 2022. We are so grateful to Ruth and Dave for their visionary investment in others.

I am delighted to report that due to the generosity of Dave & Bev Deeks to provide \$40,000 per year for 5 years, I was able to provide each District Superintendent with \$8,000 to invest in Clergy Development. The fourth distribution was delivered in January 2022 and the final payment of \$8,000 will be made in January 2023. This is a blessing indeed and I believe that this stewardship will make an ongoing positive difference to the life and ministry of our clergy. This is such an important area of investment as we equip and encourage our pastoral team across the country. I do report to the donor at the end of each calendar year on how the funds were spent. I also have written to the donor each year expressing our thanks for such an investment in the development of our pastoral leaders.

GENEROSITY BY DESIGN

One of the new initiatives within the ministry portfolio of Dr. Riley Coulter is "Generosity By Design". This is an attempt to help our congregations discover the blessing of stewardship as a lifestyle. The concept was first shared with, and fully embraced by the District Superintendents. It was then recommended to the National Board and implemented across the country through Zoom gatherings. Dr. Coulter will share more on this initiative and share from 4 videos that the National Office provided as yet another delivery tool.

NATIONAL WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA & NAZARENE NEWS

These resources are invaluable as the story of God in the life of his people here in Canada is told in word and picture. The Website is current and there is a weekly message/sermon from the National Director. The Nazarene News communication is a monthly distribution with additional "Special Announcements" being made in a timely fashion. Thank you to Yara Cristales for her work in these valuable areas.

DIRECTOR OF
STEWARDSHIP SERVICES



DR. RILEY COULTER

TIDES

Following conversation with Reverend Brad Silliker (Associate Pastor Sherwood, P.E.I.) we embarked on a series of “Podcasts” entitled “Tides”. The forum includes a regular interview with the National Director and others on a variety of topics. This is then made available on the National Website, YouTube and other Social Media platforms.



FUNDING THE MISSION:

The Church of the Nazarene Canada receives funding from UCRO (USA/Canada Regional Office). We are grateful for this over the years and we trust that this “Projects Budget” funding will continue. However, we must not be dependent upon it to operate the Church in Canada. So, in order to address this and to become “Operationally Self-Funding”, the National Board (2019 Annual Meeting) affirmed a recommendation from the National Director via the Executive and Finance Committees to fund all our ministries ourselves. This was a milestone moment in the life of the Canadian church and we are grateful for those who have faithfully pioneered the way to this new reality. This new model is now operational and three years later, we celebrate God’s faithfulness in meeting our every need.

REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

I am honoured to serve on the following boards /committees:

- Administrators Fellowship
- Ambrose Board of Governors
- Nazarene Theological Seminary (Vice-Chair)
- Nazarene Bible College
- D.S.A.C. (District Superintendents Advisory Committee)
- Wesley Chair Committee

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBROSE UNIVERSITY:

It would be important to reference my reports for 2020 & 2021 to gain some historical perspective on the relationship between the Church of the Nazarene Canada and Ambrose University. We have indeed come through some difficult times which precipitated changes to the Nazarene representation on the Board of Governors. We now have two members, Mr. Srimal Ranasinghe (Calgary First Church) and me. Action was taken in the Fall 2022 Board of Governors meeting as follows...

November 2020: The Ambrose Board of Governors received and affirmed the following recommendations from President Gordon Smith.

- That effective January 1st, 2021, there will be a minimum of two members of the Board of Governors who are members in good standing within the Church of the Nazarene in Canada (from the current four)

- That one of these will be the National Director, who will serve ex-officio (by virtue of office - as appointed to this role by the National Board of the Church of the Nazarene Canada.)

- *That at least one other member of the Board of Governors be a lay person who is a member in good standing with a congregation in one of the districts that is in active partnership with Ambrose (appointed by the National Board on the recommendation of Ambrose Board of Governors).*
- *That the President provide a bi-annual communique to the two districts who are in partnership with Ambrose and an annual fraternal report to the National Board, which as needed will include a recommendation for a National Board appointee to the Ambrose Board of Governors.*

I have had ongoing conversations with Dr. Smith and an “in person” meeting with him in Toronto on 17th February, 2022. I also attended the Ambrose Board of Governors meeting in Calgary in April of this year. We seek to continue to build a strong connection with Ambrose and to find ways to strengthen the Clergy Preparation component.

