WORK OF MINISTRY *No Limits*

As Work of Ministry has been introduced to more and more congregations, some have wondered whether this is simply a method of getting individuals to take on more tasks within their congregation. Now is a good time to address this misconception, and shed some light on the true nature of ministry.

Paul, who frequently highlights the importance of spiritual gifts, writes to the Galatians: *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.* (Galatians 6: 9-10, NLT)

Here, Paul illuminates two areas of focus for ministry: the family of faith (our congregation), but also everyone else. It is good when we can identify and use the spiritual gifts God has given us to glorify Him within our congregations; however, it is also good when we can share them with our neighbors and communities.

In doing so, Peter reminds us that we glorify God: *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 4: 10-11, NLT)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everything we did brought glory to God? This cannot be accomplished if we try to place limitations on the use of our spiritual gifts. Work of Ministry is not a program – it is a way of life. When we are fully committed, it becomes a part of our identity, allowing us to serve as a living example of what it means to serve others as Christ serves us.

We want to hear about how you've put your spiritual gifts to work. Email the Work of Ministry Work Group at wgwom@NAC-USA.org to share your story.

Written by: A. Daehnke



New Apostolic Church USA



THRIVE

Membership Booklet

thrive verb \'thrīv\

to grow or develop vigorously; flourish

A person who thrives is someone who develops and grows. In the New Apostolic Church, we want to grow and develop according to the image of Jesus Christ. "Thrive" isn't just a word; it is an entire way of life. To be a thriving Christian means that you have a strong faith and connection to God, healthy relationships with those around you, and a passion to serve.

You are called to be a part of the Body of Christ. As a member of this Body, you are united with a group of fellow believers that are here to build each other up, spread the Gospel, and prepare for Jesus Christ's return.

You are called to **THRIVE**. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). This is the life God wants for us – a thriving life for Him.





Vision and *Mission* Statements of the New Apostolic Church International

Vision

A church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.

Mission

Reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.



Brief History of the New Apostolic Church

In the early 1800s, individual theologians and believing Christians in England and Scotland began praying for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for His activity to be as it was in the time of the early Church. In response to their fervent prayers, God, through prophesy, revealed the calling of the first apostles since the death of Apostle John. Continuing in the work of their predecessors, this new group of apostles began to teach and baptize (Matthew 28: 16-20), forgive sins in Christ's name (John 20:23), and dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8: 14-17). In 1863, men in Germany were called into the Apostle ministry and began the church that would become known as the New Apostolic Church, an international church organization.



The New Apostolic Church USA has been welcoming people through its doors since the late 1800s. Originally established on the East coast, the Church has grown and branched out nationwide.

For more information on the New Apostolic Church international, visit www.nak.org and www.nac.today/en

Stepping Forward

The main objective summed up in the Vision and Mission statements is to create healthy New Apostolic Christian congregations for our members so we will grow both in numbers and spiritual maturity, and be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ. We want our members to experience the following:

- A sustainable *structure* where dedicated ministers and members pool their spiritual gifts to serve one another and their community in the love of Jesus Christ while leading a balanced life of discipleship.
- A *culture* that is based upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ in which members live like Jesus and ministers lead like Jesus.
- Inspirational, worshipful *divine service experiences* comprised of prayer, music, a powerful message authored by the Holy Spirit, absolution, and Holy Communion with Christ.
- Warm *pastoral care* that provides the teachings of Jesus and support for the daily challenges of life for members of all age groups.

