

# Team Central Mentoring



Central Florida District  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Our goal is to offer prayer, guidance, training, and support for future Nazarene pastors.

## The Birth And Direction of Team Central Mentoring

### The first five years of pastoral ministry shape the length of ministry service.

The genesis of Team Central Mentoring arises out of the spirit of the Church of the Nazarene Manual (230.2, 230.5), later adopted and expounded by the Sourcebook On Ordination and Handbook for Christian Ministries, which requires supervision of all candidates preparing for ministry. We know that preparation for ordination may not always equip the "called" for ministry. We seek to prepare pastors for the host of challenges that take place post-ordination and desire to find ways to strengthen the retention of pastors in the Church of the Nazarene.

The failure to prepare for the mission ahead ultimately results in the failure of the mission itself. With proper guidance from seasoned pastors as mentors, the chances for successful and fulfilling ministry increase. The mentoring program seeks to more than meet the needed educational requirements but rather to exceed them by offering a long term companion in ministry.

Each ministry candidate is paired with an assigned pastor as mentor whose role is to pray, guide and train. The expectations of the mentor are simplified into three tasks. These tasks together invite the connection between the deeply spiritual call of the candidate with the practical role of the pastor.

An annual assessment day inaugurates the relationship between mentor and candidate. The assessment seeks to allow the mentor to view and dialogue with the candidate and spouse (if applicable) about the results of two personality profiles, Meyer Briggs and Strength Finders. In addition, true to life case studies are presented to the candidates as the mentor facilitates and evaluates the candidates responses.

The assessment day offers the mentor a more focused look into the system process of the candidates. The bond created between mentor and candidate during these evaluations set the course for discussion and conversation during the year. This type of accountability offers an increased ability to find faulty theological and ethical systems early.

The ultimate goal of Team Central Mentoring is, at the least, a prayer partner through the credentialing process and, at the greatest, a companion for life long ministry. If we can capture the educational, theological and ministerial focus of a pastor at the onset of their ministry career, the Church of the Nazarene will grown deeper, stronger and together.

Jonathan Trees

### Expectations

1. Pray regularly for the candidate.
2. Support the candidate through quarterly visits, being available for questions in between visits, and being present at annual Ministerial & Credentials Board interviews.
3. Instruct the candidate on the importance in knowing and complying with Manual, Sourcebook on Ordination, and Handbook for Christian Ministry principles and polity, as well as reminders of district deadlines and regulations as needed. The progress of the candidate towards ordination will be the responsibility of the candidate alone. As an adviser, you will simply act as a resource and source of encouragement in their journey to fulfill God's calling on their life.

OUR

# VISION

To act as an adviser to students enrolled in ministerial studies on the Central Florida District as they navigate requirements for ordination, and in the theological, spiritual and practical challenges that arise in everyday ministry.