



ONE BODY + ONE SPIRIT



UPSTATE NEW YORK CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, MAY 8-10, 2025, WATERTOWN, NY



Dr. Filimão Chambo
General Superintendent



Dr. Olivia Metcalf
District Superintendent

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Section ONE

General Information

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

District Assembly and Conventions are an important time in the life of church. We come together once a year to celebrate all God has done and is doing through His church. It is important to remember that the business of the church is a godly endeavor. If we truly believe that Christ is the head of the church, and we are the Body of Christ in the world, then what we are doing here matters for the Kingdom of God. This is not busy work, it is holy work!

This handbook is full of stories, charts, and information about what God has done. All of it is important! And can I remind you, church size doesn't determine missional effectiveness or faithfulness. God is using churches of all sizes, with very different budgets, to accomplish His will in Upstate NY. We have so much to celebrate!

This year we are continuing with the theme, One Body+One Spirit. We will persist in this until the next General Assembly in 2027. The reason we are leaning into this concept is because our world is more and more fractured around us. We must be reminded that as the Body of Christ, we are united by one Spirit. This changes how we interact with our neighbors who are different than we are, how we respond to the politics of our day, how we share life together, and how we live each day. We need the power of God to bind us together—us with God and us with one another—so the world can know us by our love.

This theme also reminds us that we aren't alone in our local church, or on our district, but we are connected to a great cloud of Nazarene witnesses who have gone before us and those who are in this mission with us all around the globe! You will notice that we have some of the flags of the nations in the Sanctuary. These all represent countries of the world where the Church of the Nazarene is located. They are just a few of the 165 world areas we are ministering in. I hope you will pay attention to which flags we have brought this year. There are flags that represent both sides of global conflict, places where civil war and persecution is happening, and places where the Gospel is not easily shared. The Church of the Nazarene is in all of these places! You may also notice a white flag which represents all of the places the church is serving under secrecy as well. Our very denomination represents the beauty of diversity, of the Kingdom breaking forth even when there is war, of sharing hope in what seems like hopeless situations, of bandaging the wounded while fighting for justice, of a kind of unity the world cannot figure out. These flags give us a vision of the heavenly throne room where every tribe, tongue, and nation will worship *together* the King of kings and Lord of lords. Our beautiful church is a glimpse of this, let's not let anything divide us from this vision of what we are meant to be! Pray with us that we will continue to be one body, united by one Spirit, so all can be saved.

Grace and Peace,

Olivia and Dustin Metcalf

Assembly Officers and Assistants

General Superintendent: Dr. Filimão Chambo
District Superintendent: Dr. Olivia Metcalf
District Secretary: Rev. Janae Meyer

Recording Secretary: Rev. Paul Montague
Election Secretary: Rev. Dustin Metcalf
Assembly Assistant: Bridget Beardsley

Voting Area

The seating area is the sanctuary, platform, teller's rooms, and assembly office.

Times of Assembly

Thursday:	4:00 PM	Registration Opens
	7:00 PM	Celebration Service
Friday:	7:30 AM	Registration Open
	8:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Morning Session
	9:00 AM	Devotional, Rev. Dr. Filimao Chambo
	10:00 AM	DS Report, Dr. Olivia Metcalf
	10:45 AM	Workshop #1
	12:00-1:15 PM	Catered Lunch on the Grounds
	12:45 PM	Ordained Minister Choir Rehearsal
	1:15 PM to 3:00 PM	Afternoon Session
	3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Workshop #2
	4:00 PM	Break for rest and dinner on your own
	6:00 PM	Ordination Service—Reception to follow
Saturday:	7:30 AM	Registration Open
	8:30 AM to 12:30 PM	Morning Session
	8:45 AM	Devotional
	9:00 AM	Joint Report for NDI, NMI, and NYI
	9:30 AM to 10:30 AM	Workshop #3
	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Business Session
	10:40 AM to 11:00 AM	Brooktondale Camp and Retreat Report
	11:00 Am to 12:00 PM	Continued Business
	12:00 PM	Communion
	12:30 PM	Adjourn to go home

Electronic Voting Information

District Assembly Ballot will be open on Friday, May 9th from 9:20 AM to 2:00 PM

District Convention Ballots will be open on Saturday, May 10th from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Section TWO

District Boards & Committee Reports



District Superintendent's Report

Dr. Chambo, guests of the assembly, delegates, and friends. It is my honor and privilege to bring my fourth report to the Upstate NY District.

You'll hear the rest at Assembly!

(Printed copies of this report will be provided at Assembly)

Report of the District Advisory Board

This year the Upstate NY District Advisory Board met by Zoom Meetings and via email exchanges to conduct the business of the District. The board diligently sought the leading of the Holy Spirit in all that follows:

Ministerial:

The District Superintendent conducted two-year and four-year reviews of pastors throughout the church year and reported these to the District Advisory Board.

The following were approved for appointment as pastors for 2025-2026:

- Thomas Calzone— Arcade Crossroads
- Jonathan Cramer— Syracuse Valley Worship Center
- John Cramer II— Corning
- Tim Cramer— LaFargeville
- David Drake— Vermontville Community
- Mark Fowler— Johnstown
- AJ Fry—Syracuse Shalom
- Chelsea Fry—Syracuse Shalom
- James Gamble— Parish Faith
- Dao Kamara— Buffalo Temple of God in Christ
- Aimee McCroskey— Penn Yan White Stone Chapel
- Patrick McNair— Rochester Cross of Christ Deliverance Temple
- Jonathan Nuñez—Bloomfield Roca de Salvacion
- Ramona Williams— Buffalo First

We recommend the following be granted Special Service designation (SPC) for 2025-2026: Heather Ardrey; Amanda Cash; Corey MacPherson

We recommend the following be granted District Assignment (DA) for 2025-2026: Shane Ash; Pauline Carman; Chelsie Maynard; Janae Meyer

We recommend the following be granted Chaplain designation (CHP) for 2025-2026: Andrew Ames; Janice Lum; Eric Verbovszky

We approved the assignment of District Licensed Ministers to be lead pastor for 2025-2026: Anthony J. (AJ) Bell; Rachelle Bell; Jonathan Nunez; Paul Riggall

We approved the change in status from Retired Unassigned (RU) to Retired Assigned (RA) for district service: Paul Montague

We approved the recommendation of the Board of Ministry (BOM) that the following be elected to the order of Elder: Mark Cooper; Abreana (Mattice) Guthrie

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that retirement status be granted to: Doug Peck (RU); Thomas M. Gorrell (RU)

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the following elders be removed from the roster of ministers, as per Manual paragraph 114, 530.13 and 530.10: Abraham Nagamatoo and Paul Colgan

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the following elder be removed from the roster of ministers, as per Manual paragraph 531.7, 606.12, and 531.5: Juan Ruiz

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the transfer of the following elders be received: Nancy Smith, from Maine

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the following elders be granted transfer: Edward Darling, to East Ohio; J. Dean McNamara, to Florida

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the transfer of the following district licensed ministers be received: Anthony J. Bell, from Intermountain; Rachelle Bell, from Intermountain

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the following be granted a renewal of district license: Anthony J. Bell, Rachelle Bell, Benjamin Brown, Joshua Cameron, Mark Cooper, Abreana Guthrie, Walter Scott MacPherson IV, Jon Mellinger, Jonathan Nunez, and Paul Riggall

We approved the recommendation of the BOM that the following be removed from the roster of licensed ministers, having failed to apply for renewal: Madison Bechtold and Kaleb Stanton

Ministries:

We amended the rental agreement for Ithaca South Hill Church of the Nazarene with the Penn York District of the Wesleyan Church

We purchased a MinistrySafe subscription for the church and adjusted the request to hire forms to fit the denominations zero tolerance policy of registered sex offenders serving in any capacity in the church

We denied the Capital Stewardship Campaign exemption request of Northside Community Church of the Nazarene

Fiscal:

We approved a home equity savings account for DS Olivia, by investing an additional 5% of her salary for her use to purchase a home in the future

We approved a budget of \$75,000 to assist churches with building issues they cannot handle themselves. These may be loans or grants depending on circumstances. Policy will be shared at District Assembly

We matched Canastota Discovery Church of the Nazarene's savings for a roof of \$6,000 and loaned \$2,445. The \$2,445 was paid back

We approved \$3000 to be gifted to NMI for Nazarene Mission Scholarships in honor of Ken and Sue Blish

We approved \$5000 to Brooktondale for the beautification of the Tabernacle. We also approved a matching challenge of \$2500 be issued to the district. If raised, the \$2,500 will be given

We approved \$5000 for NYI to have scholarships for Young Adult events

We approved 2 weeks of additional pay for all employees for Christmas bonuses

We approved \$5000 worth of repairs on the district owned parsonage in Wolcott

We approved the following churches receiving support from the District Missional Fund:

- Buffalo Temple of God in Christ
- Canastota
- Lake Placid
- Rochester Cross of Christ Deliverance
- South Hill

We approved the 2024-2025 operating budget and report as presented by the Finance Committee

We approved the 2025-2026 proposed budget presented by the Finance Committee

We approved the existing funded account system and added additional funds for the work of the district, as reflected in the budget information in the assembly handbook

Other:

We elected Janae Meyer as District Secretary

We approved the sale of the Lake Placid parsonage at 148 Old Military Road. It went under contract in December 2024 and closed in the new fiscal year

We approved the purchase of a District Superintendent parsonage. 5 Crescent Road, Fairport, NY was purchased in November 2024

We re-listed the Watertown Property for sale.

We approved the nominating committee, sample ballots, and other assembly matters

All minutes, reports and attachments are kept on file at the Upstate New York district office

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna MacPherson
Board Secretary
Dr. Olivia Metcalf
District Superintendent, Chair

District Nominating Committee Report

The Upstate NY District Advisory Board, under the direction of DS Olivia Metcalf, appointed a nominating committee. We recommend election by plurality when applicable. We recommend these individuals for the following positions (bios provided):

District Advisory Board

Electing ONE Minister for a three year term. Electing ONE Lay Member for a three year term.

Ministers: Grace Govenettio (Wilmington), Doug Milne (Plattsburgh), Raul Perez (Rochester Centro Gosen)

Lay Members: Dean Heckman Jr. (Lakeville: The Center), Donna MacPherson (Watertown), Micah Matteson (Watertown)

District Board of Ministry

Electing TWO for four year terms. Electing ONE for two year terms.

Ministers: Elizabeth Criscuolo (Schenectady), Nathaniel Ferguson (Springwater), Bud Leach (Potsdam), Emily McCulla (Binghamton), Raul Perez (Rochester Centro Gosen), Ramona Williams (Buffalo First)

**The first and second highest votes will be for four year terms and the third highest will be for a two year term.*

Court of Appeals

Electing TWO Ministers for a four year term. Electing TWO Lay Members for a four year term.

Ministers: Nathaniel Ferguson (Springwater), Grace Govenettio (Wilmington), Doug Milne (Plattsburgh), Bob Tharp (Watertown)

Lay Members: Sherry (Sharon) French (Owego), Marcia Mauger (Watertown), Dana Peck (Plattsburgh)

District Properties Board

Electing ONE Minister for a three year term. Electing ONE Lay Member for a three year term.

Ministers: Noelle Eichenberger (Keeseville), Doug Parks (Endicott), Rob Smith (Carthage)

Lay Members: Dick Pellitt (Northside Community), Owen Virkler (Watertown)

Camps Board Nomination Report

District Camps Board

Electing ONE Minister for a three year term. Electing TWO Lay Member for a three year term.

Ministers: AJ Bell (Rochester Grace), Heather Brown (Elmira), Keith Hardy (Endicott)

Lay Member: Chris Brown (Auburn), Timidera Mackintosh (Rochester Calvary), Trisha Smith (Johnstown), Jessica Thibeau (Carthage)

District NMI Nomination Report

District NMI Board, President

Electing ONE for a two year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Kimberly Sadowski (Northside Community)

District NMI Board, Vice President

Electing ONE for a one year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Jennie Doane (Syracuse Christ Community)

District NMI Board, Treasurer

Electing ONE for a two year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Rachelle Bell (Rochester Grace)

District NMI Board, Clergy At-Large

Electing ONE for a one year term.

Nomination: Ben Brown (Auburn), Abreana Guthrie (Lakeville: The Center), Christa Jamison (Rochester Calvary)

District NMI Board, Lay At-Large

Electing ONE for a one year term.

Nomination: Daniel Lee (Plattsburgh)

District NDI Nomination Report

District NDI Board, President

Electing ONE for a two year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: AJ Fry (Syracuse Shalom)

District NDI Board

Electing TWO Minister for a three year term. Electing ONE Lay Member for a three year term.

Ministers: Rachelle Bell (Rochester Grace), Noelle Eichenberger (Keeseville), Aimee McCroskey (Penn Yan), Angela Nielson (Sanborn), Paul Riggall (Fulton)

Lay Members: Ron Reiss (Canastota), Abby Riggall (Auburn)

District NYI Nomination Report

District NYI Board, President

Electing ONE for a two year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Chelsea Fry (Syracuse Shalom)

District NYI Board, Vice President

Electing ONE for a one year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Tiffany Belokur (Owego)

District NYI Board, Secretary

Electing ONE for a one year term. Vote YES/NO.

Nomination: Chelsie Maynard (Elmira)

District NYI Board, Treasurer

Electing ONE for a one year term.

Nomination: Rachelle Bell (Rochester Grace), Ben Brown (Auburn), Heather MacPherson (Watertown)

District NYI Young Adult Representative (18-35 years old)

Electing TWO for a one year term.

Nomination: Ben Brown (Auburn), Kimmy Dolan (Syracuse Shalom), Timidera Mackintosh (Calvary Community), Scotty MacPherson (Watertown), Jessica Thibeau (Syracuse Shalom)

District NYI Sr. High Representatives (Grade 10-12)

Electing TWO for a one year term.

Nomination: Jewel Belokur (Owego), Jeremiah Lasher (Syracuse Christ Community), Daniella Mackintosh (Rochester Calvary), Olivia Patnode (Lowville), Daniel Ribbing (Rochester Calvary), Heather Seidel (Binghamton)

District NYI Jr. High Representatives (Grade 6-9)

Electing TWO for a one year term.

Nomination: Jagger Chrysler (Owego), Madison Parks (Binghamton), Ariel Poulin (Keeseville)

District Advisory Board Nominee Profiles (Ministerial)



Grace Govenettio (Ministerial)

Local Church: Wilmington

Years on the District: 22

Ministry Involvement: Currently, I serve as pastor to the people of Wilmington, NY. I am also an active member of our District Board of Ministry.

Qualifications: Prior to answering the call to pastor, I worked in education, nonprofit and community agencies, as well as in private practice as a marriage and family counselor. This unlikely patchwork of work has prepared me well for both the administrative and vision aspects of the work we do on our District Boards. My previous experience as an active advisory board member has only enriched my skill set for that work we are called to do.

What is God teaching you now?: God continues revealing to me new ways He is being faithful in holding up His end of my calling to preach, teach, and serve His People. On my own, I can do nothing. In His strength, all things are possible. Thanks be to God!



Doug Milne (Ministerial)

Local Church: Plattsburgh

Years on the District: 18

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: I have pastored for 29 years serving on the Upstate New York and New England districts. In that time, I have served on district NDI and NYI councils. Mostly recently, I have served our district as a member of the Board of Ministry and ENC Board of Trustees. In addition to my pastoral work, I am an adjunct professor and student supervisor at Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary. My undergraduate degree is from ENC, and I have graduate degrees in education and theology. I have completed doctoral work in the areas of historical theology, missional theology, and preaching. I have dedicated my life to serving the church and the academy while continually growing in my own relationship with Jesus.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to live in the moment. Each day is precious, and each day is full of opportunities. These opportunities are everywhere: coffee with a parishioner, phone call with a colleague, dinner out with a friend, sending an encouraging note or text, praying for someone, and taking a walk to view God's work in nature. I have been given the gift of life, and God has invited me to live out this gift to the fullest.



Raul Perez (Ministerial)

Local Church: Rochester Centro Gosen

Years on the District: 42

Ministry Involvement: Pastor

Qualifications: At the District level, I have been involved in the following ministries: DAB minister representative, BOM member, NMI minister representative, NDI minister representative, pastor at the following churches: Springwater, Rochester Spanish, Auburn and Wolcott. In addition, participated in District work and witness trips and use to coordinate the District men retreats. Minister of Visitation at Rochester Trinity Nazarene church and associate pastor at Rochester Spanish church.

What is God teaching you now?: The Lord is teaching me now to continue to trust him in the middle of crisis, pain and suffering.

District Advisory Board Nominee Profiles (Lay Members)



Dean Heckman Jr. (Lay Member)

Local Church: Lakeville: The Center

Years on the District: 25

Ministry Involvement: Growing our local church by evangelizing. Through the years the focus has continually evolved. I have served in the following capacities and roles; Caravan Leader, NYI, NMI, District Properties Board Member. Currently is at the Center which has been emphasizing relationships. Everyone has an individual contribution when the church is small. We are involved in all the church activities.

Qualifications: After much prayer and consideration, God has placed a desire in my heart to run for this position. 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

What is God teaching you now?: Love one another. Giving grace to myself and others while doing His work through relationships. That I'm growing in my faith by challenging my personal convictions; understanding that we all are beloved by Jesus.



Donna MacPherson (Lay Member)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 34

Ministry Involvement: Past=Missions President, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Leader. Currently Young Adult and Family Small Group Leader

Qualifications: I have been involved in all aspects of ministry at our church for 30+ years and have learned as much if not more than those I have served.

What is God teaching you now?: Although I am of retirement age and not working in the business world, God still wants me to mentor and lead people to His saving grace.



Micah Matteson (Lay Member)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 16

Ministry Involvement: District Properties Board Chair and Local Church Board Member

Qualifications: I have been the chair of the District Properties Board for the last 3 years. I recently became eligible and was elected to the local church board.

What is God teaching you now?: Right now God is teaching me to wait on Him. God is never late, always on time, and almost never early. With all my family has gone through God continues to be faithful.

Board of Ministry Nominee Profiles



Elizabeth Criscuolo (Ministerial)

Local Church: Schenectady

Years on the District: 14

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor, Director of Peace Initiative, and former NDI President

Qualifications: I graduated from ENC in 2006 with a BA (Majoring in religion), graduated from NTS in 2011 with an M.Div. I have been a pastor on this district for 14 years and have been through the process for ordination on this district. I have served at three churches on this district in my 14 years and have a very good understanding of the people, churches, and culture. I served as the District NDI President for three years. Along with my time spent as a pastor on this district I have also worked in the non-profit sector at an Alternative Dispute Resolution Center for a few years and was certified as a mediator for the New York State Court System and also held a certificate for Restorative Justice/Practice.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me that it is ok to do things slowly. It is ok to let the coffee steep in the french press, to let the chicken marinade in the lemon juice and rosemary, to let the pot roast cook slowly with the carrots, onions, and potatoes. That's what gives dishes or drinks their flavor... Time. Anything worth enjoying is worth watching it live up to its potential through a slow preparation. Some of my favorite things to enjoy are things that take time- more time than I would like for it to take. Such is ministry. It is a slow drip, it is a flavorful development over lots of time. It has complex notes and becomes ever so tender as we allow people, ministries, and spaces to develop slowly over time.



Nathaniel Ferguson (Ministerial)

Local Church: Springwater

Years on the District: 23

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: Lead Pastor for 8 years; part time Associate Pastor for 13 years; experience interviewing as a recruiter for large non-profit agency in Rochester; served on admin team for 10 years as Director of Case Working for said agency; served on District Camp Board; District Properties Board; currently Board of Ministry and District Advisory Board

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to trust Him and His wisdom. Although there is a lot I do not understand about what He is doing, or why, He is faithful, true, and good.



Duane (Bud) Leach (Ministerial)

Local Church: Potsdam

Years on the District: 10

Ministry Involvement: Pastor of Potsdam Church of the Nazarene Preaching, teaching, mentoring, and discovering ways to reach our community with the love of Jesus.

Qualifications: I am an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. I graduated from Nazarene Bible College in 2006 with a Bible and Theology degree and Northwest Nazarene University for graduate studies in Missional Leadership, which I completed in 2009. Ministry Assignments: I have pastored churches in Nebraska, Michigan, and, of course, New York. I have much experience leading through and resolving conflict within a local church setting successfully, to the glory of God. I have been to Bolivia and Uganda through Work and Witness and to many home mission projects across the United States. Locally, I helped establish and run a weekly VBS-type program in my last assignment. Church planted board in Nebraska, Buildings and grounds in New York. If the district church body considers it a privilege, serving on the district Board of Ministry would be a great honor.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me that people and their situations are not always as they seem. That ministry projects that are good and helpful may not come to pass as I desire. It is okay to move past what is not working and instead search for something new and in the center of God's will. The Lord has been teaching me the power of being humble.

Board of Ministry Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Emily McCulla (Ministerial)

Local Church: Binghamton

Years on the District: 19

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: It is a joy to currently be serving as Lead Pastor at Binghamton Nazarene after previously serving as Pastor of Children and Families at Rochester Calvary Community. I am an ordained elder currently completing a Master of Divinity Degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary and I also hold a Master of Education Degree from George Mason University. God has used my previous experience in the field of education to shape me in unique ways for ministry, and I enjoy coming alongside people of all ages as they grow on their journeys of faith, providing support, guidance, and a shepherding presence. As a pastor and former educator, I am community-minded and maintain a deep love for the local church. My strengths include team development and collaboration, communication, and organization.

What is God teaching you now?: God continues to teach me that God is beyond any box or finite understanding and that God is always doing something new! God is stretching my imagination to see God and God's work in the world in new ways, reminding me to trust that God always goes ahead of us with love and grace.



