

# Interview Guidelines and Questions for Ministerial Candidates

## Los Angeles District 2023

This document is designed to help you prepare for your interview. You do *not* need to return this with your application. However, you should review all of these guidelines and be prepared to thoroughly respond to each of these questions during your interview.

These guidelines and questions are to help prepare ministerial candidates for pastoral ministry. Your responses during your interview will provide the Board of Ministry with an understanding of your commitment and development in the journey towards ordination in the Church of the Nazarene. These questions are designed around the essential qualities necessary for pastoral ministry - **call, content & competency, context, and character**.

### **CALL**

1. Please give us a brief (2-3 minutes) introduction including the current personal dynamics of your life (family, employment, personal interests).
2. What does it mean to you to be called into pastoral ministry?
3. What do you sense God is calling you to do in ministry, and in what ways are you currently serving in ministry? Who is overseeing you in your ministry?
4. Who is discipling/mentoring you and how often do you meet? How is this person helping you develop as a person as well as a pastor?

### **CONTENT & COMPETENCY**

5. Give us a summary of a passage of scripture from which you taught or preached in the last three months and share with us how it impacted you.
6. **Articles of Faith** - (Please read and note what is expected.)

The Articles of Faith are the doctrinal statements for the Church of the Nazarene (Manual Part II). Please describe what we believe in each of the following Articles of Faith (the Articles are broken down into groups of four to correspond with year in license process). Please select at least **two scriptural references** from each Article and describe how these scriptures help us understand the Article of Faith. (You only need to prepare for the articles corresponding to your year of placement.)

**First Year** - (If this is your first interview, you will respond to these.)

*The Triune God*

*Jesus Christ*

*The Holy Spirit*

*The Holy Scriptures*

**Second Year** - (If this is your second interview, you will respond to these.)

*Sin, Original and Personal*

*Atonement*

*Prevenient Grace*

*Repentance*

**Third Year** - (If this is your third interview, you will respond to these.)

*Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption*

*Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification*

*The Church*

*Baptism*

**Fourth Year** - (If this is your fourth interview, you will respond to these.)

*The Lord's Supper*

*Divine Healing*

*Second Coming of Christ*

*Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny*

**Fifth Year and Beyond - Ordination** (If you are still completing your years of service and/or anticipating an invitation to apply for ordination, you will respond to these.)

*The Holy Scriptures*

*Sin, Original and Personal*

*Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption*

*Christian Holiness and Entire Sanctification*

## **CONTEXT**

7. What do you value about the Church of the Nazarene as the denomination in which you want to be ordained?

8. How do you understand ordination, and why do you think it is important for the Church? Why do you think it is important for your own ministry?

9. Describe how you are personally involved in discipling a new and/or growing believer.

10. Do you tithe consistently? Why is this necessary?

11. 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 and are you in support of it? Please be prepared to address the specific issues contained in the Covenant, in particular our statement on Human Sexuality.

### **CHARACTER**

12. How is social media influencing your life? Are there areas that have become detrimental to the Christlike formation of your life and witness?

13. Have you been engaged in any behavior or relationship that would compromise the spiritual well-being and/or integrity of your life and ministry?

14. What are you doing to make sure the character and witness of your life honors the Lord and is in harmony with the *Covenant of Christian Character* (Manual para. 21)?

15. Will you commit to inform this Board if your spiritual well-being or integrity is ever in question?