

' "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ' Matthew 5:13 NLT



Michigan District
Church of the Nazarene

MICHIGAN DISTRICT 111TH ORDINATION SERVICE

INDIAN LAKE NAZARENE CAMP

JULY 14, 2024

Dr. Carla D. Sunberg

Dr. Carla Sunberg was elected 43rd general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene at the 29th General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, in June 2017. At the time of her election, Dr. Sunberg was president of Nazarene Theological Seminary, where she had been serving since January 2014.

She was ordained on the Russia North District, where she and her husband, Chuck, served the Church of the Nazarene for 13 years as pioneer missionaries to the former Soviet Union. In 2005, the Sunbergs returned to the United States and began pastoring at Grace Point Church of the Nazarene in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 2011, she and her husband accepted a call to serve as co-district superintendents of the East Ohio District Church of the Nazarene.

Sunberg has a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree from MidAmerica Nazarene University, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS), and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Historical Theology from Nazarene Theological College and the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. In May 2012, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity (DD) degree from Olivet Nazarene University.

Dr. Sunberg has a long record of service to the Church of the Nazarene on various boards and committees. In addition, Sunberg also served as president of Wesleyan-Holiness Women Clergy, and chair of the Wesleyan-Holiness Connection.

She is the author of articles for various church publications, as well numerous books. Her dissertation, *The Cappadocian Mothers* is published by Pickwick. Her latest works include *Color: God's Intention for Diversity*, written together with Dr. Daniel Gomis; editor of *Faithful to the Call: Women in Ministry*, and *Why Holiness*, as well as her latest release, *Teach Us to Pray*, all from the Foundry Publishing.



Carla was born in Germany, the daughter of missionaries. She loves to teach and train leaders for the future of the church and has served as adjunct faculty for a number of institutions. Her heartfelt passion is a life of holiness and service for the Lord. Carla and Chuck are proud parents of two adult daughters, Christa, who along with her husband, Iain Maciver, lives in England with their two children, Theodore and Alana; and Cara, who with her husband, Justin Shonamon, and children Mackenzie, Alice, and Halston lives in Kansas City, Kansas.

Rev. Bradley Dyrness

Rev. Brad Dyrness was appointed as District Superintendent of the Michigan District September 6, 2020. At the time Pastor Brad was serving as the Lead Pastor as Lansing South Church of the Nazarene.

Brad was born in Spokane, Washington and grew up in the Kansas City area, later graduating from high school in Billings, Montana. He was ordained in 1986 by Dr. Charles Strickland at the Michigan District Assembly, the same year Northern Michigan was launched as a pioneer district. Brad served as a youth pastor for 12 years in the following churches: St Louis, Michigan; Colorado Springs First in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Wichita First Church in Wichita Kansas. He also served 28 years as the lead pastor in West Branch, Michigan; Junction City, Kansas; Sparks, Nevada and Lansing, Michigan (SouthNaz).

Rev. Dyrness received his bachelor's degree in Christian Education from MidAmerica Nazarene University and his Master of Arts, Religion in Spiritual Formation, from Northwest Nazarene University in 2007. Brad has served the cities where the family lived as speaker in public schools for Pregnancy Centers, Faith Advisory member for the Mayor and a Fire and Police Chaplain.

Brad is married to Debbie. They have been married since college days and have three adult children and three grandchildren. Debbie is a Kindergarten teacher and a faithful partner in ministry alongside Brad. He volunteers in her class weekly.

Brad has always been involved in district ministries - in NYI, Credentials Board, DAB and W&W Director in Michigan. His passion for practical missions has taken him on dozens of mission trips around the world, North, Central and South America, including Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Columbia, and the Navajo Nation. He has also travelled to Africa and Cambodia.



