



CHURCH OF THE
NAZARENE

**SOUTHWESTERN
OHIO DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY 2026**

*Thankful for our **past**.
Confident for our **future**.*

67th District Assembly

District Reports

Dr. Christian Sarmiento, General Superintendent

Dr. Robert Mahaffey, District Superintendent

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Presiding General Superintendent: Dr. Christian Sarmiento

District Superintendent: Dr. Robert J Mahaffey

District Secretary: Dr. David Crofford

SPECIAL GREETINGS

SWO District Missionaries: Jim and Kathy Radcliff [Retired, Papua New Guinea]

Wanda Terry [Retired, Swaziland]

Dr. Lauren and Taylor Myatt, Papua New Guinea

Matt and Faye Wagner [Guatemala]

Cailyn and Michael Wheatley [Creative Access Missionaries]

SWO District Former and Retired District

Superintendents and spouses: Mrs. Carlton D. Hansen,

Dr. Douglas and Lisa VanNest

SESSION AND SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday Evening Ordination Service-
(July 12)-6 p.m.**

Monday Morning: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Monday Afternoon: 1:30 PM until
adjournment**

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY

Message from Dr. Christian Sarmiento

District Superintendent Report

MVNU Presentation

Highlights from Pastors and Ministries Across the District

VOTING AREA ESTABLISHED

Voting area will be the entire main floor of the sanctuary

Votes will be cast during the morning session on Monday, July 13th

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Alternate forms available to pastors at registration.

DISTRICT BOARD OF MINISTRY

The District Board of Ministry submits the following recommendations:

A. The following transfers to be received:

1. Elders:
Louis Reindel from the Northwestern Ohio District
2. Deacons:
April Kelly from the Southern California District
3. District Licensed
Kate Eaton from the Northwestern Ohio District
4. Elder in good standing from another denomination:
James Johnson from the Christian Missionary Alliance.

B. The following transfers to be granted:

1. Elders:
Keyla Blas—Marrero to the North Arkansas District
Micah Mortimer to the MidSouth District
David Andrew Ross to the Northwestern Ohio District
2. Licensed Ministers:
Lea Gauthier to the New England District
Travis Stockelman to the Northeast Indiana District
Jose Vanegas to the North Arkansas District

C. The following district ministers license be renewed:

Jesse Aaron	Robert Brown	Rachel Call	Joshua Center
Timothy Burkes	Stanley Daniels	Kate Eaton	Brandon Fine
Matthew Gordon	Paige Graves	Christopher Gulden	Phil Hamlin
Richard Harmon	Cedric Hart	Roger Holcomb	Mike Jackson
Raeann King	Jean-Baptiste Lamonste	Walter Landerer	Fermina Macario- Jacob
Amy Mason	Kevin Mason	Jamison Moody	Tabitha Nolan
Innocent Nkurunziza	Eugene Nzau Tsasa	Brad Pullen	George Rynearson

Johnathan Schroeder Matthew Scruggs Connor Tinch Levi Weaver

Jacob Williams

- D. The following be granted district minister's license:
 Jonathan Chambers Ariana Cordoves Harold Cordoves J a c o b G l e n n
 Jean Munyurangabo Jeff Odum Laura Reed Innocent Seba
 Taylor Willis
- E. The following are not renewing district minister's license:
 Charlene Karacia Noah Robbins Melissa
 Shelley
- F. The following have not been recommended for renewal of District License:
 Ermiyas Mamo-Teklesedek
- G. The following be granted ordination as elders:
 Jeannie Holt Nnamdi Oziri Gustave Ujeneza
- H. The following be granted elder's orders by recognition of credential:
 James Johnson
- I. The following be granted evangelist registered:
 Peter Vecchi
- J. The following be granted evangelist tenured:
 Billy Huddleston
- K. The following be granted retired evangelism service:
 Timothy Cole
- L. The following be granted song evangelist, registered:
 Charles Dole Scott Kelley
- M. The following be granted retirement status:
 Mark Atherton Jeffrey Frampton Lester Jones
- N. The following be granted "exempt" status due to health and aging issues:
 Gerald Vaught Curtis Randolph

- O. The following be removed from the roll of elders due to deceased status:
Kenneth Copenhaver Jim Haynes Robert Highley
- P. The following be removed from the list of District Licensed due to
deceased status:
Keith Smith

Respectfully Submitted
David Crofford, Recording Secretary Robert J Mahaffey, Chairman

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

The Southwestern Ohio District Advisory Board reports that following actions and recommendations:

