



## LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE BOARD OF MINISTRY

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[www.lanaz.org/boardofministry](http://www.lanaz.org/boardofministry) or [www.NorthridgeNaz.com/boardofministry](http://www.NorthridgeNaz.com/boardofministry)

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### ORDINATION SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND SUPERVISED MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

The Nazarene Manual stipulates two areas of preparation for candidates for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene, study and experience.

1. Completion of the Course of Study (COS) (studies at college/seminary/training center, fulfilling a 24 course program)
2. Ministerial service experience (supervised ministry experience under the local pastor).  
427.7,8 “Licensed ministers ... provided they ... are involved in an active and assigned ministry recognized by the district ...”  
(see attachment, Nazarene Manual 2001-2005; 428.3; 429.3, for length of consecutive years).

The ministerial service requirement has traditionally been accomplished through a full-time paid ministerial position (pastor or staff). But we also recognize the validity of “bi-vocational ministry.” This part-time ministerial experience satisfies the manual ministerial service requirement, but with a longer duration of service necessary. A part-time or bi-vocational minister supports him/herself financially through secular employment and **may or may not** receive a salary from the local church. He/she will provide an essential and often indispensable service to the congregation, while gaining practical experience and demonstrating his/her gifts and graces for ministry.

1. The term of service must be a **contiguous period**, for the prescribed number of “consecutive years.”
2. It must involve an **active ministry**, supplying full or part-time hours on a weekly basis, under the supervision of the local pastor (or the district superintendent if the licensee is serving as pastor).
3. It must be as an **assigned minister**, a ministerial position not merely a lay position.
4. It must not be merely a title. The ministry must demonstrate his/her gifts and graces for ministry. It must be a specific ministry with clear expectations, hours of service (beyond the normal scheduled worship services) and go beyond the level of commitment of lay volunteers. Accountability is the responsibility of the pastor. A written statement of responsibilities (**job description**) with a log kept by ministerial assistants, should document tasks and hours served and be made available to the District Board of Ministry during annual interview meetings.

### Nazarene Manual 2005-2009

**Local church board duty: 129.14.** To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, any person who de-sires the Licensed Minister’s Credential or its renewal. (426.5, 427.1)

The responsibility of the **District Board Of Ministry** (Ministerial Credentials Board)

**228.3.** 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 General Rules 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.

Statement of **Job Description:**

**160.3.** The duties and services of such associates are to be determined and supervised by the pastor. A clear, written statement of responsibilities (job description) shall be made available to such associates within 30 days of the beginning of their responsibility to the local church.

## B. The Licensed Minister

**427.7.** Licensed ministers shall be vested with authority to preach the Word and/or to use their gifts and graces in various associate ministries in servant ministry to the Body of Christ; and, provided they pass annually the required studies in a validated educational program and are acting as pastors, or are involved in an active and assigned ministry recognized by the district on which their membership is held, they shall also be vested with authority to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper in their own congregations, and to officiate at marriages where the laws of the state do not prohibit. (34.5, 35.2, 409-10, 413, 413.4, 413.11, 420, 428-28.2, 429-29.2, 800, 802, 803)

**427.8.** All licensed ministers shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, and shall report to this body annually. (201, 203.3, 418)

## ORDINATION SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

### C. The Deacon

**428.3.** One who is called of God to this ministry, and who has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same, who has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as deacon, who has been a district licensed minister for not less than four years and recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board to the district assembly, may be elected to the order of deacon by two-thirds vote of the district assembly; provided he or she has been an **assigned minister not less than four consecutive years; and provided further that the candidate must currently be serving in a ministry assignment. In the case of part-time associate ministers, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry,** and that their testimony and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly has been removed in writing by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board of said district; and provided further that his or her marriage relationship does not render him or her ineligible for ordination. (35.1-35.3, 203.6, 320, 424)

### D. The Elder

**429.3.** One who is called of God to this ministry, and who has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same, who has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as elder, who has been a district licensed minister for not less than three years and recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board of the district assembly, may be elected to the order of elder by two-thirds vote of the district assembly. To be eligible for election, the candidate must have been **an assigned minister for not less than three consecutive years either as a pastor** or as a registered evangelist (spending the major portion of that time actively in the field), **or the candidate must have served not less than four consecutive years as associate pastor;** or one year as pastor and two consecutive years as an assigned associate pastor; or have served four years as an assigned teacher in the religion department of one of our Nazarene institutions of higher education, or in a Christian ministry in such other institutions and assigned roles approved by the Board of General Superintendents, and the candidate must currently be serving in a ministry assignment. **In the case of part-time associate ministers, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry,** and that their testimony and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly must be removed in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed before the minister is eligible for election to elder's orders. In addition, the candidate's marriage relationship must be such as not to render him or her ineligible for ordination. (35.1-5.3, 203.6, 320, 424)