

# Maintenance to Mission

SEEKING THE LEADING  
OF GOD TOGETHER.

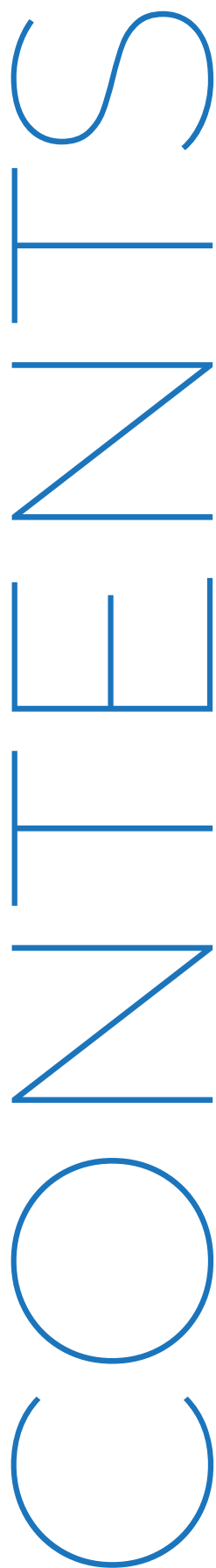


IGLESIA<sup>DEL</sup> NAZARENO  
**shawnee**  
CHURCH of the NAZARENE

Home of:



**Shawnee  
Nazarene  
Academy**



01.

## Why Now?

- *Some Context*

02.

## Where Have We Been?

- *Annual Report*

03.

## Now What?

- *Maintenance to Mission*

04.

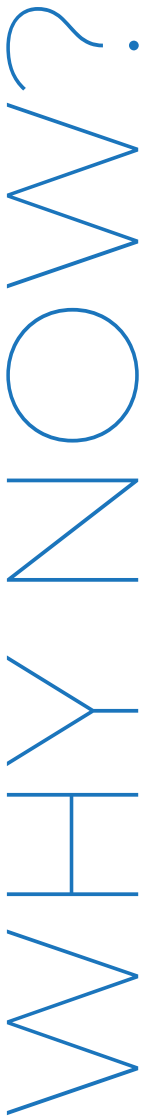
## On a Journey Together

- *Timeline*

05.

## Let's Get Started!

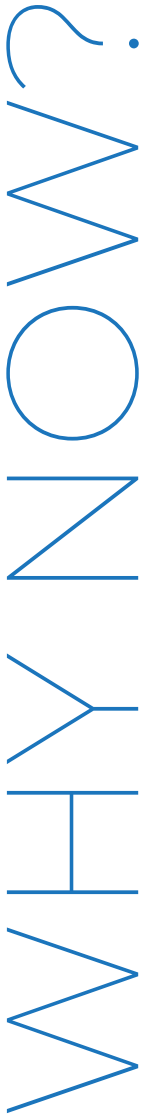
- *Thought Starters*



Over the past two years, since the lockdowns in March 2020, we have all been through a great deal. We have been through something difficult together as a world, country, state, local community, and our church. The impacts of COVID, and the response to COVID, have been far-reaching. Some impacts we still we not fully understand for years to come.

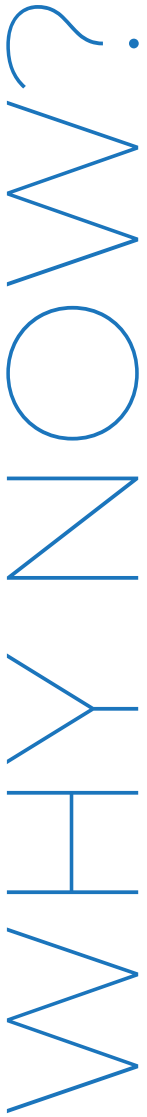
As a result of the lockdowns, many sociologists point out that culture sped up during this time. People are creatures of habit and all of our habits were disrupted in a huge way. As are result, we have witnessed the arrival of a post-Christian culture much faster than predicted. One author put it this way:

"Post-Christian culture attempts to retain the soalce of faith, whilst gutting it of the costs, commitments, and restraints that the gospel places upon the individual will. Post-Christianity intuitively yearns for the justice and shalom of the kingdom, whilst defending the reign of the individual will... [we want] the kingdom, but do not want to acknowledge the authority of the King."



