

## Alabaster Policy Update

After some concerns were expressed regarding the allocation and use of Alabaster funds, Global Mission and NMI have worked together to reaffirm the Alabaster policy and the use of the funds in alignment with the spirit and purpose of the offering.

**In short, Alabaster funds are meant to create a way for new churches to move past barriers of occupying a space where the faith community can gather and for the expansion of Nazarene missions' efforts.**

In order to help clarify this intention, we have refined the language of the alabaster policy in the statements listed below.

### **Purpose of the Alabaster Fund**

The Alabaster plan of giving was launched in 1949 by the Global Council of Nazarene Missions International (NMI) and approved by the Board of General Superintendents to support the growth of new churches and the expansion of Nazarene missions' efforts.

### **Offering**

The Alabaster offering is designed as a love gift for Jesus, inspired by the story in the gospels of the woman who poured perfume on Jesus from an Alabaster jar. This biblical expression of a life spilled out is translated into sacrificial giving through the Alabaster offering. The Alabaster offering represents personal sacrifice to contribute to the provision of facilities to enable the meeting of spiritual and physical need.

The Alabaster offering is received in local churches worldwide, at least once per year, using methodologies suitable to the local culture.

### **Use of funds**

Alabaster funds are to be used for new churches to:

- Purchase a property or church building
- Purchase or build a church parsonage
- Build a church building
- Conversion of a property into a church gathering space
- Meet initial costs for renting a church meeting space for a limited period

Alabaster funds may also be used to:

- Purchase or build missionary homes
- Purchase or build regional or field missions' facilities
- Build or repurpose buildings on Bible college campuses

In order for Alabaster funds to be utilized, a proposal must be submitted to Global Mission for the review of the regional director or their designee, in consultation with the Global Mission director. All rental agreements must be reviewed by the Global Mission director.

### **Reporting**

All alabaster projects must be entered into the Project Serve system through the region. Once the project has been completed, an updated report and photos of the completed project must be uploaded to the Project Serve system. Each year a summary report will be developed of all projects on each region including information on the project type (church, land, parsonage), location, and amount.

Details on the exclusions from Alabaster funding:

#### **Property updates or conversion**

Alabaster funds can be used to convert buildings into a gathering space for a new church. These funds can also be used for repurposing buildings for a new initiative or directive by a Nazarene Bible college. Alabaster funds are not intended to be used for renovations or repairs.

#### **Disaster recovery**

Renovations or repairs caused by natural disasters can apply for Alabaster funding. Churches are encouraged to utilize other means of raising these funds or applying for disaster related grants.

#### **Loan and rental payments**

Loan payments and long-term rental agreements must be made by those who bear the loan or billing obligation. The Church of the Nazarene does not bear the responsibility for these loans therefore, Alabaster funding may not be used to meet loan payments. A grant of Alabaster funding can be made to help a church overcome the barriers for the initial rental of a church meeting space for a limited period if approved by the Global Mission director.

#### **Administration**

While every church and ministry have the need for ministry support through administration, Alabaster funds are not given to support this type of work and thus cannot be utilized for this purpose.