**"Staying Legal"**

**East Ohio District**

**January 21, 2016**

Michael Thompson

General Counsel

Global Ministry Center

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**Trending Issues:**

Child Protection

 ◦ Resources: [www.nazarenesafe.org](http://www.nazarenesafe.org/) ([www.ministrysafe.com](http://www.ministrysafe.com))

 ◦ Why background checks and a “policy” are not enough

 ◦ Mandatory Reporting – ALL NAZARENES ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS FOR CHILD ABUSE

**Ohio Child Abuse Hotline: 855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453)**

◦Sexual Misconduct Insurance

 • Sex Offenders In Church

 ◦ Attendance -- Model Covenant Agreement

 ◦ Ministry and Service Within the Church

 Ruling of the Board of General Superintendents in December 2013 that the following language be added to Manual paragraph 903.3: “Because some types of misconduct, such as sexual misconduct involving children or of a homosexual nature, or repeated marital infidelity, are rarely the result of a onetime moral lapse, individuals who are guilty of sexual misconduct that involves a high probability of repeated misconduct should not be permitted to serve in any position of leadership, trust, or ministry in the local church, which indicates these persons may only serve as parishioners with no duties or responsibilities in the local church.” (emphasis added)

Same Sex Marriage

* + - See sample Nazarene Christian Community Policy
		- Baby Dedications / Infant Baptisms

Solemnization of Marriage, Generally

Corporation issues for churches

Weapons/violence in church

“Pastor” Title