



USA/CANADA REGION

March 8, 2021

District NYI President,

The past year has been unique in many ways and it seems some issues and challenges will continue through the current year at every layer of ministry. With this note I want to address some questions pertaining to organizational leadership, specifically District NYI Conventions.

Hopefully you recognize that each district has some autonomy and ultimately the responsibility to facilitate ministry among their churches, leaders, and youth. The [District NYI Ministry Plan](#) (template noted in The Manual) was established to empower district level leadership with some flexibility to meet the needs of each context. There are provisions and a process outlined in the [District NYI Ministry Plan](#) to update or change things and several districts have made adjustments accordingly.

Here are a few recommendations as you look to move forward with any adjustments or developments.

1. Intentionality
 - a. Mission and Message (unchanging)
 - i. Why do we exist and why is a change imperative?
2. Collaboration & Coordination
 - a. Methods (often changing)
 - i. How do we best meet the need?
 - b. NYI Council & DS are on the same page; seek and secure DS approval
 - c. Determine if a District Ministry Plan revision is needed
 - i. Is this a one-time (short-term) adjustment recommended by DP/Council with approval from DS?
 - ii. Is this an ongoing (long-term) solution requiring adoption by NYI Convention delegates?
3. Communication
 - a. Make sure churches, leaders, and stakeholders understand the purpose, plan, process

How about District NYI Convention? What if a typical District NYI Convention is not prudent this year due to circumstances?

You may need to explore creative options for reporting, voting, and convening this year in light of the pandemic and restrictions. I would support a decision, made according to the recommendations above, to forego a typical District NYI Convention and maintain current council leadership this year due to the unique circumstances. However, next year (2022) you will need to have a complete district convention in order to elect delegates to Global NYI Convention 2023. You may determine this can be done online or in-person, but it will be a more consequential convention due to the fact that you will be electing district delegates to the Global NYI Convention to represent your district and vote in important global/regional leadership and legislative elections.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns as you navigate things to stay on mission for continued district ministry.

JUSTIN PICKARD
USA/Canada Youth Coordinator