Barna Research Group does some wonderful work with researching the State of the Church in America, putting out helpful reports, and also providing resources for church leaders. Here are some fascinating statistics from the 2021 State of the Church by Barna:

- 31% of adults say they are lonely every day
- 28% of Christians are actively involved in discipleship community
- 73% of U.S. Parents Are Concerned About Their Children's Spiritual Development
- Seven in 10 U.S. parents (70%) say they are at least somewhat concerned about their children staying true to their spiritual faith—a pattern that again remains consistent across faith practice.



- 38% of pastors have thought about quitting full-time ministry
- Bible users INCREASED in 2021
- The majority of teens (especially non-Christians) says someone who listens without judgment (66% Christian, 72% non-Christian) seems like a person who's comfortable sharing their faith. This is telling in light of past Barna findings which showed that a number of Gen Z who had interacted with church or Christianity said church was not a safe space to express doubt. Gen Z teens desire conversation partners who are open to difficult topics.
- "If our young people are going to thrive in digital Babylon, they have to move beyond familiarity with Jesus to a place of intimacy."
- Barna has a name for the 10% of people age 18-20 in America (4 million young people out of 18 million) who are "Jesus-followers who are resiliently faithful in the face of cultural coercion and who live a vibrant life in the Spirit." They are called: **Resilient Disciples**.

You may be thinking... "Thanks, Pastor Cara. That is certainly interesting but information, but what does that have to do with us at Shawnee Nazarene?"

Well, we need to understand what is happening around us so that we can seek God's leading in how to faithfully serve in our context.

Why now? Why is it important for us to take a prayerful look at where we have been and fearlessly seek where God is leading? Because...

**"What got us here won't get us there." - Simon Sinek**

Pastor Chuck has said to me many times, "the world is passing me by." This is his way of saying... "this is not the world I knew when I began pastoring." And he is RIGHT! It is not. This is a post-Christian world and that means, we need to reevaluate what it means to share the gospel in our context.

Our **content** (the Good News of Jesus!) remains the same, however, our **methods** need prayerful consideration.

Why now? Because as Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matt. 9:37) We are Resilient Disciples: A remnant dedicated to loving God, loving others, and making Christlike disciples in the nations.

Why Now? Because... this is what we were called to do. **If not now....., When?** Let's take up our cross and follow Jesus with the hope in our hearts that comes directly from him: "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

**LORD, find us faithful!**

*- Pastor Cara*

## THE POST PANDEMIC CHURCH

- Pastor Chuck

Is the pandemic over yet? Well, not exactly, but, you hear language like “the Post Pandemic World” being tossed around. People that use this kind of language are simply wondering what the world will be like after all that we have been through these past two years. Many are also wondering that about the church, “the Post Pandemic Church”. Just like everything else the church has been greatly effected by the pandemic, not to mention all the other things that have happened in our world recently. Now the world, and the church, are dealing with a very ugly war being played out right before our eyes that constantly makes me want to look away. I don't know about you but I am weary of it all. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

I think that we can all agree that neither the world, nor the church, will ever be the same. You don't need to look too far to find articles about what is being called “The Great Resignation”. This refers to people, during the pandemic, leaving the church in droves. There is also what is called “The Great Ministry Resignation”. This is referring to the number of pastors who are throwing in the towel in record numbers. Researcher, Thom Rainer, predicted that in the coming months 20% of pastors in America will leave their congregations for good. Another author and pastor, Dane Ortland, recently tweeted, “a tidal wave of pastor resignations is coming in 2022. An October 2021 Barna Group survey revealed that 38% of Protestant pastors had seriously considered quitting full-time ministry that year. These numbers are at record rates, whether it involves laypeople or pastors. Again, the church will never be the same.