A. Interim ministerial transfers have been processed and referred to the Ministerial Credentials Board.

B. The following licensed ministers serving as pastors are recommended for renewal of district licenses:

1. Jessie Aaron—Cedarville
2. Clarence Gordon II—the Bridge
3. Kevin Mason—Sardinia
4. Jamison Moody—Carthage
5. Josh Center –New Lebanon

C. The District Superintendent’s following pastoral appointments or re-appointments were approved:

1. Alpha, Doug Shope, OE
2. Amelia, Ross Norris OE
3. Cedarville, Jesse Aaron, LM
4. Cincinnati Carthage, Jamison Moody, LM
5. Cincinnati Chase Avenue, Robert Schneckner, OE
6. Cincinnati Fairfax/Mount Carmel, Steven Merritt, OE
7. Cincinnati Lockland, David Oursler, OE
8. Crossroads, Brian Deaton, OE
9. Dayton Northridge, Joe Hollstein, OE
10. Fairborn Wrightview, Trevor Smith, OE
11. Felicity, Gary Zornes, OE
12. Georgetown, Mike Jackson. LM
13. Harrison, Steve Queen, OE
14. Liberation, Heath Countryman, OE
15. New Lebanon, Josh Center, LM
16. New Richmond, Bill Bockhorst, OE
17. North Point Community, Bob Hussong, OE
18. Peebles, Ty Beam LL
19. Philadelphia, Gustave Ujeneza, LM
20. Target Dayton, Mark Stevens, OE
21. Trotwood West Acres, Larry McIntosh, OE
22. Waynesville, Terry Kidd, OE
23. Washington Court House, Deana Dupler, OE
24. West Union, Tammy Baldwin-Stone, OE

D. The following have been granted permission to serve in positions in the indicated areas:

1. Jeff Ackenback, OE, to serve as Pastor at First UMC, Richmond, IN and Centerville UMC, Centerville, IN.
2. Wesley Barnhill, OE, to serve as Pastor of Byron Church, Fairborn, OH.
3. Stan R. Ellingson, OE, to serve as Assistant Principal of East Dayton Christian School, Dayton, OH.

4. James Fischer, OE, to serve as Administrator, Sycamore Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH.
 5. William Michael Frisby, OE, to serve as Pastor at Index Community Church, West Liberty, KY.
 6. Daniel Justice, OE, to serve in First Touch Ministries, Heritage Church of Christ in Christian Union, Washington Court House, OH.
 7. Harold Miller, OE, to serve as Pastor at Lynchburg United Methodist Church, Lynchburg, OH.
 8. Holly Portwine, OE, to serve as house church pastor for Anthem House Church, West Chester, OH.
 9. Samuel Slagle, OE, to serve as Pastor at Church of Christ in Christian Union, Dayton, OH.
- E. The District Advisory Board approved the organization of Liberation Community Church of the Nazarene.
- F. The District Advisory Board declared closed Dayton Daytonview.
- G. The District Advisory Board approved Target Dayton Ministries as a Compassionate Ministry Center.
- H. The District Advisory Board held five regularly scheduled meetings during the 2025-2026 church year and other specially called meetings as requested by the District Superintendent.
- I. The recorded minutes of all District Advisory Board meetings are on file at the district office.

Respectfully submitted,

TERRY BLOSSER, *Secretary*

JILL PEDDENPOHL, *Recording Secretary*

ROBERT MAHAFFEY, *Chairman*

DISTRICT CHURCH PROPERTIES BOARD REPORT 2025-26

The Properties Board did not meet this church year. There were five items that came to the District Advisory Board which were received:

1. Bethel Church completed their building renovation and celebrated with a dedication service on March 15, 2026.
2. Liberation Church completed the purchase of their new location and celebrated their opening on April 12, 2026.
3. Middletown Church completed repairs of their building foundation and sanctuary renovation celebrating this accomplishment on June 28, 2026.
4. North Point completed the purchase of their new facility and the first phase of construction. They began meeting in the building in April of 2026.
5. Sale of the Mount Carmel property. This is completed.

This update is submitted by District Superintendent Bob Mahaffey

DISTRICT CENTER BOARD REPORT 2026

The District Center Board met regularly throughout the year to conduct and care for the business of Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center. Mark and Diane Lingle have once again provided great leadership and vision throughout the year. We want to continue to express our thanks to the Lingles and the staff for their continued outstanding service to our district and all who visit Higher Ground.