CLERGY PREPARATION CONSORTIUM

There has been quite a change in how the Consortium will function. At last year’s meeting I had presented a list of names that would form a “Canadian team” to help implement the new plan for Non-Degreed Course of Study. It should be noted that the team members were affirmed by the National Board. Changes have been made regarding the function of the team, but no doubt we will draw on their expertise as the new Course of Study becomes a reality. I do work closely with reverend Terry Fach as he represents us on the Consortium Committee.

NAZARENE ESSENTIALS

It is important that we remind ourselves of who we are. Yes, we are the people of God, but we are also people who identify with the essential beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene. Before moving on to the “Coherent Actions”, I feel it is important to emphasize our essentials. I will not attempt to re-write the “Essentials document however I would offer the following...

Meaningful Worship -	The HEART of who we are.
Theological Coherence -	The LOGIC of what we believe.
Passionate Evangelism -	The MISSION to which we have been called.
Intentional Discipleship -	The MANDATE that secures a great future.
Church Development -	The EXPRESSION of a great movement.
Transformational Leadership -	The ESSENCE of a dynamic Church.
Purposeful Compassion -	The INTENTION of a delivered people.

MOVING US BACK TO OUR CANADIAN BASICS

In the following section, I draw heavily on the writings of former National Director, Dr. Bill Stewart. I believe we can “marry” the National Vision with the Action Statements established over three years ago. The Church of the Nazarene in Canada is not here by chance. We believe God brought us into existence to fulfill a purpose and to serve a cause. Our cause is greater than ourselves. We are not here for our own self-interests; to make ourselves more comfortable; to provide for ourselves warm and cozy friendship circles made up of people just like us. Our cause is even greater than our institution. We love the Church of the Nazarene, but we recognize it only as an instrument to do His will. We are not just here to make the church bigger; to increase its influence; to guarantee its continued existence. The institution is the means to an end. It is not the end in itself. Our cause is bigger than the interests of the church.

**THE CAUSE DOES NOT SERVE THE CHURCH.
THE CHURCH SERVES THE CAUSE.**

What then is our cause? What are we here for? What is the Church of the Nazarene in Canada about? What does God want the Church of the Nazarene in Canada to achieve for His Kingdom? The answer to these questions is expressed by our vision. The pursuit and capturing of the National Vision is the primary task.

The purpose of defining the National Vision is to move us back to our basics. We want to release the spirit of the Church of the Nazarene so that it can passionately pursue God's call.

We want to focus its energies on fulfilling that purpose. The purpose of the vision is to stir the imagination; arouse emotions; speak to the heart.

The objective is to create a spirit and atmosphere for ministry so that our efforts unite around a few great causes. These causes must be more than numerical or statistical goals. They must reach beyond methods and implementation strategies. They should motivate us to respond to what we believe is in the heart of Christ for the Church of the Nazarene.

The National Vision must not be thought of as a wish list. It is not trying to explain everything that we wish the Church of the Nazarene could do and should do.

It is an effort to pick out the priorities and focus on them.

It is trying to determine the things we must do or we will fail in our task.

The National Vision is not a reiteration of fine general sentiments; a vague expression of good intentions; motherhood statements that everybody everywhere would agree with, but nobody feels particularly obligated to do anything about.

We are trying to focus on the primary tasks that will make ministry happen, bring blessing to people and glory to God all across this country through the Church of the Nazarene.

**“We, the people in Canada called Nazarenes, commit ourselves to...
OBEYING THE FATHER - HONOURING THE SON - LIVING IN THE SPIRIT**

By

- Engaging in effective evangelism**
- Experiencing and promoting the holiness lifestyle**
- Raising a generation of competent and Spirit filled leaders**

**APPLICATION - PRAYING, LISTENING AND WORKING THE NATIONAL VISION!
HOW WILL WE DO THIS? WE REALLY WANT TO (AND NEED TO GET IT RIGHT!)**

As previously mentioned in this report, last October (2021), I met with our District Superintendents in Montreal. We spent that time praying and encouraging one another. I posed a question to them asking if their role is actually fulfilling the mandate of Christ. I discovered that each of them were frustrated that much of their time and ministry is occupied by administrative duties, conflict resolution and prevention, and the myriad of responsibilities that are deemed “ministry” but not the missional kind, nor perhaps even the fulfilling kind. Let me say that we respect and understand the Manual prescription for the role, but we also feel the weight of unfulfilled ministry potential for which each leader was not only elected, but also chosen by God. The question then provoked serious conversation regarding organizational effectiveness, and how we can fulfill our calling in Canada within the existing denominational leadership design. The Manual does provide for such a role (Paragraph 22.2) - “We are agreed on the necessity of a superintendency that shall complement and assist the local church in the fulfilling of its mission and objectives. The superintendency shall build morale, provide motivation, supply management and method assistance and organize and encourage organization of new churches and missions everywhere.”