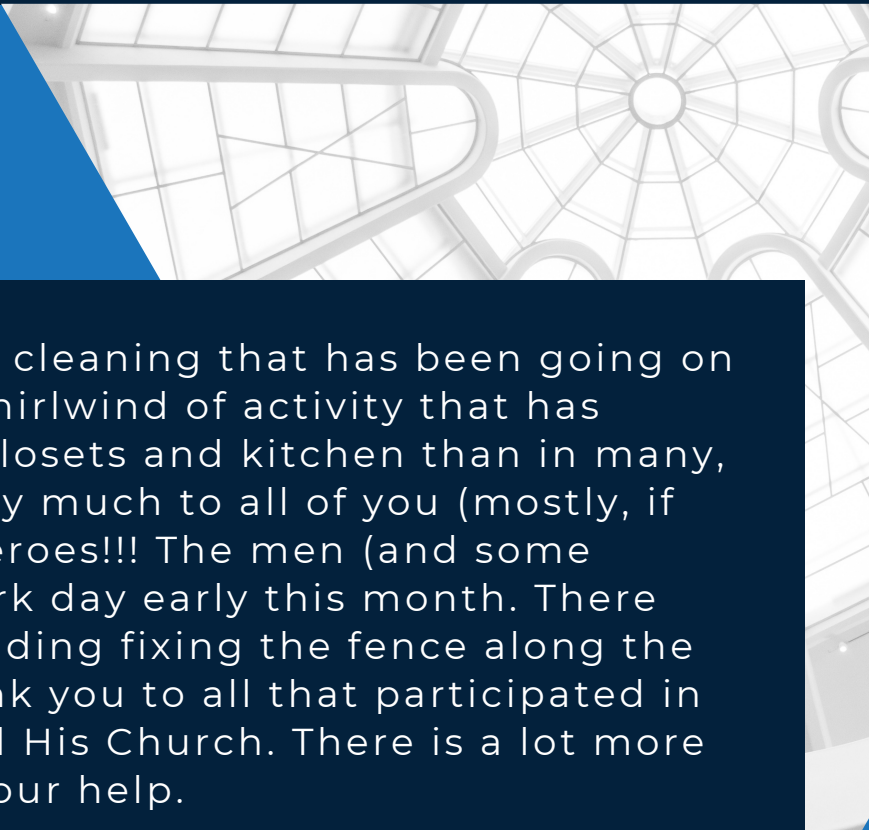
# WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

With all that in mind what do we do here at Shawnee Church of the Nazarene? Like many should we just decide to throw in the towel? That is an option, of course. After all, it has been real hard. Another option, in my view, is for us to double down on what we know God is calling us to do. We are called to get to know Him more and more, or, love Him with all our hearts. We are called to love one another. We are called to take that love for God and each other and spread it around where we live. In other words, let Jesus be constantly on display in our lives. After all that the world, and the church, has been through these past years there is nothing else that is more desperately needed. Jesus shining through you and me.

We have done that some this past year. There was an awesome Easter Egg hunt that ATPS, SNA and the church worked together on. There were more people in attendance from the community than from the church. That is the way it should be. Praise the Lord! The ladies of our church continue to lead us in the ministry of prayer and study of the word. I am so grateful for the Tuesday morning ladies bible study and the Solo Deo Sunday School class that focuses most of all on prayer. Prayer for each other and the church. May their tribe increase. Over the past year our finances have stayed relatively stable thanks to the faithful giving of many of our people. One of the financial highlights was that we reached our Faith Promise goal of \$52,000 and were able to do two Work and Witness projects, one local down in the city and the other down on the border with Mexico. We praise the Lord for all that participated in these projects. A simple financial report is also in this packet for you to look over. If you have any questions about anything please feel free to ask.



# WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?



You would not believe all the cleaning that has been going on around here! It has been a whirlwind of activity that has resulted in cleaner corners, closets and kitchen than in many, many years. Thank you so very much to all of you (mostly, if not all, ladies). You are my heroes!!! The men (and some women) got involved in a work day early this month. There was a lot accomplished, including fixing the fence along the back side of the church. Thank you to all that participated in that labor of love for God and His Church. There is a lot more that can be done. We need your help.