Order of Service

Prelude Music	Instrumental
Welcome & Announcements.....	District Superintendent
Reception of Nominating Report.....	Rev. Marlene Webster
Reception of Credentials Report, Partial #1	Rev. Marlene Webster
Statement of Purpose and Invocation	General Superintendent
Processional	“Holiness unto the Lord”
Presentation of the Ordinands	District Secretary
Receiving of the Ordinands.....	General Superintendent
Examination of the Ordinands	General Superintendent
Scripture Reading	
Ephesians 4:1–16	Rev. Lonnie Kellogg
Congregational Music	“Resurrender”
The Apostles’ Creed	District Superintendent & Congregation
Recognition of Retiring Ministers	District Superintendent
Challenge to Newly Licensed Ministers	District Superintendent
Acknowledge Youth with a Call to Ministry.....	Rev. Hannah Jones-Nelson
Congregational Music	“Goodness of God”
<i>Manual</i> Reading Paragraphs 502-502.6.....	Rev. Dana Farr,
.....	Rev. Jean Ambeau, Rev. Dwight Kingsbury
Sermon.....	General Superintendent
Ordination of Ritual.....	General Superintendent
Sending Forth.....	General Superintendent
“The Call” Statue Presentation	Dr. Gregg Chenoweth
Recessional.....	Elders Sing—“The Blessing”
Benediction	General Superintendent

Holiness Unto the Lord

1 "Called unto holiness," Church of our God,
Purchase of Jesus, redeemed by His blood;
Called from the world and its idols to flee,
Called from the bondage of sin to be free.

Chorus:

"Holiness unto the Lord" is our watchword and song,"
"Holiness unto the Lord" as we're marching along;
Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
"Holiness unto the Lord," now and forever.

2 "Called unto holiness," children of light,
Walking with Jesus in garments of white;
Raiment unsullied, untarnished with sin,
God's Holy Spirit abiding within. [Chorus]

3 "Called unto holiness," praise His dear name!
This blessed secret to faith now made plain,
Not our own righteousness, but Christ within,
Living and reigning and saving from sin. [Chorus]

4 "Called unto holiness," glorious thought!
Up from the wilderness wanderings brought,
Out from the shadows and darkness of night,
Into the Canaan of perfect delight. [Chorus]

5 "Called unto holiness," Bride of the Lamb,
Waiting the Bridegroom's returning again;
Lift up your heads, for the day draweth near
When in His beauty the King shall appear. [Chorus]

The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Manual Reading

Paragraphs 502-502.6

Theology of Ordination. While affirming the scriptural tenet of the universal priesthood and ministry of all believers, ordination reflects the biblical belief that God calls and gifts certain men and women for ministerial leadership in the church. Ordination is the authenticating, authorizing act of the Church, which recognizes and confirms God's call to ministerial leadership as stewards and proclaimers of the gospel and the Church of Jesus Christ. Consequently, ordination bears witness to the Church universal and the world at large that this candidate evidences an exemplary life of holiness, possesses gifts and graces for public ministry, and has a thirst for knowledge, especially for the Word of God, and has the capacity to communicate sound doctrine.

501.1. The Church of the Nazarene depends largely upon the spiritual qualifications, character, and manner of life of its ministers. (530.17)

502.2. The minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and be sanctified wholly by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit. The minister must have a deep love for unbelievers, believing they are perishing, and a call to proclaim salvation.

502.3. The minister is to be an example to the church: punctual, discreet, diligent, earnest, and in purity, understanding, patience, kindness, love, and truth by the power of God (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

502.4. The minister must likewise have a deep sense of the necessity of believers going on to perfection and developing the Christian graces in practical living, that their "love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Philippians 1:9). One who would minister in the Church of the Nazarene must have a strong appreciation of both salvation and Christian ethics.

502.5. The minister should respond to opportunities to mentor future ministers and to nurture the call to ministry.

502.6. The minister must have gifts and graces for the ministry. He or she will have a thirst for knowledge, especially of the Word of God, and must have sound judgment, good understanding, and clear views concerning salvation as revealed in the Scriptures. Saints will be edified and sinners converted through his or her ministry. Further, the minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must be an example in prayer.

Granted Retirement Status

Rev. Todd Compton



Todd Henry Compton, born 11/16/1960. Was called by God when I was 11 years old. While attending vacation bible school at Saginaw First Church.