Raul Perez (Ministerial)

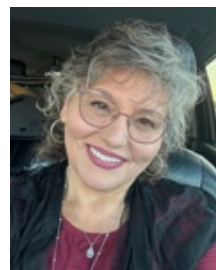
Local Church: Rochester Centro Gosen

Years on the District: 42

Ministry Involvement: Pastor

Qualifications: Past ministries: 1- District Men retreat coordinator, work and witness trips to Bolivia and Dominican Republic, District NDI Representative, District NMI Representative, Family Camp pastor, Interim lead pastor Springwater church, Interim lead pastor Auburn church, Rochester Spanish associate pastor, church planting in Bloomfield NY. Present ministries: Interim lead pastor Wolcott, NY; Interim lead pastor at Rochester Spanish church; BOM member; DAB minister representative.

What is God teaching you now?: The Lord is teaching me that I need to continue trusting Him, trusting the leading of the Holy Spirit in the middle of crisis and hard circumstances. Experience and knowledge are helpful; however, they are not substitute for fully trusting the Lord.



Ramona Williams (Ministerial)

Local Church: Buffalo First

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: Ordained - attaining MDiv from NTS 5/3/25. Lead pastor for 3 years, and pastors wife (co-pastor) for 20+ years on the SWNAD.

What is God teaching you now?: That I have SO much more to learn. That our Nazarene heritage is rich and full: and we still have so much more work and improvement to go. That Jesus' command to "Love God- Love others" is our highest calling. Simply put: so much to learn!

District Court of Appeals Nominee Profiles (Ministerial)



Nathaniel Ferguson (Ministerial)

Local Church: Springwater

Years on the District: 23

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: Lead Pastor for 8 years; part time Associate Pastor for 13 years; experience interviewing as a recruiter for large non-profit agency in Rochester; served on admin team for 10 years as Director of Case Working for said agency; served on District Camp Board; District Properties Board; currently Board of Ministry and District Advisory Board

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to trust Him and His wisdom. Although there is a lot I do not understand about what He is doing, or why, He is faithful, true, and good.



Grace Govenettio (Ministerial)

Local Church: Wilmington

Years on the District: 22

Ministry Involvement: Currently, I serve as pastor to the people of Wilmington, NY. I am also an active member of our District Board of Ministry.

Qualifications: Prior to answering the call to pastor, I worked in education, nonprofit and community agencies, as well as in private practice as a marriage and family counselor. This unlikely patchwork of work has prepared me well for both the administrative and vision aspects of the work we do on our District Boards. My previous experience as an active advisory board member has only enriched my skill set for that work we are called to do.

What is God teaching you now?: God continues revealing to me new ways He is being faithful in holding up His end of my calling to preach, teach, and serve His People. On my own, I can do nothing. In His strength, all things are possible. Thanks be to God!



Doug Milne (Ministerial)

Local Church: Plattsburgh

Years on the District: 18

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: I have pastored for 29 years serving on the Upstate New York and New England districts. In that time, I have served on district NDI and NYI councils. Mostly recently, I have served our district as a member of the Board of Ministry and ENC Board of Trustees. In addition to my pastoral work, I am an adjunct professor and student supervisor at Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary. My undergraduate degree is from ENC, and I have graduate degrees in education and theology. I have completed doctoral work in the areas of historical theology, missional theology, and preaching. I have dedicated my life to serving the church and the academy while continually growing in my own relationship with Jesus.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to live in the moment. Each day is precious, and each day is full of opportunities. These opportunities are everywhere: coffee with a parishioner, phone call with a colleague, dinner out with a friend, sending an encouraging note or text, praying for someone, and taking a walk to view God's work in nature. I have been given the gift of life, and God has invited me to live out this gift to the fullest.



Bob Tharp (Ministerial)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 8

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor, District Treasurer

Qualifications: I have been involved in pastoring and working on district boards and ministry teams for 36 years.

What is God teaching you now?: The Lord is helping me to better understand His moment-by-moment call to do His will. He is helping me better understand that my obedience starts with being faithful with my minutes, and by giving Him permission to interrupt my agenda in any moment.

District Court of Appeals Nominee Profiles (Lay Members)



Sherry (Sharon) French (Lay Member)

Local Church: Owego

Years on the District: 39

Ministry Involvement: Senior adult Sunday School Teacher

Qualifications: I was a people manager for 20 years in my full time job, having to deal with discipline (as well as commendations) for my department. I also think I'm able to think objectively and constructively to get to a reasonable resolution to issues.

What is God teaching you now?: I'm learning that I need to not be afraid to speak out on something I believe strongly in, especially if I speak the truth in love. The delivery of the message makes a difference, it takes compassion to be listened to.



Marcia Mauger (Lay Member)

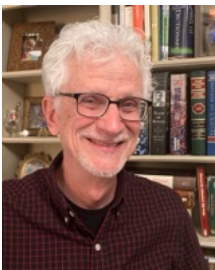
Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 0

Ministry Involvement: NDI

Qualifications: I have grown deeper in my faith through many years for participating and leading Bible studies, accountability with others hungering for more of Christ, and praying together. He has taught me to bring everything to him first and given me empathy to understand other perspectives. In medical school we were trained in the Hippocratic Oath as we seek the good of all our patients with utmost integrity. Practicing as a family physician has humbled and taught me not only the breadth of human suffering and poor choices, but also how deeply we all need our Lord and Savior. I feel all of these have served to prepare my heart to serve if needed on the District Court of Appeals, clinging to my need for Jesus's grace, wisdom and love.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to truly trust in the Lord with all my heart, leaning not on my own understanding. Our Father is not only enough for me, but also to meet all of my husbands needs and guide him, and work in our children's lives as He has planned to do long ago. Trusting with all my heart means he doesn't need me to try to control those people I love or their circumstances, or worry when they're making the wrong choices. It means I can pray and wait with hope for our good and Almighty King to have his way, in his timing.



Dana Peck (Lay Member)

Local Church: Plattsburgh

Years on the District: 40

Ministry Involvement: Adult Sunday School teacher

Qualifications: ENC & Albany Law School graduate. Attorney. Professional positions have included, among others: Court attorney at NY Supreme Court, Appellate Division; Court attorney-referee presiding at selected cases in NY Supreme Court and Family Court; Private practice; Appointed to NY ethics panels (Committee on Professional Standards and Attorney Grievance Committee).

What is God teaching you now?: I am a sojourner and struggler seeking "the peace of God that transcends understanding" (Phil. 4:7), which is much needed in our anxious age. That journey keeps leading me back to the basics: daily prayer, reflection, thanksgiving; and striving to be kind and helpful to others.

Properties Board Nominee Profiles (Ministerial)



Noelle Eichenberger (Ministerial)

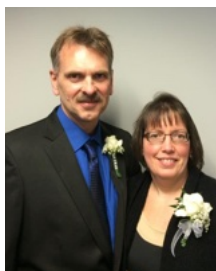
Local Church: Keeseville Good Shepherd

Years on the District: 10

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: I have served on the district NYI, NMI and NDI Councils. I have also served as a youth and outreach pastor, associate pastor of family discipleship and lead pastor. In my time as a lead pastor, I have dealt with significant building and property repairs and a kitchen renovation.

What is God teaching you now?: God is currently teaching me not to get too far ahead of him.



Doug Parks (Ministerial)

Local Church: Endicott Community

Years on the District: 25

Ministry Involvement: Family Ministries

Qualifications: My brother in law use to be a general contractor and I used to work part-time for him. I still do work for people as a ministry whether it be roofing or remodeling areas in the home.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to let go of those things that I have no control over and trust Him for the outcome.



Rob Smith (Ministerial)

Local Church: Carthage

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: Pastor

Qualifications: I have spent 14 years managing facilities, finances and information working in military, government service, churches and business. I value integrity, honesty and positive relationships.

What is God teaching you now?: Lately I have been rediscovering the amazing capability of my congregation, and being inspired by their selfless service and love.

Properties Board Nominee Profiles (Lay Members)



Richard Pellett (Lay Member)

Local Church: Northside Community Church of the Nazarene

Years on the District: 14

Ministry Involvement: Trustee, Usher, Mission Vice-president

Qualifications: Lawn care & Apartment Maintenance and retired school custodian 22 years with the last 9 years as Head Custodian. Basic Plumbing & electric, painting, lawn care.

What is God teaching you now?: That the wisdom I have is from Him as He guides ADD me through life and reminds me he is always by my side. To pray more for lost family who has walked away from him that they return to him. That I continue to grow threw my local church and in Him. To serve my neighbors with humility as I help no questions asked and pray with them when they ask and need prayer, letting them know I can put them on churches prayer list. And to stand up for those that need a helping hand no matter who they are and that our country and our leaders return to Him first by putting the 10 commandments back in Court Houses and Schools.

Properties Board Nominee Profiles (Lay Members) (continued...)



Owen Virkler (Lay Member)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: None

Ministry Involvement: Church Board for local church - trustee 6 years - head of trustees 3 years

Qualifications: As a board member and trustee, I have been involved in many decisions for improvements to our church and parsonages. I have also been personally involved in the physical work related to many improvements.

What is God teaching you now?: I am constantly learning what God is asking of me. I retired 9 years ago, and have been very active with volunteering in my community. I have taken on many projects for the church, and look at church needs the same as needs for my own home.

Camp Board Nominee Profiles (Ministerial)



AJ Bell (Ministerial)

Local Church: Rochester Grace

Years on the District: 1

Ministry Involvement: Co-Lead Pastor

Qualifications: In addition to my ministry roles, I have owned several landscaping and construction businesses over the past 20+ years, worked in various management roles, and served as the director/manager of a non-profit.

What is God teaching you now?: I've been learning to practice the art of being still and listening to God in quiet moments. Self-care has always been important to me, but lately, I sense God leading me to surrender more of myself in ways that feel unconventional in some Christian circles. I find time in nature, woodworking, and music—just to 'be' with God. No set agenda, just being present with Him and seeking His presence. In a world full of noise and busyness, I can feel God teaching me: 'Be still. Rest in Me. Rely upon Me.'



Heather Brown (Ministerial)

Local Church: Elmira First

Years on the District: 15

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: In my youth, I loved attending teen camp and serving as a worker during family camp on the Pittsburg District. Some of my fondest memories and closest friendships were established during those Christian camping experiences. In my adulthood I have had various opportunities for leadership at multi-facility, multi-event venues (via both ministry and secular employment). I believe that my experience with building and grounds maintenance and operations, security, logistics planning, etc would prove beneficial in serving on the camp board. Brooktondale holds a special place in my heart because it is where my late grandfather received Christ around 1963.

What is God teaching you now?: God has been teaching me to remain centered in His presence. (John 15:4 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.") The chaos and temptations of the world would like to knock us (me) off course, but as I keep my eye fixed on Jesus; the author and perfecter of my faith, I can be made sure in his care and presence. Christ is my firm foundation and brings me peace.

Camp Board Nominee Profiles (Ministerial) (continued...)



Keith Hardy (Ministerial)

Local Church: Endicott Community

Years on the District: 26

Ministry Involvement: District Advisory Board, Mission Area Representative

Qualifications: I have an Associate's degree in Hotel Restaurant management and managed restaurants for about 15 years before being called into ministry. I also serve on the Camp board for Camp of the Rock in Wilmington, NY.

What is God teaching you now?: God is continuing to grow me in my understanding of what it means to live as a living sacrifice.

Camp Board Nominee Profiles (Lay Members)



Chris Brown (Lay Member)

Local Church: Auburn

Years on the District: 40

Ministry Involvement: NMI, Camp, church board, AV

Qualifications: Have been on the camp board for years. Involved on current and past church building & grounds board.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to take each day as a "gift". To appreciate more what I am blessed with. Help serve more where my talents fit best in that area.



Timidera Mackintosh (Lay Member)

Local Church: Rochester Calvary

Years on the District: 4

Ministry Involvement: Mostly in youth group and currently in worship

Qualifications: I've been a part of NYI Young Adult in my local church for the past two years. I was also a part of the NMI board at my church for a year.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to take care of myself. For the past two years, it has been something that I have seen come up multiple times. Taking care of myself both mentally and physically. Being constantly reminded that I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



Trisha Smith (Lay Member)

Local Church: Johnstown

Years on the District: 50+

Ministry Involvement: Worship leader in my local church at this time. On the district level I have served in various ways at camps over the years. I also served as NYI Treasurer for 14 years, stepping down a year ago. Now I'm looking to serve wherever God leads.

Qualifications: I've loved camp since I started attending at age 2 or 3. I've been involved in many aspects of camp life and ministries. Kiddie cabin, night watchman, camp counselor, craft director, worship team. I can do many things and will serve as able.

What is God teaching you now?: To give each day to Him, making my plans while knowing that He might change them at the last minute. I'm learning to trust Him more readily with each day and to be confident He will provide what I need to serve where He leads.

Camp Board Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Jessica Thibeau (Lay Member)

Local Church: Carthage

Years on the District: 11

Ministry Involvement: I have been involved with NYI since 7th grade attending district events and taking part in local and district wide outreaches. Currently involved with the Shalom Ministry led by AJ and Chelsea Fry.

Qualifications: I am a licensed mental health therapist who approaches ministry with a focus on the interrelationship between mental health and spiritual health. I work from a place of empathy and care for others, and have so much love for the Upstate district and the Brooktondale Camp Community. Camp was such a special place to me and my experiences there were fundamental to my faith journey. My hope is go pour back into the community and provide any support that I can.

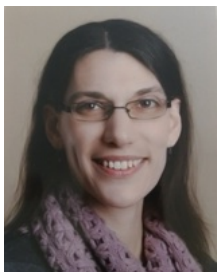
What is God teaching you now?: God has been teaching me to focus on the importance of community and connection. Although a personal relationship with Christ is fundamental, we are also called to be people of connection and coming together in unity to bring God's kingdom here.



District Assembly Ballot

Voting opens Friday, May 9, 2025
from 9:20 AM to 2:00 PM

NMI President Nominee Profile



Kimberly Sadowski (Lay Member)

Local Church: Northside Community

Years on the District: 19

Ministry Involvement: Local and District NMI; Local Church Worship Ministry; Local Church Children's Ministry

Qualifications: I have served on the District NMI Council for five years: At-Large Member for 2 years, Vice President for 2 years, and this past year as interim President. I served as the Local NMI President at the former Amherst COTN for several years, and am entering year 2 in that role at my current church. I was a delegate to the 2023 Global NMI Convention. I served on the Nazarene Mission Team to ANU in October 2023. I recently also attended the combined NMI District Leadership Convention and M25 Conference in February 2025.

What is God teaching you now?: The Lord continues to teach me that I always have more to learn and that I can trust Him with everything He requires of me because I don't walk the walk alone. My strength and abilities come from the Lord alone, and with Him all things truly are possible. I've also been reminded of the great responsibility and urgency believers carry at this time to share the Gospel, no matter the cost.

NMI Vice President Nominee Profile



Jennie Doane (Ministerial)

Local Church: Syracuse Christ Community

Years on the District: 7

Ministry Involvement: Associate Pastor

Qualifications: Around 25 years ago I felt the call of God on my life for ministry and missions at a revival service. By God's grace I had adults in my life who fostered this call as I served as the Upstate NMI District youth representative. I have since grown through short term mission trips to Haiti, Mexico, and Mozambique. I learned about cross cultural ministry and gained experience while in college. I have participated in local missions through health ministry outreaches and compassionate ministry center work. I served as a local NMI president on this district between 2014-2017. I am organized, responsible, proactive and familiar with missions within the Church of the Nazarene. Combined with a passion to help local churches to engage in missions, I am excited for the opportunity to serve and grow on the District NMI Council.

What is God teaching you now?: I recently studied Romans, and read about the cultural conflict between the Jews and Gentiles. There is injustice everywhere we look, yet we are called to love one another, even those who make us uncomfortable, because unrestrained fear drives out perfect love. The temptation is great for behaviors and attitudes which do not show love. At the heart of these is the fear that God is not going to show up for us. Yet we know that there is no fear in love, and perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18). I have been asked, where do I fear God won't show up for me? Where in my life does fear still reside? And where are places where His love has not been perfected in me? God has helped me learn to love God and others more completely.

NMI Treasurer Nominee Profile



Rachelle Bell (Ministerial)

Local Church: Rochester Grace

Years on the District: Almost 1

Ministry Involvement: Associate Pastor

Qualifications: I hold an Associates Degree in accounting, and have many years of experience as a bookkeeper. I have been an administrative and executive pastor and worked closely with church treasurers and on the finances. I love the global missions work of NMI, and am a huge fan of the work that NYI does to reach and disciple teens.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to wait for God's movement and direction. It isn't always about "do-ing" but often about waiting on the Lord. God's also been teaching me how to be who I was created and called to be.

NMI Board Clergy At Large Nominee Profiles



Ben Brown (Ministerial)

Local Church: Auburn

Years on the District: 25

Ministry Involvement: I have had the opportunity to do a little bit of everything. Preaching, teaching, organizing volunteers, and whatever else might need to be done.

Qualifications: In the past I have served on my local church missions council. I see missions both local and as far away as internationally play important roles in the development of God's kingdom.

What is God teaching you now?: God has been teaching me for the past couple of years now to be okay with uncertainty and trust that in the midst of it that God will be faithful and continue to provide.

NMI Board Clergy At Large Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Abreana Guthrie (Ministerial)

Local Church: Lakeville: The Center

Years on the District: In my 6th year as a licensed minister, and 25th being a part of the district as I grew up here!

Ministry Involvement: Pastoring The Center Church

Qualifications: I have been passionate about missions since I was a child. I have tried to read all of our missionary books and support missions work as best as I can. As a pastor, I also make it my aim to inspire my congregation to get involved in sharing the Gospel with the world. I also served on the District NMI board last year, and I truly enjoyed serving in this way!

What is God teaching you now?: In this season, God is teaching me how to rely on him in new ways as a pastor, wife, and soon-to-be mom! He is so good, and I am so thankful for his provision and care.



Christa Jamison (Ministerial)

Local Church: Calvary Community

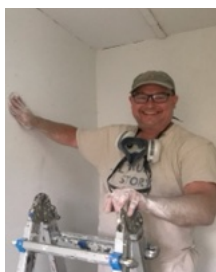
Years on the District: 5

Ministry Involvement: Worship services and Bible study in a retirement community and supply preaching

Qualifications: One of my favorite things about the Church of the Nazarene is its commitment to global missions. The fact that we have a holistic approach to meeting needs of varying kinds in the name of Jesus is the truest form of Christianity.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me that being patient and waiting is not a sign of weakness. There is a big picture to which I do not have access. And during those waiting times, there is always something to do. Seemingly "little" ministry tasks are just as important as "big" ministry tasks.

NMI Board Lay Member At Large Nominee Profiles



Daniel J. Lee (Lay Member)

Local Church: Plattsburgh

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: Mission work

Qualifications: I have been a Practicing Christian for many years and always looking for a way to serve God. I am married with 2 children and many Dalmatians. I have been a Registered Nurse for the last 24 years. I spent 26 years in the Military, retired as CPT. I have always wanted to help others and found mission work locally and abroad my way to best serve God where I am needed.

What is God teaching you now?: I need to serve where I am, starting with my God and family. this has been much more apparent to me the past year.



NMI Ballot

Voting opens Saturday, May 10, 2025
from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

NDI President Nominee Profile



AJ Fry (Ministerial)

Local Church: Syracuse Shalom

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: NDI, Church Planter, District Missionary

Qualifications: I served as a Missionary for 5 years, been Ordained for 6 years, church planter and NDI President on the Upstate District for 3 years. I'm passionate about Discipleship and teaching and helping others follow the Way of Christ.

What is God teaching you now?: I'm learning to be more self-disciplined and learning how to manage and prioritize my time better. God is also teaching me to always be on the lookout for how He is working and how I can be a part of His Kingdom regardless of where I am.

NDI Board Ministerial Nominee Profiles



Rachelle Bell (Ministerial)

Local Church: Rochester Grace

Years on the District: Almost a Year

Ministry Involvement: Co-lead Pastor

Qualifications: I am passionate about discipleship and seeing people become more Christlike. I have experience in different church settings and different types of leadership positions that I think gives me good perspective and thoughts for how to incorporate discipleship more deeply into individual lives, churches, and for the district.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to wait for God's movement and direction ;it isn't always about "do-ing" but often about waiting on the Lord. God's also been teaching me how to be who I was created and called to be.



Noelle Eichenberger (Ministerial)

Local Church: Keeseville Good Shepherd

Years on the District: 10

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor

Qualifications: I have previously served as District NYI President. I have also been a member of the NDI and NMI Councils. I currently serve as a lead pastor and teach weekly Bible Study. I'm passionate about people getting to know Jesus through Scripture.

What is God teaching you now?: God is currently teaching me not to get too far ahead of him.



Aimee McCroskey (Ministerial)

Local Church: Penn Yan

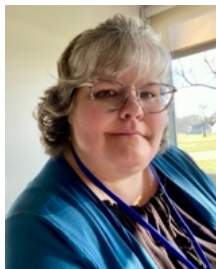
Years on the District: 2

Ministry Involvement: Pastor

Qualifications: I am an ordained Nazarene elder, and hold an MA in Church and Community. I take seriously the mandate that every Christian and disciple of Christ should be actively working towards the flourishing of their neighbors and communities. As a disciple of Christ, I believe that I am to always take the posture of student- possessing humility and a willingness to listen and learn what the Spirit is teaching me. As a leader, I believe we are to imitate Christ. Even as we work to disciple others, we are to always reflect love and grace. If selected to serve on the district NDI board, I will do my very best to lean into the core values of prayer, compassion, Biblical learning, mentoring, equipping and authentic relationship building- both in my local community and as we work as a team to teach and train those across our district.

What is God teaching you now?: Currently God is teaching me that remaining faithful to Kingdom living is worth it. Despite uncertainty and grief, God is present and is always inviting us

NDI Board Ministerial Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Angela Neilson (Ministerial)

Local Church: Sanborn Faith Community

Years on the District: 5

Ministry Involvement: Lead Pastor, Faith Community

Qualifications: I was the Spiritual Formation Pastor with a church in Florida for three years prior to coming to the Upstate NY District. In my role as lead pastor at Faith Community, it is important for me to provide discipleship opportunities to my church through small group classes. I partner with Pastor Eric Verbovsky to have monthly prayer meetings at our church. I may not be the most "qualified" but I do have a heart for discipleship and prayer. I believe it is important for Christians to grow, transform and be sanctified. This can only be done through discipleship. I also believe as disciples of Christ, we have a duty to disciple others.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me about the importance and power of prayer. Prayer should be involved in every aspect of our life and especially in the life of the church.