Can the church survive the pandemic? Absolutely! It is God's church and His people have been through a lot worse. Please do not forget: With God ALL things are possible! That rings true now more than ever before in my life. Let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let's believe in who He is and what He has promised to do. Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it! We can be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. The future for God's church in my lifetime has never had this many opportunities for service in our hurting world. Therefore, Shawnee Church of the Nazarene, it is up to us to be the church that God is calling us to be so that He can use us in ways that are new and fresh. Can we do it? Huh, With God ALL things are possible!

*last year's*

## FINANCES

### INCOME

**\$600,000**

*Actual*

**\$660,000**

*Budgeted Tithes & Offerings*

**\$60,000**

*Shortfall to budget*

### GIVING

Tithes & offerings have been down since last quarter of the previous fiscal year. We will fall short about 9% of planned. The good news is, this generous giving is consistent and predictable. Thank you for your faithful support of the local ministries of the church.

### EXPENSES

**\$646,000**

*Forecasted Full-Year Spending*

### EXPENSES

As a result of the new level of income expenses will exceed income by approximately \$46,000 this year. Reserves are available to cover the shortfall of spending to income.

### PROJECTED MONTHLY

*Income*    \$50,000

*Expenses*   \$50,000

### BALANCE

In order to stop reliance on reserves, mid-year expenses were restructured to lower monthly expenditures to the level of monthly income. The 2022-2023 budget will be based on income of \$600, 000 for the year.

### GIVING TO OTHERS

**\$7,000**

*Love Fund*

**\$52,000**

*Faith Promise*

### THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO OTHERS

Your consistent, generosity contributions to the Love Fund and Faith Promise has enabled us to meet needs of others both locally and globally.

*- Terry Corzine, Treasurer*

# NOW WHAT?

Through the last few years our world has been through so much.

On a local level we have felt the impacts, just like everyone else, of the last few years. As a result of the stressors of the last few years we have been in a season of maintenance as a church family.

## Maintenance means:

- Giving more or most attention to the work that needs done to keep things going.
- Creating processes and routines that make the running of the church less cumbersome. Processes that aid in the accountability and efficacy of the running of the church.
- It also means that more attention can be turned to the mission of the church.
- We are so thankful for all those who have and continue to care for the maintenance of the church because we wouldn't be here without all of you faithful folks! We feel blessed in this way.

There is anticipation in the air. Maybe it is spring, maybe it is that COVID seems manageable moving forward. Maybe it is the Spirit moving among us.

## **It is time to move from Maintenance to Mission.**

That doesn't mean we abandon all the work and dedication that has taken place. It means that we are now in a place where our energy does not have to be so heavily focused on maintenance. It is time to seek the Lord in prayer for what he is calling us to in this season.

# NOW WHAT?

How do we fit into what God is doing in the world?

How do we use the resources, people, location, facilities that we have to live into the Great Commandment and Great Commission?

## **In the area of WORSHIP:**

- How do we continue to grow as an intentionally intergenerational worshipping community?

## **In the area of DISCIPLESHIP:**

- What does it look like for us to grow in our relationship with God, our knowledge of Scripture, our care for one another, and our care for new people?

## **In the area of MISSION:**

- What does it look like for us to reach our neighbors? In this neighborhood and in our own neighborhoods?
- What does it look like for us to reach our country?
- What does it look like for us to reach our world?

We are going to spend time together in prayer, work through surveys together, create space for conversation for families with kids, families teens, and adults.

# NOW WHAT?



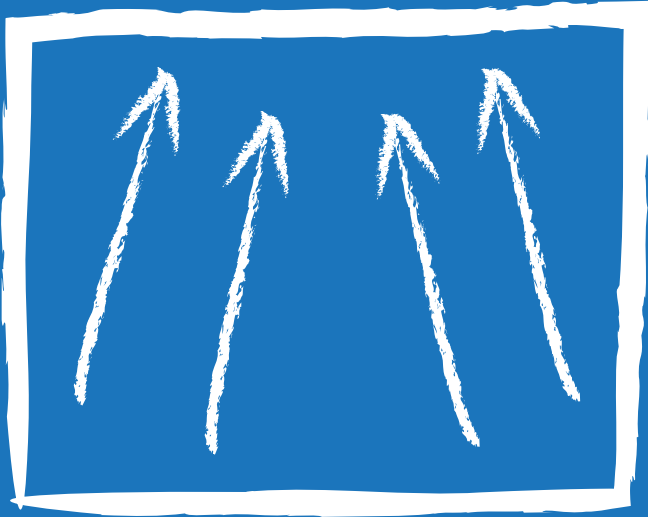
If you want to go FAST,  
go ALONE.



