

Church of the Nazarene
Nazarene Youth International
District NYI President's Guide

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Global NYI Leadership

Welcome!

Congratulations on being elected as the new NYI president for your district. We pray that this will be a blessed time of leadership for you and a significant point of growth in your own personal and ministerial development. You are now a part of a global team that works to support the work of the church in reaching and ministering to the youth of our world. You are one of 466 district NYI presidents around the world and we believe you have joined a talented and vital group of leaders.

Global NYI Council Video Greeting

To get started, please follow the link below to watch a brief video of greeting and encouragement from the members of the Global NYI Council.

<https://vimeo.com/182147928/ab34921c30>

**Video script is in the "District NYI President Guide: Resource Appendix" if you are unable to view video.*

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

~The Global NYI Leadership Team

Gary, Diego, Milton, Ronald, Jimmy,
Brooklyn, Lisa,

Shannon, Erin, Janary, David, and Justin

*Names listed in the order of placement in the photo; back row left to right, then front row left to right.

Connect With the Global NYI Team

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The Message and Mission of NYI

In the greeting video you heard us mention several times the importance of the message and mission of NYI. That’s because we truly see those two things as vital to the health and success of what NYI is all about. Naturally then, we also believe it is critically important for you to fully understand the message and mission of NYI. In your role as District NYI President, there will be many projects, meetings and deadlines demanding your attention. We call those things some of the “machinery” of NYI. They are important and they help us function effectively, but they are secondary to our message and mission.

We’ve already used the message, mission, and machinery terminology a lot and you might be wondering what exactly we mean when we use them. These words are a way of helping us assess where we are in the life of NYI as a ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. Have you ever gone to a large shopping center, airport, or conference center where they had big maps of the building with a star or some other marker that read “YOU ARE HERE”? These maps are so helpful because it doesn’t really matter if you know where you need to go if you don’t know where you are starting.

The same is true in the life of a ministry. There is great value in understanding where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. Therefore, as you step into this new role, we want to help you understand where NYI has been, where we are now and where we are going, because we believe you can help us get there.

We Are Here: Identifying Our Place in the Story of NYI

Rather than having this section be just words on a page, click on the following link to watch a video of our Global NYI Director, Gary Hartke, explaining where NYI has been, where we are, and where we are going.



<https://vimeo.com/207637141/d146910bba>

*Video script is in the “District NYI President Guide: Resource Appendix” if you are unable to view video.

We hope this video inspired you as its message has inspired us. When you are a part of a ministry as large as NYI, one with well over 400,000 members, nearly 16,500 local NYI ministries, in 159 world areas, it’s easy to be convinced that no one really knows where we are headed. However, as you heard we do have a direction and we do have a message and a mission that are guiding us there. There have been times in our history when we started to become overly focused on the machinery, but it is our message and mission that has and continues to be our strength.

The Message of NYI



As Gary said in the video, the message of any ministry is the information that compels them to action. For a sincere believer of a particular message, there is no going back or remaining the same. They know something must be done.

In NYI our message is that young people matter to God and the church. The young people from the early days of the Church of the Nazarene saw for themselves the importance of calling their own generation to live more faithful and fruitful Christian lives because they believed their generation mattered to God and the church. If adolescence is just a phase of development to survive then our focus in NYI could be to keep young people entertained. However, our message is much, much bigger than that. We are here, *you* are here, because young people need to know there is a higher calling on their lives and it matters to God and the church that they live into their calling.

The Mission of NYI



What do we do with our message? The answer to that question is our mission. If we believe that young people matter to God and the church then our actions must reflect our belief in that message.

In NYI our mission is to engage young people in transformational ministry. Throughout the years and around the world this engagement has taken on different forms as we sought to engage with different cultures and realities. What remains constant is that we have been strongest when we have stayed true to this mission. When we do not approach youth ministry as something that needs to be done **for** youth, but rather **with** youth. Our message proclaims that young people matter to God and the church and our mission is to prove that by making space at the global table for young people to be engaged in the transformational ministry of our church.

“ Our message and mission is that young people matter to God and the church and need to be engaged in transformational ministry. ”

There have been times when all of us have lost sight of that message and mission. We have gotten too focused on creating a fun experience for teens. We have been overrun by the structure of our organization and the demand for reports and elections. We have focused too much on our own place at the table and forgotten to provide space for others to join us. Those are the times when the machinery that creates efficiency and supports further growth has become more important than our message and mission.