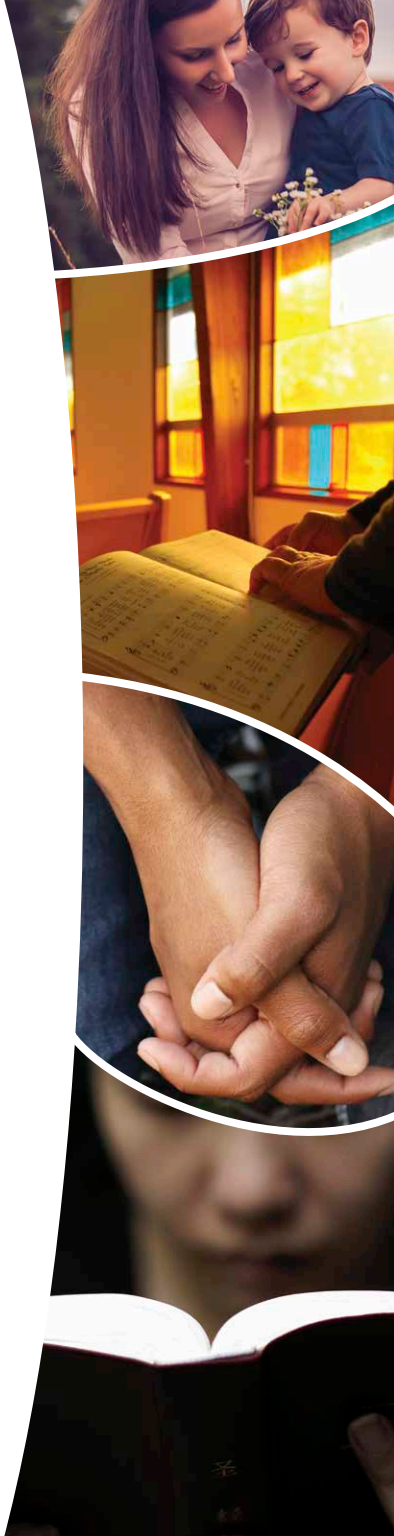
We aspire to have HEALTH and GROWTH in our congregations, so that we can reach COMPLETION.

HEALTH – spiritual wholeness, which gives us the foundation for our relationship with Jesus Christ

GROWTH – the result of a thriving and mature relationship with Jesus Christ

COMPLETION – through grace, Christ accepts us as His Bride and we begin eternal fellowship with God







The Creed

God the Father. I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth.

God the Son. I believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, entered the realm of the dead, rose again from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from where He will return.

God the Holy Spirit. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.

Jesus and the Apostles. I believe that the Lord Jesus rules His church and thereto sent His Apostles, and until His return still sends them with the commission to teach, to forgive sins in His name, and to baptize with water and Holy Spirit.

Ordained by God. I believe that those designated by God for a ministry are ordained only by Apostles, and that authority, blessing, and sanctification for their ministration come forth out of the Apostle ministry.

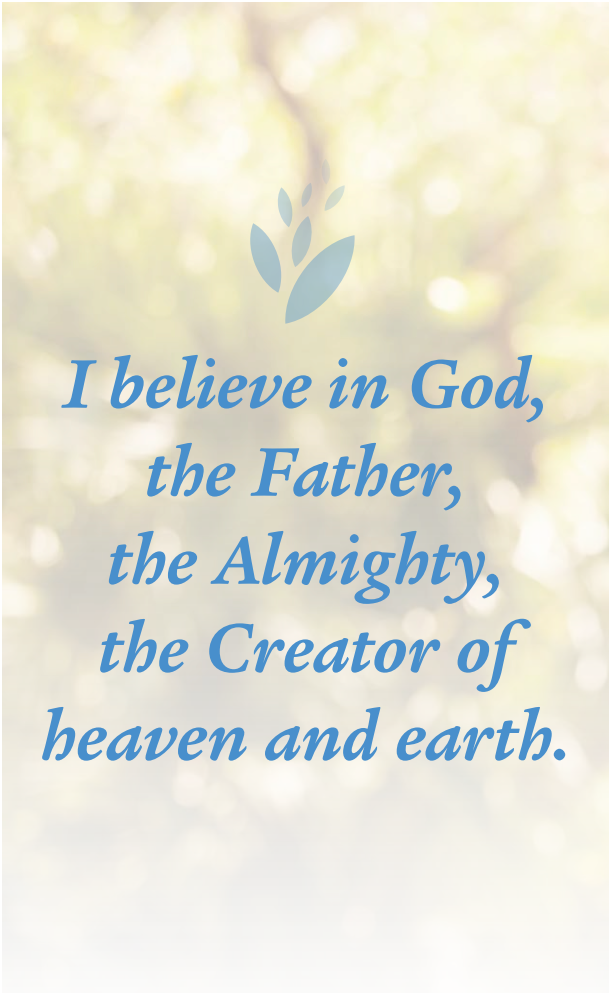
Holy Baptism. I believe that the Holy Baptism with water is the first step to a renewal of a human being in the Holy Spirit, and that the person baptized is adopted into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord.