There continues to be improvements made to the lodge as well as other camp facilities. The entrance project has once again been the focal as there have been some challenging issues arise with the completion of this project. But we feel we are now in the final stages of completing the project. Camp meeting was a great time of celebration, reunion, and revival. Our district youth camps were some of the largest camps attended across the denomination. We are truly blessed to have Higher Ground as a source of ministry on our district.

We trust that Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center will continue to be a place of ministry where lives are changed. The District Center Board would like to thank you for your continued support and asks that you pray and continue to support the future of Higher Ground for the building of the Kingdom of God.

Chairman,
Tom Zile

NAZARENE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Nazarene Ministry Development Center will complete its 32nd year of operation in August of 2026. This year we're going through quite a change as the denomination has instituted new educational requirements for all Nazarene churches. This New Course of Study (NCOS) will provide the educational pathway toward ordination for our students. Thank you to all of our teachers for the time and effort they put in teaching plus making the adjustments to the NCOS system. David Crofford, Brian Deaton, Sheila Slone, and Tom Zile all do a fine job. Also, thanks to Dr. Mahaffey for his help and guidance and Rhonda Brown and David Crofford for their help with administration.

The mission of NMDC/NCOS is to prepare men and women for Christian ministry. We have carried out that mission this past year and with God's help will do so in the future. This has been my 20th and final year of leadership. David Crofford assumed this role in June of this year.

Respectfully submitted,
MARK ATHERTON, Director

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL STUDIES

We, your District Ministerial Studies Board, submit the following report and recommendations:

1. The guidelines and *Manual* directives under which this board fulfills its responsibilities for aiding and guiding candidates in preparation for ministry are stated under division III, Plan of Examination, in the assembly journal.
2. Plans have been made for classes to assist the candidates in their educational program, and advisers have been assigned to maintain contact with each candidate pursuing the course of study.

Graduated from the Course of Study

Jesse Aaron, Rachel Call, Jeannie Holt, Nnamdi Oziri, Gustave Ujeneza

Fourth Level

Robby Brown, Timothy Burke, Ariana Cordoves, Harold Cordoves, Richard Harmon, Ermias Mamo, Fermina Macario-Jacobo, Jamison Moody, Innocent Nkurunziza, Matt Scruggs, Jacob Williams

Third Level

Josh Center, Matthew Gordon, Paige Graves, Christopher Gulden, Cedric Hart, Jordan Kear, Amy Mason, Jean (John) Munyurangabo, George Rynearson, Melissa Shelley, Timothy Tipton, Connor Tinch, Levi Weaver

Second Level

Brandon Fine, Ruganza Gapuri, Lea Gauthier, Phil Hamlin, Aimee Hill, Roger Holcomb, Lamonste L. Jean-Baptiste, Charlene Karacia, Reann King, Paul Lail, Kevin Mason, Tabitha Nolan, Brad Pullen, Laura Reed, Johnathan Schroeder, Eugene Nzau Tsasa

First Level

Ethan Armstrong, Bruce Barcelo, Ryan Bible, Danny Cancino, Lisa Carey, Bobby Chambers, Jonathan Chambers, Jean Desire Diasso, Leigha Donner, Chuck Fletcher, Jacob Glenn, Tim Hammell, Wesley Heintzleman, Larry Howard, Mike Jackson, Denver Jewell, Emma Johnston, Scott Kiever, Elijah Knost, Jenna Lackens, Lindsey Lawson, Joshua Malone, Arthur Miller, Matt Miller, Becca Moore, Jeff Odum, Jimmy Prater, Mike Raines, Nick Reed, Sydney Rousch, Travis Russell, Zachary Stewart, Taylor Walsh

Respectfully submitted,
MARK ATHERTON, *Secretary*

**SOUTHWESTERN OHIO DISTRICT
NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2025-2026
REPORT**

The Nominating Committee met at the District Office on April 1st to prepare for District Assembly.

The committee chose to list all incumbents on the ballot. (Unless they choose to decline)

For each elected position, twice the number of names to be elected are desired. Possible alternates were listed in the event that candidates might decline.

The ballot includes electing:

Two elders and two laypersons to the District Advisory Board

Two elders and two laypersons to the District Camp Board

Three elders (due to one vacancy) and two laypersons to the District Properties Board

Nine elders to be elected to the Credentials/Ministry Board...this will be by vote of affirmation.

