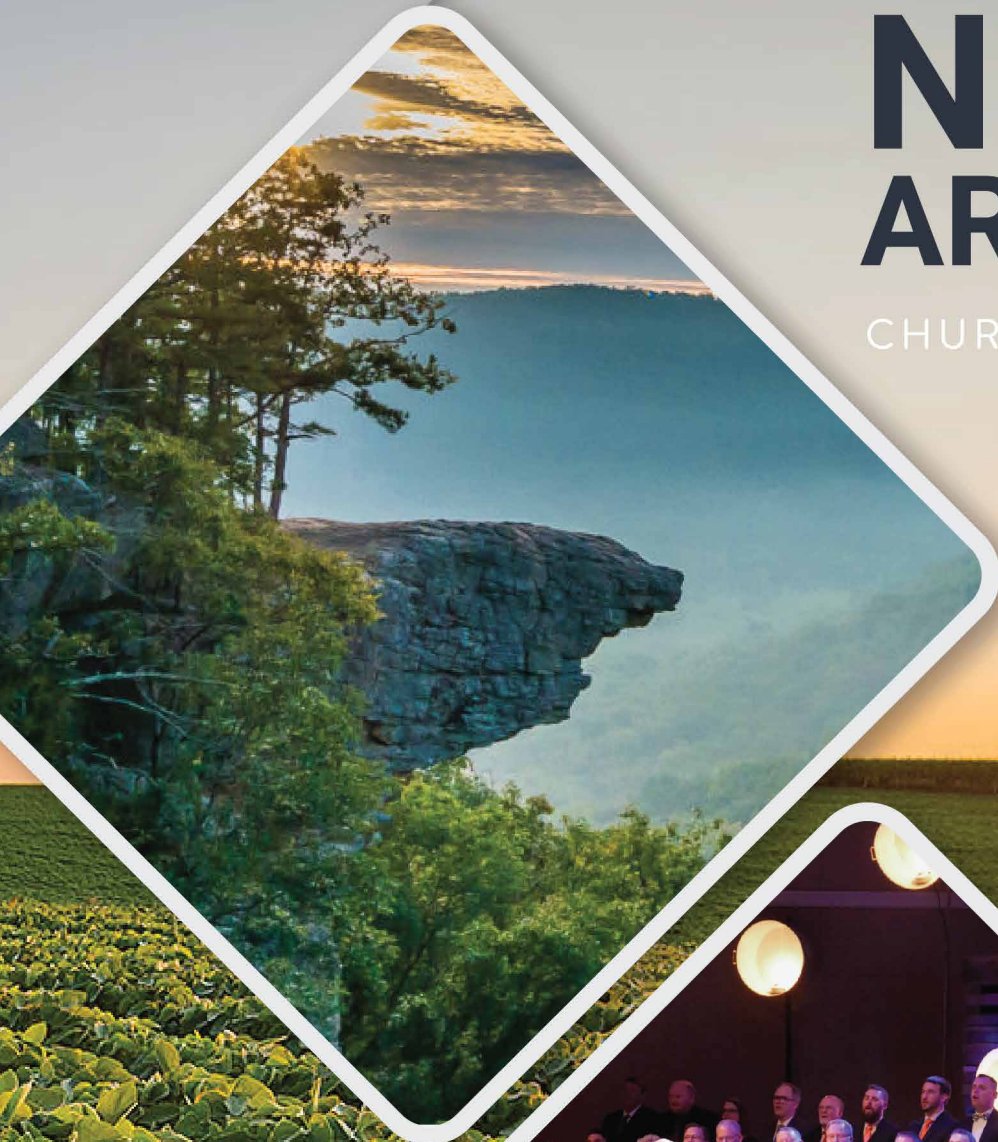


# NORTH ARKANSAS

CHURCH OF  THE NAZARENE



...to equip and encourage  
**NORTH ARKANSAS CONGREGATIONS**  
as they make **CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLES**  
locally and globally.



**The Church of the Nazarene** has been engaged in fruitful ministry on the North Arkansas District for over 100 years. North Arkansas Nazarenes have a rich heritage that includes several active congregations that predate the 1908 merger in Pilot Point. Our connection with Southern Nazarene University dates back to 1931 when Arkansas Holiness College in Vilonia merged with other institutions to become our regional college.

We celebrate all that God has done on the North Arkansas District, and we eagerly anticipate all that He is going to do as our congregations rise to meet the challenges of ministry in a 21st Century context. Through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, we will advance our shared mission: *“to equip and encourage North Arkansas congregations as they make Christ-like disciples locally and globally.”*

As we approach the prospect of a new District Superintendent, our district has been guided by 3 distinct prayers: we thank God for a solid foundation, we look forward to a hopeful future, and we ask God to send us a transformative leader.

## A SOLID FOUNDATION

The last decade has been marked by consistent and steady growth as pastors and congregations have partnered together to see lives transformed.