Manual Paragraph 504 reads (in part) - “The Church of the Nazarene recognizes only one order of the preaching ministry, that of elder. It also recognizes that, the member of the clergy may serve the church in various capacities (Ephesians 4:11-12)”.

Since our conversation refers to the role of the District Superintendent let me attempt to parse the role and apply the Biblical model of leadership.

It is very important to note the distinction in the Church Manual between “ROLE” and “DUTIES”. The “ROLE” is described in Paragraph 210:

“The role of the district superintendent is to provide oversight and spiritual leadership for the pastors and congregations of the district by:

- modelling a life of prayer and devotion to the Scriptures
- Promoting biblical pastoral theology and practices among district clergy
- Promoting Wesleyan-holiness theology and practices throughout the district
- Casting vision for evangelism and planting churches in the district
- Resourcing district congregations towards organizational health

The “DUTIES” are described in Paragraph 211 forward: The DUTIES actually fulfill the “ROLE”.

LIBERATE AND ACTIVATE:

We need to be very careful regarding our understanding of the offices of ministry in the Church. There are a number of “models” for our careful consideration.

The THREE functions (or offices) of Jesus in His earthly ministry were those of PROPHET, PRIEST and KING.

Four marks of the Church - ONE (The Church is single, united and global with its basis in Christ Jesus) HOLY (The Church is the Body of Christ with Jesus as the Head), CATHOLIC (The Church is universal), APOSTOLIC (The origins and beliefs of the Church started with the apostles at Pentecost).

Fifefold Ministry : Apostles - Prophets - Evangelists - Pastors - Teachers.

An article in Christianity Today on 3rd August, 2017 reveals some of the dangers of the use of the terms “Prophets” and “Apostles”. This model is declared in Ephesians 4 v 11-12 and also in First Corinthians 12 v 27 - 31 - “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second, prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having the gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts? Is this last statement a reference to those listed as first, second and third...is this the gold, silver and bronze order?

Six Images of the Church - Vine & Branches , Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Bride of Christ, Sheepfold, Leaven.

Seven Characteristics of the Church of the Nazarene (Manual Foreword)-

Meaningful Worship, Theological Coherence, Passionate Evangelism, Intentional Discipleship, Church Development, Transformational Leadership, Purposeful Compassion.

Critical Objectives of the Church of the Nazarene (Manual Foreword) -

Holy Christian Fellowship, the Conversion of sinners, the Entire Sanctification of believers, their Upbuilding in Holiness, and the Simplicity and Spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IS TO ADVANCE GOD'S KINGDOM BY THE PRESERVATION AND PROPAGATION OF CHRISTIAN HOLINESS AS SET FORTH IN THE SCRIPTURES. (Manual Foreword)

OUR OBJECTIVE IS A SPIRITUAL ONE, NAMELY, TO EVANGELIZE AS A RESPONSE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION OF OUR LORD TO "GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL NATIONS" (MATTHEW 28 V 19) (Manual Foreword)

There is much to debate and discuss and we need to exercise caution as we look at the overall intent of Scripture regarding leadership, and not an isolated textual prescription.

EPHESIANS 4 v 11-16: - This passage provides us with three things. It provides us with the ROLE, the REASON and the RESULT.

It should be stated clearly, this Fivefold Ministry is but one "model" and that not everyone is in agreement regarding the use of these roles in present day ministry expression. In other words, was the use of these roles simply for a "season"? Ephesians 4 does clearly state that the timeline for the use of these roles is captured in the word "until". Until the body of Christ reaches unity of faith, knowledge, and is fully mature according to the fullness of Christ. It could be strongly argued that we have not yet reached this standard and therefore the timeline for the use of these roles has not yet been reached. Or could it be that these roles have indeed been reached and fulfilled "IN CHRIST". (Ephesians 4 v 5) - "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."

CHRIST THE APOSTLE - Hebrews 3 v 1: "Therefore, Holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the APOSTLE and HIGH PRIEST whom we confess."

CHRIST THE PROPHET - John 4 v 19: "Sir, I can see that you are a PROPHET."