The election of the Nazarene Discipleship International President by yes/no ballot

Two to be elected as board members to NDI

The Nominating Committee comprised of the following, who were selected by the District Advisory Board:

Adam Profitt, Bryan Heil, Dave Crofford (District Secretary), Elizabeth Pennington, George Armstrong, Kalyn Vogelmann (NDI), Kurt Johnson (NMI), Mike Hancock, Sheila Slone, Teresa Bowden (NYI), Terry Blosser, and Bob Mahaffey (District Superintendent)

NYI REPORT

Dr. Sarmiento, Pastor Bob, SWO District, and SWO NYI Youth leaders and students,

In high school, I was all about sports... probably more than grades. I played softball, volleyball, and basketball. I thought I was pretty good at them, and I had success in each one. But all three sports had something in common...they were team sports.

We could not win if I was the only one putting in the work. I couldn't play every position by myself.

- In volleyball, I was a hitter, but I couldn't hit unless I had a good passer and setter.
- In basketball, I played the three/four spot, but I couldn't score if someone didn't get me the ball.
- In softball, I played different positions, but I couldn't make the play without a teammate ready to catch the throw.

What does it mean to be a part of a team?

- Being a part of a team means understanding that you are part of something bigger than yourself.
- It means showing up, doing your part, and supporting others as they do theirs. Sometimes you lead, and sometimes you follow. Sometimes you carry the load, and other times others carry you.
- It means celebrating the victories together and facing the challenges together and staying united even when things get difficult.
- Recognizing you are more effective when you work together.

The truth is, sports taught me something important about life: I need people around me. We need a team of people who come alongside us to help us succeed, grow, and even simply make it through life.

- We need **friends** to laugh with, grow with, make memories with, and encourage us spiritually.
- We need **parents**, or parent figures, who provide for us, guide us, discipline us, support us, and teach us right from wrong as we grow into adults.
- We need **mentors and coaches** who give wisdom, challenge us, and help us grow in our skills, our character, and our relationships.
- We need **pastors/youth leaders** who teach us about who God is, walk with us through struggles, and help us navigate things we may not always know how to talk about elsewhere.
- We need **the church**, a place where we grow in faith, worship together, and find a community of believers who support one another.

The truth is simple: *we are better together.*

We see this concept all throughout the New Testament.

Jesus Himself built a team. He chose twelve disciples to walk with Him, learn from Him, and continue the mission after He returned to heaven. They were chosen for a reason. They had a shared mission. They were partners in ministry.

- **In Mark 6:7**, Jesus sent them out two by two. He could have sent them alone, but he didn't. He sent them together, because ministry was never meant to be done in isolation.

In the early church, we see believers coming together

- **in Acts 2:42-47**. They worshiped together, shared fellowship together, provided resources for one another, and cared for each other when needs arose. They became a community of support.
- **In Acts 6:1-7**, we see the apostles delegate responsibilities to seven others so the needs of the people could be met. Even the apostles understood they couldn't do it alone.

Paul also had teammates in ministry- Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, and many others. They traveled together, served together, and strengthened one another.

- **In Philippians 1:3-5**, Paul expresses gratitude for those who partnered with him in the gospel.

The message is clear: God designed His people to work together. And that brings us here tonight.

We had another strong year here on SWO

1. We repeated our win at BLAST by taking home the overall winner flag. We hope to make it a third.
2. We had an amazing camp under Micah Mortimer's leadership, with over 400 students and adult helpers.
3. SWO Night Outs were great times of worship and fellowship
4. Fall Retreat saw growth in attendance and investment in the lives of students.
5. Elevate continues to be strong and we are always looking for ways to make it better and bigger.
6. Quizzing on SWO continued to be strong, and as always are looking to grow and bring in new people.
7. We heard from three new churches (Amelia, New Lebanon, and Sardinia) looking to get involved in District events, which was a goal that was set last year- to get three new churches involved. I am excited for them to get involved in NYI events!

We had a strong year, because we are all in this together

I want to take this opportunity to recognize some of our incredible team of youth pastors, leaders, and council members who make up SWO NYI. Each of you plays an important role in ministering to students, strengthening our district, and serving faithfully behind the scenes. Tonight is a chance to celebrate you and thank you for all you do. These leaders are necessarily on the council, but they pour time and energy into the district and into each other, which makes our district better:

Adam Holcomb- Thank you for leading the students at Trenton Gracepointe church. You are a great leader and I know that they are incredibly blessed to have you be such a consistent leader at your church.

Adam and Valerie Proffitt- Thank you for all of your support for NYI! You guys are awesome and such an important part of our team. Thank you for always being willing to help and help lead. Your students at Middletown Naz are awesome and are blessed to have you as leaders.

Brandon Conrad- I am excited to see how God uses you at Monroe. I am also excited to get your students connected to SWO NYI stuff. Thank you for all you do at Monroe for your students.

