Colorado District Fellowship Membership Document

Fellowship membership as a provision within the *Manual* is to be used by districts that deem it appropriate for the purpose of more effectively accomplishing their mission as a church.  North America has become one of the largest mission fields in the world. As people come to fellowship with a Church of the Nazarene, the need to belong to the wider body of Christ often precedes becoming fully sympathetic to our rich Nazarene heritage, our Articles of Faith, and the implicit Covenants we honor with our membership.Adding the fellowship designation does not alter in any way the responsibilities of full membership within the Church of the Nazarene.  Used appropriately it provides a bridge to more effective discipling of Christians who would be joined to our body.

Fellowship membership, often used outside the USA/Canada region, would be a beneficial practice for the Colorado District. Three factors set the stage for its use.

1) It can no longer be assumed that the average citizen knows the Christian story. The culture gap between "churched" and "unchurched" has grown.

2) It can also no longer be assumed that persons entering our congregations for the first time understand the purpose of membership in the life of discipleship.

3) As a result, many congregations have not adequately articulated Nazarene history, belief, and practice in such a way that promotes membership as a significant commitment.

Fellowship membership, used conscientiously, will help us address our mission field in several ways.

1) Help focus our attention on making disciples who would become covenant members.

2) Move us toward membership as the adventurous embrace of a way of life.

3) Give space for individuals to journey more gradually into full membership allowing space for pastors to articulate and congregants to own the seriousness of our calling as Nazarenes.

4) Provide a permission giving context for pastors and congregations to develop contextually appropriate strategies for the proclamation of the gospel: by assisting church plants where cultural issues may prohibit full membership, by giving space to new Church plants where varied religious backgrounds and experience meet in the initial stages of forming a new Nazarene church, and by bringing existing non-Nazarene Churches into the denomination where not all congregates are prepared to become full members.

Proposed list of “Membership requirements” for fellowship membership:

1. Public witness as a disciple of Jesus (Articulated faith in Jesus Christ.)

2. Enter an intentional discipleship process that leads to baptism

3. Commitment to weekly corporate worship

4. Commitment to using their gifts to serve the church

5. Commitment to giving financially to the ministry of the church (10% as a goal)

*This document was approved by the Colorado District Advisory Board on November 5, 2015 and may be used by local churches on the district for purposes of establishing Local Church Fellowship Memberships. As a reminder, fellowship members must not be counted as full members for the purposes of determining representation to the District Assembly (Manual paragraph 203.24).*