Paul Riggall (Ministerial)

Local Church: Fulton Nazarene

Years on the District: 34

Ministry Involvement: Pastor

Qualifications: I have served on District NDI boards, I have served as NDI president for many years. I served as associate Pastor at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene and have served as the lead Pastor at Fulton Nazarene Church for a year and a half. I am currently enrolled at NBC on-line course of study.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to be a Pastor of integrity and character. He is teaching me about His grace and love. He is teaching me how to give Pastoral care and counseling.

NDI Board Lay Member Nominee Profiles



Ron Reiss (Lay Member)

Local Church: Canastota Discovery

Years on the District: 6

Ministry Involvement: My main ministry involvement is active participation in our Outreach Committee. I am also a substitute Adult Sunday School teacher when our regular teacher is not available.

Qualifications: In the past, I was Soldier in Charge of the Cohoes Salvation Army church. I often preached during Sunday Services while residing in Cohoes, NY. I also was a leader of our boys Torch Bearers program in the Oneida Salvation Army. During the Christmas seasons, I was involved with their Kettle drives. I also was a leader of the Troy Salvation Army Teen Club.

What is God teaching you now?: I know that God is teaching me that everyone is called to disciple to non-believers in order to bring them to God. I have been praying for God to use me in any way possible. I feel his voice is calling me to discipleship to help with the growing of our Canastota church. God is also teaching me to be Christ-like by being humble and not judgmental.

NDI Board Lay Member Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Abby Riggall (Lay Member)

Local Church: Auburn

Years on the District: 35

Ministry Involvement: I serve in Children's church, teach adult and children's Sundays school periodically. I sing on worship team, love to do missions. I currently serve on the Brooktondale camp board.

Qualifications: Passion to teach and disciple others. As I've been raising a daughter with special needs, I've grown a passion to teach, love on families that have significant challenges in their lives as well. I have a Masters in Social Work and am an Assistant Professor at SUNY Upstate teaching and training residents, interns and staff in psychodynamic counseling.

What is God teaching you now?: Being a wholly committed servant to Him. I've struggled with pride my whole life in my abilities. Learning to rely on His grace, love, mercy and letting go of always needing my opinion, thoughts or ideas heard. My anthem lately has been, "they will know you are Christian's by your love."



NDI Ballot

Voting opens Saturday, May 10, 2025
from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

NYI President Nominee Profile



Chelsea Fry (Ministerial)

Local Church: Syracuse Shalom

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: Co-Pastor and Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Director

Qualifications: TI have been serving as the District NYI President for the past year. I just recently started feeling as though I understand what is going on and am excited to see what the Lord has planned going forward. Previously I served as a Youth Pastor and a Work and Witness Coordinator. Both roles have given me skills to not just work with events but to create environments where discipleship and leadership development can take place.

What is God teaching you now?: I think God is teaching me a lot about community. I'm finishing up a Master's program that is focused on reimagining what the role of the Church could be in a local community. The Lord has made it pretty clear that in order for me to flourish, I need to shift my mindset to focus on the flourishing of the place in which He has sent me. When I focus on that, it seems like my life has a lot more peace and wholeness.

NYI Vice President Nominee Profiles



Tiffany Belokur (Lay Member)

Local Church: Owego

Years on the District: 30

Ministry Involvement: NYI

Qualifications: I am the family and student ministry director at the Owego Nazarene Church. I love helping teenagers grow closer to God and seeing how God will use them.

What is God teaching you now?: He's teaching me to rely on him. To trust him and put my hope in him.

NYI Secretary Nominee Profiles



Chelsie Maynard (Ministerial)

Local Church: Elmira Area (compassionate ministry planter)

Years on the District: 2.5 as an adult, much longer as a student

Ministry Involvement: Compassionate Ministry Planter, NYI Young Adult ministry

Qualifications: I am an ordained elder in the COTN and a clinical social worker and direct a children's mental health clinic in the Elmira area. I've been a teen camp counselor the last three years, previously served as a children's and youth pastor. I've organized Young Adult Retreat the last two years. My gifts lie in administration and leadership and I serve in a leadership capacity on multiple boards.

What is God teaching you now?: In this season, God has been challenging me to question whether or not I really believe that he can "set a table in the wilderness" (Psalm 78:19). He's inviting me into some positions of risky faith, all while reminding me of his delight in me and in our shared passion for justice and hospitality.

NYI Treasurer Nominee Profiles



Rachelle Bell (Ministerial)

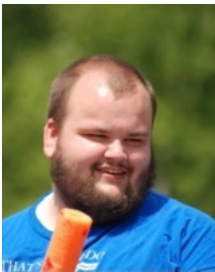
Local Church: Rochester Grace

Years on the District: Almost 1

Ministry Involvement: Associate Pastor

Qualifications: I hold an Associates Degree in accounting, and have many years of experience as a bookkeeper. I have been an administrative and executive pastor and worked closely with church treasurers and on the finances. I love the global missions work of NMI, and am a huge fan of the work that NYI does to reach and disciple teens.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to wait for God's movement and direction. It isn't always about "do-ing" but often about waiting on the Lord. God's also been teaching me how to be who I was created and called to be.



Ben Brown (Ministerial)

Local Church: Auburn

Years on the District: 25

Ministry Involvement: I do a little bit of everything. Locally I organize children's church volunteers, fill in teaching children's church, teach Sunday school, guide the discussion for young adult group once a month, and play on worship team. On the district level I have served on the camp board, I regularly attend district NYI events as a chaperone, and provide pulpit supply.

Qualifications: I was an active member of district NYI for 6 years as a teen. I then took a break when I went to college. When I moved back to Upstate I started participating in different NYI related events again including teen camp, back to school bash, and young adult retreat. Locally I am active in our young adult ministry.

What is God teaching you now?: In the midst of chaos and uncertainty God will be faithful to meet me there and no matter what the situation is God will provide.

NYI Treasurer Nominee Profiles (continued...)



Heather MacPherson (Lay Member)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 20

Ministry Involvement: Youth Group, Pre K/K Sunday School, Local NDI Board Member

Qualifications: I have a passion for serving and building relationships with teens and young adults in the church and supporting local and district needs using the skills I've been given, including a nerdy obsession with spreadsheets and organization. I have experience in leadership capacities, including my current role at work, and can be trusted to follow through on the commitments I make. I'm also passionate about advocating for others and enjoy having the opportunity to be a part of a board and bring the voices of others to the conversation.

What is God teaching you now?: God is working on my heart and drawing me near to Him as I continue to seek Him in my grief after my Dad's accident and passing. He consistently reminds me of His nearness, provision, and goodness in all things. It's been a challenging, but relationship deepening season as I've learned to trust Him more fully in the closest loss I've experienced. I continue to learn and lean into my dependence on Christ and His love and grace in my life, especially in light of parenthood. I continually pray and am growing into being more Christ-like in my interactions with our kids. I certainly don't get it right as much as I'd like, but I'm grateful for His grace, and theirs, in that, too, and continued growth.

NYI Board Nominee Profiles

Young Adult Representative (18-35 years old)



Ben Brown (Ministerial)

Local Church: Auburn

Years on the District: 25

Ministry Involvement: I do a little bit of everything. Locally I organize children's church volunteers, fill in teaching children's church, teach Sunday school, guide the discussion for young adult group once a month, and play on worship team. On the district level I have served on the camp board, I regularly attend district NYI events as a chaperone, and provide pulpit supply.

Qualifications: I was an active member of district NYI for 6 years as a teen. I then took a break when I went to college. When I moved back to Upstate I started participating in different NYI related events again including teen camp, back to school bash, and young adult retreat. Locally I am active in our young adult ministry.

What is God teaching you now?: In the midst of chaos and uncertainty God will be faithful to meet me there and no matter what the situation is God will provide.



Kimmy Dolan (Lay Member)

Local Church: Syracuse Shalom

Years on the District: About 13 years

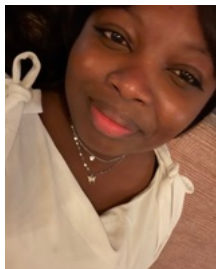
Ministry Involvement: Moved to Syracuse to help Chelsea and AJ Fry with their non-profit and church plant. I try to go to the NYI events as an adult leader, I have been a camp counselor for numerous years.

Qualifications: I have previous leadership experience from high school serving as different club president and helping class councils. I was on student government in college as the events coordinator. I have been involved with NYI for many years and am very passionate about getting people involved on the district and feeling like they have a voice. I'd love to start thinking outside of the box for events and young adult involvement.

What is God teaching you now?: To trust in him and fully follow him. I moved to Syracuse a couple of months ago because I felt called here but this is the first time I feel called into the unknown and uncomfortable for me. God is teaching me to rely on other people in my circle but also to fully trust him where he is leading me. I prayed to God for months based on the verse "Here I am Lord, send me" and I think that's exactly what he's doing.

NYI Board Nominee Profiles

Young Adult Representative (18-35 years old) (continued...)



Timidera Mackintosh (Lay Member)

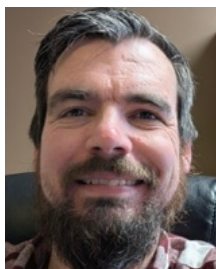
Local Church: Rochester Calvary

Years on the District: 4

Ministry Involvement: Mostly in youth group and currently in worship

Qualifications: I've been a part of NYI Young Adult in my local church for the past two years. I was also a part of the NMI board at my church for a year.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to take care of myself. For the past two years, it has been something that I have seen come up multiple times. Taking care of myself both mentally and physically. Being constantly reminded that I am fearfully and wonderfully made.



Scotty MacPherson (Ministerial)

Local Church: Watertown

Years on the District: 28

Ministry Involvement: Youth Ministry

Qualifications: I have been the teen boys' Sunday school class teacher for a few years and recently moved into a full-time role as Youth Pastor. Our youth group works closely with the young adult and family ministries at Life Church. Additionally there are many young adults who serve alongside me as leaders in the youth group. I am currently studying at NTS for my MDiv and in my second year. I have many technology skills, having worked in the tech industry for almost ten years. Being heavily involved in event planning and ministries to and with teens and young adults, I have an ear for what connects best with our younger generations.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to trust in God's plan during a time of dramatic change in my family's life since answering the call into ministry at District Assembly 2023. As I transition from a full-time Software QA Engineer to serving as Youth Pastor, I'm learning to receive that lesson in fresh, transformative ways. I recognize that I cannot rely solely on my own strength to engage these teens, capture their interest, and guide them in spiritual disciplines in a culture that is increasingly self-focused and scattered. Yet, I stand firm on the promise of 1 Thessalonians 5:24: "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."



Jessica Thibeau (Lay Member)

Local Church: Carthage / Syracuse Shalom

Years on the District: 11

Ministry Involvement: I grew up attending NYI events through out the year starting in the 7th grade. Attending Encuentro in 2017 serving in Costa Rica. Throughout college I participated on Summer Ministry for Eastern Nazarene College serving at various camps across districts and started my own small group called "The Hands & Feet of Christ" that focused on local missions work. A lot of my ministry involvement has been interconnected with my career path as a mental health provider, volunteering with Father Bills Homeless Shelter as well as Interfaith Services Food Pantry. I feel most passionate about working with youth, which is why I feel called to Youth Ministry work and would like to become more involved.

Qualifications: I Have a Clinical Social Worker who works primarily with 5-21 year olds with a preference in Adolescents and approach ministry with a focus on the interconnectedness between spiritual and mental wellbeing. I would love to support our district and specifically our youth by serving from this approach. I have served on the NYI district as a Senior High Representative as well as a Young Adult. Previously I was in school and felt that I was not able to contribute to the extent I wanted to due to conflicting responsibilities. However, within my role now I feel fully capable to support our district and would very much value further involvement.

What is God teaching you now?: God has been laying on my heart the importance of community, specifically the need for connection between people for support, accountability, care, and success. Many of the youth that I work with, especially since Covid-19 have reported feeling isolated, lonely, and uncared for. Which is why having people of support is a protective factor and so I'm always seeking ways to identify people off/for support in my life as well as the lives of others. May God's hands be in our communities and within our district.

NYI Board Nominee Profiles

Sr. High Representatives (Grade 10-12)



Jewel Belokur

Local Church: Owego

Years on the District: 2

Ministry Involvement: I volunteer at my church's VBS, as well as being on the teen worship band.

Qualifications: I volunteer at my church's VBS, as well as being on the teen worship band.

What is God teaching you now?: God has been teaching me to rely on him. Whether I'm going through sunny days or hard times I know God is with me, but it took a lot for me to realize that. The more I am in the word, the more I learn to trust God always.



Jeremiah Lasher

Local Church: Syracuse Christ Community

Years on the District: N/A

Ministry Involvement: I have been on the local NYI council as Junior High Representative. I have also assisted with Vacation Bible School for multiple years.

Qualifications: I am a strong leader and have been known to look for the best in situations for everyone. I also am a strong communicator and will always be responsible and supportive to the rest of the team.

What is God teaching you now?: Right now, God has really been teaching me how to handle many different situations at once and be able to be responsible and held accountable in my faults. I have learned how to help others with problems that I may not have experienced and get others and myself the help that they need.



Daniella Mackintosh

Local Church: Rochester Calvary

Years on the District: 4

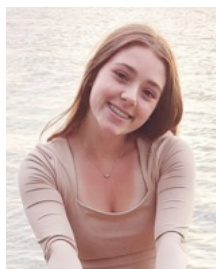
Ministry Involvement: Youth events/ministry, church choir

Qualifications: I am very involved in church and I love making connections with others and getting to know them. I have met many and grown closer to people from other districts with camps along with those in my church and school. Many of my friends and those I've met feel comfortable sharing information with me about their worries, life and ask for advice. I am also part of leadership activities in school such as natural helpers, link crew, president of interact club, and secretary of Junior class council. I honestly care a lot about others and feel honored that many feel comfortable to talk to me about issues and nominating me to those positions.

What is God teaching you now?: Right now, I believe that is teaching me to have trust in him. Whenever there's many things going on in my life and I feel out of control, I often ask God where he is. Honestly, I've felt stagnant, like I've been praying for something for so long and I don't see any answers or improvement but I'm learning to have hope and trust in him. I sometimes feel alone as it's hard for me to reach out to others for help when I'm going through something; yet each time he speaks to me (often through others) and tells me that he loves me, he cares for me, and wants what's best for me.

NYI Board Nominee Profiles

Sr. High Representatives (Grade 10-12) (continued...)



Olivia Patnode

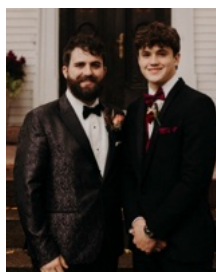
Local Church: Lowville

Years on the District: 6

Ministry Involvement: Youth

Qualifications: I started a youth group with teens from other churches.

What is God teaching you now?: He is teaching me how to be patient and trust his plans.



Daniel Ribbing

Local Church: Rochester Calvary

Years on the District: 2

Ministry Involvement: Leading Bible studies, and part of my local NYI

Qualifications: Over the past year and a half, God has moved in my life in so many ways. A year and a half ago, I felt God calling me to ministry. I noticed the call but didn't pursue it. When I continued to feel Jesus calling me, I started to act! I began a Bible study at my home and became more involved with my youth group and local NYI. I've taken leadership roles within work, family, and church. I can't wait to see what God has in store as I continue to pursue Him.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to be patient. Last summer at teen camp, I was crying at the altar, begging God to answer me. What was I asking? "Lord, I have this call on my life. Where do you want me?" Crying, wanting an answer, and striving for something God didn't have planned for me yet, after crying out to Jesus for a couple of hours, Pastor Carey and Pastor Christa came up and were simply my answered prayer. They said God will provide when the time is right! Don't rush God because His timing is perfect! And you have to be patient, put your head down, and build your faith. Jesus will come through! So, I am being patient and trusting in Jesus!



Heather Seidel

Local Church: Binghamton

Years on the District: 15

Ministry Involvement: Worship, children

Qualifications: I'm Heather, a student at Susquehanna Valley High School. I'm actively involved in chorus, band, percussion ensemble, and I play tennis, indoor track, and flag football. At church, I help lead worship for my youth group and sometimes for services, a blessing that I'm grateful for. I also serve in the nursery at my church (BingNaz) and at a small group at New Life in Endicott. Through school I help teach kids how to swim and I use the opportunity to share Christ's light with those who may not know Him. Also, while not through church or school I enjoy writing for and about God and often write poetry and short essays. Recently, I attended Quest, a leadership conference where I furthered valuable skills to grow in my faith and leadership such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, innovation, and adaptability

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to listen, and not just simply not hear. He is teaching me how important it is to know peoples struggles, emotions, and things unspoken. Listening is a show of love, grace and patience. When I want to answer too quickly, God reminds me to wait. When I get angry, God helps me to remember grace. Just as God listens to me with understanding and without judgment, I need to do the same to others. Patience grows when I take time to understand instead of rushing to respond. Through this, God is shaping me to reflect his love.

NYI Board Nominee Profiles

Jr. High Representatives (Grade 6-9)



Jagger Chrysler

Local Church: Owego

Years on the District: 12

Ministry Involvement: Youth group

Qualifications: I regularly attend church and youth group. I go to two christian summer camps every summer, and most importantly I love Jesus.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me to not be greedy and to be grateful with what I have because what I have right now is enough, and i shouldn't take it for granted.



Madison Parks

Local Church: Binghamton

Years on the District: 1

Ministry Involvement: Youth Group

Qualifications: I am in 6th grade and I have been attending the Binghamton church regularly. I have also been attending youth group and their events and fundraiser. I also help out in the church nursery. I have a devotional that I read everyday for my everyday growth.

What is God teaching you now?: I think god is teaching me how to love myself and others. God is also teaching me how to take care of myself.



Ariel Poulin

Local Church: Keeseville Good Shepherd

Years on the District: 3

Ministry Involvement: Youth Group

Qualifications: I would be qualified to be the middle school youth representative for District NYI because number one I am a Nazarene youth in seventh grade. I go to district youth events as often as I can get transportation. I attended Brooktondale teen camp last summer and plan to go again this next summer. I am a member of our church youth group and sing with our youth worship team.

What is God teaching you now?: God is teaching me I need to trust God even when I'm out of my comfort zone. If God tells me to do something. I need to do it.



NYI Ballot

**Voting opens Saturday, May 10, 2025
from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**

District Board of Ministry Report

We recommend the following be elected to the order of Elder: Mark Cooper and Abreana Guthrie

We recommend the following be issued a first-year district license: Godfrey Gedeon and Ahadi Tumba

We recommend the following elders be granted Retired Unassigned status: Douglas W. Peck (effective 2022) and Thomas M. Gorrell (effective 2024)

We recommend the following elders be removed from the roster of ministers, as per Manual paragraph 114, 530.13 and 530.10: Abraham Nagamatoo and Paul Colgan

We recommend the following elder be removed from the roster of ministers, as per Manual paragraph 531.7, 606.12, and 531.5: Juan Ruiz

We recommend the transfer of the following elders be received: Nancy Smith, from Maine

We recommend the following elders be granted transfer: Edward Darling, to East Ohio; J. Dean McNamara, to Florida

We recommend the transfer of the following district licensed ministers be received: Anthony J. Bell, from Intermountain; Rachelle Bell, from Intermountain

We recommend the following be granted a renewal of district license: Anthony J. Bell, Rachelle Bell, Benjamin Brown, Joshua Cameron, Mark Cooper, Abreana Guthrie, Walter (Scotty) MacPherson IV, Jon Mellinger, Jonathan Nunez, and Paul Riggall

We recommend the following be removed from the roster of licensed ministers, having failed to apply for renewal: Madison Bechtold and Kaleb Stanton

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Douglas Milne, Chair
Rev. Amanda Cash, Secretary
Dr. Olivia Metcalf, District Superintendent

2024-2025 Lifelong Learning Report

Per the Manual 426.6, every year each district licensed and ordained minister is required to earn 20 hours of lifelong learning units. By setting this standard, the Church of the Nazarene encourages every minister to grow and improve their skills and better equip others to do the work of ministry. This report does not include retired pastors. Those who are enrolled in the Course of Study or in an approved educational institution are exempt from lifelong learning units.

Minister	Learning Hours	Minister	Learning Hours	Minister	Learning Hours
Andrew Ames	64	Carey Dunlop	102	Emily McCulla	Exempt
Heather Ardrey	30	Noelle Eichenberger	Exempt	Patrick McNair	0
Shane Ash	Exempt	Nathaniel Ferguson	55	John Mellinger	22
Anthony J. Bell	Exempt	Mark Fowler	0	Dustin Metcalf	28
Rachelle Bell	Exempt	AJ Fry	22	Olivia Metcalf	51
Benjamin Brown	25	Chelsea Fry	Exempt	Janae Meyer	Exempt
Heather Brown	82	James Gamble	Exempt	Douglas Milne	81
James Butler	0	Jarrod Geistdorfer	42	Jules Mukendi	0
Thomas Calzone	22	Grace Govenettio	31.5	Angela Nielson	57
Josh Cameron	Exempt	Ron Graeflin	46	Jonathan Nunez	Exempt
Amanda Cash	20	Abreana Guthrie	Exempt	Doug Parks	22
Pauline Carmen	27	Mark Hanson	26.5	Nathan Patnode	35
Mark Cooper	30	Sandra Hanson	39	Raúl Perez	16
James Cox	0	Keith Hardy	35	Clare Pietra	20
Jonathan Cramer	0	Christa Jamison	23	Paul Riggall	Exempt
John Cramer II	0	Dao Kamara	10	Jeff Rogers	64
Timothy Cramer	0	Duane "Bud" Leach	20	Robert Smith	0
Elizabeth Criscuolo	32	Janice Lum	115	Laura Swartzenberg	32
Chris Davies	21	Corey MacPherson	100	Bob Tharp	36
Leslie Davies	28	Scotty MacPherson	Exempt	James Trainham	0
Jennie Doane	35	Michelle Matteson	Exempt	Eric Verbovszky	223
David Drake	0	Chelsie Maynard	56	Ramona Williams	Exempt
Sarah Drake	24	Aimee McCroskey	22		

District Properties Board Report, 2024-2025

This year the District Properties Board did not meet for official work. Pastor AJ Bell was appointed by DS Olivia to fill an open position on the board.