Holy Communion. I believe that Holy Communion was instituted by the Lord Himself in memory of the once brought, fully valid sacrifice, and bitter suffering and death of Christ. The worthy partaking of Holy Communion establishes our fellowship with Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is celebrated with unleavened bread and wine; both must be consecrated and dispensed by a minister authorized by an Apostle.

Holy Sealing. I believe that those baptized with water must, through an Apostle, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to attain the childhood in God and thereby the prerequisite for becoming a firstling.

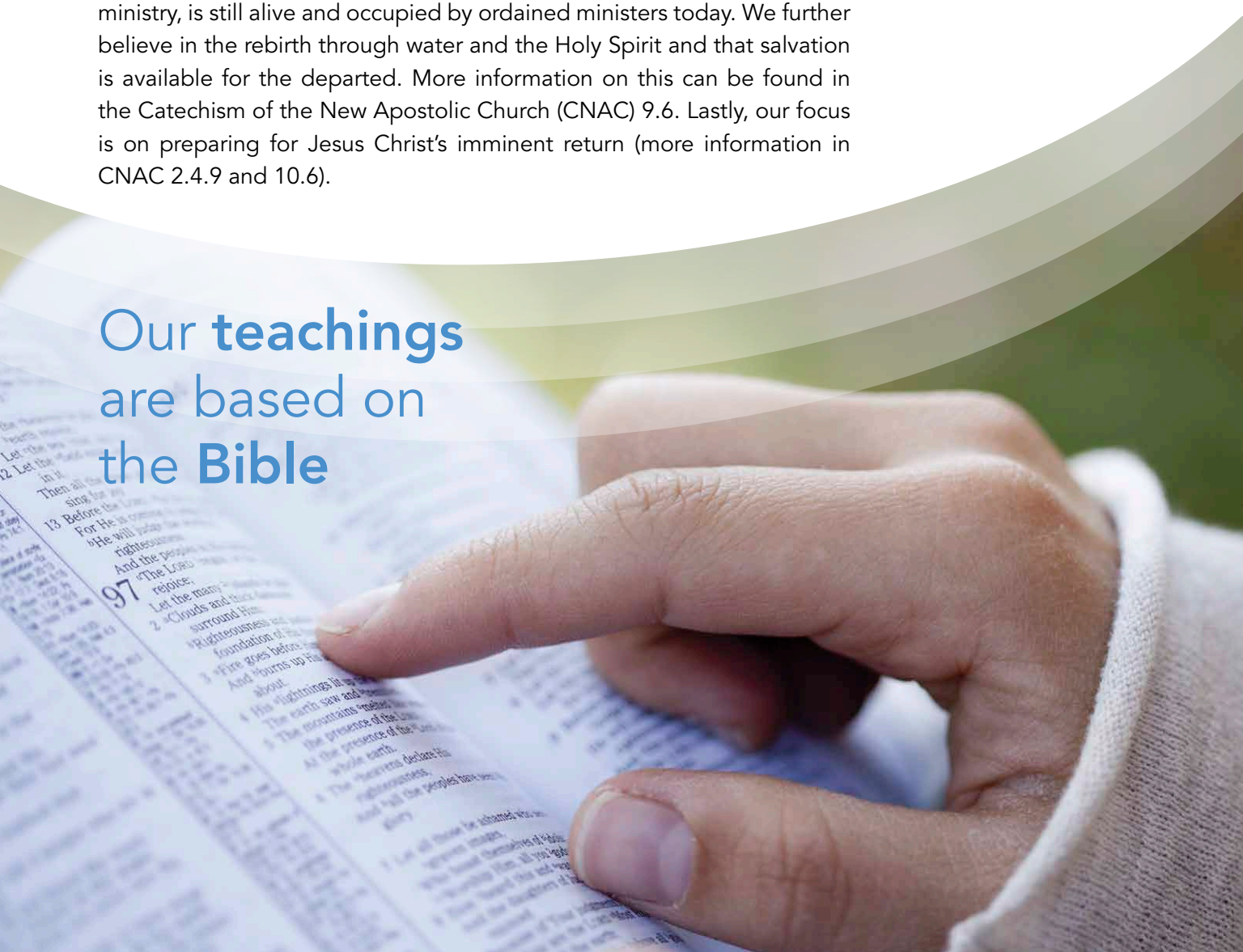
The Future. I believe that the Lord Jesus will return as surely as He ascended into heaven and that He will take to Himself the firstfruits of the dead and living who have hoped for and were prepared for His coming; that after the marriage in heaven He will return to earth with them to establish His kingdom of peace, and that they will reign with Him as a royal priesthood. After the conclusion of the kingdom of peace, He will hold the Last Judgment. Then God will create a new heaven and a new earth and dwell with His people.

