

4 THIN1 Nazarene Identity

(This version of the course is intended to be taught through Zoom video with students learning in their own homes or study locations.)

Course Description

A study of the history and polity of the Church of the Nazarene, with attention given to practical administration of the local church, the Articles of Faith and Covenant of Christian Conduct, and accountability structures to assist integrity.

The course includes how to use correct accounting procedures, making budgets, fund raising, using designated income, and expenses. A brief history of the Church of the Nazarene will be included, including the history of the denomination in the student's own country. The course will cover the Local, District, and General structures, nature, and purpose as well as how they are funded. Students will role-play practice the various boards and positions found in our Nazarene government at the three levels (with a strong focus on the local level structures). Student will also role-play practice training others to take over various administrative tasks. The structures of the Church of the Nazarene will be compared with other church structures currently used around the world.

Course Rational

Administration is a weekly experience for pastors. They may write a research paper a few times during their ministry, but they will turn in expenses, run meetings, count members, and turn in reports every week, month, and year for their whole ministry. Many pastors prefer to teach and preach, but the Church of the Nazarene places the administrative burden directly on the pastor. The only staff member at most small churches is the pastor. They are often the most highly educated member of their congregation. Members expect them to be able to handle administration with integrity and skill. The way a pastor handles administration often sets the trust level of a congregation in other areas as well. Many local church conflicts can be avoided by using well-run transparent systems.

Intended Course Outcomes through Engagements

Students will show growth in the following ways:

1. *Character Formation:* Live and lead with moral integrity and in accordance with the tenets of doctrinal affirmations and code of conduct of the Church of the Nazarene.
2. *Content Processing with Peers:* Explain the history and polity of the Church of the Nazarene to the members of the congregation and those who are interested about the denomination.
3. *Ministry Capability Development:* Apply the ethos and policies of the Church of the Nazarene in ministerial responsibilities such as preaching, administration, counseling, and managing resources.
4. *Application in Mission and Community:* Integrate the doctrinal affirmations and denominational emphases of the Church of the Nazarene in all the missional endeavors of the local congregation.

Connection to Ordination Preparation:

Learning Outcome	Assessment	Program Outcome	Activity Statement
1	1	CH-3	ADM-9, DIS-4, MIN-1, PRA-1

2	2	CN-10, CN-11, CN-12, CN-16	ADM-4, ADM-7, DIS-10
3	3, 4	CN-13, CP-8, CP-10, CP-12, CP-14	ACC-5, ADM-1, ADM-5, ADM-6, ADM-8, RIT-2
4	4	CN-20, CX-5	CED-3, LEA-5, PRA-2, RIT-1

Balance:

Content	39%
Competency	37%
Character	13%
Context	11%

Course Textbooks

Key Texts:

Cunningham, Floyd T. *Expressing a Nazarene Identity: Frameworks for Lay Leadership*. Global Nazarene Publications, 2018. Available online: https://www.whdl.org/sites/default/files/publications/EN_expressing_a_nazarene_identity_rev20180412_0.pdf

Manual, 2017-21, Church of the Nazarene

Studymap, *Articles of Faith*. Available online: <https://www.whdl.org/studymaps-articles-faith-church-nazarene>

Nazarene Essentials: <https://nazarene.org/nazarene-essentials-documents>

Additional Learning Resources:

Cunningham, Floyd T. *Our Watchword and Song: The Centennial History of the Church of the Nazarene*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2009.

Nazarene Exploring Nazarene History and Polity, rev 6. RIIE Course Module. Kansas City: Clergy Services, 2002.

Course Requirements

Students can be divided into small groups of three. For some activities, groups of 7 people can role play a church board.

1. **Bible Reading and Prayer Journal:** Students should read through the Bible as designated in the *Master Plan for Bible Reading* in the Course of Study. For this course, students will read Leviticus 16 – Numbers 12 and Mark 9 – 16. The focus of the Scripture reading for this course will be on encountering the Holy Spirit through prayer. In addition to reading the Scripture noted above, students will spend at least one hour per week in prayer. Each week, students should choose one different issue in which God is changing them and choose one different person for whom to intercede before God and makes these two things the focus of the prayer time. **There should be at least five entries in the journal of at least one paragraph of 200 words each entry.** The entries can be made daily or weekly. Students should keep their journal in a notebook or with a computer. If your journal is recorded on paper, you can take a photo and send it to the instructor at the end of the course.
2. **SWOT Analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats): Students can work with a local pastor, their own pastor, or with their own church if they are a pastor, to complete this analysis of a local church. Students will then write a 500-word (**two page**) report of their findings. The report can be divided into the four areas above.

3. **Teaching Studymap:** Students will teach a group of children, youth, or adults the Nazarene Articles of Faith using the Studymap (or students may create their own graphic). Students will write a **one-paragraph** reflection on this experience and the effectiveness of their presentation.
4. **Core Values:** Write a **one-page** plan on how the core values of the Church of the Nazarene (see *Nazarene Essentials*) can make an impact on your community (outside the church). Students may think of a service project, compassionate ministry, or evangelism. If there is opportunity, students can begin to implement their plan.

Course Assessment

Bible Reading and Prayer Journal	20 %
SWOT Analysis	30 %
Teaching Studymap	20 %
Core Value Project	30 %

Course Outline

Topics include (can be ordered to follow the outline in the *Manual*):

1. A history of the denomination
2. The global Church of the Nazarene
3. Articles of Faith
4. The Covenant of Christian Conduct and the Covenant of Christian Character.
5. The steps for bringing in a member into membership.
6. The student's ability to correctly access the Manual description for various offices and list those responsibilities.
7. The process for nomination and election
8. The overall structure of the Church of the Nazarene
9. The responsibilities of a District
10. The three basic types of church governments used around the world: Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational.
11. Accountability to others / Spiritual and Financial (Tithing)
12. Vision
13. Officers
14. Mentoring
15. Team formation
16. Ritual
17. Budgets and reports
18. Statistics and reports