



NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY VISION STATEMENT

As part of the Church of Jesus Christ, we have the “*respons-ibility*” of accepting God’s invitation to participate in the *missio dei* –the incarnational, out-poured, redemptive love of the Triune God in and for the world. As a Christian school of theological education in the Wesleyan / Holiness tradition, we consecrate ourselves and the resources of our community to God through the work of the Church. We are called to be a community of Christ-like character that forms people in Christ as they are being prepared to be faithful and effective ministers of the Gospel. (Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 4:16-30; John 17; Ephesians 2; Philippians 2:1-11; I John 3:1-3)

Looking to the future, NTS is and is becoming:

- **A hospitable residential Christian community of theological learning through which people are formed in Christ in preparation for Christian ministry.**
 - Moving from a “building” to a “campus” through the addition of student housing and a campus center will positively impact community life on campus, further provide for the development of lifelong friendships, and prepare people for ministry in the context of community.
 - Increasing attention and support for student services will contribute to community life, enhance the overall experience and preparation of students and increase student retention.
- **An educational community with multiple delivery systems through which the teaching/learning resources of NTS are extended to students both in residence and in ministry contexts across the country and around the world.**
 - Further developing online courses in conjunction with the in-service program will provide access to students in their current ministry context who otherwise would not be able to receive an NTS education.
 - Offering more afternoon and evening courses will increase the flexibility of the schedule facilitating the ability of students to complete their academic programs and transition into full-time ministry.
- **A collaborative partner with sister institutions both in the United States and globally through which academic partnerships and the sharing of resources mutually enhance the quality and accessibility of theological education and ministerial preparation.**
 - Creating a global consortium of Nazarene seminaries will strengthen participating seminaries, better prepare leaders (globally) for ministry, and enhance global theological coherence through faculty exchanges, cooperative programs (e.g. D.Min. with APNTS) and the development of a global faculty.
 - Developing collaborative agreements/programs between NTS and sister Nazarene/Wesleyan colleges and universities in the United States and Canada (e.g. multiple M.Div. collaborations and dual degree counseling collaboration with MNU) will more effectively utilize academic resources in cooperatively offering graduate ministry preparation to students.

- **A partner with local congregations through which the resources of experienced pastors and congregations of learning and support are utilized in ways that contextualize students' understanding and experience in pastoral theology and the practice of ministry.**
 - Partnering with local congregations through the Supervised Ministry Experience will greatly enhance students' preparation for ministry by including "hands on" ministry experience in their education, connecting students to selected and trained mentor pastors, and immersing students in the community life of local congregations.

- **A center of theological/missional research and conversation with and for the Church through which issues of theological/missional faithfulness, coherence, and relevance are addressed in the context of globalization, cultural shifts and increased diversity.**
 - Encouraging and enabling faculty to think, teach, speak, consult and write for the Church through sabbatical projects, special assignments, task force responsibilities, and preaching opportunities will resource the Church in its understanding and embrace of Wesleyan theology, mission and practice.
 - Leading and participating in denominational theology conferences and forums will serve the church by providing opportunities for reflective dialogue across the church around issues related to Wesleyan theology, mission and practice.
 - Offering courses, lectureships and special events that facilitate "conversations" about what it means to be a "missional church" will create an environment in which students are equipped to minister in a complex, post-modern world.

- **A center of life-long learning through which theological/missional conversation and learning are extended to pastors, graduate students, associates in ministry, missionaries, evangelists and chaplains in ways that contribute further to their personal and professional development.**
 - Inviting people in ministry (especially NTS alumni) to participate in refresher courses, lectureships, and online ministry support groups will resource them in ways that increase their effectiveness and sustain them in ministry.