Christian's Relationship to the State. I believe that I am obliged to obey the worldly authorities provided no godly laws are thereby transgressed.



The Profile of the New Apostolic Church

Our Church, like other Christian denominations, believes in the Triune God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. New Apostolic teachings are founded on the Bible. We believe the ministry Jesus Christ established, the Apostle ministry, is still alive and occupied by ordained ministers today. We further believe in the rebirth through water and the Holy Spirit and that salvation is available for the departed. More information on this can be found in the Catechism of the New Apostolic Church (CNAC) 9.6. Lastly, our focus is on preparing for Jesus Christ's imminent return (more information in CNAC 2.4.9 and 10.6).



God's Plan for Us

God's activity is intended to bring about salvation. The central events in the history of salvation are the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, His sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection, and His ascension into heaven. This is followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the spread of the gospel by the first Apostles, and the further development of Christianity, leading to the reoccupation of the Apostle ministry. These events work toward preparing the bridal congregation for Christ's return. This will be followed by the activity of salvation during the thousand years of peace, until the Last Judgment. Finally, God will create the new heaven and new earth. This whole sequence is described as "God's plan of salvation".

Salvation can be attained only through Jesus Christ; we cannot achieve it on our own. All people are sinners and are dependent on God's activity of salvation. Through Jesus Christ, all of humanity, both living and dead, has access to salvation. Above all stands God's will to save, which applies to all of mankind in every time period. (CNAC 4.4)

Ever since Jesus Christ brought His sacrifice, it has been possible for the condition of the soul to change for the better. We believe the soul is eternal, thus salvation can still be attained even after physical death. The Apostles fulfil the commission of Jesus—namely to proclaim the gospel, to forgive sins, and to administer the sacraments—upon both the living and the dead. The dispensation of Holy Baptism with water, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion to the departed is effected when the visible act associated with each is performed upon a living person. Here the salvific effect is not for the benefit of the living, but rather exclusively for the departed. (CNAC 9.6.3).



