

# Pastor Appreciation Love Offering

## 14 DAYS OF APPRECIATION

Daily reminders of how blessed you are and what a blessing your pastor is to you, followed by suggestions for how to participate in your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering.

### DAY 1

The Church of the Nazarene is committed to a high standard of education for our ministers. Your pastor is taking, or has completed, at least 25 courses in theology, biblical studies, preaching, counseling and more.

Contribute 25 cents to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering for each of the required courses.

### DAY 2

Fewer than two-thirds of full-time pastors receive health insurance as a benefit<sup>1</sup>.

If you receive health insurance as a benefit from your employment (or your spouse's) contribute \$3 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering. If you do not, contribute \$1.

### DAY 3

Every sermon a pastor preaches takes hours of study and preparation. Many pastors preach every week, and some multiple times a week.

Contribute 10 cents to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering for every sermon you heard him/her preach over the past year.

### DAY 4

The global Church of the Nazarene has more active congregations (29,608) than it has licensed or ordained ministers (28,719)<sup>2</sup>.

Give \$1 to the Pastor Appreciation Love Offering for each pastor serving in your congregation.

### DAY 5

One-half of all lead pastors and more than one-half of solo pastors did not receive a raise in the past year<sup>3</sup>.

If you received a raise or a cost of living increase in the past year, contribute \$5 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering. If you did not, contribute \$1.

### DAY 6

Pastors are shepherds of the flock. They teach, preach, counsel and pray for the young and old in their congregations. They join families in celebrating births and grieving deaths, in addition to everything in between.

Contribute \$1 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering for each member of your family.

### DAY 7

On average, 49% of a church's income/budget is devoted to salaries<sup>4</sup>, and yet 57% of pastors cannot pay their bills<sup>5</sup>.

Contribute \$5 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering and commit to reevaluating your pastor's compensation package to make sure it is livable.

#### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Richard R. Hammar, *The 2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017) 16.

<sup>2</sup>Nazarene Research Services, Church of the Nazarene, 2017.

<sup>3</sup>Richard R. Hammar, *The 2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017) 344.

<sup>4</sup>Richard R. Hammar, *The 2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017) 344.

<sup>5</sup><http://www.churchleadership.org/apps/articles/default.asp?logid=4545&view=post&articleid=Statistics-on-Pastors-2016-Update&link=1&fldKeywords=&fldAuthor=&fldTopic=0>

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## DAY 8

Most pastors are “on call” 24/7, including holidays.

Add 75 cents for each U.S. holiday celebrated this year to the Pastor Appreciation Love Offering.

## DAY 9

Fifty percent of churches help their lead or solo pastors with auto expenses<sup>6</sup>.

Contribute \$2 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering for every car you have. Contribute \$1 if you walk or use public transportation.

## DAY 10

Approximately two out of every three Nazarene churches worldwide have less than 50 people in attendance on any given Sunday<sup>7</sup>.

If your church attendance is less than 50 people, give \$2 to the Pastor Appreciation Love Offering. If your church regularly has more than 50 people, give \$1.

## DAY 11

A church can designate a portion of a minister’s salary as a housing allowance or parsonage allowance, which is not subject to federal income tax under certain conditions<sup>8</sup>. This can be a huge tax benefit for your pastor.

If you own your own home, contribute \$5 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering. If you rent, contribute \$1.

## DAY 12

Pastors provide leadership to the local church in many different ways (e.g. preaching, leading board meetings, mowing the church lawn, attending community meetings).

Make a list of the many ways that your pastor provides leadership in your church and donate 25 cents for each one to the Pastor Appreciation Love Offering.

## DAY 13

Pastors practice stewardship of the gifts and abilities that God has given to them so they can make the greatest impact in God’s kingdom. Similarly, you steward the gift of your pastor by providing for their needs.

For every year that your church has had the privilege of being stewards of your pastor, contribute \$1 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering.

## DAY 14

Almost half of all Nazarenes worship in a church of less than 100 people<sup>9</sup>. That’s nearly 750,000 Nazarenes.

Add \$7.50 to your Pastor Appreciation Love Offering.

### NOTES:

<sup>6</sup>Richard R. Hammar, *The 2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017) 344.

<sup>7</sup>Nazarene Research Services, *Church of the Nazarene*, 2017.

<sup>8</sup>Richard R. Hammar, *The 2018 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017) 353.

<sup>9</sup>Nazarene Research Services, *Church of the Nazarene*, 2017.