

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BY THE THIRTIETH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Adopted at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

June 2023

- *Manual* paragraph 26 calls for a two-thirds vote of Phase 3 and Phase 2 district delegates at the district assembly on any amendment to the Church Constitution
- This amendment is not debatable nor is it amendable. Only questions will be allowed. After the opportunity for questions, you will vote.

NOTE: Changes are highlighted. New text is underlined; brackets [] indicate text to be deleted.

RESOLVED that *Manual* paragraph 15, Article of Faith XV, be amended as follows:

XV. Second Coming of Christ

15. We believe that at the end of the age the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed as Lord of all. He will come again in glory and power to establish fully the kingdom of God that He proclaimed and initiated in His life and ministry. As the Triune God first created heaven and earth, God will renew them in the new creation where He will dwell eternally with His redeemed people. [; that w] We who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus; but [that], if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord. In that day, God, who in the cross triumphed over all evil powers, will complete His loving purposes for creation. There will be no more suffering, injustice, or death, and God will wipe away every tear.

REASONS:

We believe that at the end of the age the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed as Lord of all.

God is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ who is lord of all creation. We believe this has been and is forever true, but not fully acknowledged in the present age. In the day of His appearing, this will be fully known to all creation.

- Philippians 2:5-11
- I Corinthians 13:12-13
- Matthew 24
- I Thessalonians 4:16-17

He will come again in glory and power to establish fully the kingdom of God that he proclaimed and initiated in his life and ministry.

The already/not-yet Kingdom has come in Christ Jesus and will be fully realized in the final day.

- Luke 4:18-21
- I Corinthians 15:24-25, 28
- Matthew 6:9-13
- Deuteronomy 10:17

As the Triune God first created heaven and earth, God will renew them in the new creation where He will dwell eternally with His redeemed people.

As God created the universe, the whole Creation will be renewed, restored, re-created in the final day in accord with the will and purposes of God.

- Revelation 21:1-8
- Romans 8:18-22
- Isaiah 65:17-25
- Isaiah 66:22-23
- Acts 3:21
- II Peter 3:7-13
- II Corinthians 5:17

In that day, God, who in the cross triumphed over all evil powers, will complete His loving purposes for creation.

Christ Jesus, the Christus Victor, defeated all the powers of sin and death for all time. The loving purposes of God will be consummated in His return.

- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Matthew 28:18
- Philippians 1:6
- Revelation 12:10-12

There will be no more suffering, injustice, or death, and God will wipe away every tear.

Revelation 21:1-8

Assuming ratification, the paragraph as it will be found in the *Manual* will read as follows:

15. We believe that at the end of the age the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed as Lord of all. He will come again in glory and power to establish fully the kingdom of God that He proclaimed and initiated in His life and ministry. As the Triune God first created heaven and earth, God will renew them in the new creation where He will dwell eternally with His redeemed people. We who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus; but, if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord. In that day, God, who in the cross triumphed over all evil powers, will complete His loving purposes for creation. There will be no more suffering, injustice, or death, and God will wipe away every tear.