Your Role: Message and Mission Proclaimer or Machinery Maintainer?

You might be wondering: So what am I? Isn't the district NYI president role a part of the structure, part of the machinery? Yes and no. As Gary said in the video, "The machinery phase [of NYI] did indeed result in great effectiveness and efficiency." Our structure and the various NYI leadership roles such as local and district NYI presidents give strength to help the church's ministry to young people spread. So, yes, the role of the district NYI president is a key part of the structure that helps keep us all connected. However, if you embrace the district NYI president role at its best, you keep the "machinery" in its proper place and you become a proclaimer of the message and mission that gives life to all we do.

You help the message and mission of NYI spread. You help connect the churches across your district with resources, networks, materials, and other types of support made available by the global church. You help the churches across your district participate in district, field, regional and global conversations about ministering with

youth and the church. However, you also help those local leaders understand the message and mission of youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. You help them think creatively about what it means to minister with youth rather than to youth. You help churches with no youth ministry think about what it means that the Church of the Nazarene believes young people matter to God and the church and need to be engaged in transformational ministry. You are a proclaimer of this vital message and mission.

So, we hope that you become consumed with our message and mission, only incorporating machinery through organization and structure for maximum efficiency and effectiveness. Because, this is not about helping NYI grow bigger, this is about helping the church not miss out on the gifts, talents, and passions of an entire generation.

Are you ready to spread the message? Are you ready to live into the mission?

Spread the Message. Live into the Mission.

Over the years, youth ministry leaders came to identify evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development as essential components for ministering with young people. These were affirmed as being so central to the message and mission of NYI they are included in each of the ministry plans for NYI as our core strategies. If we are focusing on helping young people know they matter to God and the church and striving to engage them in transformational ministry, then our ministries will include components of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development.

As we work to bring our efforts in NYI back to an outward focus on message and mission, a central part of that work was the launching of BE. DO. GO. at the Global NYI Convention in 2013. BE. DO. GO. is a renewed emphasis on our three core strategies.



BE. (Evangelism)

Evangelism begins with us **being** in right relationship with God and **being** in right relationship with others. As we allow God to form and shape us, then we are ready for God to bring people into our lives who need to see that faithful witness.



DO. (Discipleship)

Discipleship is about allowing our lives to be formed in the process of following Jesus. It is in the **doing** of daily walking with Jesus that we are shaped to be more like him.



GO. (Leadership Development)

Leadership development is **going** where we have been sent and being shaped as we **go**. As we follow the call of God and begin to serve

others wherever and however he asks, we are formed as leaders, servant leaders.

The following sections explore some of the ways we express and live out our message and mission through BE, DO, and GO. We invite you to think creatively about how you can use them to shape how you approach the NYI ministry on your district.

BE. – Evangelism

Free NYI Evangelism Video: www.nazarene.org/nyi/be

COMING SOON! – We are currently working with a team of seven writers from around the world on an evangelism resource book to be launched at this summer’s Global NYI Convention. This book will share diverse perspectives and ideas for intentionally integrating evangelism into your youth ministry.

DO. – Discipleship

Free NYI Discipleship Video: www.nazarene.org/nyi/do

COMING SOON! – We are currently working with a team of seven writers from around the world on a discipleship resource book to be launched at this summer’s Global NYI Convention. This book will share diverse perspectives and ideas for intentionally integrating discipleship into your youth ministry.

Bible Quizzing



Bible Quizzing has been a discipleship resource in the Church of the Nazarene for over 50 years. Its focus is to immerse young people in the Word of God so it can take root in their hearts. The Bible Quizzing ministry is much more than questions and competitions. It provides a unique blend of mentoring, discipleship, fellowship, and even the development of study skills.

Youth leaders and/or coaches are given a great opportunity to mentor young people and speak into their lives as they work with their youth to study the Bible on a regular basis.

For more ideas of how Bible Quizzing can help raise up strong disciples of Christ, visit, www.nazarene.org/nyi/global-bible-quizzing.

Justice Movement



The Justice Movement is a partnership between Nazarene Youth International and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. It is a collective voice for justice and compassion in the world. The movement is made of kids, youth, young adults, families, and churches who believe they can make a difference in our world.