The District Properties board would be happy to consult with your church board on matters that relate to your building. Please don't hesitate to reach out for advice and support.

Please keep the following *Manual* paragraphs in mind:

103. Property. The local church considering the purchase or sale of real estate, the erection of churches or church- related buildings, a major remodeling of either, or leasing real property for any reason, shall submit its proposal to the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board for their consideration, advice, and approval. No indebtedness, whether involving a mortgage or not, shall be incurred in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings or a major remodeling of either, without the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. The local church shall submit quarterly financial and status reports to this board throughout the construction process. (236-237.5)

236. The District Church Properties Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and no fewer than two assigned ministers and two lay members. Members may be elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The District Advisory Board may serve as the District Church Properties Board upon favorable vote of the district assembly.

237. The duties of the District Church Properties Board are:

237.1. To advance the cause of constructing church-related buildings within the bounds of the assembly district, in cooperation with the District Advisory Board.

237.2. To verify and conserve the titles to local church property.

237.3. To consider propositions submitted by local churches relating to the purchase or sale of real estate or the erection of church buildings or parsonages, and to advise them concerning the propositions submitted. (103-104)

237.4. To approve or disapprove, in conjunction with the district superintendent, propositions submitted by local churches relative to church building plans and the incurring of indebtedness in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings. The Church Properties Board shall normally approve a request to increase indebtedness subject to the following guidelines:

1. The local church requesting approval to increase indebtedness paid all financial apportionments in full for the two years preceding the request.

2. The amount of total indebtedness will not exceed three times the average of the amount raised for all purposes in each of the preceding three years.

3. The details of the planned remodeling or construction shall have been approved by the Church Properties Board.

4. The amount of indebtedness and the terms of payment will not jeopardize the spiritual life of the church.

The Church Properties Board may approve requests that do not meet these guidelines only with the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (103-104)

Respectfully Submitted,

Micah Matteson, Property Board Chair

Dr. Olivia Metcalf, District Superintendent

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center Report 2024-2025

Greetings from YOUR Nazarene Camp and Retreat Center in Brooktondale, NY! Last year's great season would not have been possible without the heroes who showed up to I Love My Camp in early May to prep the grounds, finish the motel renovation, and clean all of our cabins and dorms. My special thanks to all who showed up in great ways to collectively say: "I love my camp!" We quickly followed that up with again hosting the Chinese Bible Study: a group of juniors and seniors from Cornell University who really love Brooktondale and we love them. Some of the first folks to pray on these grounds each year are our friends from the CBS. We then ended the month of May hosting NYI's Young Adult Retreat. There's something special about a generation of emerging adults, with the world at their fingertips, choosing to root themselves more deeply in Christ!

From there we entered the whirlwind that is our summer camping season, starting in the last week of June with our Prime Time Retreat. What our ILMC crew couldn't get done, this group saw to the finish line. The most important work continues to be on the Friday night of PTR when we gather to pray for Family Camp week. Speaking of Family Camp, we continue to see more and more of you make your way back to Brooktondale for this unofficial 'Family Reunion'. Not only that, but we continue to see more and more new faces—friends and family of yours—come to know what the hype is all about! God continues to show up when we gather in this way, and He uses all the elements of the week to bring us closer to Himself and to one another. My thanks to Diane Leclerc and Jarrod Spalding for opening God's Word with us, to Brady Bond for leading us in Worship, to Big Blast Ministries for guiding our kids to the Lord, to Pastor Olivia for coordinating and leading our worship services and Leslie Davies for directing our cruise ship, S.S. Brooktondale, with all the great activities!

July continued with activity when good friends of our camp, John and Dody Martin, chose to host 100+ of their friends and family in our Dining Hall for their 50-years-of-music-ministry concert. What a privilege that was! We then saw the Spirit move at our Kids Camp in the middle of July! Have you ever seen kids lay prostrate on the floor in worship to the Lord? I got to witness this for myself night after night at our kids camp. As a parent to 2 of those kids, I was blown away! And I am so glad that other parents got to see it and be a part of their kid's experience too! My thanks again to Big Blast Ministries for meaningful Bible teaching and engaging programming, and Leslie Davies for creating a great experience for the kids and adults for a second year in a row.

Not to be outdone, our teens picked up where our kids left off with a camp of their own the first full week of August. The first night's "simple" message led to students lingering at the altar for 2-3 hours after the service. The same thing happened on night 2, and 3, and 4. And I don't know about your church, but that first Sunday after teen camp, our altars at church were full of teenagers who continued to be drawn by the Lord. Revival was stirring in our young people and we are called to fan the flame! My thanks to Teanna and Jay Sunberg for creating the space for the Spirit to move through the spoken Word, to Brady

Bond for leading the worship team to do the same, to Aaron Stiles and Christa Jamison for coordinating and directing it all.

With our Nazarene camps done, you might think that things slowed down. Not really. September continued with much activity, starting with Labor Day weekend when we hosted the Finger Lakes Young People Gathering. This could be considered our second teen camp, only it's hosted by the Christadelphians. We saw just as many teens (from a different faith community) confirm what I just got done saying. The Lord is raising up a powerful generation of Christ followers. We then had folks from Indiana, who in their recent retirement have made it their mission to visit every Nazarene camp and pray for God's holy work to be done there. My favorite quote from them as they were heading out, "That Tabernacle of yours is a special place!" Then the best church sent their best leaders to the best campground! Okay, so I'm biased, but it was nice to become a sort of "renter" just like anyone else and see Brooktondale provide the space for my Auburn Church board to retreat, commune with the Lord and with one another, and accomplish some big tasks unhurriedly. We wrapped the 2024 camping season in October with the Cayuga Chamber Youth Orchestra Retreat. Some heavenly sounds were coming from the camp dining hall! I can't believe what kind of talent these young people have.

Beyond the directors and personnel already mentioned, I want to thank a few more important and very special people. Our camp board for 2024/25: KarenLee Belokur, Ben Brown, Ryan Calhoun, Ray Gould, Ben Logsdon, Cathy Lanning (Board Secretary), Chelsie Maynard, Abby Riggall, and Aaron Stiles. Our Treasurer: Sue Brown. Our Caretakers: Ben and Haley Logsdon. Our Groundskeeper: Ron Norman. Our Family Camp Registrars: Alice Brown and Mark Shepardson. Our Family Camp Snack Shack Coordinators: Jeff Riggall and Trisha Shepardson. Our Cooks: Melanie Dinneen, Christa Jamison, and Sue Siegard. Our Camp Nurse: Becca Hass. Our Mower: Rob Keister. For all our kitchen helpers, toddler cabin workers, Snack Shack assistants, bathroom cleaners, weedwackers, tree-trimmers, PVC piping fixers, you are all my favorites! A special thank you to Stan McLain for continuing to be a great support to me. Thank you all for a great year! Our 95th year is sure to not disappoint!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Chris Davies, Administrative Director

2024-2025 Upstate District NMI President's Report

Greetings to Dr. Chambo, DS Metcalf, members, friends, and guests of the Upstate NY District!

This year began with some big changes for District NMI in June, when our long-time Council President Sally Mellinger resigned her position to answer the Lord's calling to focus on specific local missions through her home church at Buffalo First. With that, I'd like to thank and recognize Sally for her faithful decade of service as our District NMI Council President, and for the seeds she has sown on good soil all throughout the Upstate NY NMI family.

I'd also like to thank the District NMI Council for their faithful service during this transitional year. Thank you to Pastor Ken Blish, Pastor Eric Verbovsky, Ray Gould, Meghan Johnson, Pastor Abreana Guthrie, Debra Dunn, Daniel Lee, and Pastor Angela Nielsen. Thank you also to Pastor Janae Meyer, Pastors AJ and Chelsea Fry, and DS Olivia Metcalf for your amazing support of the District NMI Council in so many ways, as we continue to move forward and seek the Lord's vision and will for both the Council itself and for its effectiveness on the Upstate NY District. District NMI is excited for what the Lord is doing across Upstate NY, both what we already see and that which we don't yet. The District NMI Council maintains its commitment to encourage, provide resources, foster partnership and communication, and pray for revival and renewal with and through every church on this District, as we all serve to fulfill NMI's purpose together, both locally and globally.

We also praise God for the active obedience of the local churches across our great District, as you say "Yes!" to the Lord's call in your communities and beyond. Churches across Upstate NY have been partnering with multiple community groups and ministries to distribute items such as Crisis Care Kits, student hygiene products, food, clothing for all ages, gifts for children, and Bibles. You love on local schools with ongoing backpack drives, free breakfast meals, and after school programs. You selflessly support ministries to women and men caught in addictions and traumas. You're running soup kitchens and community movie outreach ministries. You're resettling refugees and the displaced. You're ministering to the deaf community in your neighborhoods. You build schools, churches, and hospitals through Alabaster. You share the Gospel with young and old through Child Sponsorship, Jesus Film Harvest Partners, and the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). You gave nearly \$46,000 over our District WEF goal, making Upstate NY a World Evangelism District of Excellence again! The list goes on.

Upstate NY District, you assembled and sent 80 boxes of Crisis Care Kits to Fawn Grove in November for immediate distribution to disaster relief areas! You sent teams from your churches down to Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to aid in hands-on Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. Churches generously provided financial support to the LA District in response to the devastating wildfires. Churches also aided in clean-up, disaster response, and spiritual care to hurting Upstate NY neighbors who were affected by tornados throughout the summer.

Because we care so deeply for those suffering around us, District NMI remains committed to the goal of establishing a Crisis Care Kit Collection Site at one church in every Mission Area on our District, where we can maintain a supply of Crisis Care Kits at the ready for immediate response to disasters and needs, both near and far. Thank you to Sanborn First, Owego, Christ Community, and Keeseville Good Shepherd for serving in this capacity already. We're almost to our goal! Praise the Lord!

In August 2024, the District NMI Council also awarded freshman Ella Lancy with a \$500 NMI Academic Scholarship, as she pursues a Physician's Assistant degree at Daemen University, with the intention to someday serve in medical missions. In the NMI section on the Nazarene.org website, it says this: "We are one people: Nazarene Missions International is people praying, giving,

building, and engaging all ages with the good news of Jesus.” Upstate NY District, this is who we are - the hands and feet of Jesus to our communities and across the globe!

As a District NMI family, we do well to care for and connect with our LINKS missionaries. Over the summer, several churches hosted Howie Shute, while he spent time at his camp in the North Central Mission Area, and heard from his missionary time in the Horn of Africa. In September, we welcomed Gary and Penney Sidle on Deputation, as they retire from the Zambia field. We were blessed by their report from their many years in ministry, as well as encouraged and challenged to remember that “With God, all things are possible.” They were blessed by your congregations as well. So thank you. We look forward to hosting our 2024 LINKS missionaries, Monte and Bethany Cyr, when they come for a Deputation tour from August 13-25. Thank you to all of the churches who plan to host them! They too look forward to their visit and are grateful for the support and prayers we provided them in 2024. Our 2025 LINKS missionaries are Milly and Agnes Ibanda, a Congolese couple and their five children, serving in Madagascar, East Africa. They both attended and taught at Africa Nazarene University (ANU), as well as other Nazarene Theological institutions in Africa. We are excited to build a relationship with them this year!

In continuing our partnership with ANU, District NMI purchased \$2,000 in tools and supplies for them, and sent it all with a Nazarene Missions Team from the New England District who went there in February 2025. These much-needed tools, not easily obtainable in Kenya, will allow future teams, missionaries, and the local volunteers serving at ANU to effectively and efficiently complete building, maintenance, and renovation tasks as needed.

From September 19-28, 2025, we’re sending a Nazarene Missions Team of 22 amazing people to Guatemala, to Barrio La Florida in San Luis (northern Peten region) to construct a large covered shelter, as part of a bigger project to expand and upgrade the Nazarene church there. They will also engage in personal evangelism and VBS with local missionaries. The construction project costs \$10,000, and the District NMI Council asks everyone to prayerfully consider contributing to the project fund. Upstate NY District, let’s do this and send them well! See Pastor Eric Verbovszky, the Nazarene Missions Team Coordinator, for information about how to give! Please pray for this team, as they prepare over the next several months, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Guatemala.

To close out the year, several Upstate NY District folks attended the USA/Canada Region evangelism M25 Conference in Kansas City, MO from February 10-12. This year's focus is "Bringing People to Jesus," the third stage of the "Cycle of Resurgence," USA/Canada's current multiyear focus plan. This includes praying for 65,000 new followers of Christ and for a return to our roots when there was an active and impactful Church of the Nazarene in every county across the United States and Canada! Just imagine what that would look like in Upstate NY today! God can and wants to raise the dry bones back to life in places that *may seem* dead. He wants to send us to those familiar places and people in our lives and to the unfamiliar – and work through us to make it happen. Stan Reeder, USA/Canada's Regional Director, exhorted the assembly during the first plenary session of the conference with this: “The Gospel will never fail. The Gospel can’t fail. The Gospel must not fail. Help us find our [the Church] identity in a heart for lost people.” Lord Jesus, we want to be agents in this revival that is coming! We say, “Yes! Send us!” Amen!

Respectfully Submitted in Christ,
Kimberly Sadowski
Upstate NY District NMI Interim President

2024-2025 Upstate District NMI President's Report

Distinguished Service Awards

Name	Date	Church
Diana Kissel	12/29/2024	Auburn
Duane Mattes	12/29/2024	Auburn
Milton Kemp	5/26/2024	Owego
Rhonda Barnes	5/11/2024	District NMI Council
Richard Post	3/3/2024	Calvary Community
Ronald Norman Sr.	6/16/2024	Endicott Community

NMI Memorial Roll

Name	Church
Donald R. Schmitt I	Owego
Ellen Story	Owego
Evelyn Riggall	Fulton
Hilda R. Taylor	Owego
Jean Schmitt	Owego
Lorraine M. Spencer	Endicott Community
Mary Calderwood	Fulton
Norma Rowand	Syracuse Christ Community
Robert Owen	Fulton
Sandra Rosser	Owego

2024-2025 Upstate District NDI President's Report

Greetings to Dr. Chambo, Dr. Metcalf, friends and family members of the Body of Christ in the Upstate New York District!

It's a privilege to report to you on this past year of our efforts as a district in the area of Discipleship. It has been a year of trial and error as I have learned a lot about this position as well as the overall state of discipleship across the District. I have been blessed with a great team of people who are passionate about discipleship and serving the church. I would like to thank the Pastors on the NDI board, Nate Patnode, Abreana Guthrie, Polly Carman, Janae Meyer, and Emily McCulla as well as the lay leaders, Gloria Lanning, Marilyn Dominick, Tim Schmitt, and Kent McCroskey. They have been very helpful, gracious, and patient with my transition to this position.

Over the past year, we took a step back to reflect on what discipleship looks like at the district level and how we, as the NDI board, can better support local churches in this area. We scaled back certain efforts while launching new initiatives, aiming for greater impact. Additionally, we increased our financial support for several ongoing projects we deemed worthy of further investment. To sharpen our focus on the why behind our mission, we walked through Tim Soerens' book, *Everywhere You Look*, as a team.

The following paragraphs highlight some of the key moments and accomplishments from this past year.

Under the leadership and guidance of Pastor Elizabeth Criscuolo, we sought to expand our efforts through the Peace Initiative. By strategically working together through restorative circles, strengthening communication skills, and finding creative approaches to reconciliation and resolution, our goal is to build stronger communities while promoting and maintaining healthy churches.

Pastor Liz, in collaboration with Moira Osario from ACCORD, led a virtual workshop to introduce some of our pastors and leaders to the benefits of restorative circles. The webinar was impactful, opening attendees' eyes to new methods of conflict resolution. However, subsequent training sessions saw lower attendance, likely due to widespread fatigue with virtual meetings.

Moving forward, we plan to prioritize more in-person gatherings tailored to the specific needs of our communities, fostering deeper engagement and collaboration.

Recognizing a general lack of male involvement in the church, we made it a priority to focus on engaging men in ministry. Tim Schmitt, who has a deep passion for this work and has witnessed God move powerfully through intentional men's ministries in his local context, led us through a workshop on this topic.

The session covered practical steps for initiating conversations with local contacts and building strong, lasting relationships. Participants also shared tips and personal experiences of how they had seen God at work through men's ministries in their own settings.

The training was well received, and we are hopeful that it will serve as a foundation for expanding our efforts—discipling more men and encouraging greater involvement in the local church.

Pastor Leslie Davies led another successful Children's Camp this past year. With the support of Big Blast Ministries, they witnessed God move powerfully through both children and their parents. The camp welcomed 16 kids and 12 parents/guardians—matching the attendance from the previous year. However, this time they added an extra night, which everyone agreed was the perfect amount of time.

Families enjoyed a variety of activities, including free snow cones, a bounce house, basketball, chalk, bubbles, and outdoor games. The Olympic Games and *Water Fun Wednesday* were standout highlights, featuring the Water Monster, a wet bounce house, a slip-and-slide, and a whopping 600 water balloons.

The evening activities were especially memorable. Kids raved about the epic experiences, which included a movie night with free popcorn and Twizzlers, a glow-in-the-dark dance party (which was, of course, *legendary*), and a massive bonfire with s'mores. During the fireside time, children and parents shared their favorite moments of the week and reflected on their closest encounters with Jesus. This time of sharing was deeply meaningful, as many spoke of how they had seen God move in their hearts and lives throughout the week.

As Pastor Leslie put it: "The fun is great—it gets them there. But then they come, and Jesus changes lives. Jesus strengthens families. Jesus heals and mends broken relationships. Jesus moves!"

And *that* is why we do what we do.

I feel like God is going to do great things in this district in the coming years. It may not be easy and it may take some time, but I feel like if we're willing to open our eyes we will see where God's Kingdom is at work and how to jump in on the action.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I look forward to serving the district and the local churches better in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

AJ Fry
District NDI President

2024-2025 Upstate District NYI President's Report

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Chambo, Dr. Metcalf, and the entire Upstate District for the privilege of serving this past year as the District NYI President. The fact that you have entrusted me with stewarding a ministry that shapes and supports our teens and young adults is a responsibility I do not hold lightly. However, I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to also thank the parents, teenagers, and young adults that make this ministry worthwhile. The countless volunteers, council members, and event coordinators that do the work are the real reason this ministry is possible. If not clear, I am incredibly humbled that I get the chance to work with and for this incredible ministry. Thank you.

This past year was my first and, wowzer, it was a learning curve! In March, I got the chance to go to Salt Lake City, Utah for the annual NYI leadership conference. That was where I met the majority of our field NYI leaders. It was so encouraging to hear that the first year is always a confusing one. They offered wise advice and encouragement for the future.

As far as our teens this past year, a story is necessary to understand what God is up to. Teen camp was wet. In case you have forgotten, we had a tropical storm sitting on us the entire week. Our leaders and teens did the best they could to adjust for the unexpected downpours but it was shaping up to be a less than memorable experience, until God moved. Every night, our speakers left the altars open. While there was no formal altar call, the teens clearly wanted to spend more time working on their lives with God. We have heard stories of students working through pretty hard situations or choices. The altars were packed and by the end of the week, as we sat around a makeshift campfire, they told stories of how they had experienced God in new ways. Confessions, callings, and life transformation were the result of that week.

That story would be good enough if it ended there, but it doesn't. Fast forward, we have had reports all across the district of congregations being transformed from the testimonies of these teenagers! Reports of entire families deciding to follow Christ, student-led Bible studies, new youth groups, students who felt like outsiders being invited into the community. These stories are just a small portion of what God is doing on our district through our teenagers. We continue to pray for more of their lives to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. May they seek the Kingdom first in all they do.

Our young adult ministry on the district is getting a reboot. Statistically, this group is leaving the Church across denominations. However, the people I have encountered are hungry for belonging and community. My hope and desire is that we are able to create a space on the Upstate district that helps to foster just that. Then, working with local congregations, the hope is that young adults would get plugged into an even larger family. This past year saw the return of the young adult retreat which was a success after being off the calendar for several years. We heard comments that it was nice to have a place to remember old stories and connect with old friends. For the future, we are hoping to host two events a year in the winter and summer. Ideally we would have meet ups around the district at different times just to be reminded that we aren't alone.

Lastly, my heart is yearning for a network of youth workers on the district. As I have tried to plug in this past year, I have found it difficult to know “who” are the ones discipling our teens and young adults. I attempted to start a network call once a quarter but fell short because of my overwhelmed schedule. This next year, I am hopeful that this will get off the ground. Ministry can feel lonely and isolating; we are better when we work together!

I am hopeful for what the Lord is doing and going to do on the Upstate New York District. I am praying for unity as we serve our teens, young adults, and their families. I am praying for God’s righteousness to be the desire of our young people’s hearts. I am praying for a district that recognizes a need for teenagers in their congregations and is committed to getting their hands dirty. Most of all, I am praying that we are known as a district that loves our teens and young adults in whatever life stage they find themselves. May they know the Kingdom of God because we have been obedient to loving them well throughout their lives!

In grace and peace,
Pastor Chelsea Fry
NYI District President

Director of Chaplain Ministries

This year I was able to begin supporting those within our district that are either assigned chaplains, or exploring chaplain ministries. We met via zoom for introductions and then communicated via email supporting each other during the year. Historically, our denominational headquarters has supported our chaplains through the provision of resources, networking and mentoring. In 2008, several changes were made, prompting districts to navigate many of what had been centralized responsibilities. Recently, initiatives have been explored and Global Clergy development created an executive committee that is designing a system to provide mutual resourcing, support, networking and mentoring. I have been appointed to this executive committee and most recently elected as co-chair. This March we met in Chicago for the first time in person. We worked diligently for the Church of the Nazarene, for she is wonderful. I am excited for what is to come. This work and the supports offered are foundational to what I hope to continue to offer as the district chaplain director as well.

