

Dr. Jess Middendorf

In March 2014, Nazarene Theological Seminary announced the launch of its Center for Pastoral Leadership, under the direction of Jesse C. Middendorf, general superintendent emeritus for the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Middendorf was elected as a General Superintendent in June 2001, after serving for ten years as senior pastor of First Church of the Nazarene of Kansas City, Missouri. He retired from that position in 2013.

Dr. Middendorf was born in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been preaching since age 16, was first district licensed while a student at Trevecca Nazarene College (now University) on the Tennessee District, and ordained an elder in the Church of the Nazarene in 1969 on that district. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1965 and his master of divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1968. In 1989 Southern Nazarene University conferred upon him the doctor of divinity degree. He earned a doctor of ministry degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1999.

He has pastored Nazarene churches in Clarksville, Tennessee; Ashland, Kentucky; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Richardson, Texas; and Kansas City, Missouri. During the years 1985-1991 he was superintendent of the Northwest Oklahoma District Church of the Nazarene.

He has written numerous articles for various religious periodicals, has authored chapters in several books, and is author/editor of *The Handbook of Christian Ritual* published in 1997 and republished in 2009.

Dr. Middendorf's hobbies include playing golf and flying single-engine aircraft. He and his wife, Susan (nee Marlowe), have three children: Jon, Marlo, and Jim; and five grandchildren.