The Justice Movement believes the Church has a unique position in the world to work toward justice because of her relationship with Jesus. It partners with youth of local churches, supporting them in their efforts to serve others, create change in their communities, and point people toward the love of God through Christ. Because local churches are engaged in their communities, they understand the needs of their neighbors, and because local churches are not leaving after a specific program or project is started, the work they do through the support of the Justice Movement becomes sustainable.

To read more and access free videos, planning guides, and launch kits visit, www.justicemovement.com.

GO. – Leadership Development

Free NYI Leadership Development Video: www.nazarene.org/nyi/go

COMING SOON! – We are currently working with a team of seven writers from around the world on a discipleship resource book to be launched at this summer’s Global NYI Convention. This book will share diverse perspectives and ideas for intentionally integrating discipleship into your youth ministry.

NYI Councils

As you think about the message and mission of NYI, begin to let that mission influence how you view your NYI district council. More information is provided in the “Maximize Efficiency and Effectiveness” section as well as the *“District NYI President Guide: Resource Appendix”* about how you can organize your council, but it’s worth mentioning here that this is a powerful leadership development opportunity for the young people on your district.

Third Wave



Third Wave is a global forum to gather and develop emerging NYI leaders in a global context. From every region of the church, each field is invited to select five young emerging leaders to bring with them to the Third Wave conference. Here they join in worship, fellowship, learning, service, leadership development, connection and prayer in a uniquely diverse context.

Third Wave is held roughly every four years and is hosted on different regions. For more information contact your Field Youth Coordinator and visit, www.nazarene.org/resource/third-wave.

Global NYI Convention

The Global NYI Convention takes place every four years, just before the Church of the Nazarene's General Assembly. NYI delegates gather around the world to

advance youth ministry and to equip the delegates to reach young people for Christ, as they implement discipleship in their lives and are empowered in ministry.

In our effort to remain outward focused on message and mission, the Global NYI Convention has been reimagined over the past several years, to move beyond just voting on leaders and resolutions to include powerful times of discussion surrounding some of the biggest issues facing youth and youth ministry today. To maximize the number of delegates who can participate in these important decisions and conversations, the Global NYI Convention has been held simultaneously on multiple sites around the world through two-way video conferencing. Delegates at any site can speak to the entire convention, make motions, vote, participate in caucuses, etc.

Contact your Field and/or Regional Youth Coordinator to make sure your district is represented and contributing to this global conversation.

Youth Ministry Academy



Youth Ministry Academy is an online leadership development and resource tool that seeks to resource, train, and connect Nazarene youth leaders. Through Youth Ministry Academy you have access to multiple resources to further equip yourself, your volunteers, and/or your youth leaders. You can also participate in and invite your local youth leaders to participate in quarterly webinars on a variety of youth ministry related topics. If you are not able to join the webinars when they are presented live, all webinars are recorded and posted online. Feel free to use these recordings in district trainings or as inspiration for conversations with local youth leaders or in whatever way would best serve your leaders.

To link to past webinar recordings and view registration information for an upcoming webinar visit, www.nazarene.org/yma-train.

Timothy Awards



The Timothy Award was established in 1995 by the Nazarene Youth International General Council to recognize — in a tangible way — outstanding service, sacrifice, and personal commitment to youth through NYI at the local, district, regional, or general level.

Funds received for the payment of the Timothy Award over and above the cost of the award become a vehicle for the development of global youth ministry through the NYI Fund. This fund was established to provide a financial resource base from which global youth leadership training, youth evangelism, and resource development can be built.

To recognize an outstanding youth leader on your district, visit www.nazarene.org/nyi/timothy-award.

To view the online recipient database visit, www.nazarene.org/nyi/timothy-award-recipient.

Maximize Efficiency and Effectiveness

As Gary described in the video, the machinery of an organization is not a bad thing when kept in its proper place as a support for the message and mission. With the machinery of organizational systems in place, the message and mission gain momentum and energy. In this section we will share several of those organization pieces that lend strength and momentum to the message and mission of NYI.