Attached you will find the reports of two of our Upstate NY District assigned chaplains. It is important that you hear their stories. I would also like to share with you my own. As the Director of Spiritual Care at UR Thompson Hospital I have the great privilege of companioning and shepherding patients and staff. Staff care is a primary focus for me and I have developed deep relationships with many in the hospital. They share their daily lives with me.. They, like you, have needs and include a variety of things including caring for aging parents, navigating illness, financial stressors or celebrating their child's milestones. I enjoy seeing pictures from ball games and being invited into their lives and events. It is a gift. Patient care is also part of my ministry at UR Thompson. I often say that the management part of my job has my head, but the bedside will always have my heart. My interfaith work is grounded in the firm beliefs of our Wesleyan Holiness tradition and God's wonderful and mysterious prevenient grace. All people are beloved and belong. As a professional chaplain I am trained in trauma informed care. I work closely with the palliative care physicians and serve on the hospital ethics committee. I facilitate critical incident debriefs, staff "circles of care" and grief groups. Religious rituals, sacraments and traditions are also part of my work, whether it be a wedding, an Ash Wednesday or Good Friday service, the Blessing of Hands or funerals, I am called upon to pastor. As the department has grown, we have added new staff and I have been moved from Manager to Director. This is offered points of vocational growth. As well as my board certification received from the Association of Professional chaplains. This is a culmination of years of work and demonstration of specific and detailed competencies. This year has been a delight and I look forward to how God will continue to move in and through me to others. My prayer is that Christ is seen in me, and in that, people know they are beloved and belong to Him.

Rev. Janice D. Lum MDiv, RN, PBCC
District Chaplain Director
Director of Spiritual Care UR Thompson Hospital

Rev. Eric Verbovsky
Chaplain (Major)
U.S. Army Reserve

During the 2024-2025 church year, I had the honor and privilege of serving as Chaplain to Soldiers of 3rd Brigade, 98th Training Division. The brigade is comprised of Army Reserve Drill Sergeants and consists of 3 Battalions located throughout the northeast, from Maryland to Maine. Ministry conducted throughout the year involved regular chapel services, pastoral care and counseling, and ensuring every Soldiers' constitutional right to the free exercise of their religion. Additionally, I advised command teams on issues of ethics, morals, morale, and religion. Additional ministry included the following:

- 9 "Words of the Day," challenging and inspiring Soldiers
- 14 counseling sessions on topics ranging from relationships, grief, death, family, suicide, work, stress, life, to health
- 9 Chapel services
- Invocation and benediction at 3 Change of Command military ceremonies
- A visit to Gettysburg National Military Park where I gave a report to fellow Soldiers on Chaplain William Corby, Union Chaplain during the Civil War

- Coordinating spiritual readiness training for mobilizing units
- Honoring fallen Soldiers through remembrance ceremony planning and coordination
- Coordinated for another Chaplain to provide pastoral care for Soldiers when I was not able to be present
- Attended the “Army Reserve Battle Focused Training” professional development week where Chaplains from all over the country focused on how to best provide ministry during combat operations
- Traveled to Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA in July 2024 with Soldiers doing valuable ministry of presence, challenging and encouraging individuals
- Attended M25 with fellow Nazarene military Chaplains as we looked at how we apply the gospel to a military context

Overall, this ministry continues to shape me as much as I pray it shapes the Soldiers I interact with. I continue to plant seeds through both words and actions that demonstrate the love of Christ. Soldiers have expressed that they are challenged to read scripture, allow God to shape how they live, treat others with dignity and respect, and have a positive and hopeful outlook. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to use me to impact people in small and large ways as I continue this ministry.

In Christ,
Eric Verbovszky

Rev. Andrew Ames
US Army Chaplain

Military Chaplaincy is a calling unlike any other. A year ago, I was parachuting from a plane with hundreds from my “congregation” into the arctic air and living in -80 degree weather for weeks as part of an annual exercise. Shortly after, I moved my family from Alaska to North Carolina and began a new assignment. Deploying with this team found me in a place with incredible historic significance. I had the joy of baptizing 18 people in the river where Jesus was baptized, then leading a moral leadership discussion at the place where King David had Uriah killed.

Of course, it wasn’t all fun and adventure. There were also moments of hurt as well. I sat with people who were detoxing from alcohol addiction, those with career ending injuries, marriages struggling to survive and those that were calling it quits. That is the job of a military chaplain, to be where the people are. Look when others look away, stand next to someone when everyone else has left. We call it muddy boots ministry – a chaplain goes with and to the congregation. Our charge is to bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers.

Serving in the on-post chapel has provided opportunities to preach the Gospel and the call to holiness. I serve as the preaching lead and develop the sermon series’ and guide other chaplains as they craft their messages. This is a critical role in this environment since the pulpit is shared by several chaplains due to frequent travel and exercises causing absences. This provides good continuity of care for the congregants.

Some of the larger initiatives this year have included marriage enrichment workshops, ethical decision-making seminars, moral resiliency, spiritual and family life enhancement, support to deployed troops, and personal resiliency training. Advising the command teams on matters that affect the mission are also a huge part of chaplaincy. This helps to create a culture within the organization that enables our work and brings satisfaction to life.

The support of the Church of the Nazarene ensures that chaplains are cared for through our endorsing agent, much the way pastors are by their District Superintendents. Continuing education ensures we are abreast of newest practices in pastoral care and counseling. The churches bylaws provide excellent guidance for the support we can provide. The Nazarene military chaplains have an excellent reputation across the force, and we greatly appreciate the prayers, support and encouragement from our sending churches and the denomination at large.

Chaplain Andrew Ames
US Army

District Finance Committee Report

We, your Assembly Finance Committee, submit the following recommendations:

Explanation of Calculation of Funds

1. That the latest Fund Formula of the General Board and Board of General Superintendents be followed. We should prayerfully plan for and promote 100% payment of every Fund.
 - a. The World Evangelism Fund will be 5.5% of total monies raised based on the current year's income, less approved Mission Specials.
 - b. The Eastern Field Education Fund will be 2.5% of total monies raised based on the current year's income, less WEF/approved Mission Specials.
 - c. Nazarene Benefits, USA, will be 2.00% of total monies raised based on the current year's income, less WEF/approved Mission Specials.
 - d. The District Fund will be 6.75% of total monies raised based on the current year's income, less WEF/approved Mission Specials. This includes the auxiliary budgets and the Brooktondale Camp and Retreat Center.

All funds should be sent to the District for disbursement to the appropriate funds—Upstate New York District, PO Box 573 Henrietta, NY 14467. Each treasurer will send with the check a copy of the chart provided at the end of this document to help the district know the breakdown of the monies for each allocation.

Local

2. That each church be encouraged in the stewardship of its possession as this is related to wills and estate gifts on behalf of continuing generosity to the ministry of the local church. Further resources are available through the stewardship ministry of the general church to guide members of each congregation.
3. That any church seeking to acquire a new mortgage, or refinance an existing mortgage must have written approval from the District Superintendent and the District Properties Board per *Manual* 103.
4. That each local church provides Medical/Hospitalization Insurance coverage and Long-term Disability Insurance for their pastor and family, and staff. Each church is to consider including a Dental allowance as part of the benefits. We would caution pastors and churches in making unresearched changes in health insurance coverage for the parsonage family, based solely on premium cost, without comparison of coverage. Each local church should attempt to assume payment of its pastor's portion of this cost. If any situation develops threatening to cause cancellation of coverage, the district office is to be notified.
5. All churches must submit a written request for the continuance of staff every year through the District Superintendent. Approval from the DS is guided as it relates to the local church to meet all obligations..
6. A congregation should only request approval to go into debt or refinancing for any building or capital improvements when it has shown its ability and willingness to pay all of its allocations in full, in harmony with the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene. (Further reference: *Manual* Para. 103, 104, 159-159.8, 211.13, 237)

7. That churches and church-type missions receiving district support may not increase expenditures for buildings, equipment, vehicles, annual salaries, or purchases of any single item amounting to more than five percent of their annual income without the written approval of the District Superintendent and the District Advisory Board. *Furthermore, all local churches that are supported financially by the District shall submit their financial report to the District Treasurer every quarter, as well as an annual budget, which shall be submitted by March 1 of each year. Churches receiving district support must have a budget that is reviewed annually, make allocation payments to the district, and strive to meet all other allocations.*
8. That, realizing the importance of the World Evangelism Fund, our churches do not undertake missions or Work and Witness trips until adequate plans have been implemented to assure the full payment of their World Evangelism allocation, which is the lifeline of the Global Mission program.
9. That each church board adopt an annual budget for use as a tool in monitoring its finances every month. (*Manual* Para. 129.6, 129.7) Each local church treasurer and/or auxiliary treasurer is to submit an itemized financial report to the monthly meeting of the local church board, and these reports are to be posted every month for the church to review. All bank and investment statements should be provided to the church board upon request. The financial records should be reviewed annually by the finance committee. (*Manual* Para. 129.21, 129.22) The district treasurer stands ready with counsel or advice upon request. In addition, we recommend that each church have its books reviewed by an outside auditing firm at least every three years. (*Manual* Para. 129.23)
10. That each local church should make an annual contribution to the Nazarene Bible College and the Nazarene Theological Seminary.
11. A church Treasurer and Pastor can access up-to-date reports of their budget allocations on the Church of the Nazarene's Funding the Mission portal found at <https://fundingthemission.org>. If access needs to be gained, reach out to the district office.

District

1. That the District Superintendent be granted five weeks' vacation with pay to be taken at his/her discretion.
2. That the District Advisory Board evaluate the District Superintendent's need for a plan to provide a period of rest, renewal, and study; and that such a plan would be mutually agreed upon so that it would benefit both the District Superintendent and the District about short and long term of their ministry objectives, and that financial arrangements for that period be mutually agreed upon. The District Advisory Board shall evaluate this plan during the 5th year of the District Superintendent's tenure to be taken no later than the 7th year of his/her tenure.
3. That district personnel, such as members of district boards and committees, be reimbursed at their request at the rate of \$.50 per mile while traveling on district business, unless otherwise agreed upon.
4. That the District Superintendent, District Advisory Board, District Secretary, District Treasurer, and other such personnel as may be designated by the District Superintendent, who are not sent by their local church as a delegate, be granted partial assistance for expenses at the

District Assembly and that these be determined by the District Advisory Board before the District Assembly.

5. That the District Treasurer has the books reviewed within 90 days from the close of the District Assembly by a public accountant every year. The District Treasurer presents a certificate of review to the District Advisory Board, and the District Treasurer confers with the newly elected auxiliary treasurers concerning bookkeeping procedures.
6. That all money received from the sale of properties of disorganized churches, less encumbrances and costs will be received by the District Advisory Board for the Missional Initiative fund.

Ministerial Support

The New Testament church recognized that the persons called to be pastors, associates, evangelists, and teachers should make that ministry their primary task and should give themselves to it fully. The local church will honor God with the determined and faithful financial support of the God-called minister!

We recommend the following:

Pastor's Cash Salary

- A. That each church endeavors to employ its pastor on a full-time basis. Churches with a bi-vocational pastor should review the circumstances that result in the need to supplement pastoral income as an opportunity to plan for the future growth of the church, including the goal of increased pastoral support to better enable the pastor to attend to the work of ministry in keeping with this sacred calling. Recognizing that some churches may be best served by a bi-vocational pastor, each should annually review steps to ensure the best care of their pastor as possible, coupled with the worthy goal of full support.
- B. That the church board of trustees and/or the finance committee initiate a salary review at least annually, within the budgetary process, and grant cost-of-living adjustments and cash salary adjustments in accordance with the spiritual and relational climate of the church.

Pastoral Benefits

- A. That each church reimburse all full-time pastors and associate(s) for their social security tax, with payments being made at least quarterly or proportionately with each salary check.
- B. That each church having a pastor and an associate or other paid staff shall provide worker's compensation and short-term disability coverage.
- C. That no pastor/full-time associate family be without health insurance and that the premiums are paid by the church unless satisfactory arrangements are made.
- D. That, when an active pastor or full-time associate becomes seriously ill, the church grants them a sick leave with full pay up to 90 days. If the illness continues longer, the termination of the leave is to be determined by the local church board in consultation with the district superintendent.
- E. That each church provides for all full-time pastors and associate(s) housing and utilities (including internet and phone expenses), except personal long-distance phone calls.
- F. That, since home equity cannot be earned by a pastor living in a church-owned parsonage, each church makes provision to offset this amount by investing an additional 5 percent above the pastor's salary in the pastor's name, toward the

- purchase of a home at retirement. Where possible, the above home equity is provided for full-time associate(s) as well.
- G. That all churches give full support to Nazarene Benefits USA, which benefits the pastor, full-time associate, retired pastors, and widowed spouses. In addition, the local church boards are encouraged to consider additional contributions to the pastor's TSA.
- H. That all pastors and full-time associates of the church, for personal renewal, be granted paid vacations according to the following guidelines: (time devoted to district functions and denominational meetings should not be considered vacation time).
- At least three weeks for pastors and full-time associates serving the denomination for 1 to 10 years.
 - At least four weeks for pastors and full-time associates serving the denomination for 11 to 15
 - Five weeks for pastors and full-time associates serving the denomination beyond 15 years.
- I. That each church considers a 5 percent tax-sheltered annuity for the full-time pastor and full-time associate(s) inasmuch as the retirement plan of Nazarene Benefits USA has thus recommended.
- J. That each church encourages the pastor and full-time associate(s) to enrich their ministerial training by providing funds and time for continuing education. This may include ministerial conventions, seminars, directed studies, special college and seminary courses, the purchase of professional development materials, and the payment of professional dues.
- K. That each local church pays the moving expenses of the incoming pastor and full-time associate(s). New IRS rules make moving expenses income, please be sure to plan accordingly.
- L. That each church give special consideration to their pastoral staff and families at Christmas and other appropriate times. We encourage a minimum of at least a week's salary to be given to them through love offering or the local church budget.
- M. That each church consider providing supplemental insurance for the pastor and/or associate(s). The District will provide one-time financial support for AFLAC, the district policy, to offset the cost of enrollment based on church size. Contact the district office for more information.
- N. Affirming the value of family and the importance of pastors modeling peaceful and integrated lives, local churches should consider providing maternity or paternity leave for their pastors and associates. Such a policy may contain the following provisions:
- Timing and duration of maternity or paternity leave should be determined by the mutual agreement of the pastor and church board prior to anticipated childbirth or adoption placement.
 - Maternity or paternity leave should be considered in addition to and separately from vacation.
 - The local church should consult with the pastor and District Superintendent to arrange for a supply pastor during the period of maternity or paternity leave.
 - During maternity or paternity leave, the pastor's full salary and benefits continue. Any other arrangement shall be placed in writing and signed by the pastor, secretary of the church board, and the District Superintendent.

Schedule A

A Pastor's Cash salary is defined by:

- Cash Compensation
- Employer Tax-Sheltered Annuity contribution

Schedule B

The following are costs of ministry expenses and should not be considered as a part of the Pastor's cash salary: Social Security Reimbursement, Worker's Compensation, Housing, Utilities, Travel Allowance, Entertainment Expenses, Continuing Education expenses, Insurance (Health, Long-Term Disability, Life, Dental, Disability)

Reimbursement for Local Church Expenses

- A. That each church is encouraged to pay the travel expenses for the pastor and full-time associate pastor(s) while on official church business at the approved IRS mileage allowance.
- B. That each church provide travel, food, and lodging expenses for each pastor and full-time associate pastor attending official district meetings when such expenses are not paid by the district.
- C. That each church reimburse the pastor and full-time associate pastor for any expenses involved in the entertainment of church guests, such as evangelists, missionaries, special speakers, and other persons with whom they are working on church business as directed by the church board.
- D. That each church provides a comfortable and well-equipped office/study for the pastor and full-time associate pastor(s). This provision should include supplies, postage, telephone, computer, and secretarial help when needed.
- E. We recommend that church boards review staff compensation packages annually, as part of the church budget process prior to the start of each new church year.

Remuneration and Benefits for Evangelists

- A. That full-time evangelist's remuneration should be equal to an amount equal to twice the pastor's salary for the number of Sundays of the meeting. He/She should be reimbursed for their travel expenses and receive proportional reimbursement for Social Security. The amount of the remuneration should be communicated to the evangelist before the meeting.
- B. That each full-time evangelist called by the local church be remembered at Christmas with a cash gift.

Pulpit-Supply Pastors

- A. That each local church sets remuneration for pulpit supply pastors based on mileage distance and the number of services held. A minimum of \$150, plus mileage, should be paid for pulpit supply
- B. That each local church take into consideration a hospitable provision of meals and a resting place when the pulpit supply pastor is staying for more than one service, or has a long distance to return home after the service.

Other Recommendations

- A. That our churches remember the retired ministers, missionaries, and evangelists within their membership with special and appropriate acts of love and kindness.
- B. That each church board review the recommendations of this committee annually; and that the district office send a copy of this report to each local church board secretary, treasurer and pastor for their review.
- C. Out of a deep concern that our pastors avoid stress and burnout and maintain a clear continuing vision for their church, we make the following recommendations:
 - a. That every pastor and full-time associate takes one day of rest every seven days. The congregation should make every effort possible to see that this day is free of unnecessary interruptions.
 - b. That the church board and the pastor bi-annually evaluate the pastor's need for a plan to provide a period of rest, renewal and study; and that such a plan would be mutually agreed upon so that it would benefit both the pastor and the church with regard to short and long term of their ministry objectives, and that financial arrangements for that period of time be mutually agreed upon. The church board shall evaluate this plan during the 3rd year of the pastor's tenure to be implemented no later than the 5th year of his/her tenure.
 - c. That, if the pastor and the church board find it difficult to have a prolonged period for the pastor to have rest, reflection, and renewal, they give consideration to providing one week for this purpose every seventh month in addition to the regular vacation time, possibly taken at the Brooktondale Nazarene Camp and Retreat Center.
 - d. That each church set aside weekly an amount established by the church board for expenses of its pastoral staff and spouse(s) to attend PALCON and other general church conferences including General Assembly, such time to be considered in addition to vacation time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Tharp, Chair
Rev. Paul Montague, Secretary
Dr. Olivia Metcalf, District Superintendent

Where to Send Allocation Funds

District Fund, World Evangelism, Education Allocation, and Nazarene Benefits, USA: Checks made payable to Upstate New York District, PO Box 573, Henrietta NY 14467

*The district will disburse these dollars for each church as designated on the form on the next page

Brooktondale Camp and Retreat Center: checks made payable and mailed to Brooktondale Camp & Retreat
Attn: Chris Davies, 120 White Church Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817

Nazarene Bible College: 17001 Praire Star Parkway, Suite #300, Lenexa, KS 66220

Nazarene Theological Seminary: 1700 East Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64131



The Church of the Nazarene is a Global Church that is deeply connected. We partner with one another to meet 100% of our allocations to honor God, serve the church, and partner with one another in the Mission. This is an act of our worship! Use the total offering received to calculate each percentage. Put that amount into the chart and send a check for the total.

