

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND GENERAL RULES  
OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Feeling clearly called of God to the carrying on of His work in the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of believers and the building up in holiness of those who may be committed to our care, we associate ourselves together as a Church of God under the name of the

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE.

We seek the simplicity and the pentecostal power of the primitive New Testament Church. The field of labour to which we feel especially called is in the neglected quarters of the cities and wherever else may be found waste places and souls seeking pardon and cleansing from sin. This work we aim to do through the agency of city missions, evangelistic services, house to house visitation, caring for the poor, comforting the dying. To this end we strive personally to walk with God and to incite others so to do.

Pastors—P. F. Bresee, J. P. Widney.

Trustees—C. E. McKee, W. S. Krott, Wm. H. Herbe, E. G. Hawthurst, J. C. Andrews, Wm. M. Johnson, H. A. Irish.

Stewards—W. A. Powers, J. P. Hill, S. P. Smoot, D. H. Ely, T. J. Dunn, G. S. Stubbsfield, Mrs. J. W. Earnest, D. Moncton, Mrs. M. Bisbee, J. A. Jaynes, G. C. Lindsey, Mrs. A. P. Baldwin, Mrs. M. E. Croft.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We believe:

First—In one God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Second—In the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as found in the Old and New Testaments, and that they contain all truth necessary to faith and practice.

Third—That man is born with a fallen nature and is thus by nature inclined to evil and that continually.

Fourth—In the sure loss of the finally impenitent.

Fifth—That the atonement through Christ is universal and whosoever hears the Word of the Lord and repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is saved from the condemnation and dominion of sin. That a soul is entirely sanctified subsequent to justification through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sixth—That the Spirit of God bears witness in the human heart to justification by faith and to the further work of the entire sanctification of believers.

Seventh—In the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

GENERAL RULES

1—We recognize all converted persons as members of the true Church of Christ.

We hold to a ministry of one order the presbyter or elder. Persons, who may feel called to God to this office may, after due examination by the Church as to the validity of the call and as to fitness and qualifications be set apart by the Church to the duties and work of this office by vote of the official board and through public prayer in the congregation, and shall be accredited by suitable credentials from the official board, which credentials must also be approved and signed by the general superintendents.

The special duties of the Elders shall in addition to the preaching of the Gospel and the conducting of public worship be the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the solemnization of matrimony.

2—Persons, who feel called of God, may after proper examination as to the validity of the call and fitness for the work be licensed by the official board to preach the Gospel and to conduct public service for the term of one year this action, however, to be subject to the approval of the general superintendents.

3—There shall be seven trustees elected by the membership of each congregation annually, who may receive and hold and transfer property for that congregation but who shall not transfer real estate without a consenting vote of two thirds of the membership of that congregation.

4—There shall not be less than five nor more than thirteen stewards elected annually by the membership of each congregation, who shall have especial charge of the current expenses of the congregation.

5—The Sunday School superintendent shall be nominated by the pastor and approved by the official board.

6—The pastor, elders, trustees, stewards and Sunday school superintendent of a congregation shall constitute an official board for general business of that congregation.

7—We recognize the equal right of both men and women to all offices of the church including the ministry.

8—The official board with the approval of the general superintendents may recognize the orders of Ministers coming from other churches.

The pastor of a congregation shall be ex officio president of the official board of that congregation.

9—Phineas F. Bresee and Joseph P. Widney shall during their lifetime be conjoint pastors of the first congregation organized under these articles and shall likewise during their lifetime superintend and direct the general

work of the Church of the Nazarene, such as the establishment and supervision of other congregations, missions, local meetings, church literature, and perform such further duties as may be stated in these articles.

10—Applicants for membership may be received into the church by the pastor upon signifying their acceptance of the articles of belief and promising to observe the rules and regulations of the church.

11—Any member, who may be charged with immoral conduct, or conduct unbecoming a Christian, shall be visited and questioned by a committee of three members of the official board of which committee the pastor shall be one, and, if in their judgment the offense is not one justifying expulsion he (or she) shall be reprovved and admonished. But if he (or she) prove obdurate or if the offense, in their judgment, justify such course he (or she) shall be brought to trial before a committee of five church members appointed by the official board and presided over by the pastor; and at their discretion and judgment, his (or her) name may be dropped from the list of membership in the church. In case such charge shall be made against an elder a similar course is to be followed, but the committee shall be presided over by another elder who shall be designated by the official board of the congregation with which he may be connected.

The foregoing articles of faith and general rules shall be binding upon all congregations which may be organized under the name of the Church of the Nazarene. They may only be changed or amended by a three-fourths vote of all the elders and a subsequent three-fourths vote of all the members of the Church of the Nazarene, and after notice of such proposed change or amendment shall have been publicly given in each congregation of the Church of the Nazarene at a Sunday service at least three months before such proposed change or amendment shall be voted upon.

At a meeting of many persons desiring to enter into and organize this Church, held in the City of Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 30, 1895, the foregoing was unanimously adopted, officers were elected, and the legal steps taken to incorporate The Church of the Nazarene, which has been fully completed according to the laws of the state.

Nov. 26, 1895.

First Statement of Faith

Original located at  
Point Loma College archives