Know the Charter

The NYI Charter can be found in paragraphs 810.000-810.007 in the Manual for the Church of the Nazarene. The NYI Charter includes **'Our Mission'** (810.001), a description of **'Our Members'** (810.002), **'Our Vision'** (810.003), **'Our Values'** (810.004), **'Our Guiding Principles'** (810.005), and **'Our Ministry Framework'** (810.006). These are the core foundations of Nazarene Youth International and youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. Take some time to review the NYI Charter and make sure you are familiar with these foundations that guide what we do. The NYI Charter can only be changed through a resolution approved by the Global NYI Convention. A full copy of the NYI Charter is included in the *"District NYI President Guide: Resource Appendix"*.

District NYI Ministry Plan Adaptations

The District Ministry Plan Template can be found in paragraphs 810.200-810.219 in the Manual. The word "template" is in the title of this section to remind leaders that this is just a guide for how your district NYI ministry can be organized. With our desire for the machinery to serve the message and mission and not get that switched around, paragraphs 810.203 and 810.204 discuss the provisions made for adapting the district ministry plan and the process by which that can be done so that your ministry plan serves the unique needs, makeup, and context of your district. A full copy of the District NYI Ministry Plan Template is included in the *"District NYI President Guide: Resource Appendix"*.

As you become more familiar with your district and the way evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development are implemented in your district youth ministry, work with your District NYI Council to review the District NYI Ministry Plan Template and identify how the plan might be changed to better facilitate what you are trying to accomplish. We encourage you to share and discuss these proposed revisions with your district

superintendent as well so he or she can be a support in what you are seeking to accomplish and will be well informed of the revisions should they be adopted by the District NYI Convention.

District NYI President Role Description

Paragraph 810.209.1 in the Manual lays out the various responsibilities of the district NYI president (these could vary based on any adaptations made on your district per the information provided in the previous section). However, we maintain that ***your most important role as district NYI president is to connect with the local youth leaders on your district to mentor, support, encourage, and resource them.*** Local NYI presidents and local youth pastors can change frequently and we understand the struggle of trying to maintain accurate records of those contacts, but if our local youth leaders feel isolated and alone in their efforts, that is a sign we are giving too much attention to the machinery and not enough attention to the message and mission. As we stated above, you are a proclaimer of this vital message and mission. You help make sure local leaders know about and are connected with all the various resources listed above that help us spread the message and live into the mission (i.e. the Be. Do. Go. resources, GOL, Bible Quizzing, Justice Movement, Third Wave, NYI Councils, NYI Conventions, Youth Ministry Academy, Timothy Awards, etc.).

District NYI Council

Paragraphs 810.211-810.214 in the Manual explain the composition, election process, responsibilities, and committees for the District NYI Council. As noted above, we truly see the District NYI Council as a leadership development opportunity for youth and young leaders on your district. As you shape the positions, committees, and areas of responsibility for your district leadership team, consider ways in which you can invest and develop new and young leaders. Bring people alongside you who can watch what you do and learn how to lead. This isn't about pre-selecting someone who will take your place when you are no longer the district NYI president, rather it is about investing in the young leaders around you and in the future of the church. No matter where they go and where they serve, they will benefit from being mentored and given genuine leadership opportunities.

District NYI Convention

Paragraph 810.219 in the Manual lays out the requirements for the annual District NYI Convention. We encourage you to think creatively about this time and not to limit its focus to just "maintenance of the machinery". 810.219.1 reads, "The annual District NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry across the district." When planning your District NYI Convention first ask; what needs to happen in order for our leaders to leave inspired to advance youth ministry throughout our district?

Global NYI Convention: District Involvement

While we discussed the focus of the Global NYI Convention above in the “GO. – Leadership Development” section, we wanted to mention your district’s involvement here. Be sure to review paragraph 810.417 of the Manual to be familiar with delegate requirements and to understand the number of delegates your district is eligible to send. We often find that districts are eligible to several more delegates than they actually send. While the Global NYI Convention is a leadership development opportunity, it is also a vital part of what helps maximize our efficiency and effectiveness as a global ministry. Without the unique voice that your district’s delegates can provide we are working to serve you without knowing the full picture of what youth ministry looks like around the world.

Especially as we work to include dynamic times of discussion regarding some of the biggest issues facing youth and youth ministry today, we need to hear your voice. We need to hear the voices of the delegates coming from local ministries around youth district. If you have questions or concerns about how to attend the Global NYI Convention, please contact your Field Youth Coordinator, Regional Youth Coordinator (contact information provided on page 3 of this guide) and/or the Global NYI Office (nyi@nazarene.org).