Caleb Durbin – Thank you for being an important part of SWO and for always being willing to help wherever needed. Thank you as well for your ministry at Fairfield Naz. Your students are blessed to have you and Shauna investing in their lives.

Connor Tinch- Thank you for leading the Be Hope students well. You have a big job and a big ministry at your church. It is great to see you connected with other youth leaders in the district. Your students are blessed to have you!

Donna Muncie- The time and energy you invest in the lives of your students at Harrison does not go unnoticed. I appreciate your willingness to lead and serve in that area of the church! You are loved and appreciated.

Interim Youth Staff at SNC – Thank you for stepping in during this season of transition. Thank you for loving your students well, supporting the district, and faithfully filling the gap. We are praying for you and for Strive Youth Ministries.

Interim Youth Staff at WCN – Thank you for filling the gap during this transition, for supporting SWO NYI, for hosting this event, and for loving your students well as the search for the next youth pastor begins. It is a pleasure to serve alongside you all.

Jacob Glenn – Thank you for helping with Fall Retreat and for the energy and gifts you bring to the table. We are excited for you as you begin ministry and lead the Countryside students.

Jacob Mitchell- Thank you for all you do for your students at Montana Ave. You serve such an important role in their lives and they are blessed to have you in that position.

Josh Center- We are excited for New Lebanon church and the involvement of your students in NYI. It was great having them be a part of Elevate! I am excited to see what the Lord does through your ministry at your church!

Josh and Roxanne Malone- Thank you for all you do for the students at Vandalia Naz. You have a great group of students, and the Lord has placed you in that leadership role to love on them and support them! You are a valuable part of NYI.

Julie Stevens- The way you lead your church and your students at Living Hope is truly amazing! You have such a gift for leading them, and I can tell you are passionate about investing in their lives to become great student leaders.

Levi Weaver – Thank you for all you do for the students at Parkview and for being a strong supporter of SWO NYI events. Thank you for always being a team player and for the love you and Macy have for students.

Lydia Falgner- I appreciate the way you are involved with NYI. I appreciate your willingness to get involved with quizzing, and for always being a support for the district and for your students, and for quizzing!

MVNU- you are also a part of our team. John and Caleb, thank you for your support and for the teamwork you

show us as a district. I am excited to partner with you all more.

Nate Reese- Thank you for leading our students at North Point, and for your support for NYI. I am excited to partner with you more and get you all involved in the district!

Ross Norris- Thank you for coming to Elevate and for your participation in the event! I am thankful that you are leading your students there, and I am excited for your future participation in more NYI events!

Timothy Tipton- Target Dayton has such a great opportunity to have you pour into the lives of students that walk through the doors at your church. I am excited for your new role and am excited to help offer support at your church! The students at Target Dayton are very blessed to have you lead them and love them.

Also, a huge thank you to all of the spouses of our youth pastors and leaders. Without you, they cannot lead well. You are also a huge part of this team with your involvement in ministry. You are just as valuable in the lives of the students at your churches, and your commitment and sacrifice does not go unnoticed. Whatever your role is, you have a huge part in holding things together.

What a great thing if all of our churches who had students in their local congregations got involved in some way? How much stronger would we be as a district? If your church was not mentioned, that means we don't know about you or your students or your leaders! Please reach out, and we would love to get you connected!

Now I would like to take some time to thank our 2025–26 Council for their year of serving on our SWO NYI Council:

Bekah Clark – Thank you for stepping into the interim Vice President role. Thank you for being a listening ear, a strong support, and always willing to help. Thank you as well for your ministry to the students at Shelter.

Jenny Bost – Thank you for serving as Treasurer, for your attention to detail, and for your willingness to serve in such an important role.

Cedric Hart – Thank you for serving as Secretary, for helping make tonight happen, and for serving as our Elevate Director and BLAST Coordinator. Thank you for your commitment to SWO NYI and to the students at Dayton First. We are all incredibly grateful for you!

Kenny McQuitty – Thank you for all you do for the students at Bethel and for being such a valuable part of this team as well as support! Also, thank you for being our district trainer. I am excited for you as you become our new VP and to work alongside you these next two years!

Ross Frank and Gloria Frank – Thank you for serving as our NYC Coordinators and for your dedication to helping wherever needed. Thank you for your heart for students and for all you do at West Carrollton. I can personally see the impact you both are having in the lives of your students and young adults. You both are awesome.

