



### **Be a Part of History and the Story**

By Dr. Mark Taylor, Christian-School and College/University Representative

Many of you who read this article may have already had an opportunity to attend a Nazarene General Assembly and Conventions. Perhaps some of you have never attended a Nazarene General Assembly. I have enjoyed the opportunity to attend assemblies in Orlando, Florida, San Antonio, Texas, and several in Indianapolis, Indiana. I greatly encourage you to attend at least one day of our General Assembly this summer.

#### **What Is a General Assembly?**

I do not want to assume that you know what the Nazarene General Assembly and Convention is. It is a time for Nazarenes from all over the world to gather to worship, learn, and conduct the business of the global church and its various ministries. This opportunity occurs once every four years; however, due to COVID-19, it has been six years since the last Assembly. Many people are looking forward to the 2023 General Assembly, June 9- 16, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The theme for this assembly is "Jesus is Lord." There will be meetings of elected delegates to conventions with sessions for Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI). There will also be the legislative sessions for the General Assembly.

Nazarene Educators Worldwide (NEW) is the organization for Nazarene educators; it exists under the leadership of NDI (Nazarene Discipleship International). NEW will have a session on Saturday, June 10 (10:30-12:00) in the convention center. Please come and be a part of that

session. What a blessing this time will be for Nazarene educators and pastors of churches who sponsor a childcare center, preschool, elementary or secondary school, homeschool group, or afterschool group.

### **What Will You Experience?**

I have so many wonderful memories of attending the General Assembly and Conventions:

- Attending wonderful and inspirational services with thousands of other Nazarenes from around the world
- Seeing young people called to the ministry and the missions field
- Seeing fellow Nazarenes all over the convention center, city, and at restaurants
- Seeing former pastors
- Seeing and talking with the evangelist who spoke at a revival where I accepted Christ when I was 10
- Seeing friends and colleagues who I have not seen in years
- Meeting other educators who have become great friends
- Learning many insights through workshops I attended
- Having an opportunity to present and facilitate workshops
- Being present and seeing the delegates vote on *Manual* changes that support Nazarene schools
- Visiting many exhibits and learning what is happening in the Church of the Nazarene
- Having an opportunity to volunteer at the Nazarene educators' exhibit
- Seeing new general superintendents elected, including the first from outside the United States

Many people have defined history with one word, "story." Since the first Nazarene General Assembly and Conventions, there have been many stories told and many that will be told. History will be made in Indianapolis this June. I have learned that today's history will influence future history. Be a part of the history of the Church of the Nazarene and Nazarene Educators Worldwide! And, even if you cannot be there, the story will still be told. Pray that God would be glorified through it all!

Go to [nazarene.org/general-assembly](http://nazarene.org/general-assembly) for more information about the events, housing, and schedules for General Assembly and Conventions 2023.

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