While at Olivet Nazarene University I did my internship at Saginaw Central Church. In 1983, my senior year at Olivet, I became the music director at Morris, IL until July 1984.

In October 1984 I started at Perry Nazarene as their Music director. I was also on staff at Grand Ledge, Lansing Woodview, and Mason. Presently on the praise team at Portland. While at Grand Ledge, I was ordained in 1993.

I have served on the NYI council and also coached the District men's volleyball team for 10 years.

I married Connie Sue Kernstock August 25, 1984 and we had two daughters, Kendra and Rebecca. We now have 5 Grandchildren, Adalynn, Vanessa, Cheyanne, Kaden, and Paisley.

I have just finished my 38th year as a High School official in Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball with MHSAA. I also officiate USA softball. I have had the honor to umpire at Oklahoma City in the men's A/B National slow pitch tournament.

My hobbies are playing softball and fishing and will be spending more time here at Indian Lake during my retirement years.

Granted Retirement Status

Rev. David Downs



I was raised in a Nazarene home and felt a call to full time ministry in the 11th grade. My parents were very involved in the life of the church and close to our Pastor and family. I really didn't want to be a Pastor so I ignored my call for several years. During that time I attended Mount Vernon Nazarene College as a Business Management and Marketing major, sold cars, worked at a bank, and owned my own business. Also during that time I married

Kelly Murphy who truly is the "love of my life." Little did I know at that time what an awesome Pastors' wife she would be!

About 6 years into our marriage, with three beautiful daughters, I yielded to God and His call on my life. Shortly after that we moved to Salisbury, Maryland to accept my first ministry assignment as Youth and Music Pastor.

After serving in Salisbury for five years we moved to Piqua, Ohio and served there as Youth and Music Pastor. In 1997 we moved to Vicksburg, Michigan where I accepted a call as Youth Pastor. In 2006 ChapNaz called me to be the Lead Pastor. I served God at ChapNaz for 26 years until I retired on December 31, 2023.

Today we are splitting our time between Indian Lake Nazarene Camp (5 grandkids!) and Carolina Beach, North Carolina (3 grandkids!). Over the years I have enjoyed and had the privilege of serving on several different district boards and committees.

I believe one of the greatest blessings I have received is individuals from 4 different churches praying for me and my family.

We feel very blessed as we continue to settle into this new phase of life. God is good!

Granted Retirement Status

Rev. John Obrecht



At the age of twenty I sought to reform myself by use of my personal judgement and will power. I failed repeatedly. I hoped God would excuse my weakness in exchange for attending church, so I decided to go to First Church of the Nazarene in Portage Indiana. The Gospel was preached with power and urgency, so I quickly and earnestly asked Jesus to save me from my sins.

Across the next two years I struggled with the unlikely possibility that God was calling me into the ministry. Filled with confusion and fear, I enrolled at Olivet. There, in a variety of ways God confirmed His call and I graduated in 1981.

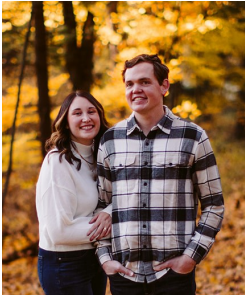
My first pastorate began in 1983 at Lake Odessa, Michigan which had only one member and no salary except the \$100 from the district's home mission board. My ordination at Indian Lake in 1985 was followed a year later with a move to Wilmore, Kentucky so I could pursue a Master of Divinity degree which was completed in 1988. Following my seminary work, I remained in Kentucky several years, serving as pastor for churches in Bowling Green and Benton.

In June of 1996 my family returned to Michigan where we have enjoyed our ministry with several churches on this district including, Mt Pleasant First (10 yrs as pastor), St. Louis (4 yrs on staff), St John (1 yr. as interim), and Saginaw First (12 as yrs pastor).

As I approach retirement, my heart overflows with love and gratitude to the Lord who shows me over and over that He is worthy of all love, trust, and glory.

