

NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
District Advisory Board Plan for Restoration of
Ministers with Credentials

RESTORATION STATEMENT

It is the desire of the North Carolina Advisory and Credentials Boards to reach out with the love of Christ to those who may desire restoration of credentials. We follow the admonition given by the Apostle James: "Is anyone of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective". (James 5:13-16)

We further emphasize the words of James who states: "My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins". Our desire is to be used of God in such a way.

RESTORATION PROCESS

In an effort to carry out the above Biblical mandate, we hereby resolve to implement the following plan for restoration of ministers.

1. Candidates for restoration must be ministers holding credentials in the Church of the Nazarene. Candidates must submit to the following general criteria for restoration in the following areas:
 - a. Spiritual restoration
 - b. Emotional restoration
 - c. Mental restoration
 - d. Physical restoration
2. **Mentor** - To facilitate the above restoration process, specifically, candidates will be assigned a mentor by the Advisory Board. The mentor will seek to foster a spirit of reconciliation based on the criteria of spiritual, emotional, mental and physical restoration. A minimum monthly meeting will be held to discuss aforementioned items. Meeting times will be at the discretion of the mentor.
3. **Professional Evaluation** - The candidate will undergo an evaluation by a licensed Christian Psychologist/Psychiatrist. Upon the recommendation of the counselor, the Advisory Board in consultation with the Credentials Board shall establish the duration of ongoing counseling based upon said recommendation. The cost of the counseling is the responsibility of the candidate. The candidate must understand that ongoing counseling may be a prerequisite for restoration.
4. **Length of Restoration** - A member of the clergy who is not in good standing shall not preach, teach a Sunday School class, or hold any other position of leadership in the church worship services, and shall not be given any ministerial role unless the District Advisory Board, the district superintendent, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction determine that the individual has made sufficient progress toward rehabilitation to warrant once again allowing the individual to be of service in a position of trust or authority. Those considering approval shall carefully consider whether or not the

individual who has lost good standing has appropriately repented of his or her misconduct. True repentance involves a deep sense of personal guilt coupled with a change of conduct that continues for a length of time sufficient to be evidence that the change is likely to be permanent. Approval to serve in a position of trust or authority may be granted with or without restrictions. (Manual 435.6)

A member of the clergy who has lost good standing may be restored to good standing and have his or her credential restored only by the action of the Board of General Superintendents upon a recommendation for restoration from the district where good standing was lost. A recommendation for restoration shall require the approval of the district superintendent, the District Ministerial Credentials Board, and a two-thirds approval of the District Advisory Board. In considering whether or not to recommend that a credential be restored, progress on the plan of rehabilitation shall be the primary issue, but passage of time shall be an additional consideration.

However, in the event the member of the clergy has committed sexual misconduct, the member of the clergy shall not be eligible to apply for restoration until four years have passed. (435.7) The newest edition of the Manual to be released in January, 2002, indicates that the total time for restoration is four years.

5. **Restoration of Credential** - The candidate must understand that the Advisory/Credentials Board(s) approval does not necessarily warrant restoration of credentials, even if all criteria are met. Final restoration is contingent upon two-thirds approval of the District Advisory Board; majority vote of the Credentials Board; recommendation from the District Superintendent; approval by the Board of General Superintendents; and final approval by the District Assembly.
6. **Liaison** - The District Advisory Board along with the District Superintendent will serve as liaison between the minister to be restored and the District Credentials Board. Minutes of meetings as well as reports from the counselor shall be provided to the appropriate boards for their consideration.
7. **Application for Restoration** - Each candidate for restoration will complete an application for restoration provided by the District Superintendent. No exceptions will be made.

APPLICATION FOR RESTORATION

North Carolina District Advisory Board

North Carolina Ministerial Credentials Board

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Year Licensed: _____ **Year Ordained:** _____

_____ I have voluntarily surrendered my credentials.

_____ My desire is to have my credentials restored.

_____ I have met with the District Superintendent.

Please give a brief synopsis of your ministry experience.

Briefly explain the reason you surrendered your credentials.

Please explain why you would like your credentials restored.

Please explain any extenuating circumstances that you would like to share concerning your situation.

Any other information you would like to relate.

DECLARATION

By signing this application:

- (1) I have read the Restoration Policy for the NC District Church of the Nazarene.
- (2) I understand that even if all criteria are met, my credentials may not be restored.
- (3) I am willing to submit myself to the restoration process and will not preach, teach a Sunday School class, or hold any other position of leadership in the church worship services, and will not accept any ministerial role unless the District Advisory Board, the district superintendent, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction determine that I have made sufficient progress toward rehabilitation to warrant once again allowing me to be of service in a position of trust or authority. I accept the fact that true repentance involves a deep sense of personal guilt coupled with a change of conduct that continues for a length of time sufficient to be evidence that the change is likely to be permanent. I understand that approval may be with or without restrictions. (Manual 435.6)

Signed _____ Date _____