CHRIST THE TEACHER - John 3 v 1-2: "Now there was a man of the Pharisees names Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said... Rabbi, we know that you are a TEACHER who has come from God.

CHRIST THE PASTOR / SHEPHERD - John 10 v 11: "I am the GOOD SHEPHERD; the GOOD SHEPHERD lays down his life for the sheep."

CHRIST THE EVANGELIST - Isaiah 61 v 1: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners , to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn..."

So, if we, as District Superintendents minister “AS CHRIST” we will indeed fulfill the mandate “OF CHRIST”. So, let’s now “marry” the ministries with the SOURCE, after all “we are the bride of Christ”.

THE ROLE - “It was He who gave some to be APOSTLES, some to be PROPHETS, some to be EVANGELISTS, and some to be PASTORS and TEACHERS”

THE REASON - To build up the church and grow believers!

To prepare God’s people for works of service...

To build up the body of Christ in growth and maturity...

To create unity in the faith...

To increase in knowledge of Jesus and thereby become mature...

To help believers attain the full measure of Christ in their lives.

THE RESULT - (verses 14 - 16)

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper workings of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

I believe that the role of the LAITY, PASTORS, LEADERS and DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, all the ranks of the church should and must follow the CHRIST model and applying the following can indeed fulfill God’s will and be fulfilling in the process.

APOSTLES - Go Dream Awakeners - One sent as a messenger and the bearer of a commission calling people to their God designed potential. They are instrumental in helping people discover who they really are, and walking alongside them to get there. They forge new paths for the Kingdom and are a catalyst wherever they go.

PROPHETS - Guide Heart Revealers - They are the spokespersons for God, effective in revealing God’s heart for His people wherever they go. They can accurately discern God’s heart for a situation. They help people experience God’s voice for the very first time and help them develop hearing the voice of God in their own life.

EVANGELISTS – Gather Story Tellers - They are the announcers of “Glad Tidings” making the stories of Jesus’s remarkable goodness and love famous. They are the carriers of good news and partner with Jesus in celebrating people’s transformation. They stir curiosity and desire to know Jesus. Their life is a living invitation to all the Family of God.

PASTORS – Guard Soul Healers - They are tenders and guardians of the sheep and instrumental in guiding people through brokenness back to wholeness and healing their soul from wounds that keep them where they are. They create a safe atmosphere of family and belonging. They bring fun and enjoyment to God’s ministry and allow people to feel like they are part of a greater family.

TEACHERS – Ground Light Givers - They instruct and impart scriptural truth and make that truth and knowledge about God accessible to all. They have an ability for breaking confusion and

misinformation. They are strategic in helping people know the truth of God and also how it applies to their own life.

Concluding thoughts on organizational leadership:

Having been a District Superintendent for 17 years and now National Director, I really feel that exercising the above will stimulate the office of ministry and the office bearer. I recognize the myriad of tasks that need to be done to keep the machinery of the church operating, but often times those tasks take priority over the “main thing”. God has designed His church and has already called gifted and ready people, specifically raised up for such a time as this. These people are already on our districts and in our local churches just waiting for an opportunity to serve this “present age”. We can effectively facilitate the accomplishments of the ministry task list while at the same time lead the charge in applying the scriptural giftings God has given. Any leadership model that we employ must be founded in Christ and that all the delegated functions of the superintendent must be overseen by the title bearer. I believe that we can address the burden and sometimes the restrictions that many of you are feeling. There is enough room in our organizational polity to accomplish this.

(Please note: The terms Dream Awakeners to Light Givers were originally credited to J.R Woodward).

SO NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED TO ENGAGE IN EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

The basic measurement of our effectiveness is found in a simple question...“are we changing destinies from Hell to Heaven?” We need to ask, “after a year of preaching, planning, programming, singing, worshipping, if everybody who was going to hell is still going to hell and everybody who was going to heaven is still going to heaven - what have we accomplished?

We do need to reach the “lost” but we also need to reach the disaffected or cultural Christians of Canada - these people are not useless “church floaters” but have a hunger for a better understanding of, and experience in, Christianity. What is even more exciting is that what is by far our greatest OPPORTUNITY coincides with our greatest area of COMPETENCE.