Organizational Structure of the Church

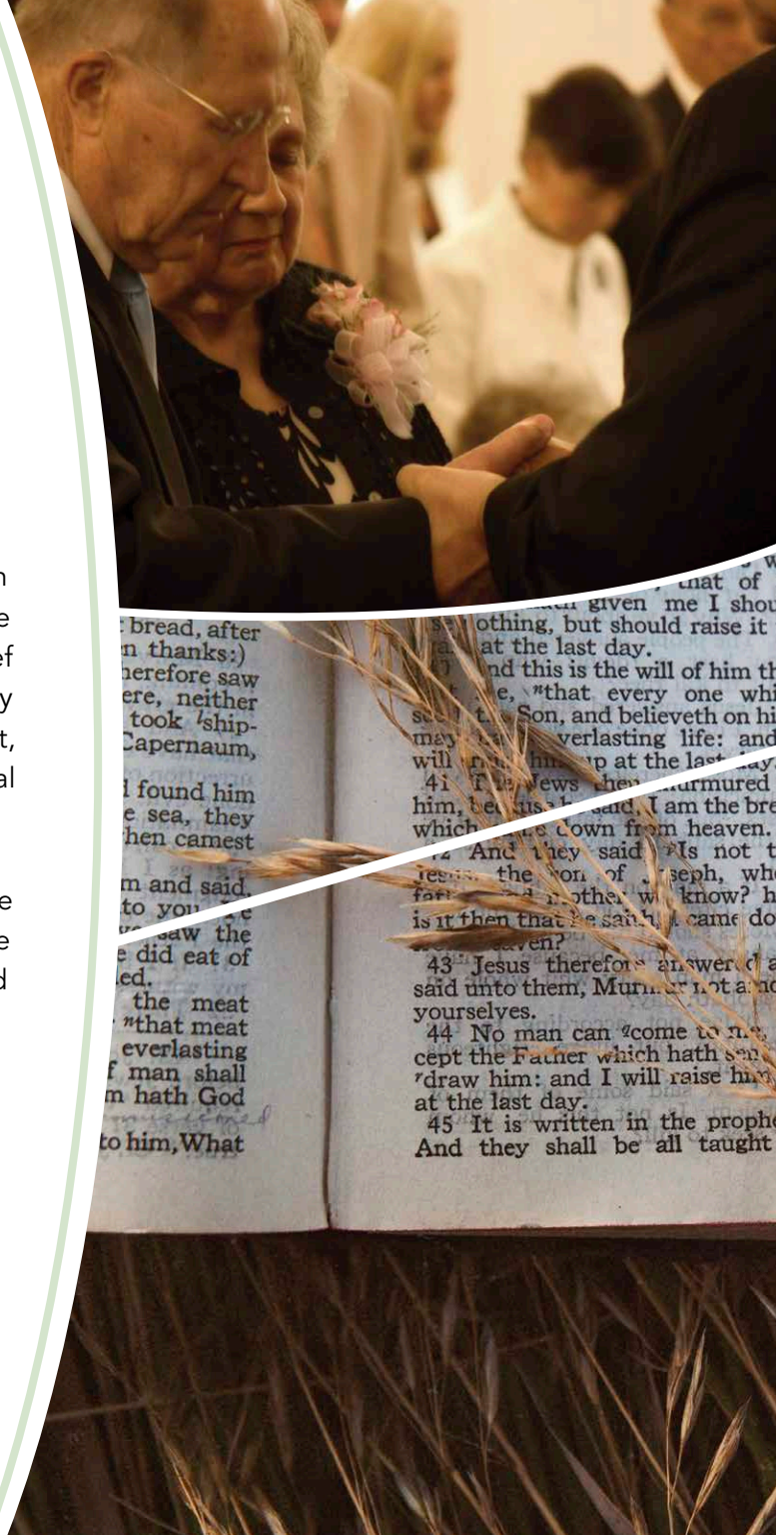
Ordained ministries

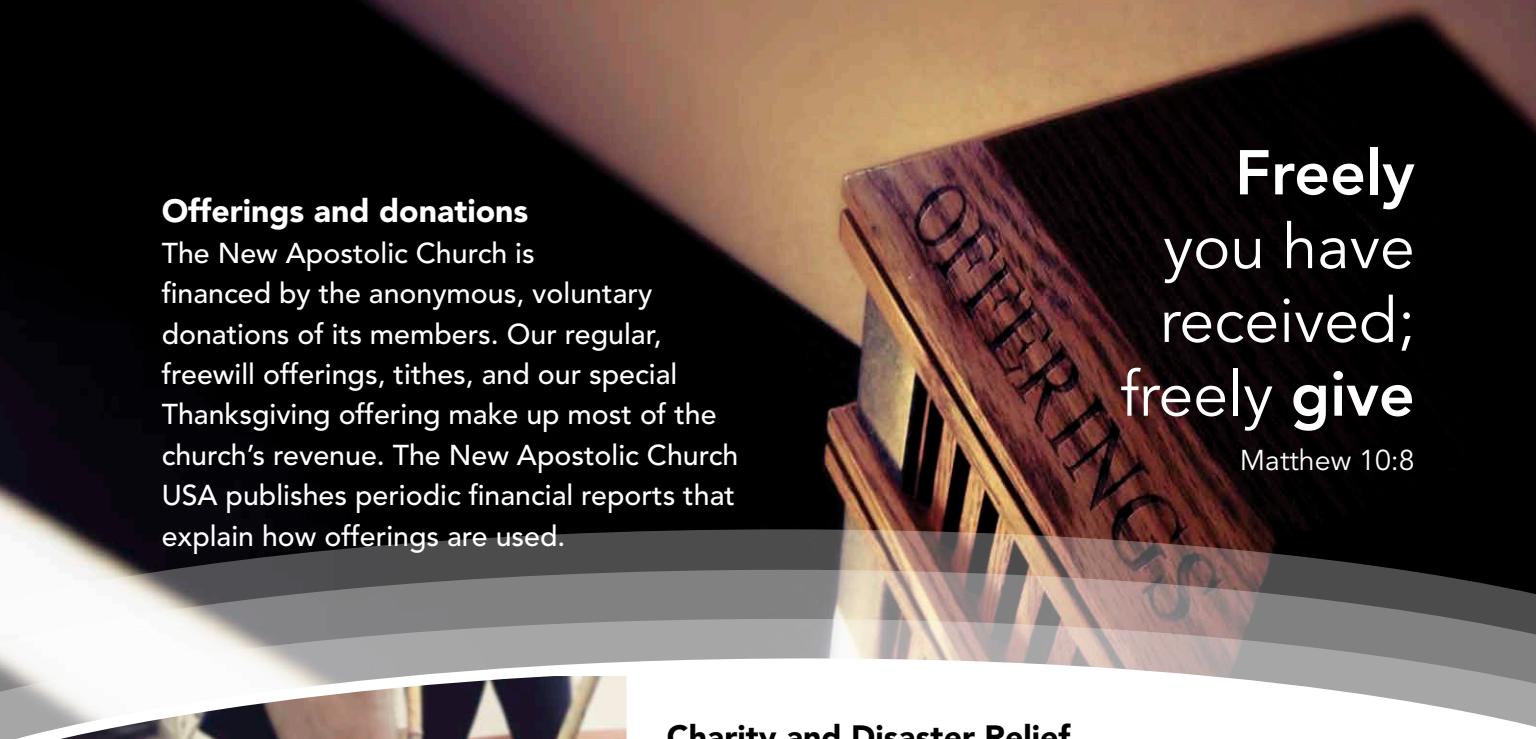
An ordained minister is one who is authorized, blessed, and sanctified through the laying on of hands of an Apostle. From its beginnings, the New Apostolic Church was and is a church of ministry, led by the apostolate.