Your Church Name: _____

Date of Offering: _____

Total Offering Amount: _____

World Evangelism Fund, 5.5%	
Nazarene Benefits, USA, 2%	
Eastern Field Education, 2.5%	
Upstate NY District, 6.75%	
Other offerings, optional	
Total amount of check	

Please mail your check to:

Upstate NY District Church of the Nazarene

PO Box 573

Henrietta, NY 14467



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World Evangelism Fund, 5.5%	
Nazarene Benefits, USA, 2%	
Eastern Field Education, 2.5%	
Upstate NY District, 6.75%	
Other offerings, optional	
Total amount of check	

Please mail your check to:

Upstate NY District Church of the Nazarene

PO Box 573

Henrietta, NY 14467

Section THREE

Financial Reports

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets		2025	2024
	Checking Account—Pathfinder	\$ 45,560	\$ 173,520
	Checking Account—BlueVine	\$ 399,073	\$ 813,445
	Long Term Investment	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Nazarene Foundation	\$ 4,470	\$ 4,146
	Investments—NY Life Annuity	\$ 2,407,625	\$ 2,334,371
	District Budget Payment	\$ 62,060	\$ 0
	Long Term Loan—Lockport	\$ 16,779	\$ 19,883
Total Current Assets		\$ 2,935,567	\$ 3,345,366
Fixed Assets—Land	Penn Yan Parsonage	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
	District Parsonage	\$ 39,000	\$ 0
	Liberian National Church	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	Wolcott Parsonage	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
	Watertown Property	\$ 179,086	\$ 170,086
	Lake Placid Parsonage	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Total Land		\$ 257,586	\$ 218,586
Buildings and Improvements	District Parsonage	\$ 351,000	\$ 0
	District Parsonage Improvements	\$ 8,967	\$ 8,967
	Penn Yan Parsonage	\$ 156,726	\$ 156,726
	Wolcott Parsonage	\$ 71,500	\$ 71,500
	Liberian Church	\$ 117,589	\$ 117,589
	Lake Placid Parsonage	\$ 189,000	\$ 189,000
Total Building and Improvements		\$ 894,782	\$ 543,782
Other			
	Office Computers and Equipment	\$ 11,528	\$ 11,528
	District Auto	\$ 45,454	\$ 45,454
Total Fixed Assets—Other		\$ 56,982	\$ 56,982
Accumulated Depreciation		\$ (381,112)	\$ (348,270)
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 3,763,805	\$ 3,815,733

Church Allocations, Part 1

District Allocations	2024-2025	2023-2024	Difference from 2023/24 to 2024/2025
Arcade Crossroads Community	\$ 3,367	\$ 3,100	\$ 267
Auburn	\$ 9,928	\$ 8,813	\$ 1,115
Binghamton	\$ 15,101	\$ 13,806	\$ 1,295
Bloomfield Roca de Salvacion	\$ 2,190	\$ 2,079	\$ 111
Buffalo First Church	\$ 4,019	\$ 4,059	\$ (40)
Canastota Discovery	\$ 3,544	\$ 4,302	\$ (758)
Carthage	\$ 6,483	\$ 6,548	\$ (65)
Corning	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,647	\$ (367)
Elmira First Church	\$ 3,739	\$ 3,031	\$ 708
Endicott Community	\$ 9,796	\$ 9,614	\$ 182
Fulton	\$ 6,350	\$ 5,640	\$ 710
Jamestown	\$ 7,472	\$ 7,468	\$ 4
Johnstown	\$ 282	\$ 260	\$ 22
Keeseville	\$ 5,005	\$ 4,841	\$ 164
LaFargeville	\$ 4,739	\$ 2,676	\$ 2,063
Liberian Temple of God in Christ	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Lowville Bethel	\$ 6,790	\$ 7,600	\$ (810)
Message of God Buffalo	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Owego	\$ 54,647	\$ 56,306	\$ (1,659)
Parish Faith	\$ 0	\$ 2,314	\$ (2,314)
Penn Yan Hope Community	\$ 2,090	\$ 1,937	\$ 153
Plattsburgh	\$ 20,050	\$ 17,340	\$ 2,710
Potsdam	\$ 8,767	\$ 7,796	\$ 971
Rochester Calvary Community	\$ 31,914	\$ 31,670	\$ 244
Rochester Cross of Christ Deliverance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Rochester Grace	\$ 12,012	\$ 13,575	\$ (1,563)
Rochester Spanish—Centro Gosen	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,011	\$ (3,011)
Rochester Trinity	\$ 9,160	\$ 12,738	\$ (3,578)
Sanborn Faith Community	\$ 3,229	\$ 5,821	\$ (2,592)
Schenectady	\$ 6,327	\$ 6,444	\$ (117)

Church Allocations, Part 2

District Allocations, Con't	2024-2025	2023-2024	Difference from 2023/24 to 2024/2025
Springwater	\$ 18,678	\$ 13,728	\$ 4,950
Syracuse Christ Community	\$ 25,062	\$ 41,144	\$ (16,082)
Syracuse Northside Community	\$ 8,286	\$ 5,012	\$ 3,274
Syracuse Shalom CTM	\$ 0	-	\$ 0
Syracuse Valley Worship Center	\$ 975	\$ 750	\$ 225
The Center Lakeville	\$ 2,914	\$ 2,490	\$ 424
Vermontville	\$ 1,600	\$ 250	\$ 1,350
Watertown Life Church	\$ 32,004	\$ 34,880	\$ (2,876)
Wilmington	\$ 4,799	\$ 5,010	\$ (211)
Wolcott New Life Community	\$ 5,406	\$ 4,875	\$ 531
Total Allocation Revenue	\$ 342,505	\$ 356,575	\$ (14,070)

2023-2024 General Fund—Schedule A

General Fund Income		\$404,829	\$384,351
Expenditures		2025	2024
	District Salaries, Wages, Honoraria	\$ 150,194	\$ 132,275
	Employee Benefits	\$ 67,448	\$ 82,013
	District Parsonage	\$ 17,957	\$ 6,673
	Office Building Expenses	\$ 3,443	\$ (843)
	District Office Expenses	\$ 16,887	\$ 8,992
	District Activities	\$ 43,986	\$ 43,291
	DS Professional Expense	\$ 25,580	\$ 22,911
	Brooktondale Support	\$ 40,622	\$ 32,681
	NDI, NMI, NYI Budgets	\$ 37,500	\$ 52,675
	Bank Fees	\$ 12	\$ 149
	Uncategorized Expense	\$ 0	\$ (4,000)
Total Expenditures		\$ 403,629	\$ 378,000
Total Income/Loss to Fund Before Depreciation		\$ 1,200	\$ 6,351
Depreciation Expense			
	District Owned Properties	\$ 32,262	\$ 30,199
	District Automobile	\$ 15,780	\$ 10,090
		\$ 48,621	\$ 40,289
Total Change in General Fund Balance		\$ (47,421)	\$ (33,938)

2024-2025 Missional Fund—Schedule B

Income to Fund		2025	2024
Sale of Property/Closing		\$ 103,856	\$ 666,623
Investment Earnings		\$ 73,254	\$ 83,297
Total Income to Fund		\$ 177,109.67	\$ 726,411.66
Expense Incurred From Fund Balance			
	Amherst	\$ 4,513	\$ 9,479
	Buffalo Temple of God in Christ	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,000
	Canastota	\$ 6,250	\$ 0
	Church Radiant	\$ 0	\$ 9,486
	Cross of Christ Deliverance Temple	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,500
	Horseheads Grace	\$ 1,419	\$ 4,221
	Ithaca South Hill	\$ 4,938	\$ 14,942
	Keeseville	\$ 489	
	Lake Placid	\$ 2,295	\$ 442
	Liberian	\$ 0	\$ 10,000
	Other	\$ 3,135	\$ 3,041
	Rochester Grace	\$ 3,370	\$ 0
	Watertown Property	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Wolcott New Life	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Total Church Support		\$ 57,654	\$ 72,826
District Training/ Development/Other			
	Church Planting/Conference/ Training		
	ENC	\$ 1,875	\$ 2,750
	Missional Grants	\$ 59,500	\$ 22,000
	Church Revitalization—VP	\$ 19,000	\$ 20,500
	Pastoral Care	\$ (5,129)	\$ 13,373
	Other	\$ 7,967	\$ 4,121
Total Training/ Development		\$ 83,213	\$ 59,994
Total Church/District Support Expense		\$ 140,867	\$ 132,820

2024-25 Urban and Missional Church Planting—Schedule C

Income in Fund		\$ 128,711	\$ 136,323
Income to Fund		2025	2024
	Grants	-	-
	Donations	-	-
	Syracuse Shalom	\$ 11,483	\$ 11,097
	Other Income—Sale of Property	-	-
	Rollover from Fund	\$ 128,711	\$ 136,323
Total Income		\$ 140,194	\$ 147,420
Expenses Incurred from Fund Balance			
	Syracuse Shalom	\$ 17,000	\$ 13,500
	Wolcott New Life—Spanish	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
	Other Expense	\$ 6,700	\$ 209
Total Expenditures		\$ 23,700	\$ 18,709
End of Year Church Plant Balance			
	Syracuse Shalom	\$ 5,865	\$ 11,382
	New Start	\$ 110,629	\$ 117,329
Total Church Plant Fund		\$ 116,494	\$ 128,711

2024-2025 Revenue

Revenue		2025	2024
	Missional Fund Income	\$ 0	\$ 1,500
	Nazarene Foundation	\$ 0	\$ 12,641
	Long Term Investment	\$ 0	\$ (17,605)
	Investments—NY Life Annuity	\$ 73,254	\$ 86,760
	Closure Transfers Income	\$ 103,856	\$ 666,623
Total Missional Fund Income		\$ 177,110	\$ 749,919
Church Planting			
	Urban and Missional Church Plant	\$ 0	\$ 779
	Syracuse Shalom	\$ 11,483	\$ 10,318
Total Church Planting		\$ 11,483	\$ 11,097
District Budget Income Total		\$ 342,376	\$ 367,005
Rentals			
	Rental Income—Amherst	\$ 3,900	\$ 2,400
	Rental Income—Ithaca South Hills Church	\$ 13,346	-
	Rental Income—Lake Placid	\$ 6,000	\$ 13,200
Total Rental Income		\$ 23,546	\$ 15,600
Interest			
	Interest Income	\$ 20,794	\$ 1,173
	Interest Income Mortgages	\$ 324	\$ 471
Total Interest Income		\$ 21,117	\$ 1,644
Misc. Revenue			
	Other	\$ 8,849	\$ 102
	Vision Partners	\$ 8,941	\$ 7,083
Total Misc Revenue		\$ 17,790	\$ 7,185
Total Revenue		\$ 593,422	\$ 1,152,450

2025-2026 Projected Budget—District Budget

Projected Revenue	
Allocation Estimate	\$ 345,000
Rental Income	\$ 4,800
Interest Revenue	\$ 18,000
Transfer from Missional Fund	\$ 14,700
Total	\$ 382,500
Salaries, Wages, Honoraria	
Total	\$ 157,012
Employee Benefits	
Total	\$ 52,700
District Parsonage	
Total	\$ 11,000
Rent for District Office	\$ 3,500
Total	\$ 3,500
District Office Expense	
Total	\$ 25,200
District Activities	
Total	\$ 47,500
Business and Professional Expenses	
Total	\$ 34,500
Camp Operations	
Total	\$ 41,980
NDI, NMI, and NYI	
Total	\$ 32,000
Total Expenses	\$ 382,500

Funded Accounts

Pastoral Care	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 22,000	\$ 0
Income	\$ 9,358.36	\$ 0
Expense	\$ (899.81)	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 30,458.55	\$ 0
Pastor's Crisis Fund	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Income	\$ 0	\$ 5,000
Expense	\$ (1,800)	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 3,200	\$ 5,000
Church Revitalization	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 88,083.2	\$ 100,000
Income	\$ 8,940.52	\$ 7,083.2
Expense	\$ (19,000)	\$ (19,000)
Remainder in Fund	\$ 78,023.72	\$ 88,083.2
Missional Grants	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 59,500	\$ 22,000
Income	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
Expense	\$ (59,500)	\$ (22,000)
Remainder in Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
District Owned Parsonages	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 62,463.05	\$ 0
Income	\$ 0	\$ 75,000
Expense	\$ 5,000	\$ (12,536.95)
Remainder in Fund	\$ 57,463.05	\$ 62,463.05
Church Building Fund	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 75,000	\$ 0
Loans granted	\$ (2,455)	\$ 0
Loan repayments	\$ 2,455	\$ 0
Grants given	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 0.00

Funded Accounts

DS Parsonage	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
Income	\$ 0	\$ 0
Expense	\$ 0	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
DS Car Fund	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Income	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Expense	\$ 0	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Office Laptops	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0
Income	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
Expense	\$ 0	\$ 0
Remainder in Fund	\$ 2,000	\$ 0
General Assembly	2025	2024
Starting Balance	\$ 7,800	\$ 0
Annual Addition	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800
Total Income to Fund	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 7,800.00
Funded Account Total	\$ 515,351	

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

Assets		2025	2024
	Cash in Bank	\$ 81,858	\$ 96,286
	Other Assets--equipment	\$ 60,262	\$ 60,262
	Investment in Properties	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
Total Assets		\$ 1,442,210	\$ 1,456,548
Fund Balance			
	Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 69,237	\$ 69,237
	Equipment Fund	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Day Care Facility Fund	\$ 599	\$ 599
	John Bean Memorial Fund	\$ 500	\$ 500
	McLain Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,060	
	Playground Fund	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,261
	Keister Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Basketball Area Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Motel Fund	\$ (3,371)	\$ 402
Ending Fund Balance		\$ 74,913	\$ 73,999

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center Financial Report, Con't

Statement of Activity

Revenue		2024	2023
	Family Camp	\$ 30,749	\$ 27,351
	Children's Camp	\$ 1,905	\$ 1,425
	789 Camp	\$ 0	\$ 400
	Senior High Camp	\$ 8,381	\$ 8,955
	Other Camp	\$ 10,455	\$ 8,350
	Snack Shack/Gathering Place	\$ 6,718	\$ 7,022
	District Support	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,479
	Capital Improvement Income	\$ 17,211	\$ 7,971
	Other Income	\$ 93	\$ 52
	Total Income	\$ 80,969	\$ 65,410
Expenses	Family Camp	\$ 3,709	\$ 3,619
	Children's Camp	\$ 733	\$ 935
	789 Camp	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Senior High Camp	\$ 3,656	\$ 5,800
	Other Camp	\$ 3,295	\$ 7,616
	Snack Shack/Gathering Place	\$ 7,547	\$ 5,489
	Office Administration	\$ 11,170	\$ 25,427
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 15,232	\$ 7,801
	Utilities	\$ 14,880	\$ 17,629
	Capital Improvement Expense	\$ 56,637	\$ (4,900)
	Total Expenditures	\$ 136,300	\$ 75,316
Net Operating Revenue		\$ (55,288)	\$ (9,906)

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center Financial Report, Con't

2025-2026 Budget

Revenue		2025
	Family Camp	\$ 30,600
	Children's Camp	\$ 2,000
	789 Camp	\$ 0
	Senior High Camp	\$ 8,500
	Other Camp	\$ 10,500
	Snack Shack/Gathering Place	\$ 6,800
	District Support	\$ 5,500
	Capital Improvement Income	\$ 16,000
	Total Income	\$ 79,900
Expenses	Family Camp	\$ 3,800
	Children's Camp	\$ 800
	789 Camp	\$ 0
	Senior High Camp	\$ 3,900
	Other Camp	\$ 4,800
	Snack Shack/Gathering Place	\$ 5,500
	Office Administration	\$ 23,250
	Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 15,400
	Utilities	\$ 17,600
	Capital Improvement Expense	
	Total Expenditures	\$ 0
Net Operating Revenue		\$ 79,900

NDI Financial Report

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Revenue		2025-2026
	District Budget	\$ 0
	Total Income	\$ 0
Expenses		
	Camp Ministry	\$ 3,800
	Empowered Ministry	\$ 3,100
	District Events/Convention	\$ 2,695
	Council Expenses	\$ 3,450
	Peace Initiative	\$ 3,150
	General Assembly Fund	\$ 3,755
Total District Ministries		\$ 19,950

NDI Financial Report

2024-2025 Assets and Statement of Activity

Financial Position		2024-2025
	Checking Account	\$ 22,771
	Savings Account	\$ 6,597
Total Financial Assets		\$ 29,368
Designated Saving		
	Chairperson Conference	\$ 0
	Peace Conference	\$ 1,000
	General Assembly	\$ 3,755
Total Designated		\$ 4,755

Revenue		2024
	District Allocation	\$ 0
	Kid's Camp Reimbursements	\$ 9
	Account Interest	\$ 1
	Total Income	\$ 10
Expenses		
	101 Children's Ministry	\$ 3,325
	103 District Event/District Convention	\$ 1,987
	104 Council Expenses	\$ 1,317
	2024 Chairman Conference	\$ 971
	Transferred to Savings for Chairman Conf.	\$ 700
	Transferred to Savings for Peace Conference	\$ 1,000
	Transferred to Savings for General Assembly	\$ 3,755
Total Expense		\$ 13,055
Net Income		\$ (13,045)
Unspent \$ 23-24 Budget		\$ 3,761
Unspent \$ for Chair Conf.		\$ 1,829

NMI Financial Report

2024-2025 Statement of Activity

Revenue		2024-2025
	District Budget	\$ 15,550
	WIF Dividend	\$ 446
	Total Income	\$ 15,996
Expenses		
	Administration	\$ 2,374
	Education, Training, Global Convention	\$ 7,403
	Missions Support	\$ 1,135
Total Expenses		\$ 10,927
Remainder		
	NMT (Guatemala) Project Funds	\$ 2,300
	NMT 23 Participants	\$ 2,700
Restricted		
	Global Convention	\$ 15,867
	NMT - Project Fund	\$ 7,789
	Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,230
Total Restricted		\$ 35,709
Unrestricted		
	Savings not restricted	\$ 16,883
Total Assets		\$ 52,592
	Budget Request of 2024-2025	
Total Budget Request		\$ 15,875

NYI Financial Report

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Revenue		2025
	District Budget	\$ 36,621
	Total Income	\$ 36,621
Expenses		
	Administrated Operations	\$ 7,521
Total Admin		\$ 7,521
District Ministry		
	NYI Convention	\$ 1,500
	Teen Camp	\$ 6,500
	Youth Worker Retreat	\$ 3,000
	Back to School Bash	\$ 500
	Fall Retreat	\$ 1,800
	Ministry Kids Retreat	\$ 600
	Young Adult Ministry	\$ 1,500
	Encounter	\$ 500
Total District Ministries		\$ 15,000
Field/Global Ministry		
	Leadership Conference	\$ 3,400
	NYC	\$ 2,500
	Global NYI Convention	\$ 3,000
	Third Wave	\$ 350
	Quest	\$ 1,850
Total Field/Global Ministries		\$ 11,100
Savings Fund		
	NYC Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,000
	Teen event Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,000
Total Field/Global Ministries		\$ 3,000
Total NYI Budget		\$ 36,621

NYI Financial Report, Con't

Statement of Activity 2024-2025

NYI Finance Report 2024-2025					
	2024-2025	End 2023-24	2024-2025	2024-2025	
	Adopted Budget	Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expense	YTD Balance
General Income					
District Budget 23-24	\$ 22,000		\$ 22,000		\$ 22,000
Interest			\$ 5		\$ 5
Administrative					
Bank/Office Supplies	\$ 100			\$ 1	\$ 0
District Leadership Conference	\$ 1,700		\$ 434	\$ 535	
General Postage	\$ 50			\$ 13	
Honorarium - Camp Directors	\$ 400			\$ 400	
Honorarium - President	\$ 300			\$ 300	
President Expense Reimbursement	\$ 1,000			\$ 40	
Regional Dues	\$ 1,300				
Travel/Meetings	\$ 1,000				
Planning Center Subscription	\$ 168			\$ 168	\$ 0
District Ministry					
Leadership Training - QUEST	\$ 500				
Young Adult Retreat	\$ 1,400	\$ 100	\$ 547	\$ 1,630	\$ 417
NYI Convention - District	\$ 1,400	\$ 50		\$ 1,483	\$ (33)
Family Camp					
Camp Scholarships (donation)		\$ 30			\$ 30
Camp 789/Sr High	\$ 2,450				
Camp 789 Scholarship		\$ 23			\$ 23
Camp 789 Certification Fee	\$ 150				
Sr High Camp	\$ 2,450		\$ 8,138	\$ 13,665	\$ (627)
Sr High Camp Scholarship		\$ 9			\$ 9
Sr High Camp Certification Fee	\$ 26,884				
Back to School Bash	\$ 250	\$ 779		\$ 278	\$ 751
Fall Retreat	\$ 1,400				
ENC Student Homecoming Treats					
Young Adult Ministry					
Bible Quizzing	\$ 500				
District Activities Scholarship	\$ 500				
President's Discretionary Fund		\$ 49			\$ 49
Work & Witness		\$ 1,312		\$ 650	\$ 662
Miscellaneous				\$ 30	\$ (30)

NYI Financial Report, Con't

Statement of Activity 2024-2025

NYI Finance Report 2024-2025, con't					
	2024-2025	End 2023-24	2024-2025	2024-2025	
	Adopted Budget	Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expense	YTD Balance
Global/Field Ministry					
Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC)	\$ 2,500				\$ 2,500
NYC Scholarship Fund					
Global NYI Convention	\$ 2,000				\$ 2,000
ENC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 500				\$ 500
TOTALS	\$ 22,000	\$ 2,351	\$ 31,124	\$ 19,193	
2/28/2025 Savings Account Balance		\$ 20,314			\$ 20,332
2/28/2025 Checking Account Balance		\$ 7,402			\$ 19,334
TOTAL FUNDS		\$27,716			
Savings Funds					
Designated:					
Nazarene Youth Conference		\$ 5,000			\$ 7,500
NYC Scholarship Fund					\$ 2,530
Brooktondale Teen Center Upgrade		\$ 2,257			\$ 0
Leadership Training - QUEST		\$ 2,448			\$ 0
Young Adult Ministry		\$ 2,934			\$ 2,934
Young Adult Retreat		\$ 3,308			\$ 0
Camp 789 Certification Fee		\$ 265			\$ 0
Sr High Camp Certification Fee		\$ 225			\$ 0
Global Convention		\$ 2,508			\$ 4,508
Teen Event Scholarship Fund					\$ 1,000
Total Designated		\$ 18,945			\$ 18,472
Non-Designated:					
General Savings Funds (NYC '15 excess)		\$ 530			\$ 1,026
Other (undesignated) Funds		\$ 832			\$ 832
Total Non-designated		\$ 1,362			\$ 1,858
Total Savings Funds		\$ 20,308			\$ 20,332

Section FOUR

District & Local Reports

Upstate NY District Totals

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/2024	2024/2025
Membership	4,250	4,156	3,985	3,819	3,635
Total Members Received	114	203	282	177	210
New Conversions	120	140	198	228	230
Baptisms	39	63	84	155	205
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	3,121	2,666	2,468	2,687	2,728
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	2,451	2,311	2,021	2,323	2,428
Total Church Income	\$5,475,570	\$5,669,436	\$5,755,860	\$5,890,370	\$5,656,240
Educational Fund	\$106,097	\$109,083	\$105,560	\$116,350	\$117,255
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$444,295	\$474,479	\$391,558	\$412,266	\$384,294
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$109,281	\$115,123	\$109,438	\$117,422	\$101,465
District Unified Fund	\$311,805	\$327,944	\$310,861	\$367,005	\$337,368
% Given to Nazarene Missions	8.11%	8.37%	6.8%	7.00%	6.79%

Growth Chart

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/2024	2024/2025
Accountability Care List	5,467	4,962	5,219	5,946	8,331
Licensed Local Ministers	20	12	12	12	13
District Licensed Ministers	14	15	11	14	10
Ordained Ministers (Elders and Deacons)	84	83	85	81	85
New Nazarenes (Total Gains)	77	84	123	136	179
Total # of Organized Churches	44	43	45	44	44
Not yet Organized Churches	2	3	0	1	1

World Evangelism Church Award

Church	%
Arcade Crossroads	11.30%
Auburn	11.61%
Binghamton	6.49%
Buffalo First	8.06%
Calvary Community	18.68%
The Center	5.82%
Canastota Discovery	5.50%
Carthage	12.30%
Elmira First	14.49%
Endicott Community	5.67%
Fulton	7.22%
Jamestown	6.44%
Keeseville Good Shepherd	6.76%
Northside Community	8.14%
Plattsburgh	8.27%
Potsdam	6.88%
Rochester Grace	7.47%
Schenectady	6.63%
Springwater	8.43%
Syracuse Christ Community	6.25%
Watertown	8.25%
Wilmington	6.02%

World Evangelism Church of Excellence Award

Church	%
Arcade Crossroads	11.30%
Auburn	11.61%
Calvary Community	18.68%
The Center	5.82%
Corning	6.62%
Elmira First	14.49%
Fulton	7.22%
Northside Community	8.14%
Owego	6.99%
Plattsburgh	8.27%
Roca de Salvacion	8.59%
Schenectady	6.63%
Springwater	8.43%
Syracuse Christ Community	6.25%
Watertown	8.25%

NDI Achievement Awards

Church	Award Level
Buffalo First	Honor
Corning	Exceptional
Elmira First	Exceptional
Jamestown	Honor
Northside Community	Honor
Owego	Superior
Parish Faith	Superior
Roca de Salvacion	Superior
Rochester Grace	Exceptional
Schenectady	Honor

Arcade Crossroads

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	44	42	36
Total New Members	4	2	2
Baptisms	2	6	1
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	28	25	22
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	33	44	38
Total Church Income	\$75,837	\$48,590	\$50,512
Educational Fund	\$1,560	\$1,038	\$1,273
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,054	\$716	\$1,030
District Unified Fund	\$5,141	\$3,100	\$3,367
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$10,251	\$3,215	\$5,128
% Given to Nazarene Missions	15.63%	7.12%	11.30%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	No	Yes



Thomas (MaryBeth) Calzone
Start Date: 8/14/2022

Missional Area:
Buffalo

Community Population:
4,118 →

Church Address:
369 Route 39 W.
Arcade, NY 14009

This past year has been one of seeing many ministries begin at our church and lives touched for Jesus. We started a community garden, clothing ministry (Lydia's Closet), outreach events under our new tent (back to school bash, mission week kickoff, family football picnic, outdoor service). Through these ministries we have reached 30 families through the community garden, over 150 families through the tent outreach's, and over 300 families through our clothing closet. We are a small church in number, but we have a powerful sense of being the hands and feet of Christ. Our mission is to touch the hearts of our community for Jesus, and I believe we are making an impact as we are seeing new people being attracted to the light of Jesus that is shining within us. The greatest thing is that our church may not be a mile wide with the number of people attending but they are a mile deep in their relationship with the Lord and the community. We are excited to see what God is up to this year as we have started a new members class and a new 4 phase discipleship program that will assist in the church growing in their lives with Christ and continue with our outreach to our community. It is the greatest adventure of my wife and my life to be able to be linked with these wonderful people here at Crossroads and to serve this community and watch the church be known for their love and connection with the community. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

I want to leave all with this passage from Psalm 133:

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore
Where there is unity God commands a blessing!

