

1 **LATE RESOLUTION**

2 **CA-704a**

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4 **DISCRIMINATION**

5 Kansas City District and Virginia District
6 *Manual 903.2*
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9 RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 903.2 be amended as follows:
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11 903.2. Discrimination

12 The Church of the Nazarene reiterates its historic position of Christian
13 compassion for people of all races. We believe that God is the Creator of all
14 people, and that of one blood are all people created.

15 We believe that each individual, regardless of race, color, gender, or creed,
16 should have equality before law, including the right to vote, equal access to
17 educational opportunities, to all public facilities, and to the equal opportunity,
18 according to one’s ability, to earn a living free from any job or economic
19 discrimination.

20 We urge our churches everywhere to continue and strengthen programs of
21 education to promote racial understanding and harmony. We also feel that the
22 scriptural admonition of Hebrews 12:14 should guide the actions of our people.
23 We urge that each member of the Church of the Nazarene humbly examine his or
24 her personal attitudes and actions toward others, as a first step in achieving the
25 Christian goal of full participation by all in the life of the church and the entire
26 community.

27 We reemphasize our belief that holiness of heart and life is the basis for
28 right living. We believe that Christian charity between racial groups or gender will
29 come when the hearts of people have been changed by complete submission to
30 Jesus Christ, and that the essence of true Christianity consists in loving God with
31 one’s heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one’s neighbor as oneself. (2005)

32 Therefore, we renounce any form of racial and ethnic indifference,
33 exclusion, subjugation, or oppression as a grave sin against God and our fellow
34 human beings. We lament the legacy of every form of racism throughout the
35 world, and we seek to confront that legacy through repentance, reconciliation, and
36 biblical justice. We seek to repent of every behavior in which we have been overtly
37 or covertly complicit with the sin of racism, both past and present; and in
38 confession and lament we seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

39 Further, we acknowledge that there is no reconciliation apart from human
40 struggle to stand against and to overcome all personal, institutional and structural
41 prejudice responsible for racial and ethnic humiliation and oppression. We call
42 upon Nazarenes everywhere to identify and seek to remove acts and structures of
43 prejudice, to facilitate occasions for seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and to
44 take action toward empowering those who have been marginalized.
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47 **REASONS:**

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49 1. In a world increasingly divided in many ways, the Church of the Nazarene
50 is called to live as a sign to the world of the reconciling love of God in
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2. Christ. In our time, this must include the strongest and most decisive posture possible against racism.
3. Contemporary expressions of prejudice and discrimination are rampant. While many choose to assign blame or hide in indifference, we recognize our call to confession, responsibility, and action on behalf of the downtrodden.
4. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to see through the eyes of others, especially the poor and oppressed. Where people wait for others to build bridges, we are called to initiate the work toward peace and justice.