



Southwestern Ohio District News

May 15, 2026

DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

PRIME TIME RETREAT A GREAT TIME OF GATHERING!

Thanks to Pastor Gary and Ronda Morgan, the Prime-Time Council, and all who attended the retreat at Higher Ground. Four great speakers: JK Warrick, Paige Graves, Gary Morgan, and Jared Horne. It was great to have Mark Lail and Ruth from the Nazarene Foundation. We enjoyed great food, a hymn sing, John Stone's leading of worship and his quartet. Over eighty people made it one of our best attended retreats.

THANK YOU for attending the memorial services of Pastor Bob Highley and Dr. Dick Lail! We will miss these two GREAT district leaders! A special 'Thank you,' to approximately 35 ministers who sang as a ministers' choir fulfilling Pastor Bob's request.

CONVENTIONS, ASSEMBLY AND CAMP MEETING:

It is less than two months until these important gatherings. Please be praying and mark your calendars to attend these district times of fellowship, business, and inspiration.

SPRINGDALE'S COWBOY CHURCH will celebrate their new arena this Sunday! Everyone is welcome! Kickoff is at 4:00 PM, service begins at 6:30 PM. They are located at 1876 Millville Oxford Road, Hamilton, OH 45013. We are excited about this thriving ministry and congratulate them on this accomplishment. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT SECRETARY:

It's reporting season once again! With its arrival, it is our opportunity as pastors, laypersons, and local churches, to bring an account to our District of what the Lord has been doing among us. As a family, we rejoice together when there's been a wonderful harvest—we hurt together when there's been challenges and setbacks—but through it all, we do this as the family of God who cares for one another and is accountable to each other.

Pastors, you should have received an email this week regarding the reporting process this year. There are some changes which impact your reporting, so I would ask that you give special attention to these. In particular, they impact how we will be voting at this year's District Assembly.

Thank you for being the wonderful District you are! It's an honor to serve you!
Dave Crofford, District Secretary

SAVE THE DATE: SWO DISTRICT RETIREES' DINNER:

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026

Time: 5:15 PM

Place: Ferguson Dining Hall, Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center

To Register: EMAIL: highergroundservice@gmail.com or call 812-637-3777.

For more information: Click on link: [DINNER](#)

*****SAVE THE DATE ***MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT:**

Attend in person, host the livestream, or encourage men to participate from home.

This July 17–18, 2026, the 1613 Men's Conference will gather thousands of men in Cincinnati, Ohio—or through a nationwide livestream—for two days of biblical teaching, courage, and clarity rooted in **1 Corinthians 16:13–14**. More than 1,400 men from 40 states and Canada are already registered to attend in Cincinnati, and nearly 100 churches have already signed up to **HOST** the livestream (Central, Mountain and Pacific friendly) as an **equipping and outreach** opportunity.

Your church can participate in three ways:

- **Attend in person** with your men in Cincinnati.
- **Host the livestream** at your church as a men's event or outreach.
- **Encourage individual men** to attend or stream from home.

Every speaker will be **present in-person in Cincinnati**, bringing powerful, Christ-centered messages designed to challenge, encourage, and equip men to lead with strength and humility. Featured speakers include Pastor Joby Martin, Wes Huff, Brian Dawkins, Anthony Muñoz, Joel Salatin, Nick Freitas, John Lovell, and more. If traveling isn't feasible, hosting the livestream allows your church to gather men locally while participating in a larger national movement—without the logistics of travel or overnight costs. You can learn more, explore hosting options, and to register [CLICK HERE](#).

DISTRICT CALENDAR – May/June:

05/25/26 – Memorial Day, District Office Closed
05/30/26 – Children's MVNU Field Quiz, Mount Vernon Nazarene University
05/31/26 – End of the Church Year

June

06/03 – 06/06/26 – BLAST, MVNU
06/04/26 – Executive Camp Board, 3:00 PM, Higher Ground Office
06/04/26 – Camp Board, 7:00 PM, Higher Ground Dining Room
06/05/26 – **REPORT DUE: Year End Reporting Forms**
06/13/26 – THRIVEk
06/15 – 06/19/26 – SWO Teen Camp @ Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center
06/21/26 – Happy Father's Day!
06/21 – 06/23/26 – Children's Camp (Grades 1-3), Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center [KIDS CAMP](#)
06/24 – 06/27/26 – Children's Camp (Grades 4-6), Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center [KIDS CAMP](#)
06/28 – 7/06/26 – NYC 2025, Salt Lake City, UT



NDI QUICK LINKS:

NDI Facebook [CLICK HERE](#)
NDI Hub Newsletter Signup [CLICK HERE](#)
NDI Upcoming Events: [CLICK HERE](#)
NDI Website [CLICK HERE](#)

SWO KIDS' CAMPS:

Rookie Camp - Completing grades 1st-3rd (2025-26 School Year)

When: June 21-23, 2026
Where: Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center, 3820 Logan Creek Lane, West Harrison, IN 47060
Cost: \$150 **by May 30** | \$170 **May 31-June 7**
Check In: 3:00-4:00 PM Sunday
Pickup: 3:00 PM Tuesday

