

**THE CHARGE**  
**GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**  
**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

FILIMAO M. CHAMBO AND CARLA D. SUNBERG, we celebrate the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your election as the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene. We have earnestly sought God's guidance in this election; we believe that He has graciously answered our prayers. You have obviously proven yourself worthy of this trust by your spiritual qualifications, unquestioned integrity, leadership qualities, and record of effective service in the church.

And now, in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and on behalf of the Board of General Superintendents and the Church of the Nazarene, I give you this charge:

I charge you to prioritize giving leadership to the church. You have been called out by God through the vote of this assembly to lead the church. You are being asked to join hands, hearts, and minds with five other individuals to provide united, visionary, Spirit-anointed leadership to the church. Do it prudently; you have been set aside for prophetic influence. Pray earnestly, think critically, act catalytically, and with careful discrimination use the authority given to you by the *Manual* to lead by influence and persuasion as a general rule rather than by power of position.

I charge you to be a missional leader. Our mission is "to make Christlike disciples in the nations." The Great Commandment and the Great Commission move us to engage the broken and needy in compassion, to embrace the marginalized in justice, to bring the spiritually lost to the world's only Savior, and to fold them into a caring community of faith where they can be loved and discipled in Christlikeness. This mission extends to all humanity. It begins in worship and adoration, it ministers in passionate evangelism and purposeful compassion, it encourages believers toward Christian maturity through intentional discipleship, and it prepares women and men for Christian life service through transformational leadership training. Be guided by this mission in everything you do as a leader.

I charge you to think globally. Your election by the General Assembly signifies that in a very unique way you now belong to the entire church. A provincial ministry perspective is incongruous with this office. We are committed to becoming a truly international church. Thus, leadership must reaffirm its resolve to continue the pursuit of an authentic international church. Think globally. Be sensitive to all the issues of diversity that confront us in this 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

I charge you to faithfully uphold the doctrinal positions, ethical standards, and governmental policies of the church as stated in the *Manual*. Be guided by the *Manual* in all your rulings and decisions. Gladly embrace the responsibilities given this office. You will have the holy privilege of laying your hands on the head of a God-called woman or man in the act of ordination into the Christian ministry. Nothing you do will be more sobering or humbling. Help the church recapture the sense of holy awe that accompanies the ordination of its elders and deacons as we project our core values to future generations.

I charge you to guard against the intrusion into the life of the church of any threat that will weaken our moral and spiritual fiber or dissipate our effectiveness. The Church of the Nazarene was raised up to “spread scriptural holiness.” You have no greater responsibility than to ensure that the church faithfully and effectively performs this mission. The message is our mission. The Board of General Superintendents has no duty more solemn than doing whatever it deems necessary to ensure doctrinal coherence and clarity. Please, for the sake of our Lord and His Church, do everything you can to make certain that the trumpet is sounding a clear call, for thereby you will help reignite our passion to spread scriptural holiness.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I charge you to take care of your own soul. Prioritize your life and live with your priorities as much as possible. Do not be governed by the merely urgent, but live for the truly important. The best thing you can give our church is a Jesus-like person—someone who worships Jesus, loves Jesus, thinks Jesus, talks Jesus, and lives Jesus. That is the kind of leader the church needs and will follow.

On behalf of the church, I have given you a very complex, exact, and formidable charge. The God who has called you to this task will enable you through His unfailing grace to fulfill this charge to the glory of Jesus Christ in His Church.

Charge given to General Superintendent 42 and 43  
By David A. Busic, Chair, Board of General Superintendents  
29 June 2017