John and Hannah Schroeder – Thank you for serving in social media and in every fill-the-gap role that comes up. Thank you for the ministry you have at Xenia Naz and for the impact you are making in your church and community.

Malachi Dean – Thank you for caring for our Young Adults and creating space for them to connect. They are an important part of SWO, and you serve them well.

Young Adult Representatives – Grace Caddell, Alex Collins, Daron Porter, and Elise Haughin – Thank you for your willingness to serve. A special thank you to Alex for faithfully attending meetings and giving valuable input.

Senior High Representatives – Eli Mahaffey, Aubrey Profitt, Graycen Alderman, and Andrew Howell – Thank you for your leadership, input, and for representing the voice of our students so well. Thank you for your voice and your input that you give at our meetings. You are awesome leaders, and you all have so much potential in leadership.

Middle School Representatives – Christian Dean, Lucy Dagnol, Riley Woolwine, Noah Lanham, and Scarlet Meed – Thank you for your commitment, your service, and for helping represent our middle school students. Thank you for your voice you give at our meetings! You guys are awesome leaders!

Greg Kindle – Thank you to you and your team for leading Quizzing so faithfully. Your dedication and investment are making a lasting impact on students across SWO and beyond. Also thank you for your leadership and representing SWO well in our field. I know that they also appreciate your leadership!

Drew Aaron – Thank you for your support of SWO and for the encouragement you have given me as FYC (Field Youth Coordinator). We very much love and appreciate your leadership.

Pastor Bob and Carolyn – Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to SWO NYI as our District Superintendent. For the past ten years, you have faithfully loved and served our students, and we are deeply grateful for everything you have done for us. Pastor Bob has always been a huge supporter of NYI and made us about the team. His heart and desire is for all of us as churches to be a part and work together, to make this district a strong and a great district, and I believe he has done that! We are going to really miss him, but we know that he will continue to love and support NYI.

Bobby, Madison and Evelyn- I would like to thank you for your unwavering support for me and for this ministry. Bobby, thank you for always being willing to serve and jump in when needed (even when you might not want to). You help hold things together and I could not do this without your love and support.

As we look ahead to a new year, and an exciting, full summer, we're praying that God continues to bless our students, our team, and our mission: helping students connect to Jesus.

I truly believe God has incredible things in store. I'm excited to see how He will lead us, grow us, and use us in the year ahead. The reality is, we're not doing this alone, we're in this together. And we really are better together. So as I wrap up my third report as being District President, I am excited to see the continuous growth and energy our students and leaders will bring. We really are the best district. It is a huge privilege to serve you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Teresa Bowden
SWO NYI President

**SOUTHWEST OHIO DISTRICT NAZARENE DISCIPLESHIP INTERNATIONAL REPORT
PASTOR KALYN VOGELMANN, DISTRICT NDI PRESIDENT**

This past year has been a beautiful reminder that discipleship is alive and thriving across the Southwest Ohio District. Together, we have continued helping people become more faithful disciples of Jesus who make disciples. Your SWO NDI Council truly believes that *if you follow Jesus alone, you probably won't follow Jesus for long* and that fuels all that we do.

Throughout our district, children, youth, adults, and Prime Timers have embraced the call to keep becoming all God has created them to be. Churches have creatively connected with their communities through ministries such as pickleball and devotions, prayer walks, prayer and snack tents in local parks, retreats, community service projects, VBS, story times, and intentional relationships with neighbors. We have also witnessed churches begin again in their discipleship pathways and reimagine ways of discipleship by starting new groups, accountability and mentoring relationships, and seeking ways for congregants to build more authentic relationships with others.

One encouraging example has been the growth of Alpha in several of our churches. Many congregations took what they learned at last year's NDI Convention and implemented Alpha locally, experiencing meaningful conversations, transformed lives, and spiritual fruit.

We are grateful for the leadership of Dr. Eric Johnson, our Adult Discipleship Director, who has helped strengthen disciple-making efforts across our district and played a key role in helping us offer today's Disciples Gathering. His passion for discipleship and commitment to equipping local churches continues to bless Southwest Ohio.

Children's Quizzing continues to thrive under the faithful leadership of Rick and Ruth Current, with new churches participating this year. Pastor Bekah Clark and the Children's Discipleship Council continue to serve our district well through networking, resource sharing, VBS support, and an outstanding week of children's camp. We are deeply grateful for all who invest in discipling our children.