A Mobilized Laity: John Wesley, the 18th century founder of the Methodist Church is one of the great Christian practitioners. The Methodist movement had a deep impact upon the English nation before its influence spilled over into North America. At one point when there were 100,000 Methodists in England there were 10,000 lay leaders. These lay leaders proved to be critical to the development of small groups. (Class Meetings - 6 to 12 individuals). Wesley considered the Class meeting to be the cornerstone of this Jesus movement. In addition to the Class Meetings there was also the “Band System” (5 - 10 individuals) and the Select Society, which was the most intimate of all these small groups. The Class Meeting had the greater attention of the Methodist Movement. People in these groups would report on their spiritual development. In this intimate setting, they were encouraged to share their progress, and give updates on their spiritual challenges. These face-to-face encounters were prized, and provided an atmosphere of accountability which helped spur them on. Howard A. Snyder in his book “The Radical Wesley” indicates the majority of Christian conversions occurred in the Class Meetings.

Wesley’s game plan was to concentrate his efforts not on the time leading up to Christian decisions, but rather on the times after conversion. His objective was turning “converts into saints”. Snyder

goes on to declare that “the demise of the Methodist Class Meetings in large part contributed to the demise of the Methodist Church. I believe that we can learn from this.

I am advocating for renewed emphasis on “intentional” and “lifelong” learning for our laity as well as what is already in place for our clergy. The resources I have already mentioned would provide adequate core training.” (IMPACT, LAMP & N.C.M.C. Resources)

Intended Outcome: *That catalytic, God called people be identified from each district. These leaders would be the core of a dynamic “Lay Movement” of mobilized people who would lead the “charge” towards a new expression of ministry and EVANGELISM.*

(Note: Even though within our understanding of Theological Coherence, we are described as Christian, Protestant, Evangelical, Holiness & Wesleyan, I believe a more accurate expression in Canadian culture is that we are more EVANGELISTIC than EVANGELICAL.

Evangelistic Fervour: We are in a place of great opportunity. Canada has never been so secular, Canada has never been so pluralistic, Canada has never been so socially progressive...what a time to be a follower of the Way, what a time to be a follower of Jesus. We live in a day of great opportunity to plant the seed of truth in the midst of many religious and ideological options, and this is when God does His best work. He did it when rebellious nations surrounded His children. He did it when hostile forces (religious and secular) surrounded His Son, and He will do it today.

5 Biblical Perspectives Energize Us!

All people are lost without Jesus...

BUT THE PREVENIENT GRACE OF GOD IS AT WORK

All people can be saved...GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT IS MOVING

All people can know that they are saved...FULL ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED

All people are compelled to declare their salvation...TESTIMONY BECOMES NATURAL

All saved people are under obligation to go on to Holiness...PURITY, POWER & LOVE

Let us ... “FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY”...2 Timothy 4 verse 5.

NIV : “DISCHARGE ALL THE DUTIES OF YOUR MINISTRY”

KJV: “MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY”

ISV: “DEVOTE YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO YOUR MINISTRY”

THE MESSAGE:

“I can’t impress on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder.

Christ Himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone living and dead.

He is about to break into the open with His rule,

so, proclaim the Message with intensity, keep on your watch, challenge, warn and urge your people. Don’t ever quit. Just keep it simple.

You are going to find there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching,

but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy.

They’ll turn their back on truth and chase mirages.

But you - keep your eye on what you’re doing;

accept the hard times along with the good; keep the message”

Do we have a burden for millions of people in our country who are lost, and they don’t know it or don’t care that they are?

Are we praying, interceding and petitioning?

Are we organized effectively to reach those millions?

Do we have leaders who will “LEAD” the evangelistic charge?

Intended Outcome: *THAT THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE MAKE FULL PROOF OF HER MINISTRY; MAY EACH PASTOR, TEACHER & LEADER MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS / HER MINISTRY; MAY EVERY LAY PERSON MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS / HER MINISTRY, DOING THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST! (Ephesians 2 verse 10)*

**NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED
TO EXPERIENCE AND PROMOTE THE HOLINESS LIFESTYLE**

Holy Living: 10: We believe that sanctification is the work of God which transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God’s grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.

We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotion to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, in dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus...

Is wrought instantaneously by grace through faith...

Preceded by entire consecration...

And to this work and state of grace, the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as “Christian perfection,” “perfect love,” “heart unity,” “the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit,” “the fullness of the blessing,” and “Christian holiness.”

10.1: We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the divine impulse to grow in grace as a Christlike disciple. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. **Without such purposeful endeavour, one’s witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.**

Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace, and in wholehearted love to God and neighbour.”

Without the cleansing, infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we cannot possibly move forward on any of the previous actions. A renewal of the Holy Spirit would create the internal energy and enthusiasm that will help us accomplish the mission of Christ in Canada.