There are three types of ordained ministry, each with different authority and responsibility, in the New Apostolic Church: the Apostle ministry (Chief Apostle, District Apostle, and Apostle), the priestly ministry (Bishop, District Elder, District Evangelist, Shepherd, Evangelist, and Priest), and the diaconal ministry (Deacon).

Together with the Apostles, the Chief Apostle leads the global Church. The District Apostles are each responsible for the district churches around the world.

More information about each of the ministries can be found in the Catechism (CNAC 7). Ordained ministers of the New Apostolic Church serve in their ministry in a voluntary capacity.





Freely you have received; freely **give**

Matthew 10:8

Offerings and donations

The New Apostolic Church is financed by the anonymous, voluntary donations of its members. Our regular, freewill offerings, tithes, and our special Thanksgiving offering make up most of the church's revenue. The New Apostolic Church USA publishes periodic financial reports that explain how offerings are used.



Charity and Disaster Relief

Re Charitable Ministry is the charity of the New Apostolic Church USA, working with those in need either directly or in cooperation with other charitable and humanitarian organizations around the world. The *re Grassroots* program enables local members and congregations to be proactive in the charitable works of their communities. Through the Humanitarian Projects Program, *re Charitable Ministry* offers the opportunity to experience carefully selected domestic and international charity projects. During disasters and catastrophes, *re Charitable Ministry* supports members and their communities under its Disaster Relief Program, usually in partnership with local organizations.

As a member of the New Apostolic Church, you can expect opportunities to serve. For more information on these opportunities, please visit www.facebook.com/re.Charitable.Ministry.



What you can expect from our Church…

Sunday experience

The Sunday experience is centralized. We have adopted an intentional model of bringing the maximum number of members from a geographic region together into one location for a divine service. A divine service consists of organized communal worship, prayer, a sermon, absolution, and dispensation of sacraments according to a prescribed liturgy used worldwide.

Midweek experience

The midweek experience is designed to focus on intentional and more intimate moments of teaching through small group discussions and group devotionals.

Music & worship

Through worship, of which music is one expression, we can come to our own realization of how much God helps us every day of our lives. In the divine service, congregational singing is a way for each member to actively participate in the service and in worship.

Community outreach/service

Congregations serve the community through outreach opportunities that are based on local needs.

