

**Sample Church Discipline and Restoration Policy**  
***For Lay Persons Involved in Ministry***

The objectives of church discipline are:

- 1) to sustain the integrity of the church
- 2) to protect the innocent from harm
- 3) to protect the effectiveness of the witness of the church
- 4) to warn and correct the careless
- 5) to bring the guilty to confession and restoration of ministry
- 6) to restore to effective service, those who have been rehabilitated
- 7) to protect the reputation and resources of the church.

Members of the church who are in known violation of the standards of holiness of the church should be dealt with kindly, yet faithfully, according to the grievousness of their offenses (James 2:24). Holiness of heart and life being the clear Biblical standard, the Northwestern Ohio District Church of the Nazarene insists upon a clear ministry and requires that those who are in active ministries of teaching, worship, counseling, or any other position of influence within the church be encouraged to:

- 1) in contrition and humility (Psalm. 51), confess their failure to God and other Christians as appropriate (James 5:16) and accept responsibility for their failure without blame on others (James 1:14);
- 2) establish an accountability relationship to help guard against repeating of the same offense (1 Corinthians 10:13 & Galatians 6:2);
- 3) be willing to re-establish the trust that has been violated within the body of Christ by stepping aside from active ministry for a period of one year. (Psalm 57:1-2; Galatians 6:7,8; James 3:1);
- 4) where appropriate, seek professional Christian counseling for problems where a pattern of misconduct in a particular area is discernable;
- 5) be willing to submit to the authority of the local church and senior pastor in healing and restoration (Hebrews 13: 17).

Thus the purpose of the discipline is not punitive or retributive but is to accomplish the goal of long-term restoration and overall spiritual health.

The Church of the Nazarene is a place of grace, peace and restoration...a hospital for the wounded and hurting (1 John 4:11- 12 & Matthew 9:12-13).

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Church Board Secretary

Board Voting Action: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Date of Actions: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_