Election to Elder's Orders

Rev. Jacob Edward Abbey-Johnson



I never planned to be a hospital chaplain ordained in the Church of the Nazarene, and I am grateful that is where I am today. I grew up going to a United Methodist Church every Sunday. In 6th grade my pastor (Rev. Amy Lee) helped me discern my calling to ministry. As a 6th grader, I thought I was called to be a lead pastor. I preached, read, prayed, and pursued this calling throughout my grade school years. The summer after I graduated high school, I worked at a middle school church camp. Through working at the camp, it became clear that God might be calling me to ministry in a different context than I originally imagined. After graduating college, I moved up to Grand Rapids, Michigan to pursue my Master of Divinity at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. I began my seminary studies still searching for a vocation and a church. After two years in Grand Rapids, I got invited to go to church with friends at Grand Rapids International Fellowship. I did not go to this church seeking out the Church of the Nazarene or searching for the perfect doctrine. What I found at this church was community. I felt welcomed with open arms by so many people; making it feel like home. Through learning more about the doctrine and core values, it seemed like a perfect match. I was drawn to this Church because of the community I found. I became part of a small group that became like a family to me. It was in this community that I felt fully loved and known as the person God created me to be. This community is also where I met my now wife, Ellen Abbey-Johnson, who shows me every day what it looks like to care well. As a chaplain, these same core values of loving well and walking alongside people wherever they find themselves continue to be a core part of my ministry and care. I am grateful to have the opportunity every day to care for the patients, families, and staff at Helen Devos Children's Hospital.

Election to Elder's Orders

Rev. Samuel Stuart Evans



Sam grew up in a Christian home on the outskirts of Lima, OH. He repented at an early age of 5 in a Sunday school room in Delphos, OH. His father Stephen had him singing in front of small congregations at the same age and taught him of Christian service, music, and would tell him, 'Don't try to sing like someone else, sing like Sam'. Sam's mother encouraged him through days of discipline and disappointment and his Grandma Sweeney taught him to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and love the things He loves. In Elementary, Sam would meet Jesus everyday at the swings in the playground and sing to Him. On the good days and the bad, Jesus always met Sam there and Jesus became his best friend.

Sam began writing songs at the age of 14 and even wrote a song about his friendship called "My Best Friend". He formed a Christian band 'Wings of Praise' and led his entire student body in original songs of worship. He experienced entire sanctification at the age of 16, taught Sunday school, led worship, and filled the pulpit. He then went to Lima Community Church of the Nazarene, (where his Aunt MJ attended) for youth group and to see Phillips, Craig, & Dean. His mom drew him a picture of Jesus for graduation of his 'best friend'.

While Sam was studying history and music at The Ohio State University, he met Pam at a Pentecostal church and they married in July 10, 2004. As their family grew with Gabriel and Natalie, Sam felt he was living short of his calling to sing and preach. In 2013, Sam accepted a call to serve as worship leader at a Nazarene Church in Orrville, OH. In the next four years, Sam led worship, filled the pulpit some, and Logan and Silas was born. Sam began the course of study at Nazarene Bible College after answering the call to serve at Hillcrest in Anchorage, AK in 2019. The last three years he has served at Owosso First as Creative Arts Pastor and assisted the congregation through change of a sanctuary update and new sound/acoustics installation and has also served on the district leading worship and at adventure camp. Sam & Pam like camping, marvel, and The Office, and lots of coffee as they continue on the journey of grace.

Election to Elder's Orders

Rev. Robert (Bobby) Dale Garza, Jr.



I have been privileged to grow up in the Church of the Nazarene where I have made many of life's choices and callings for my life. I committed my life to Christ as a child and began the journey of finding and following my calling. I have been surrounded with such a wonderful support system that only expanded as I got married and finally accepted my call to ministry.

My wife Jensine and I got married in 2018, at that time neither she nor I had any idea that I would be a pastor. She has been beyond supportive as I have filed through a list of professions working towards pastoral ministry. We are blessed with two beautiful little girls, Juliet, and Maxine, who are my constant reminders to lead and live for Christ and to set an example for them. My family and I have returned to Lansing South, our childhood home, after a stint at the Portland Church where I have been able to serve as Outreach Pastor. Ministry is a calling on my life that I had as a child while listening to a missionary speaker. I ran from the calling through most of my life until I finally could not run any longer. Since then, I have started my education in pastoral ministry, leaps and bounds from the engineering major I started in. I am in the process of completing my bachelors in Pastoral Leadership from the Nazarene Bible College.