Humbly submitted,
Rev. Tom Calzone

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	107	106	102
Total New Members	5	7	2
Baptisms	2	2	18
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	75	120	100
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	72	150	112
Total Church Income	\$162,559	\$139,001	\$147,097
Educational Fund	\$3,499	\$2,938	\$3,677
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$3,499	\$2,938	\$2,942
District Unified Fund	\$10,496	\$8,813	\$9,928
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$11,005	\$10,571	\$9,645
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.8%	13.11%	11.61%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Leslie & Chris Davies

Start Date: 11/19/2023

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
26,601 →

Church Address:
3360 E. Genesee Street Rd.
Auburn, NY 13021

It has been a beautiful and fruitful first full year of ministry at Auburn Naz. Our entire vision for Auburn Naz in this past church year was: **MAKE ROOM**. We made room for Jesus to move in mighty ways. We made room for others—both those who had yet to breach the doors of the church, and those amongst us, by providing ministries that cultivated personal growth and a warm and welcoming environment. We spent the entire year focusing our people, our leadership, and our efforts on making room.

If we wanted to grow, we needed to make room. If we wanted families with children to come to our church, we had to prepare for families with children, and seriously invest in creating safe places for our children and youth to learn and worship. If we want our church to reach people for Christ—we have to pray for resources and opportunities, and we have to create strategies for reaching people outside the four walls of the church.

We focused this year on developing leaders, strengthening existing teams like our local NDI, NYI, and NMI Teams, and developing our church's **NEW Values** through an intentional process with our Church Board which included a Board Retreat at Brooktondale Camp. On March 2nd 2025, we held our Vision Sunday for this upcoming year, and not only introduced 7 brand **NEW** polished values and supporting value statements that will drive our church forward with momentum into the year ahead, but also our **NEW Vision** focus for this new church year: **THERE IS MORE**.

There is More ahead for Auburn Naz as we seek to be people who make disciples, and reach the unreached people groups that are near and dear to the heart of God. As we focus this upcoming year on intentional outreach efforts through a new ministry called, "Naz to the Rescue," we are praying for God to use our church in mighty ways as we reach the people that He loves and asked us to reach in both Matthew 25 and James 1: (1) The Hungry/Thirsty, (2) The Stranger, (3) The Naked, (4) The Sick, (5) The Imprisoned, (6) The Widows, and (7) The Orphans. These are the people we are focusing our efforts on as we seek to reach our city for Jesus this year, and we know that whatever we do for these people groups, we do for Jesus—thus making us His obedient disciples.

It has been a year of growth for us as pastors, and for Auburn Naz, and we are looking forward to God continuing to reveal His will for us in the year ahead as we continue to discover that **THERE IS MORE** in store for us!

With Love in Christ—
Pastors Chris and Leslie Davies

Binghamton First

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	143	143	136
Total New Members	4	0	8
Baptisms	0	9	3
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	75	82	84
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	47	68	51
Total Church Income	\$209,525	\$223,256	\$239,427
Educational Fund	\$6,076	\$4,438	\$5,599
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$4,564	\$4,474	\$4,479
District Unified Fund	\$14,142	\$13,314	\$15,101
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$13,388	\$11,686	\$13,517
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.38%	6.41%	6.49%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Emily (Robert) McCulla

Start Date: 7/1/2024

Missional Area:

Southern Tier

Community Population:

45,140 ➔

Church Address:

1282 Chenango St.
Binghamton, NY 13901

This has been a wonderful year in the life of Binghamton Nazarene with multiple significant highlights alongside transitions and new opportunities. First, the church celebrated its 100th anniversary in June! A celebration weekend brought back familiar faces, shared memories, meaningful history, and recollections of God's faithfulness across a century. This milestone not only gave us the opportunity to look back upon God's goodness and blessings, but we also looked forward with hope and great anticipation toward the ways God will continue to work in and through us. The church welcomed back several previous pastors as part of this special anniversary celebration while also welcoming me as their new pastor through an installation ceremony officiated by our District Superintendent, Pastor Olivia. What a blessing to be a part of this special weekend of celebration, marking the beginning of a new journey together.

It is a joy and a privilege for our family to be serving in Binghamton and we are so thankful for the ways the church has welcomed us. Many went to great lengths to ensure the parsonage was ready for us to move in and we were greeted with a huge crowd of helping hands. The church went out of their way to ensure a smooth transition for us, and our family has benefited from the love and support that has been poured out. I am grateful to the Binghamton Nazarene church board members for their dedicated work during the pastoral transition as well as their assistance in helping me get acclimated. I am also thankful for Pastor Bob St. Clair who served as interim pastor prior to my official arrival in July.

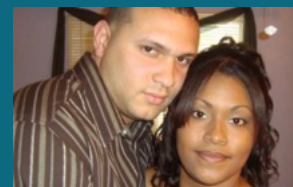
Over the past months our family has enjoyed getting to know our church community as well as our neighbors and the greater Binghamton area. Because Binghamton Nazarene is uniquely set in the middle of the community of Hillcrest, our church is seeking to become a people and space of hope and belonging who are connected to our neighbors. With this vision in mind, we hosted a neighborhood evening movie on the lawn, a Halloween trick-or-treat stop, as well as a Gingerbread Bash & Live Nativity as a means of meeting and connecting with our neighbors. Through a new summer basketball camp and open gym sessions, Upward Basketball is becoming a means of connection and welcome and we are working towards creating physical spaces of hospitality for those who use our gym space during the week. Finally, we are also excited about a growing partnership with Catherine's Cupboard, a ministry of the neighboring St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish, allowing us to volunteer in their food pantry as well as opportunities to provide school supplies, food items for Thanksgiving meals, Christmas cookie kits, and comfort quilts. We are excited to explore other potential partnerships as we build further community connections, knowing, loving, and serving our neighbors.

As we look ahead, we continue to trust that God will lead us as we seek to know, love, and serve God and others, seeking deeper formation and transformation as we follow Jesus together in Binghamton and beyond. May the words of Romans 15:13 ring true for us today and in the year ahead: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily McCulla

Bloomfield Roca de Salvacion

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	22	28	60
Total New Members	5	7	32
Baptisms	5	0	9
Avg. Worship Attendance	38	40	63
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	47	63	84
Total Church Income	\$26,912	\$28,730	\$29,698
Educational Fund	\$672	\$0	\$667
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$653	\$651	\$894
District Unified Fund	\$1,818	\$4,950	\$2,190
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$1,517	\$1,441	\$2,350
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.97%	5.28%	8.59%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	No	No



Jonathan (Maria) Nuñez

Start Date: 9/15/2019

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
1,431 →

Church Address:
7466 US-20
Bloomfield, NY 14469

As a church we have experience the power of God in a transforming way in our lives. Our goal is to fully understand our calling and teach it to the next generation. We have as a priority to have children that are fill with the Holy Spirit, youth that are defeating the world and adults that love to invest themselves into a new generation in all that is good.

Buffalo First

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	19	18	14
Total New Members	0	4	0
Baptisms	3	0	1
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	24	20	17
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	27	9	19
Total Church Income	\$66,615	\$63,694	\$64,157
Educational Fund	\$2,303	\$2,091	\$1,514
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,534	\$1,806	\$1,303
District Unified Fund	\$4,463	\$4,059	\$4,019
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,622	\$4,535	\$4,760
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.89%	8.08%	8.06%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Ramona Williams

Start Date: 1/23/2022

Missional Area:
Buffalo

Community Population:
256,480 →

Church Address:
1270 Kenmore Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14216

Buffalo First is a small but mighty little church sitting in the heart of Buffalo New York on Kenmore ave. God has used this little church in the past year to bring light and hope to the surrounding Buffalo community in ways we continue to be amazed by.

Buffalo First continues the effort of helping meet the expressed needs of our community members through a mobile food pantry ministry that is going strong. Last year Buffalo First embraced the invitation to be the hands and feet of Jesus and participated in serving over 3000 individuals with fresh food. We use this opportunity to further reach out and invite those clients with personal invitations-- to attend a monthly community dinner hosted by the church and sponsored by the food pantry.

With refugees who did not have cooking facilities in mind, we considered how they were possibly unfamiliar with American cuisine, they didn't have facilities to cook with, so we devised our strategy around meeting this need. Our goal was to have non-churched food pantry individuals come, prepare a meal together, eat together, get new recipe ideas, and fellowship while we built relationship. Although the intention of reaching refugees seems to be a disappearing vision, through this community dinner effort, several new opportunities have been presented. We are attempting to be faithful to journey obediently wherever it is that God intends for us to go. As a result of community dinners, several church members have in turn been invited into unique and unlikely spaces from attendees that responded to community dinner invitations. These places of invitation are where these community members live, gather and find meaning. Buffalo First is accepting the invitation while we are diligently praying that God is in, and through, above, beneath, and surrounding these efforts. We continually submit to being the presence of Christ in places we normally would not find ourselves- even scary places.

Pastor Ramona is so humbled, awed and overwhelmed at the opportunities to live life with this precious group of people who are willing to take risks and love others. Pastor Ramona admits that, to have a calling where one can work alongside, minister too, gain strength from, and be supported and encouraged by the church family at Buffalo First- it is an awesome honor- there is no greater calling.

Finally, it is with joy, anticipation (and some sorrow) that Pastor Ramona anticipates the end of her educational endeavors at NTS. The end of this chapter holds anticipation of having more time in general, more investment time for these efforts and in kingdom building in the Buffalo area.

Buffalo Message of Life

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	95		
Total New Members	0		
Baptisms	0		
Avg. Worship Attendance	70		
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	55		
Total Church Income	\$9,000		
Educational Fund	\$0		
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$0		
District Unified Fund	\$0		
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$0		
% Given to Nazarene Missions	0%		
All Budgets Paid in Full?	No		

No report received.



Jean-Pierre (Brunelle) Kabeya
Start Date: 4/28/2019

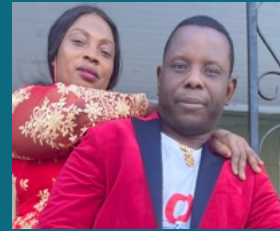
Missional Area:
Buffalo

Community Population:
256,480 →

Church Address:
25 Calumet Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14213

Buffalo Temple of God in Christ

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	132	131	133
Total New Members	5	3	2
Baptisms	2	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	65	52	73
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	64	50	73
Total Church Income	\$19,220	\$18,000	\$12,500
Educational Fund	\$0	\$0	\$312
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
District Unified Fund	\$0	\$0	\$500
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Given to Nazarene Missions	0%	0%	0%
All Budgets Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Dao (Benetta) Kamara

Start Date: 4/25/2021

Missional Area:

Buffalo

Community Population:

256,480 →

Church Address:

25 Calumet Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14207

First of all, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the almighty God who give us lives to see another brand-new year and make us to meet on this District Assembly again. We thank God for doing marvelous things in our ministry. This year we are blessed with to have few committed members that joined our place of worship. God continued to bring new visitors to worship with us and we are hoping and praying that they will make Buffalo Temple of God in Christ their home church. We host our fast and prayer meeting the last three days of every month to tell God thank you and seek his protection over the church for the new month.

Buffalo Temple of God in Christ host prayer meeting every Wednesday's and Friday. The church is more geared toward praying for members, our neighbor, the lost souls, the sick, the poor, and the broken hearted. We continue with our children tutoring program through the help of volunteers and support of the church. Our children are making more progress in their academic school with the special help that they receive for their homework and special school projects. We also sponsor most of our members to get their legal status in the United States to avoid deportation

We thank God for the increased in spiritual growth by learning the words of God through Sunday school and Bible study. We give God the Glory as he continued to soften his people hearts to come to the alter and participating in the Lord super. We have sessions with our members who need Biblical understanding and prayers with the pastors after church service. We also make time for our members to have one on one section for counseling with the Pastor. Our church continues to partner with Immigrants and Refugee Coalition because we want to be involved in the process where we need to help those who are seeking refuge and encourage them with the words of God. We are blessed that we and our brethren in Christ (Message of Life) are now living in Peace and continues to build our God given relationship. We continue to ask God to foster and strengthen our relationship.

We prayed that God would continue to bless our district and all the local churches that we all will accomplish God mission by making Him know to the whole world. We as Nazarene believed that we are a sent people by God to reach, teach, and preach the Gospel to every part of this world but without the Holy Spirit we cannot accomplished God plan. We believed that we are guided by the Holy Spirit on a Day-to-Day basis and there were we draw our strength from leading His people. We ask that all churches should please keep us in their prayers as most of our people are seeking to get their legal status to avoid deportation. Again, remember our country Liberia and continent of Africa in your daily prayer for God to continue to bring healing to our land and our host country (United States) America as well. As I closed there is no place better than home.

Submitted: Rev. Dao Kamara, Lead Pastor

Canastota Discovery Church

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	55	57	46
Total New Members	4	2	1
Baptisms	0	6	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	36	40	31
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	13	20	21
Total Church Income	\$66,793	\$65,875	\$55,391
Educational Fund	\$1,503	\$1,434	\$1,313
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,794	\$1,469	\$1,050
District Unified Fund	\$4,509	\$4,302	\$3,544
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,386	\$4,119	\$2,888
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.03%	6.71%	5.5%
All Budgets Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Janae (Austin) Meyer
Start Date: 9/12/2022

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
4,462 →

Church Address:
3640 Seneca Turnpike
Canastota, NY 13032

Friends, colleagues, delegates, and guests of the assembly,

It is with a grateful heart that I bring you my third report on the Upstate New York District! The past three years have flown by with many highs and lows, joys and sorrows. This past year has been a year of settling. The newness has worn off, and the ripples have calmed. The people I have been getting to know now feel like old friends.


I've started my third year serving on the Board of Directors for Community Action Partnership of Madison County. Austin is finishing up his third academic year working for the Canastota School District. We can't go anywhere in town without kids recognizing "Mr. Meyer." It is our desire to know and be known by our community. In today's culture people struggle to trust the church, and my prayer is that through time we will be a trusted and non-anxious presence.

Over the past year, our NDI ministry has been thriving. Bea McLain is teaching a 52-week series on Sunday mornings, and Karen Sutton is teaching a Tuesday night Zoom that has been faithfully ongoing since 2020. Our sewing ministry, Sewing Seams for a Cause continues to grow and expand. We are becoming known in the community for the comfort care items they provide the local infusion centers. The group meets once a month to sew, and they have begun teaching classes for children. My daughter, Cora, has taken up sewing and has started bringing her friends from school to learn from these Godly women. I am grateful for their influence in her life.

"Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory." (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Janae Beth Meyer

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	76	76	75
Total New Members	0	0	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	29	32	32
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	16	45	50
Total Church Income	\$98,746	\$93,516	\$106,375
Educational Fund	\$2,816	\$2,594	\$2,740
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,266	\$2,183	\$1,920
District Unified Fund	\$6,318	\$7,548	\$6,483
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$8,065	\$9,840	\$11,198
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.64%	12.12%	12.30%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Rob (Karen) Smith
Start Date: 6/5/2022

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
3,405 ➔

Church Address:
960 State St.
Carthage, NY 13619

A year ago, I stood in front of the District Assembly and told you that God is good, and that I anticipated a great year to come. Today I am reporting to you that I was correct. In many ways, both personal and corporate, the members of our church have grown and matured, and God has been good to us all.


Last year, our average church attendance was around 26 per week; this year we increased it to about 32, even during the cold months. We have also seen several new faces, visitors who came because they were treated wonderfully by Carthage Nazarenes. We hope to make a few of them into new members this year!

Bible study on Thursday nights has grown from almost doubled, and we are thinking about how we might go about meeting in a bigger space – these are good problems to have! The questions and comments afterwards are dynamic and show that people are invested in learning God’s ways. The prayer time after Bible study has been very productive, and we have harvested some great testimonies of God’s faithful answers to our requests.

The church board is stocked with blue-chip, “capital-D” disciples, who match their desire for gospel ministry with hard work and personal sacrifice. They are examples of sanctification and service. I could not be more proud of our team, and they are the “engine room” for all the expressions of Jesus Christ we make in our community.

This is God’s church, it’s operated correctly when everything is yielded to Him. As long as He wants us here, we’re all still committed, two hands in. We love our community! Thank you for your support, Upstate District, it’s been a great year, and let’s see what God can do with us in this coming year!

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	64	68	74
Total New Members	0	4	6
Baptisms	0	0	6
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	20	21	24
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	20	12	24
Total Church Income	\$34,105	\$39,218	\$33,772
Educational Fund	\$767	\$882	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$768	\$883	\$676
District Unified Fund	\$2,302	\$2,647	\$2,280
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$2,376	\$2,242	\$1,992
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.46%	6.06%	6.26%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	No



John (JoLynn) Cramer II
Start Date: 5/5/1996

Missional Area:
Southern Tier

Community Population:
10,696 →

Church Address:
10242 Hamilton Rd.
Corning, NY 14830

Members and friends of the Upstate New York District of the Nazarene,

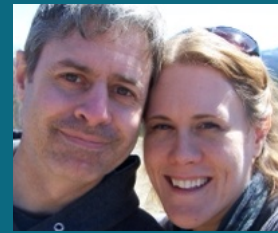
This year will be for me a year of milestones. It will mark for me 30 years as the Pastor of the Corning First Church of the Nazarene and 40 years in full-time pastoral ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. If you would visit our Church you would find a friendly welcoming congregation that feels like a family more than a church.

This year I was able to retire from secular employment and devote myself full-time to the ministry of the Church. God has blessed those efforts. We were able to baptize 9 people, welcome 7 new members, 5 by profession of faith and 2 by transfer. Our attendance has maintained steady growth, and we paid all budgets in full once again. God provides and supplies all of our needs! I do not feel that my work here is done. There is still much to do.

As for me, my faith and love for God remains strong. I am baptized in the Holy Spirit and joyfully living daily in His Grace and walking in the way of holiness. I am thankful for a wonderful godly wife who is everything God intended for a companion, partner, and helpmate to be. I have lived these past 40 years in the goodness of God.

Respectfully, Submitted,
John S. Cramer II, Pastor

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	104	105	56
Total New Members	5	2	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	18	26	23
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	15	14	45
Total Church Income	\$51,723	\$57,971	\$81,363
Educational Fund	\$947	\$1,146	\$1,374
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,025	\$1,045	\$1,383
District Unified Fund	\$2,523	\$3,031	\$3,739
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$3,371	\$4,059	\$4,087
% Given to Nazarene Missions	11.3%	16.57%	14.49%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Heather (Eric) Brown
Start Date: 1/1/2023

Missional Area:
Southern Tier

Community Population:
27,402 →

Church Address:
1136 Broadway St.
Elmira, NY 14904

As I reflect over the last year, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we've made. While there have been challenges and changes along the way, God's faithfulness has remained constant, guiding us in the right direction. The following are a few of highlights that we celebrate and for which we give God thanks.

Discipleship — This year, we launched a youth group! Three additional leaders joined our initial leader, and the program, starting as a summer initiative, continued through the school year due to the youth's enthusiasm. Weekly attendance has grown from 7 to 12, with fellowship, games, Bible lessons, and special events. The youth leaders meet weekly via Zoom to pray for the youth, and we're currently converting a resource room into a dedicated youth space. Our Sunday Morning Worship services and Tuesday bible study continue to be times of positive discipleship in reading, reflecting and learning from God's Word. We have been challenged to apply its teachings to our lives and to follow Jesus more faithfully. In February, we began the Alpha Video Series (10 sessions) on Thursday evenings, further expanding our outreach and discipleship efforts. Thanks to Pastor Polly Carman for leading us in this endeavor.

