

AGE LIMIT FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS  
Northern California District Advisory Board  
*Manual* 203.11

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 203.11 be amended as follows:

203.11. To elect, by two-thirds favorable vote, by ballot, an elder to the office of district superintendent, to serve until 30 days following the final adjournment of the second district assembly following his or her election and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified. The procedure for reelection of a district superintendent shall be by a “yes” or “no” ballot vote. No elder shall be considered eligible for election to this office who has at any time surrendered his or her credential for disciplinary reasons. [No superintendent shall be elected or reelected following his or her 70th birthday.]

REASONS:

1. The age limit was added to the *Manual* in 1952. Prior to 1952, there was no age limit for district superintendents. The world has changed considerably since 1952. Life expectancy in 1952 was 65; today in 2017 it is 80+. Retirement is looked at differently than it was in 1952.
2. Seventy is an arbitrary number. The age of the newly elected President of the United States is 70. There is no age limit to serving as President of the United States.
3. There are numerous checks and balances in our Nazarene polity that would seem to make an age limit superfluous. The district superintendent is accountable to the District Advisory Board on a regular basis. There is a process for a district superintendent review mid-term. The district superintendent is accountable to the district assembly through a reelection vote at least every four years. All of these can be used to determine the effectiveness of a district superintendent without using an arbitrary age number.
4. Particularly in the USA/Canada, there is a significant number of elders of the baby boomer generation who will be 70 or turning 70 in the next few years. By having the arbitrary age limit of 70, we will eliminate many excellent candidates from the pool of possible district superintendents.
5. In areas outside the USA/Canada, there is not always a large pool of qualified elders to be considered for district superintendent. Not having an age limit may help the pool be stronger and larger in the consideration of district superintendent candidates.
6. Due to the fact that each district (in conjunction with the District Advisory Committee, the general superintendent in jurisdiction or their designee,

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and the district assembly delegates) may nominate, call, approve, elect, celebrate and follow the leading of a district superintendent of their choice, who is an ordained elder in good standing, it is left up to the district advisory committee and delegates of their district assembly to set their own age parameters, at either end of the age spectrum, or do away with age limits entirely, for their district superintendent.