

SAMPLE

I. The Church/Pastor Relationship - Conflict Resolution

121. Every year, the pastor and the church board shall conduct a planning session to renew the expectations and goals of the church and the pastor. The written understanding of goals, plans and objectives between the church and the pastor shall be updated. Such written understanding shall be filed with the district superintendent. (115.2, 129.4)

121.1. Pastors and congregations shall seek a clear understanding of each others' expectations and sincerely follow biblical principles to resolve differences in a spirit of reconciliation within the church.

Biblical principles for resolving differences in Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1-5 include:

1. Seek to resolve differences by discussing them face-to face.
2. If face-to-face discussion fails to bring resolution, seek the assistance of one or two others in resolving the differences.
3. Bring the differences to the church board only after face-to-face discussion and small-group efforts fail.
4. Christians are obligated to work at resolving differences in a spirit of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

-Nazarene Manual 2005-2009