Encountering the PRESENCE OF GOD, frequently and recently. GIVE ME TEN MEN WHO HATE NOTHING BUT SIN AND LOVE NOTHING BUT GOD AND WE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD (John Wesley)

Intended Outcome: *That every preacher “preach” holiness, every teacher “teach” holiness, every member of the church experience, testify to, and demonstrate holiness...it’s cleansing, it’s filling and it’s power. That holiness becomes more than a theological statement, but rather a “CRISIS” followed by a “LIFELONG PROCESS” of living like Jesus. This can and must be lived out in LOVE.*

NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED
TO RAISE A GENERATION OF COMPETENT AND SPIRIT FILLED LEADERS.

Biblical Literacy: An intentional strategy to create a climate of Biblical knowledge. That Scripture becomes our common language and conversation. This will require an intentional nationwide effort that goes beyond memorization to application. The “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism” (Catechism Document) would be of great value to us. It should not be seen as optional reading, but as a core document to be used in every single one of our churches (How can we make this happen?). Also, the “Journey of Grace” model which guides us in ministering to people at each stage from spiritual awakening to maturity. We have a wonderful opportunity to employ these effective tools

I am advocating for a renewed emphasis on Sunday School & Christian Education. That this become non-negotiable for membership conversation. That local church educators (teachers) be resourced adequately, that District NDI entities be resourced adequately, and that pastors place a high value on wholistic Christian Education.

Intended Outcome: *That our congregations be strengthened through knowledge and application of God’s Word in order to become competent leaders. That our congregations increase in number through the entry point of NDI. That NDI become a priority once again, especially in the area of ministry to children.*

A Prepared Clergy: I have already referred to Clergy Preparation & Development, but a clear contextual way forward should be implemented. I recognize that the District Superintendent is the “gatekeeper” for the Ministerial Licensing process, but embedded within this process is the need for adequate educational preparation. The Guiding Policy will force us to examine the various ways in which Clergy preparation takes place. I also recognize that the classical approach to ministerial preparation is a Liberal Arts education, followed by Seminary. The reality however suggests that in Canada we need to find **contextual, affordable and portable** ways to prepare clergy for the mission.

Intended Outcome: *That we would pursue viable, sustainable, affordable and contextual ways of preparing men and women for a lifetime of wholistic ministerial service. This should be accomplished without diminishing the importance of “formal education”, but recognizing the geographical and cultural boundaries present in Canada.*

That a truly prepared clergy would be ready, willing and able to navigate the shifting sands until we come to “movement bedrock” upon which we stand, anointed by the Holy Spirit to accomplish great things for God here in Canada.

“A challenging word...We have never had a time in the history of the Church of the Nazarene when we have had more seminars, think tanks, gatherings, encouragement sessions, lifelong learning opportunities and resourcing. Yet, our numbers indicate that we are heading in the wrong direction. It is almost counter-intuitive? We have become more focused on the health and wellbeing of the spiritual leader (and this is very important), than on the mission. I have always believed that the best tonic for a spiritual leader (pastor) is to witness life changing miracles in their community and congregation. When this is not happening, then a certain “sickness” sets in and that then requires attention, but that seems to become the primary focus. I want to challenge our leaders in Canada to rise above their own challenges and disappointments and re-focus on the evangelistic mission to which the Lord has called us...”

In 2017 when I was elected as your National Director I was tasked with a number of responsibilities. One of those was to **“lead organizational assessment and possible change for greater missional effectiveness”**. At that time there perhaps was the idea that this assessment and change would concentrate on geographical district boundary revision. I have come to the conclusion that the task is much more complex than re-drawing the geographical organizational map. The re-drawing or re-affirming of a mission effective way forward is much more challenging; however, we have the tools at our disposal. We have God’s Word, we have God’s people, we have God’s Spirit, and we have a nation just waiting to hear what we have to say. Let’s equip the saints, let’s mobilize the troops and let’s fulfil our ministries to the Glory of God.

A thankful word...I want to express my gratitude to the National Board, the people called Nazarene in Canada, and the church at large. I give thanks to God for my wife Pat and daughters, Lynsey (Kevin) Ashley and Stephanie, and grandsons Frank & James. Above all, I give thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to provide me the opportunity to respond to His offer of salvation, to respond to His call upon my life in the anointing of His Holy Spirit.

Grace, Peace and Blessings: Ian Fitzpatrick.