

## MANUAL PARAGRAPHS: LIFE-LONG LEARNING

The 2013 General Assembly voted to adopt new language and new accountabilities aimed at encouraging credentialed ministers, assigned or unassigned, to establish ongoing learning to enhance ministry skills, deepen biblical and theological understanding, and promote personal and family health.

Rather than “Continuing Education”, the new language is “Lifelong Learning”. The minimum standard is “20 hours” annually. This is to be reported annually by all district-licensed and ordained ministers.

The following paragraph (2013-2017 Manual, Church of the Nazarene) states what is expected of all Nazarene ministers, assigned and unassigned. Nazarene ministers officially granted retired status by their respective district assemblies are encouraged to continue lifelong learning endeavors but are exempt from the requirement.

**527.6.** Once a minister has fulfilled the requirements of a validated course of study for ministry, he or she will continue a pattern of lifelong learning to enhance the ministry to which God has called him or her. A minimum expectation is 20 hours of lifelong learning each year or the equivalent determined by the region/language group and stated in their regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. All assigned and unassigned licensed and ordained ministers shall report on their progress in a program of lifelong learning as part of their report to the district assembly. An up-to-date report on his or her lifelong learning program will be used in the church/pastoral review process and in the process of calling a pastor. The regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* for the region/language group will contain the details of the accrediting and reporting process. Failure to complete these requirements for more than two consecutive years shall result in the ordained minister being required to meet with the District Ministerial Studies Board at their regular meeting time. The Ministerial Studies Board shall give guidance to the minister in completing the lifelong learning required. (115, 123, 514.12, 536.15)

continued

Other Manual paragraphs about lifelong learning:

**129.** The **business of the church board** shall be:

**129.9.** . . . to encourage and support through planning and budgeting the lifelong learning commitment of the pastor and staff.

**514.** The **core duties of a pastor** are to:

**514.12.** Fulfill the expectations of God and the Church for a program of lifelong learning. (536.15)

**536.15.** All elders and deacons are expected to be involved in 20 hours of lifelong learning per year, to be administered by the District Ministerial Studies Board. (527.6)\*

**231.4.** The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be responsible for the promotion of lifelong learning for ordained ministers and other staff ministers on the district in cooperation with officially recognized Nazarene institutions for ministerial preparation and the Global Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC), and under the general guidance of the district superintendent. The lifelong learning shall include education concerning ethics of being a member of the clergy with particular attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct.\*

***\*Please note that although paragraphs 536.15 and 231.4 seem to suggest that the lifelong learning requirement applies only to ordained ministers, the requirement extends as well to all district-licensed ministers who have been graduated from the Course of Study (see paragraph 527.6 above).***