

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS' GROWTH AWARD

“I planted ...God made it grow” (1 Cor. 3.6).

The purpose of the *General Superintendents' Growth Award* is to give prominence to those practices that are central to the local and worldwide advancement of the church; specifically, new Nazarenes, significant involvement in sponsoring a new church, and payment of all budgets.

Scott Stearman was specially commissioned to sculpture *“The Sower.”* This symbol was chosen because it represents the prerequisites of harvesting. It recalls the words of the Psalmist, *“He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”* (Psalm 126:6) It draws directly from Paul’s analogy, in 1 Corinthians 3:6, *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.”*

- Churches that win people to Christ are healthy—whatever their size.
- Starting new churches is the most effective means of evangelism known to the church.
- Budget payments are essential to the cooperative ministries of the Church of the Nazarene.

New Nazarenes requirements are based on church attendance size categories. The size categories are included in the pastors’ annual report packet. The meaning of **“significant involvement in sponsorship of a new church”** is very specific and is spelled out in a form included in the pastors’ annual report packet. **Payment of all budgets** includes district budgets, educational budget, pensions budget, and World Evangelism Fund.

- The General Superintendents’ Growth Award is a new award.
- It replaces the Evangelistic Honor Roll, the Great Commission Medallions and Awards.
- The requirements for receiving this award are intentionally high—it is special recognition by the Board of General Superintendents.
- It is not based on attendance or membership.
- This award is not intended to replace all awards. Other Headquarters entities will continue to offer their respective awards. Districts will continue to offer their awards.

This award is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in essential practices of the expansion of the kingdom of God through the Church of the Nazarene. The presentation of this unique and beautiful sculpture is intended to say “Thank You” to the receiving pastor and church, and to elevate in the consciousness of our people the compelling importance of winning people to Christ, starting new churches, and supporting the organizational structures that make possible evangelism in 143 areas of the world.