In 2016 more people were baptized (281) on our district than at any other point in our history. In 2015 North Arkansas churches received into membership the 2nd most new Nazarenes (574) among districts in the USA/Canada region.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg. Weekly SDMI Attendance</u>	<u>SDMI Enrollment</u>	<u>Avg. Weekly Worship</u>	<u>Church Membership</u>	<u>New Nazarenes</u>	<u>Conversions</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Total \$ Raised</u>
2009	3076	8361	4160	6335	263	222	163	\$7,738,672
2010	3315	7738	4045	6260	211	239	109	\$7,610,025
2011	3598	7605	4039	6306	197	297	139	\$7,202,303
2012	3484	7984	4086	6257	256	342	168	\$7,397,144
2013	3411	8008	4039	6099	254	318	175	\$7,314,378
2014	3684	7524	4232	5973	258	453	209	\$7,219,599
2015	3881	8588	4277	6246	571	497	261	\$7,239,205
2016	3865	8122	4546	6250	338	532	281	\$7,406,279
2017	4254	8531	4555	6581	459	574	278	\$7,501,488
2018	4203	8597	4483	6572	285	455	204	\$7,636,724

North Arkansas is blessed with an exceptional team of pastors. Many of them enjoy long term tenures, providing wise and consistent leadership to their churches and our district. North Arkansas churches honor and support their pastors. The average compensation package of our fulltime pastorates is 6% higher than comparable churches on the South Central region. We currently have 6 women serving as lead pastors, a number that is certain to grow as our most recent class of ordinands was entirely female.

We recognize the imperative to plant new churches and are committed to using new church plants as the most effective means of evangelism. The Crossroads Cowboy Church was launched in 2014. God has tremendously blessed this effort to reach people in central Arkansas who identify with the Western Heritage culture. Crossroads is one of the fastest growing congregations in the USA/Canada region, averaging 800 in morning worship. Through their unique and innovative approach to ministry, over 500 people have been baptized into the Christian faith.

As we give thanks to God for this solid foundation, we celebrate the leadership of Dr. Randy and Debbie Berkner. The true value of their investments of time, wise counsel, and pastoral presence will only be known in eternity.

## A HOPEFUL FUTURE

Our prayers are full of hope as we look forward to the next season of ministry under a new district superintendent. We recognize the challenges before us and eagerly embrace them as opportunities for God to work.

In a recent survey of our district, pastors and lay leaders highlighted three strategic priorities for the future:

*Revitalizing plateaued or declining churches*

*Developing young leaders*

*Promoting organic outreach in the local church*

A RAND cohort is being developed on our district to promote Vibrant Church Renewal and address the 60% of congregations that are plateaued or declining.

In 2017, we embraced a call from district leaders to be strategic in how we will “grow young” into the future. This resulted in a change in our District Assembly format and a renewed emphasis on placing young people in significant leadership positions. Our church board focus groups revealed that our programming for children and youth were areas of high importance for the local church. We recognize the importance of these programs to cultivate emerging leaders.

Focus group data and survey results both indicate that leaders in the local church want to be equipped and empowered for outreach. Building upon the Organic Outreach content that was shared at PALCON, an Organic Outreach training event for local church leaders is scheduled for January of 2019.





## A TRANSFORMATIVE LEADER

We believe God is already preparing a leader who can build on this solid foundation and help our congregations realize this hopeful future that is before us. The DNA of this leader should include the following:

### *Leadership Development*

Revitalizing declining churches and maximizing growing churches will require intentional leadership from our pastors. Our next DS should have a track record for recognizing, placing, and training leaders.

### *Team Building*

Our district ministry leaders (NYI, NMI, SDMI, etc.) enjoy being given space for creative and strategic thinking on how to make Christ-like Disciples. Our next DS should have experience in attracting and working with high-capacity leaders.

### *Vision Casting*

Our next DS should be able to cast a clear and compelling vision for North Arkansas, recognizing the importance of the pastor to implement this vision in the local church.

### *Passion for Evangelism and Discipleship*

Our churches are at their best when life transformation happens. Our next DS should be on the frontlines of equipping, empowering, and releasing leaders in the local church who can advance the Great Commission in their local context.

### *Pastor to Pastors*

Our next DS should recognize that local church pastors are the greatest asset to our mission. We desire a relational leader who can strengthen and encourage our pastors in their life and service to the Church.

### *Diverse Approaches to Ministry*

Our next DS will be adept at "out of the box" thinking in his/her approach to new ministry opportunities. This includes traditional, contemporary, multi-cultural, and multi-congregational ministries. Our next DS should have experience in diverse cultural settings as we look to build on our work among Hispanics, African-Americans, and those who identify with Western Heritage.

### *Holiness Message*

Our leaders have a love for the message of sanctification and holiness. Our next DS should have experience in the development of creative ways to preach our doctrine, teach its truths, and live out its principles.



**As we think about the next transformative leader that God will send to our district, we pray and hope in the same confidence that Paul had for the church in Philippi:**

*"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

**Philippians 1:6**