

# WEST VIRGINIA NAZARENE CAMP

## POLICY REGARDING GENDER IDENTITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTENDED/OVERNIGHT STAYS

Our statements of faith and proper Christian practice are outlined by our parent denomination in the Church of the Nazarene Manual (current version). We agree with all statements and the expectations laid out in that document.

As the governing board for West Virginia Nazarene Camp, we agree with the Manual statement on Human Sexuality and abide by the practices of a Biblical world view. We interpret and apply the principles presented in the Church of the Nazarene Manual to extend to the following scenarios:

### **GENDER IDENTITY**

We believe that God fearfully and wonderfully creates each of us either male or female. This is not a decision for us to make, but one God, Himself has already made. Identifying as a gender other than that which one was born is not recognized as a practice in keeping with the Scripture.

Furthermore, the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene outlines our understanding of Christian sexuality and marriage. (Paragraph 31) We believe that gender identity conflicts are a derivative of the perversion of human sexuality. Those dealing with gender identity issues are to be loved and cared for as Christ would love and care for any of us dealing with confusion and sin. However, we do not affirm an individual choosing to identify as a gender other than their gender at birth.

### **HOMOSEXUALITY AND GENDER IDENTITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTENDED/OVERNIGHT STAYS**

In keeping with the statements regarding homosexuality in the Church of the Nazarene Manual and those statements as they pertain to gender identity issues, we have concluded the following regarding individuals who identify as homosexual or who identify as a gender other than that which one was born - who wish to attend an overnight retreat, camp, etc. where individuals of the same gender sleep, bathe, and disrobe in close proximity and/or open view of one another. Our goal is never to shame someone who is dealing with one particular sin, but instead, to assist them in every possible way to embrace an eternally transformative relationship with Christ who conquers sin in our lives. With this being our focus, it is our policy that:

1 An individual who would classify himself/herself as one of the above described who is not yet 18 years of age who is seeking to attend an extended overnight event with a group at West Virginia Nazarene Camp or any of its ministries, programs, or sponsored activities, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must obtain private lodging onsite or elsewhere with said parent or guardian where sleeping, bathing, and disrobing can be done separate from the group under the sole supervision of the parent or guardian. Extra costs incurred by obtaining this private lodging are the sole responsibility of the individuals obtaining lodging. To maintain the safety of minors attending the event, the chaperoning parent or guardian must submit to and pass a criminal background check through the camp &/or West Virginia North or South District Offices.

2 An adult individual who would consider himself/herself as one of the above described who is seeking to attend an extended/overnight event with a group West Virginia Nazarene Camp or any of its ministries, programs, or sponsored activities, must obtain private lodging onsite or elsewhere where sleeping, bathing, and disrobing can be done separate from the group. Extra costs incurred by obtaining this private lodging are the sole responsibility of the individuals obtaining lodging.