If you want to go FAR,  
go TOGETHER.

*- African Proverb*

# NOW WHAT?

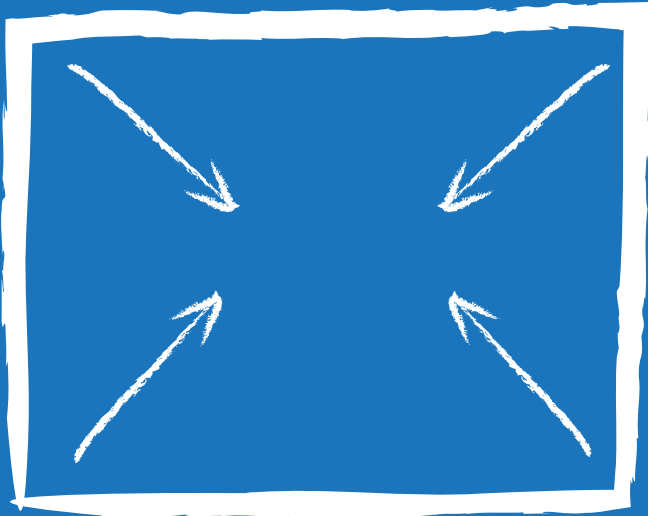


## UP

### Worship

How we relate to GOD personally and as we gather together .

Love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

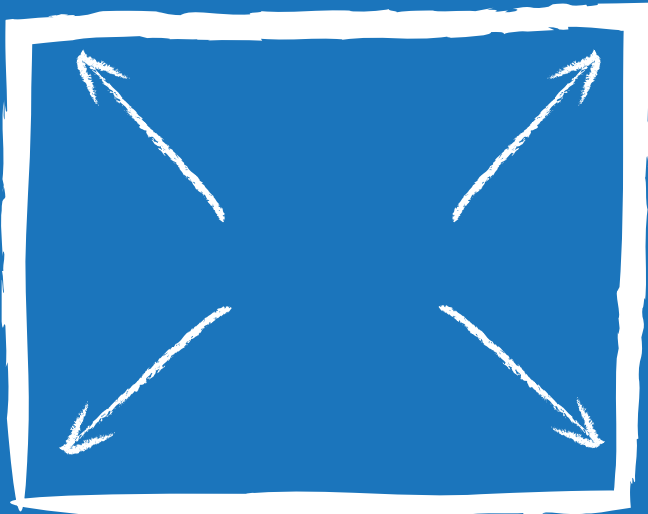


## IN

### Discipleship

How we relate to one another in fellowship and accountability. Pointing each other toward Jesus.

Love your neighbor as yourself.



## OUT

### Outreach

How we relate to those who do not know Jesus in our neighborhoods, cities, state, country, and the world!

Make Christlike disciples in the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

# TIMELINE



\*in the sanctuary following service

Keep this page for yourself to bring to one of the meetings (kids, teens, adults) OR place it in the slot in the office door to give to the Board/Staff. We are excited to be on this journey of prayer and discernment together! Use the space provided or the back of this page.

Let's...

get...

started!

What ONE word comes to mind when you think about Shawnee Nazarene?

What brought you to Shawnee Nazarene?

What encouraged you stay?

What makes Shawnee Nazarene Unique? (Strengths?)



# THOUGHT STARTERS

What growth opportunities exist? (Weaknesses?)

Do you have a great Shawnee Nazarene memory? Feel free to share!

Imagine you overhear someone at the store or at school or at work talking about how they just visited Shawnee Nazarene for the first time... What do you HOPE to hear?