THRiVE Women's Ministry continues to disciple women ages 5 to 95 through the dedicated leadership of an exceptional district team. Prime Time, under the leadership of Pastor Gary Morgan, has continued our strong ministry and legacy through the annual retreat and gatherings that encourage older adults to stay connected to one another and keep growing in Christ.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: we want to BECOME even more faithful as disciples who make disciples. We will keep following Jesus and inviting others to follow Jesus with us. We invite every local church to partner with your SWO NDI Council and join us in this mission. We are here for you— reach out to us! It is a joy to serve alongside our NDI council and you as we journey together, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are better when we journey together.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Kalyn Vogelmann
SWO District NDI President

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20



SWO NMI President's Report

Kurt Johnson
July 11, 2026

Pastor Bob Mahaffey, pastors, NMI presidents, delegates, council members, and my closest friends, this is my ninth and final report to the Southwestern Ohio District NMI convention. Serving you has been a great honor, and as I prepare to pass on this ministry to new leadership, I do so with a full heart and deep gratitude.

First and foremost, I want to thank my wife, Melissa. None of this would have been possible without her, and I am grateful beyond words for her steady, unwavering support through all these years. I also appreciate each and every one of you. Your partnership has allowed me to give my time to the people and causes we love, our churches, our missionaries, and our church leaders.

Our Giving This Year

Sharing our district's giving to missions is one of the most important parts of this report, because behind every number are churches and people who gave faithfully and sacrificially. For the 2025–2026 year, we gave over \$1 million dollars:

2025–2026	Amount
World Evangelism Fund (WEF) — 97.8% of goal	\$871,069
Approved Mission Projects	\$213,336
Total Given for Global Missions	\$1,084,405

I am happy to say that last year we moved from 99% to 100% of our goal as the final numbers came in. I expect this year to be the same. Over the past three years, our WEF giving has held remarkably steady at roughly \$869,000, \$878,855, and now \$871,069. A testimony to the consistent, faithful generosity of this district, even in a challenging economy. I am deeply proud of what these churches continue to do for the cause of Christ around the world.

What Is Happening Across Our Ministries

This has been a full and fruitful year, and our council of doers has been hard at work:

- **Compassionate Ministries** remains a central focus of our efforts. Our Crisis Care Kit initiative, spearheaded by Sarah Crouch and Carol Webster, has expanded to include support for women and girls in need.
- **SWORD** (Southwestern Ohio Response to Disaster), led by Ed Dyer, responded to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica this year by demolishing and rebuilding storm-damaged churches. This work continues its furniture ministry and disaster-relief efforts throughout our region and Appalachia. I am so grateful for their continuous hard work.

- **Blessings from Above** and Dress a Girl, led by Judy Donley, have distributed over 17,300 dresses. They remain actively involved with SWORD, delivering blankets, hygiene bags, and embodying the love of Christ to families in Appalachia. Judy keeps expanding her reach and her ministries, and we are so grateful to be part of this.
- **Our children's ministry**, led by Elizabeth Bennington, continues to raise up the next generation of missions-minded kids, with a new junior project this year supporting the Sweet Surrender Café in Poznań, Poland.
- **Missions Education**, led by Pam Carroll, keeps our district connected to the global church and growing in our love for missions. Through resources like NMI Central's weekly emails, the Kid's Kaleidoscope for our children, the NMI Podcast, and the 2026 Nazarene Fast Facts, Pam helps every age group learn about, pray for, and join in what God is doing around the world.
- **Nazarene Missions Teams (Work & Witness)** is moving into a season of new leadership. After many years of faithfully leading our teams on trips in our region and around the world, Louie Reindel is stepping down, and I want to thank him for his dedication, his servant's heart, and the lasting good he has done through this ministry. Donis Williams is serving as our liaison as we identify a new coordinator, and our churches continue to send teams at home and around the world — including West Carrollton's recent team to the Villa Caoba Church in the Dominican Republic.

Preparing for the Future — New Leadership

Every healthy ministry must prepare for the future, and ours is ready. This year, you will be choosing the next president of SWO NMI, and I could not be more confident in the two capable women whose names are before you:

Sarah Crouch, our vice president, has led our Crisis Care Kit initiative with excellence, built new partnerships across the district, and represented us at M25 in Kansas City. She has a deep heart for compassionate ministry and a proven gift for getting things done.

Pam Carroll, our former vice president, has consistently demonstrated reliable and capable leadership on this council. She is always prepared to handle whatever is necessary to ensure we stay on track, particularly during the preparations for and the duration of our conventions.

Either of them will lead this district well. Whomever you choose, I ask you to surround her with the same love, prayer, and support you have so generously given me. They have really stepped

up over the past couple of years, attending meetings I couldn't attend and showing NMI's support across the district.

