

Shepherd to Shepherd

“Stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord” Micah 5:4

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Eddie Estep
District Superintendent



Hunger for God



Leadership
Development



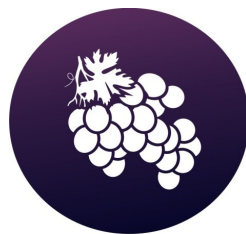
Fruitfulness



From My Heart to Yours

HOW TO LOSE MEMBERS

(Manual, 107-112.3)



Fruitfulness

Interesting title, isn't it? There are right reasons and right ways, as well as wrong reasons and wrong ways, to lose members. Unfortunately, I have met some Nazarene pastors who were more proficient at removing members than receiving members. I once had a pastor, defending the massive reduction in membership his church had experienced that year, tell me, "You don't cut a dog's tail off an inch at a time. You do it all at once." I reminded him that he was referring to the Body of Christ, not a pet. And that he had effectively cut off an arm and a leg, not a tail.

There are good reasons to lose members. Let's review them:

1. **DEATH** – if a member passes away, he or she should immediately be “transferred to Glory” and removed from the membership roll of the local church, with appropriate notations.
2. **REQUEST OF TRANSFER** – when a request is received to transfer a member to another local Church of the Nazarene, the transfer should be processed immediately, and the name removed from the membership roll, with appropriate notations (*Manual*, 111). When a member moves to another community, the pastor is instructed to contact the Nazarene pastor in that community (*Manual*, 109.1, 414.12).
3. **REQUEST OF COMMENDATION OR RELEASE** – “Commendation” is the transfer to a church other than the Church of the Nazarene (*Manual*, 111.1). “Release” is the granting of a letter, at the member's request, terminating his or her membership (*Manual*, 112.2).
4. **REMOVAL** – Individuals can be removed from the membership roll only after being placed on the “Inactive List” by official action of the church board for a period of at least two years (*Manual*, 109, 112.3). This action should be taken only after significant redemptive efforts have been made (*Manual*, 109.2).

We are often in too much of a hurry to remove members for whom the church has spiritual responsibility. Don't be in a hurry to remove members who have left because they were mad at you. They will probably be back when you leave 😊.

I wish pastors were as motivated to grow their membership rolls as they sometimes are to shrink their membership rolls. Almost every year some church on the South Carolina District will remove 50-100 names from its membership roll, thus negating many of the gains made by the other 64 churches.

Very few, if any, have ever returned to Christ or His Church because they were removed from the membership roll. But there have been many, many instances where people were wooed back to Christ and to the fellowship of believers because the church made a concerted effort to reestablish the connection with that individual. Your best prospects for growth and further fruitfulness may very well be listed on your membership rolls.

Eddie Estep
District Pastor

Bits-N-Pieces

Prayer Requests: Rev. Joe Jones (retired pastor) recently hospitalized; Pastor John Powell (Batesburg) undergoing cancer treatment; Jimmy and Brenda Haynes ministering in Swaziland; 2012 Ministry Team Retreat Cruise (Jan. 30-Feb. 4). Please join us in praying for an awakening movement of the Holy Spirit on the South Carolina District.

Mission Area Directors announced for 2012: Mike Blankenship (Low Country Mission Area); Kyle Poole (Lower Midlands Mission Area); Paul Johnson (Midlands Mission Area); Scott Crandall (Pee Dee Mission Area); John Porter (Piedmont Mission Area); Dale Turner (Santee Mission Area); Chuck Fountain (Upstate Mission Area); Javes Munoz (Hispanic Ministries Director).

Rev. Jim Stocks is serving as interim pastor at **Rock Hill Grace**.

On Saturday, March 24, 2012, the South Carolina District will be sponsoring a **“School of Stewardship.”** The event will be held at West Columbia Central from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This district training event, facilitated by Dr. Mark Lail, director of Stewardship Ministries for the Church of the Nazarene, will teach pastors how to build more and better givers by fostering a culture of holy generosity. It is designed to be practical, motivational, and fun. Pastoral participants will also earn Continuing Education credit. While there is no registration cost for this event, we are asking every participant to sign up for lunch (\$10) by contacting Rachael Watts at nazscdist@cs.com.

The South Carolina District will be hosting a **Holiness Summit** on October 14-17, 2012, at the campground. Dr. Nina Gunter, Dr. Nelson Perdue, and Dr. Tim Green will be preaching. The summit will begin with the Sunday evening service and conclude with a Wednesday morning service. Morning and evening services will be held on Monday and Tuesday with a morning seminar/workshop/Q&A in addition to each morning service. Afternoons will be free.

Dr. Michael Benson is reentering the field of evangelism and is available for revivals. You may recall Dr. Benson was one of our camp meeting preachers in 2007. He may be contacted at: deeperlifeinc@gmail.com. His website is www.disciplinesfortheinnerlife.com.

Have you considered **Ashes to Fire?** It is a great ministry resource that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Pentecost. See www.ashestofire.com or call NPH at 800.877.0700.

“2012 Dates to Remember”

January 27-28	SC District TNT
January 29	Nazarene Theological Seminary Offering
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	District Ministry Team Retreat Cruise
Feb. 20-22	Pastors’ Pre-Lent Prayer Summit
March 11	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 24	District School of Stewardship
April 1	Palm Sunday
April 6	Good Friday
April 12-14	TNT @ TNU
May 10-11	Board of Credentials/Board of Studies Assessment Days
June 17-24	District Family Camp Meeting
July 22-24	District Conventions and Assembly
October 14-17	South Carolina District Holiness Summit