God has been at the center since the very beginning even when I chose not to see it. I have grown to see the subtle and often obvious work of the Lord in my life, and I am thankful I have started to listen. Listening has led me to where I am, and I plan to continue to follow the leading of the Spirit as He has not failed me yet.

Election to Elder's Orders

Rev. Alexandra Kim McMath



I grew up in a loving Christian home with Nazarene influences. When I was six, on the school bus, God spoke to me and told me that I had a calling on my life, but as time went by, I denied this call. I didn't want to put in the work that it would require, and put it up to my childhood imagination running wild. I went to church and acted like the good Christian girl I was raised to be, but led a life of sin behind closed doors.

Then, when I was seventeen, my godmother, evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene, accepted a job preaching at a revival. My mom took some of the worship team to help out at the revival, including me. It was there, in Bradley, Illinois, that God finally cut through my calloused heart and brought me to my knees. He asked me to give Him my life, and I did just that. On the same night, I finally accepted my calling into ministry, and eventually, evangelism, and turned my life in a completely new direction. Only a few weeks later I was again confronted by God, who was showing me that I still had ugliness in my heart that I needed to let go of. After a while of fighting the conviction I was experiencing, I again surrendered to Jesus Christ, and gave it all up to Him. I was gloriously sanctified that day!

With God's guidance, I eventually married the love of my life in 2019, who has been my support and cheerleader every day since. God has been faithful to take care of us and provide for us, even through hardships. God allowed us to use the loss of our son Ezra in 2022 to guide hurting people to God, and to grow in our faith as we navigated our grief. God has proven that He gives beauty for even the darkest ashes in our lives, and we are rejoicing as we anticipate the birth of our son, Judah, this August!

I have been blessed to serve as Worship Pastor and in both children and youth ministry at my church, Kalamazoo South Side, for the past several years, I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me and my family.

Election to Elder's Orders

Rev. Justin Schultz



Hello, my name is Justin, and I wanted to tell you about my journey and how God has impacted my life in amazing ways. My wonderful wife and I have been married for 20 awesome years. We were married pretty young, she was 19 and I was 20, and we often say that we grew up together. We really have had a great journey so far, six wonderful kids, and every day we get a new glimpse of how much grace and love God sent us in the form of these beautiful kids.

I grew up in the church so she has always been a part of my life. It was at the age of 7, in Mrs. Weaver's Jr. Worship service, that I committed my life to Christ. Then, at 17, during a worship service at Winding Creek Camp, the Holy Spirit drew me back to Himself. It was there I received my clear call to ministry, confirming what God was calling me into.

My wife and I strive to allow Christ to be the cornerstone of our lives. As such, the Church has been instrumental in guiding me and pointing others, including myself, towards Him. It's in this community, from Hastings to Nashville, where I've seen real, tangible evidence of what living a Christ-centered life looks like. My role in ministry has allowed me to witness and participate in the transformative power of God's work, changing lives day by day—including my own.

I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and humbled for the privilege to serve in His Church. Every day, I'm reminded of the greatness of God's love and the ways He uses our lives to demonstrate His glory. This calling I've received is more than a role; it's a testament to God's faithfulness and a life-long commitment to spread His word and love. This snapshot of my story isn't just about where I've been or what I've done—it's a heartfelt expression of thanks. Thanks to God for His relentless pursuit of my heart, for every opportunity to lead others closer to Him, and for the joy and responsibility of being part of His Church. Here in Nashville, I'm excited to continue this journey, hoping to touch hearts and change lives through the love of Jesus Christ. I'm eager to walk this path together, celebrating every step where God leads us.



Michigan District
Church of the Nazarene

New District Ministers Licensees

2024

DANIEL KASAGGOMA

CHARISSA LANGSTAFF

JENNA RALSTON

LARRY (BART) SIMPSON