With Gratitude

I cannot close without thanking the people who make this council so effective. Stephanie Wagers, our secretary, keeps track of everything NMI does and coordinates our convention and our work with NMI headquarters. Vickie Rocheleau, our treasurer, ensures we are fiscally responsible and faithful in every detail. Our zone chairs, Carolyn Hamilton and Venita Milburn, connect the dots between local churches, the council, and our missionaries. To every council member, zone chair, local president, and volunteer — thank you. You truly are my closest friends, and you are a group of doers.

I have loved this chapter of my life more than I can put into words. Through it all, I have worked to find both the Macro and the Micro. The Macro is the big picture — the large projects, the big goals, and the large groups; the work of the church on a global scale and across our district. The Micro is the personal touch — the individuals I have had the pleasure of working with, the ones who have touched my life in such a positive way. Those relationships are the part I will treasure most of all. I will share that I am working to find my next personal mission field. I have retired from teaching, the place where I was able to connect and minister to students and faculty alike. I look forward to where this next phase of life takes my wife and me.

On a personal note, Melissa and I are planning a trip to Poland next year to see firsthand the work in Poznań that our children will be supporting; a fitting way to begin this next chapter.

As I step aside, my prayer for you remains the same as it has always been: find your mission field and actively work to share the gospel, help others, mentor, bring love, and provide relief. It has been the honor of a lifetime to do so alongside you. You are truly my closest friends.

Sincerely,
Kurt Johnson

MEMOIRS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Reverends: John Kenneth Copenhaver, James C. Haynes, Robert L. Highley, Keith Edwin Smith

Pastors Spouses: Doloris Jones, Clara Moorman, Jean Noel

AMELIA

Maria Clark, Sarah Peace, Dale Stoops

BETHEL

Edie Allen, Jennie Barrett, Karin Burn, Dick Foster, John Mattes, Sue Mattes, Don Royalty

BLANCHESTER

Pat Allen, Glenda Blanchard, Marilyn Dickhaus, Herman Edwards, Becky Fessler, Leona Smith

BRIDGE

Al Grube, Jim Haynes, Maxine Logsdon, Charlie Raines

BROOKVILLE

Joy Scoates, Keith Edwin Smith, Les Soliday, Jack Zugelder

CINCINNATI FAIRFAX

James Ray Cole, William Allen Varner

CINCINNATI MONTANA AVENUE

Robert Davis, Jay Hall

CINCINNATI SPRINGDALE

Nancy Bost, Thomas Collins, Patricia Hathaway, Ken Hemmings, Karen Sheffield, Richard Stamp, Shirley Tedford, Arnold Thall

COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY

Mark Clark, Marjorie Edinger, Linda Humphries

DAYTON BEAVERCREEK "BE HOPE"

Ben Lee, Betty Hendrick, Donald Mitchell, Aileen Holliday

DAYTON NORTHRIDGE

RaeAnna Hatmaker, Sharry K. Jones

DAYTON PARKVIEW

Sue Anna Hickman, Delores Stites, Clara Moorman, Phyllis Whitmore, Marcella Merz

EATON

Linda Bennett, Myrna Bryant

FAIRBORN WRIGHTVIEW

William Roger Yoakum

FAIRFIELD

Lindsay Gant, Ruth Hodges

FELICITY

Jennifer Barger, Clifford Griffis, Richard Lail, Melissa Patrick, Marjorie Schwab

FRANKLIN JOURNEY

Ramona Tuite

GEORGETOWN

Pat Shafer

HARRISON

Rita Viel

HILLSBORO

Phil Roush

LIVING HOPE

Jack Kammer

MIDDLETOWN FIRST

Donald Lee Johnson, Marilyn B. Lindon

MONROE

Ralph Hesson

NEW LEBANON

Wendell Harleman

TRENTON GRACEPOINTE

Randy Specht

TRI-COUNTY

Mary Compton, Geneva Lindsey

TROTWOOD WEST ACRES

Nellie Mae Arnett

VANDALIA

Morris Helton, Carl Rose

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE

Marilyn Salyers

WEST CARROLLTON

Dorothy Bennett, Karen Horsley

WEST CHESTER

Robert Highley, Doloris Jones, J. David Jones, Minetta McDaniel, Vaughn McDaniel,
Ron Von Bargaen

WILMINGTON

John Kenneth Copenhaver, David Stewart

XENIA FIRST

Betty L. Drake, Bill T. Faris, Robert "Bob" Jones, Connie Welborn Leach, Wanda Jean Newton