Preteen Camp - Completing grades 4th-6th (2025/26 School Year)

When: June 24-27, 2026
Where: Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center, 3820 Logan Creek Lane, West Harrison, IN 47060
Cost: \$215 **by May 30** | \$225 **May 31-June 7**
Check In: 3:00-4:00 PM Wednesday
Pickup: 3:00 PM Saturday

Registration: Visit www.swokidscamp.com | **REGISTRATION CLOSES June 7th!**

Questions: Contact Bekah Clark at bclark@shelterchurch.tv

For More Information: Click on link: [KIDS CAMP](#)



NMI CONVENTION:

When: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Where: West Chester Nazarene, 7951 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (*Registration begins at 8:30 AM*)

Lunch: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM (City Barbeque)

Cost: \$10 in advance / \$12 after deadline

RSVP: stephaniewagers24@yahoo.com

Special Speakers: Kurt & Holly Johnson, missionaries to Poland

Childcare: Available

Important Items:

- Election of **delegates** for the 2027 General MI Convention
- Election of a **new NMI President** (Kurt Johnson retiring this year)

Please send nominations to: kurt@kdconsulting.com

What to Expect:

- March of Flags
- Presentations on the district NMI ministry
- Celebration of local church mission involvement
- Collection of **Links funds**
- **Deputation offerings** for missionaries

Drawings will take place during lunch, including a Work & Witness (Teams) scholarship. Please send information about your church's mission trips, teams, or activities to: Donis Williams – iliv2wrshp@gmail.com

Schedule Change: Based on last year's feedback, the missionary service will not be held on the same day. Instead, a district-wide missionary service will be scheduled this fall along with a deputation tour. More details to come.

Reminder: NMI reports are due by the end of May

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Please be in prayer about how you or your church might be involved:


Appalachia Reach Out – Scioto County, OH

 August 1–7, 2026


Rest Stop Ministries – Lebanon, TN

 October 4–10, 2026

Jamaica Recovery & Evangelism

 Jan 26 – Feb 6, 2027

GENERAL NMI CONVENTION & GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- **General NMI Convention:** June 25–28, 2027
- **General Assembly:** June 25 – July 2, 2027
 -  Kansas City

We'll begin with **online caucus meetings in April**, so the convention really starts before we arrive.

Highlights include:

- Shared opening and closing celebrations with NDI & NYI
- **29 workshops** featuring missionaries and global leaders
- A new **Tour of the Regions** experience

If you've never been, it's worth considering—it's an incredible picture of the global Church.



NYI QUICK LINKS:

Calendar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Communication: [CLICK HERE](#)

Facebook Page: [CLICK HERE](#)

Instagram: [CLICK HERE](#)

Nazarene Youth Conference 2026 Facebook: [CLICK HERE](#)

Website: [CLICK HERE](#)

SWO NYC 2026:

There will be a **parent/participant meeting on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 PM**, West Chester Nazarene in the Clubhouse, 7951 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069, Enter through door 9 (back by the district office). This is a very important meeting where we will go over all the details for NYC, so it's important that at least one parent or guardian attends. Please make plans to be there!

MVNU FIELD BLAST:

When: June 3rd-6th at MVNU

Who: Those who qualified for BLAST while participating at Elevate?

Didn't come to ELEVATE, but want to still participate? There's a place for you! Come and defend our Championship FLAG! Make plans to register for BLAST!

Cost: \$160 for students and \$120 for adults. **Please make checks payable to SWO NYI.** Unfortunately, no online payment option is available due to the nature of the FIELD BLAST Registration process.

For more information: Visit <http://www.mvnu.edu/BLAST> for medical release forms and BLAST Handbook access to rules.

Registration: (Opening soon!)

Questions? Email the Field BLAST Coordinator, Johnny Mohnasky, at john.mohnasky@mvnu.edu.

"OFFLINE" – SWO CAMP 2026:

When: June 15th-19th

Where: Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center

What: Make plans to join us for **SWO Camp**! This is an incredible week to leave the distractions of everyday life behind and connect with God in a powerful way.

Cost: Students – \$240 | Counselors – \$150 | **The price increases to \$265 on May 19th** and **registration closes June 8th**

We're excited to have Eastpointe leading worship again this year, and Antonio Marshall will be our camp speaker! More details to come soon!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! To register, please visit: www.swonyi.org

CHURCH COMMUNICATION

YOUTH LEADER OPENING:

Tri-County Nazarene is looking for a part-time Youth Leader. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tom at tom.ward@tcn.church for more information.

CAR SHOW + BIKES @ NEW LEBANON NAZARENE:

New Lebanon Nazarene will host the Emery Huges Memorial Car show on Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit SWORD (Southwestern Ohio Response to Disaster) and Community Missions. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Have a great weekend!

SWO District Office

To unsubscribe, please call 513-777-5600 or email swonaz@swonaz.org