Soul care

Children

Our Sunday School program offers creative, age-appropriate Bible and Christian-living lessons that include hands-on activities and music. While the church strives to instill Christian values as well as Biblical knowledge and understanding, it is ultimately a team effort with the parents and family. To help reinforce the foundational principles of the Gospel, each lesson has a section for parental involvement. The parent's section can be used for preparation before and review after each lesson.

Youth

For young believers that are in high school, the New Apostolic Church youth group offers a place to belong and share life. In addition to



the exciting social element, the youth group also provides a safe place to ask questions and grow spiritually as teens continue to develop a personal relationship with Christ. Specialized youth ministers are available to this group for guidance and encouragement. Through *iServe3* projects, they find opportunities to serve Christ in their family, their congregation, and their community.

Seniors

Our seniors are a unique force within the church. The congregations benefit from their spiritual vitality and seasoned experiences. They are engaged in various social and spiritual activities. You will find them participating in many aspects of congregational life.

Prepare and enrich

This program is designed for those that would like to participate in either evaluating their current relationship in preparation for marriage or for a married couple that would like to assess their marital health in search for potential growth areas. It is scientifically validated as a foundational program for premarital education, marriage enrichment, couples therapy, marriage mentoring, and marriage education.

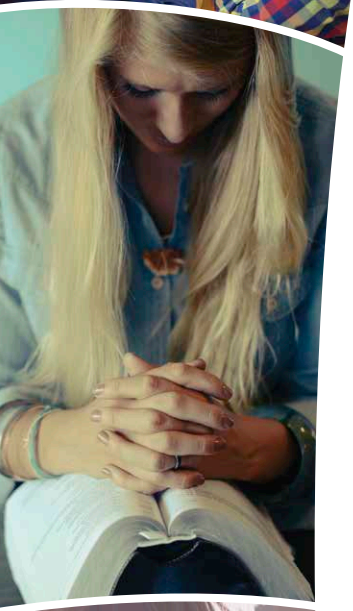
Grief support

For those grieving from any experience, ministers are available to offer comfort and support, along with additional resources to guide you through the grieving process.

Church and minister availability

As a member of the New Apostolic Church, you can expect that ordained ministers will officiate at weddings and funerals at no charge, and also make home and hospital visits.







THRIVE

As a member of the New Apostolic Church USA, you are expected to:

Transform your nature, using Jesus as your example, by…

- exemplifying the fruit of the Spirit as Jesus did. Use them to measure your spiritual maturity. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- forgiving as Jesus forgave, unconditionally and fully. (Matthew 6:12, 18:21-22, Luke 17:3)
- being engaged and present when celebrating Holy Communion to experience its transformational power. (1 Corinthians 11:24)

