

Online Streaming Worship Attendance Policy South Carolina District

The purpose of this policy is to offer parameters for what constitutes “attendance” for those who participate in live streaming of South Carolina local church worship services.

It is our conviction that the goal of online attendance is no different than the goal of physical attendance at a corporate gathering, namely, the establishment of an ongoing relationship marked by mutual care, love and support designed to serve the mission as well as the primary and critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene as laid out in the Manual (Foreword, p. 5).

“The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God’s Kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures.”

“The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are ‘holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.’”

This policy is shaped to encourage that goal.

Churches should take care to actively engage individuals in the same manner they do those present at their physical gatherings. Intentional efforts should be made to enter them into discipleship processes and, where possible, move them from the digital gathering to the physical gathering of the Body.

Churches may include online attendance in their normal worship attendance using the following formula:

Total Minutes Viewed / 30 Minutes or Half of the Service Length (Whichever is less) = Total Viewers

Online worship attendance must be calculated within 72 hours of the service. We also encourage churches to utilize online registrations, communication/response forms, chat rooms, prayer requests, contributions and other means to engage online attendees.

Pastors will indicate on-campus and on-line attendance separately when reporting monthly worship attendance to the district office. Pastors including online worship attendance in their APR will report that number to the district at the end of the church year.