



A CONNECTED CHURCH

The Church of the Nazarene is a well-connected “holiness communion.” It is not a loose affiliation of independent churches, nor is the denomination merely an association of churches having some commonality of belief and purpose but no real organic relationship.

The church is unapologetically connectional.

By that we mean we are an interdependent body of local churches organized into districts in order to carry out our mutual mission of “making Christlike disciples in the nations.” The commitment is to be accountable to one another for the sake of the mission and to maintain the integrity of our commonly held beliefs.

As a connected church we:

- Share beliefs.
- Share values.
- Share mission.
- Share responsibilities.

Shared responsibilities include a cooperative financial responsibility for funding the mission through the World Evangelism Fund and mission specials.

Since 1908, Nazarenes have been making *Christlike disciples in the nations* through global ministry. Areas being reached for Christ continue to expand and grow. As you pray and give generously, you

join with others to do more than you could alone. Each offering given to your local church has a purpose in funding the mission.

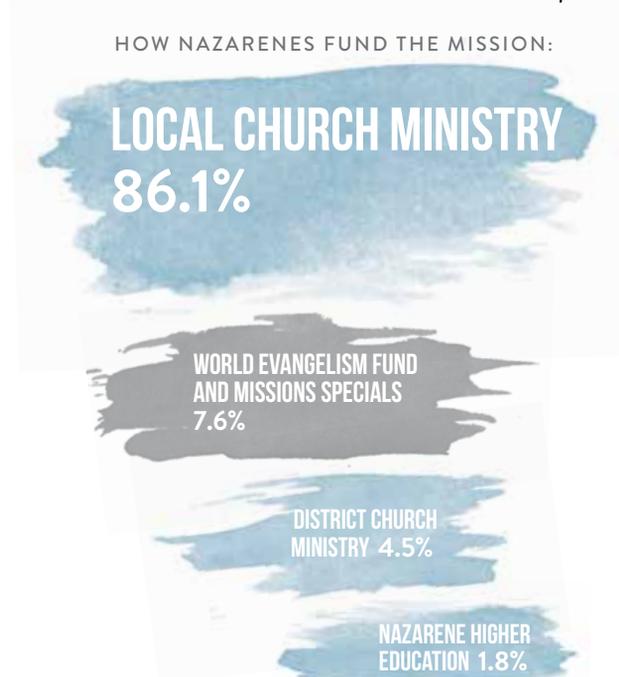
The Church of the Nazarene holds to the principle of equal sacrifice, not equal giving. This is a biblical position essential to a global church that includes first world economics and developing areas.

The World Evangelism Fund is the denominational funding plan. Sometimes you might hear the term “funding the mission.” This is a broader term than World Evangelism Fund, used to recognize the various ways mission is funded in different parts of the world.

Supporting the mission and ministries of the church is alive and well throughout Global Mission regions. Funding the mission has great significance for the church in terms of sacrificial giving for many.

When we look at the total amount given around the world, on average 86.1 percent is used for ministry in your local church. District ministries use about 4.5 percent of the funding. Your Nazarene colleges educate and disciple students with about 1.8 percent of the funds. This provides 7.6 percent of the money from your church to go to the World Evangelism Fund for missionaries, global ministries, and other approved mission specials.

You can see that your giving provides training, discipling, and brings the Good News to children, youth, and adults. When you give, you join with Nazarenes in a connected church; you love broken people, reach lost souls around the world, and *make Christlike disciples in the nations*.



World Evangelism Fund and mission specials are all part of sharing responsibility—and make it possible for the church to send missionaries, train national leaders, and provide educators to evangelize, disciple, and teach the next generation of Nazarenes.

Christian. Holiness. Missional.

We are witnessing the fulfillment of a vision from our first general superintendent, Phineas F. Bresee. He spoke from the beginning about a “divine panorama” of the Church of the Nazarene encircling the globe with “salvation and holiness unto the Lord.”

Every Nazarene, wherever he or she is, participates in the wider reality of this vision.

Each transformed life is a testimony to the Wesleyan-Holiness teaching of full salvation for all.

The church’s mission “to make Christlike disciples in the nations” reminds us that we are given a spiritual charge, and at the same time we are to be good stewards of all the resources provided by the Lord.

The mission comes from God, which means that our purpose is of the highest order, made possible by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

While we honor our “goodly heritage,” the church cannot go back—nor can it remain where it is. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to keep moving toward the city “whose architect and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10).

Behold, God is making all things new!

¹ *Journal of the Twentieth General Assembly, Church of the Nazarene*, (1980): 232. Franklin Cook, *The International Dimension* (1984): 49.

² These words are inscribed on each ordination credential.

³ Roger L. Hahn, “The Mission of God in Jesus’ Teaching on the Kingdom of God,” in Keith Schwanz and Joseph Coleson, eds., *Missio Dei: A Wesleyan Understanding* (2011), 58.

⁴ John Wesley, *Sermons, Volume II* (1902), p. 373; John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*, in J. A. Wood, *Christian Perfection as Taught by John Wesley* (1885), 211.