Help spread the Gospel by…

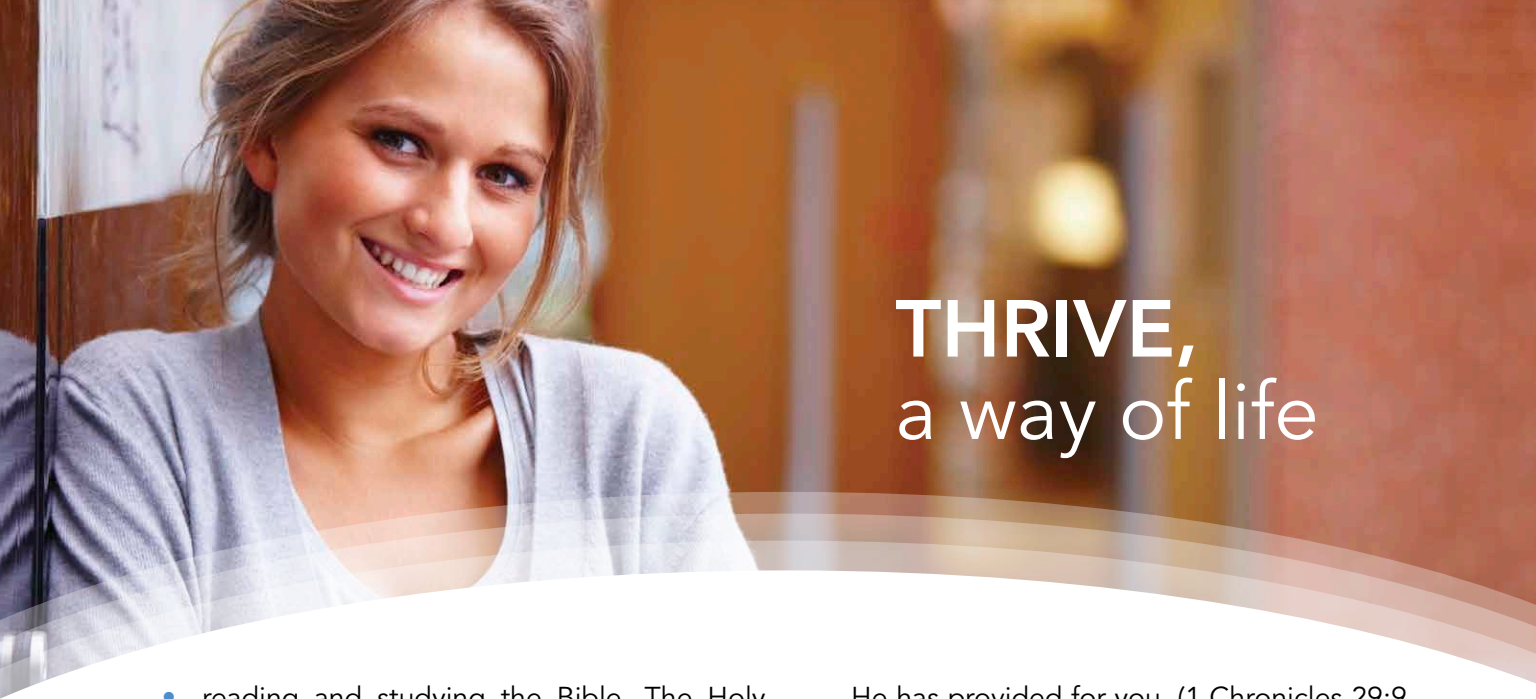
- sharing how God's plan of salvation has impacted you. (2 Timothy 2:2, Ephesians 1:13)
- being a disciple of Jesus Christ. (John 13:34-35)
- living and leading like Jesus, in word and deed. (Colossians 3:17)

Respond to the call to serve by…

- discovering and developing your spiritual gifts and engaging in the congregation by using those gifts. (Ephesians 4: 11-16)
- edifying the Body of Christ by acknowledging and appreciating the gifts of others. (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)
- showing your love for Jesus through helping your family, congregation, community, and those in need. (Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:35-40, Mark 9:35)
- directly serving Jesus Christ. (Romans 14:17-19)

Invest in your spiritual health by…

- praying. Prayer cultivates a relationship with God and helps deepen your knowledge of Him and yourself. (Colossians 4:2)



THRIVE, a way of life

- reading and studying the Bible. The Holy Scripture is inspired by God's word and equips us for righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- actively partaking in the divine service experience and celebrating the presence of the Triune God, allowing the encounter to transform your daily life. (Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
- continually pursuing knowledge of the Triune God through the Gospel so that your thinking is not static, but is constantly renewed. (Romans 12:2, John 17:3)
- worshipping together. (Psalm 29:2, 1 Chronicles 29:10-15)

Value the Church by…

- giving voluntary offerings to God in appreciation and thanksgiving for that which He has provided for you. (1 Chronicles 29:9, Luke 21:1-4)
- tithing and expressing your desire to participate in the church of Christ which God has established. (2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 10:8)
- engaging in intentional community by sharing your life and spiritual journey with others through fellowship. (Acts 2:42-47, 1 John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 12:25-27)
- praying for others. (Philippians 2:3-4, Galatians 6:2)

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return by…

- being future-oriented and focusing on His promise. (Philippians 3:12-14)
- preparing for it by applying the Gospel to every part of your life. (John 14:3)

Stay Connected

As a member, you will receive our NAC USA quarterly newsletter, the VISION, and our church's international publication, Community. You will also receive a New King James Version Bible and a Catechism Question and Answer book for your reference. You can find more information and resources at:

- www.nac-usa.org (includes eOffering)
- www.nak.org
- www.nac.today/en
- www.facebook.com/re.Charitable.Ministry
- www.facebook.com/NewApostolicChurchUSA
- Mobile app "New Apostolic Church USA" for your smartphone