Global & Local Missions — Our church participated in Alabaster fund collections in February and September, assembled and donated Crisis care kits to Fawn Grove, and also contributed gift boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We provided Christmas gifts to the Character Ed Student and to a pre-school class at a local day care. We partnered with the Character Education Development to assist with one hour of weekly religious education for students at Broadway Elementary School, grades 3-6. The children are excited to memorize Bible verses and learn about Jesus. Two workers from the BOCES job training program have been assisting us weekly, contributing to cleaning, repairs, and organizing for our church and clothing ministry. Their help has been invaluable. Our Community Clothing closet, open on Wednesdays, offered free clothing to 2,067 individuals (781 family units). The local news station did an evening news highlight on our "Blessing Boutique." We continue to support other local agencies in meeting their clients' needs. The clothing ministry has been a great resource for community involvement and connections. At a local Soup Kitchen we prepared and served one meal per month, providing 1,006 of the 17,254 meals served this year.

Vision & Mission — We are blessed to be working with Vision Partners. With their help, our vision team of six has worked to discern and name our core values, craft a mission statement and set goals to ensure we stay focused on Christ's calling for us.

Our Values: Jesus Comes First; Gather in Worship; Guided by Prayer; Concerned with others' needs (spiritual, physical, mental, emotional); Sharing Hope: Knowing Christ makes a difference

Our Mission: SERVING ALL PEOPLE WITH THE HOPE OF CHRIST

Gratitude for our Congregation — I am so grateful for each individual who actively contributes to our church. From worship leaders to those caring for our facilities, teaching Bible studies, and supporting various ministries, your dedication is propelling us forward in unity and faith.

Looking Ahead — As we continue to progress, we will focus on revitalizing our facilities and connecting more with our community. As we remain committed to prayer and to being obedient to God's call, I believe that we will continue to move forward in fulfilling His purposes for us. May 2025 be a year where we are amazed at what God will do for and through His church. To God be the glory!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Heather Brown

Endicott Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	107	108	106
Total New Members	3	3	1
Baptisms	2	2	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	66	59	60
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	99	23	43
Total Church Income	\$149,980	\$142,432	\$141,427
Educational Fund	\$3,375	\$3,205	\$3,628
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$3,392	\$3,125	\$2,677
District Unified Fund	\$10,124	\$9,614	\$9,796
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$13,127	\$8,697	\$7,562
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.59%	6.53%	5.67%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Keith (Robin) Hardy, Jr.
Start Date: 11/4/2018


Missional Area:
Southern Tier

Community Population:
12,771 ➡

Church Address:
1381 Union Center Maine Hwy.
Endicott, NY 13760

This year has been a challenging year for our congregation, which is causing us to examine the ways in which we minister to our community. We are seeking to hear the heart of God for how He is calling us to build relationships in the places we live and work. One of the new ways He is calling us to reach out to our community is with our new "Little Lambs Clothing Closet." This closet will provide diapers, wipes and other necessities as they are available. We will also offer new or like new clothing for children 0 to age 3. It is our hope that as we connect with families, we will have the opportunity to minister to other needs that they might have, such as parenting classes or helping them learn how to handle their finances. Our desire is to love Jesus by loving others.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	77	49	57
Total New Members	5	0	9
Baptisms	4	2	9
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	38	41	52
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	27	60	42
Total Church Income	\$76,191	\$87,786	\$93,520
Educational Fund	\$1,714	\$2,754	\$2,450
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,715	\$1,890	\$1,895
District Unified Fund	\$2,900	\$5,640	\$6,350
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,022	\$4,487	\$6,297
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.57%	5.39%	7.22%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	Yes



Paul (Karol) Riggall
Start Date: 06/18/2023

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
11,300 ➔

Church Address:
910 Utica St.
Fulton, NY 13069

First, I want to thank God for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve and worship alongside a wonderful family of Christ-followers in the Fulton Church of the Nazarene. My family has a deep desire to know more of Him and know Him more! I have been blessed beyond measure as the presence of the Lord has been evident in the hearts and minds of those worshipping and ministering in our church. There seems to be a transformational Spirit that hovers over our family of believers, releasing some from the shackles that keep us from the freedom He provides!

I am thankful for the District Grant we received last year! This allowed us to build a Food Pantry/Clothing Closet that would help us be more efficient and effective in our ministry to the community. I am amazed at the overwhelming response of everyone's compassion and want to be part of something that intentionally offers help to others. Not only are we helping those with physical needs, but we are also offering spiritual encouragement and assistance! We have a unique system for building relationships with those who attend our FP/CC. As many as seventy-eight families have been served through our newly renovated FP/CC.

We are serious about Loving God, Loving our Neighbors, and Making Disciples that Make Disciples, and we are having fun! We have egg hunts, secret sisters, men's breakfasts, tent revivals, friendship day, community harvest dinner, and an angel tree program. We want to cast a net over the Fulton community, praying for a massive catch and laying a bountiful harvest at Jesus's feet.

We laugh together and we cry together, work together, and play together, learn together and grow together! We love being together! There is no better place to worship on a Sunday morning than at the Fulton Church of the Nazarene. We have Big Faith because we worship a Big God! "I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." (Psalm 146:2 NIV)

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	51	50	48
Total New Members	0	2	3
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	38	45	42
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	44	27	47
Total Church Income	\$107,566	\$116,399	\$117,120
Educational Fund	\$2,299	\$2,490	\$2,767
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,300	\$2,490	\$2,214
District Unified Fund	\$6,898	\$7,468	\$7,472
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$5,861	\$6,829	\$6,468
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.57%	6.83%	6.44%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Mark (Sandra) Hanson
Start Date: 5/17/2013

Missional Area:
Buffalo

Community Population:
29,504 ➔

Church Address:
405 Howard Ave.
Jamestown, NY 14701

Our adventure with Vision Partners has helped us discover our mission: Journeying Together Towards Hope. We are seeing this take place in several areas. Some of which were not part of the planned process, which is still in development. Both pastor and congregation are being stretched and are growing. We are discovering that the world truly is our parish. There are numerous people who consider us to be their church even though they do not engage consistently at the church. Their interaction with members outside the church walls gives them some sort of connection to our church. We are praying and asking God how we can minister more effectively inside and outside the church building.

We continue to experience the presence of Holy Spirit in our worship services. We are seeing God moving in people's lives and they are growing in their relationship with Jesus. This movement is very evident in our children as several have asked to be baptized. This is even more exciting because baptism has not been a topic they are having presented to them. In addition to this, our children want to be involved in the life of the church. This is especially so as they take turns being ushers. They do a great job receiving the offering. It seems Jesus is moving among our children.

We took in three new members this year. They are integrating wonderfully into our community and finding their places of service to Jesus. One new member was raised in our church and has found his way back. He shared recently how our church has become his family.

We are confident that God is at work in Jamestown. We will continue to Journey Together Towards Hope.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mark Hanson, Pastor

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	15	16	16
Total New Members	3	1	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	32	38	34
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	32	38	46
Total Church Income	\$68,831	\$85,749	\$59,963
Educational Fund	0	\$260	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	0	\$260	\$282
District Unified Fund	0	\$260	\$282
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$1,154	\$393	\$328
% Given to Nazarene Missions	1.71%	0.57%	0.64%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Mark (Michelle) Fowler
Start Date: 10/23/2011

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
8,277 →

Church Address:
3316 State Hwy 29 W.
Johnstown, NY 12095

God has once again shown Himself Faithful and True. We have seen much spiritual growth among the congregation. One of the highlights is an active Bible Study that has brought individuals from different denominations who are hungering and thirsting for God's Word and Direction in their lives. A constant comment from several who attend is: "I love coming because you are sharing things that we never heard from the Bible and we feel like we are family."

We continue to seek God through all areas of our church, family, and community and have found that we love serving our Lord and Savior.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Fowler

Keeseville Good Shepherd

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	45	45	44
Total New Members	9	0	0
Baptisms	0	5	1
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	32	35	36
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	42	37	41
Total Church Income	\$74,693	\$76,690	\$73,441
Educational Fund	\$1,545	\$1,614	\$1,825
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,545	\$1,614	\$1,385
District Unified Fund	\$4,712	\$4,419	\$5,005
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$6,121	\$5,393	\$4,651
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.84%	7.57%	6.76%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Noelle (Ben) Eichenberger
Start Date: 2/2/2020

Missional Area:
North Country

Community Population:
2,932 ➔

Church Address:
124 Hill St.
Keeseville, NY 12944

What a year it has been for Keeseville Church! This year our church continued to step out in faith and trusting God to provide in big ways. The year began with a few major repairs and needed capital improvements. We are grateful that these were able to be taken care out of savings and continue to look for ways to invest in and be good stewards of our beautiful property, especially as we continue to open our space up to the community.

Outreach ministry and growing community partnerships were a big focus this year. We have partnered with several community organizations including the Ausable Valley Grange for a community clean-up and blood drive; the Keeseville Library in providing hygiene products to community members; the town of Chesterfield in planning and volunteering for the Keeseville Holiday Celebration; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County for a food preservation class; Birthright of Plattsburgh to provide diapers, formula, wipes and other baby products to young families; NAMI to provide laundry soap, quarters, winter gear and hygiene products to those dealing with housing insecurity, Clinton County JCEO to provide food and dry goods to north country families and the Essex Food Hub in providing local food to families who need it. We have also helped several local families with groceries, gas, utility bills, and car repairs and hosted our first community Thanksgiving meal and Christmas Eve dinner.

Our church celebrated Easter with a baptism and a baby dedication and has felt a hunger to draw closer to God through Bible Study, serving the community and prayer. More than ever, we have dug into what God's Word actually says, walking through 1 John in a sermon series, preaching through each of the Minor Prophets, a verse by verse Bible Study through the Book of Mark and more. Pastor Josh continues to lead our children's ministry and help our children learn more about Jesus. We have also taken time to learn about the importance of personal spiritual formation and how to better love our neighbor through book club discussions, small group studies and sermon series.

One of the most exciting things that took place this year was the official opening of the Keeseville Hope Kitchen. As I write this report, we have served almost 1600 meals since beginning our weekly suppers in November 2024. We have also been able to offer canning and bread baking classes and, because of one of our partnerships, provided locally grown food to several families in the North Country. Two volunteers deliver 20-25 meals to the retirement home down the street each week.

The best part of this ministry has been the conversations we have had the opportunity to have. As we gather around the table, we are not so different than our neighbors and God continues to open doors. Names are being learned. Questions are being asked. We have had the opportunity to celebrate birthdays, while also holding space for difficult life circumstances. This is the long, slow work of relational evangelism. and at the center of it all is the Table. Many of those who walk through our door would not come to church on a Sunday morning, yet they join us for dinner on a weekly basis. We are grateful for our faithful volunteers and continue to see God show up in Keeseville, New York.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this congregation and to see them stretching and growing in their faith. I continually find myself saying, "We are a small church, but we have a very big God!"

In Christ,
Pastor Noelle Eichenberger

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	51	45	47
Total New Members	2	0	2
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	33	36	30
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	14	20	12
Total Church Income	\$61,273	\$70,292	\$70,963
Educational Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,387	\$1,483	\$1,540
District Unified Fund	\$1,285	\$2,488	\$4,739
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,979	\$4,566	\$5,793
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.29%	7.06%	9.20%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Timothy (Patricia) Cramer
Start Date: 7/20/2008

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
854 ➔

Church Address:
36758 NYS Rte. 180
LaFargeville, NY 13656

This year as a fellowship, we have experienced unexpected loss as some of our involved and engaged families have moved away from our community. Though this has been difficult and disheartening, we are more determined than ever to expand our reach and impact among those not yet church. We must reach the unreached while also doing our best to conserve the converts.

In order to accomplish the Lord's purpose for us, we must remain focused in mission. We believe that we are called together to SERVE the Lord and one another with gladness, SHARE the love and life of God with others, SOW the seed of the Good News through witness, conversation, and proclamation, SEEK to make new disciples, SHAPE mature disciples, and SHINE with the goodness and love of God in our community among fellow believers, other Christian congregations, and among those who are not yet disciples. We are devoted to do these things in faithfulness while looking to the Lord for fruitfulness.

As we move forward, at the start of another year, we have committed ourselves anew, as individual disciples and as a corporate body of disciples, to submit to the Lord, pray, seek His face, and then, to turn from ways, goals, methods, and attitudes that are not aligned to God's will, purpose, and mission for His people. We have felt led to commit ourselves to Pray, Listen, and then, Obey as we hear what the Lord is saying to us. We are seeking His direction and correction together in order to be properly focused in our ministry objectives and purposes. Our folks have responded in agreement to the call as we now gather in growing numbers for prayer early Sunday morning, during our Sunday worship service, Wednesday evening, and in our homes every day. Already we are seeing God move among us and through us as we are obedient to what we have been hearing. Positive change is happening. We will work to be faithful with what we have already heard while we wait for the Lord's clear direction and correction.

Finally, we are also aligned in purpose with the Canada/USA regional Church of the Nazarene to Mobilize all nazarenes in unity, Bless our community, Mold mature disciples, and to join in the primary emphasis this year of making new disciples. May the Lord help us to carry on into the future with faithfulness working for fruitfulness for the sake of the Kingdom of God in our area.

His Son and your Servant,
Pastor Tim

Lakeville: The Center

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	16	23	14
Total New Members	0	7	0
Baptisms	0	1	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	15	15	15
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	10	19	15
Total Church Income	\$36,995	\$35,127	\$45,676
Educational Fund	\$555	\$765	\$1,142
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$795	\$773	\$914
District Unified Fund	\$902	\$2,942	\$2,914
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$1,056	\$1,848	\$2,513
% Given to Nazarene Missions	3.4%	5.96%	5.82%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	Yes	Yes



Staff Pastor Abreana Mattice

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
800 →

Church Address:
5604 Big Tree Rd.
Lakeville, NY 14480

The Center Church's theme verse is 1 John 4:11: "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." I am pleased and proud to report that over the last year, we have done just that. Last spring, we had a Maundy Thursday service, and celebrated Easter together. Kyle Morley from our local Young Life chapter visited us and we partnered with them in several of their ministries. In June, we celebrated Sundae Sunday, our website was updated, and a weekly Zoom link to our worship service was created. In August, we spent an afternoon at the Eastview Regal Theater watching Sight and Sound's production of Daniel and finished organizing and moving some of our things in storage.

John and I married in September, and the church participated in Livonia's Autumn in the Village the same week. Many thanks to Steve Belokur and Raul Perez for providing pulpit supply! In October, we hosted Trunk or Treat and were pleased to welcome over one hundred members of our community for some fun after church. We also participated in our Mission Area Gathering. During Advent, we filled out cards for local nursing home residents and inserted bookmarks. We sent cards to almost one hundred residents! Additionally, several members went caroling to spread God's love and cheer.

We have had several sermon series throughout the year, and about as many Bible studies. Some of the topics covered include spiritual formation, the Book of Ruth, Daniel, Being Changed in the Waiting, Biblical Bodies, Fruits of the Spirit, and Evangelism. We have a very active prayer chain via text message, and it is incredibly encouraging to see how we truly function as a church family every day.

Best of all, I have seen beautiful growth in this congregation. In mind and spirit, we have been strengthened together, coming to know our Lord in his fullness even more. Many of us have encountered difficult seasons in our personal lives: even in trials, I have witnessed to and thank God for the faithfulness and grace of each member. God's sanctifying power is at work, and it is continually a blessing to see how we are serving as Christ's hands and feet to each other and our community.

As for what is next for us, my pregnancy has led me to reflect on certain aspects of our ministry in Lakeville. For example, we might not be large, but God has been doing incredible work within us that only he can do. Day by day, we are growing to increasingly reflect his character to each other and to the world. For many of us, our image of what church looks like has been redefined since we rent space on Sundays and do not have a building of our own. Just as the wonder of pregnancy is hidden and may come with some growing pains, our experience as a congregation is that God has been moving powerfully and lovingly to make us into the community he has created us to be through unconventional methods and vulnerability. We have become a church without (or beyond!) walls, and what God has started he will be faithful to complete. In the new year, we continue to "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways we acknowledge him, and he will make our paths straight." (Paraphrase; Proverbs 3:5-6).

Respectfully and joyfully submitted,
Abreana Guthrie

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	86	83	80
Total New Members	0	0	0
Baptisms	0	5	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	45	44	39
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	28	29	29
Total Church Income	\$126,367	\$105,102	\$99,255
Educational Fund	\$2,582	\$2,375	\$1,581
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,411	\$2,614	\$2,719
District Unified Fund	\$7,747	\$9,386	\$6,790
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$7,779	\$7,289	\$5,948
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.45%	7.75%	6.65%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	No



Nate (Miranda) Patnode
Start Date: 6/16/2019

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
3,233 →

Church Address:
7476 State Route 12
Lowville, NY 13367

Sisters and Brothers of the Upstate NY District Church of the Nazarene,

Bethel continues to lean into what makes us unique. After a year with Vision Partners, we continue to ask, "What is unique about Bethel? What type of people, and gifts make up Bethel?" How do we use these gifts for kingdom purposes?

We entered into the beginning stages of our new mission: A community on a Journey to Wholeness in Christ. One way we have engaged being whole in Christ is creating a pattern of discipleship. Our Discipleship groups have used the Dialogue series books Searching for Answers, Holy Living, and the Story of God. Each of these books encouraged us to seek God and explore our faith in Him. We also journeyed together with the Lent and Advent devotionals.

Our Overflow youth continue to gather for transformational studies, conversation, and activities which bring wholeness. The youth held a spaghetti fundraiser making available meals for dine in and take out. Families from the community were able to place an order for pick up or be waited on at tables in the fellowship hall. It was great to see the teens (and parents) working together to serve each other and guests. Enough funds were raised to send 8 teens and 2 adults to Encounter weekend at ENC. Each student came back excited about what God was doing and what He will do in their lives and the community.

There are also highlights of individuals and families with a desire to know God in His fullness, and we enjoy conversations with those who are desiring a deeper walk with Christ.

Bethel continues to find small ways to engage our community through collections for the Food Pantry, partnering with other churches through Loving Lewis County week of work and witness. We have been housing furniture for The Center, a compassionate refugee resettlement group.

We are continuing to work on the plan and the direction God is leading us. Like any new endeavor, there are growing pains. Change is not a fun word for some; change can be difficult and requires movement. A movement away from what we want to seeking what Christ desires. So, we recognize there are challenges, and there will be many more challenges, along the way. We are trusting God along this process as we make disciples. We believe this process will guide us to opportunities to engage our community with life, hope, and service and renew our faith community's passion to be who God has called us to be

Respectively Submitted,

Pastor Nate Patnode

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	422	450	504
Total New Members	18	34	62
Baptisms	39	65	87
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	382	448	583
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	382	516	693
Total Church Income	\$783,247	\$890,137	\$866,056
Educational Fund	\$16,300	\$21,949	\$20,349
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$16,300	\$18,769	\$16,370
District Unified Fund	\$48,898	\$56,306	\$54,647
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$59,007	\$63,691	\$52,091
% Given to Nazarene Missions	8.71%	8.16%	6.99%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	No



Jarrod (Dorie) Geistdorfer
Start Date: 8/1/2021

Missional Area:
Southern Tier

Community Population:
18,843 →

Church Address:
3732 Waverly Rd.
Owego, NY 13827

This past year has been a challenge as God has continued to guide us through various attacks designed to stop the God sized movements we are experiencing.

He's a good good father and we praise him. We are continuing to transform lives and see God show up! We are grateful for this place to serve in.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	93	94	92
Total New Members	4	1	1
Baptisms	1	6	4
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	30	28	26
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	20	29	42
Total Church Income	\$65,623	\$58,739	\$61,914
Educational Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
District Unified Fund	\$0	\$2,314	\$239
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$1,197	\$932	\$174
% Given to Nazarene Missions	2.09%	2.09%	0.28%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



James (Laurel) Gamble
Start Date: 1/14//2020

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
488 →

Church Address:
2813 St. Rte. 69
Parish, NY 13131

Dear Friends of this assembly,

It is with great honor that I am giving my sixth report for the Parish Faith Church. This year, we have been blessed beyond measure and have been growing in unity and fellowship. We are so grateful that God has blessed us with a great team of people to build his kingdom in Oswego County.

This last year, we have been building on the progress of the previous years of making our facility a spiritual education center. We have been focusing on our regular church activities, such as Sunday School ministry for all ages, children's church, youth group, women's and men's ministries, and building our worship team. We have also been concentrating on building upon our Educating Arrows Homeschool group, which has grown to sixty-four students,

Our vision is to create a spiritual education center that intestines homeschool families into the church's life and offers spiritual retreats for new and seasoned pastors to come and renew their calling from God. We would like to add more rooms to the church, including a more formal library. The education center would also serve local educational agencies to use space for meetings and seminars. There is much opportunity to use a spiritual educational facility, which would unite the church and community.

This year we have seen much spiritual growth and enthusiasm. A church once destined to close and at odds with district leadership has now become a united body with a restored relationship with district leadership and is not in danger of closing. We at the Faith church offer HOPE to our church and community (Help Our People Excel). We look forward to the future with hope, anticipation, and a renewed vision.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor James E Gamble, Jr

Penn Yan Hope Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	11	11	6
Total New Members	2	0	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	10	11	11
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	15	12	15
Total Church Income	\$30,139	\$30,509	\$31,673
Educational Fund	\$554	\$646	\$748
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$638	\$646	\$403
District Unified Fund	\$2,119	\$1,937	\$2,090
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$2,257	\$1,971	\$1,050
% Given to Nazarene Missions	8.45%	6.91%	5.5%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	Yes	Yes



Aimee (Kent) McCroskey

Start Date: 11/27/2022

Missional Area:

Rochester

Community Population:

4,949 ➔

Church Address:

1373 Brown St Ext
Penn Yan, NY 14527

It is with a deep heaviness that I submit my report for Penn Yan Hope Community this year. It is my desire to faithfully and continually preach and call my people to live out the Kingdom principles that Jesus taught. I am deeply grieved that our church will be moving into inactive status. This year we loved and supported students at Keuka College, hosted Celebrate Yates Day on our campus, hosted a community youth lock in Christmas Party, delivered home baked goods to approx. 80 neighbors, and fed high school students through Grandma's Kitchen. As pastor, I attended events such as NTS Preacher's Conference, PALCON, WHWC, and multiple webinars. I interned as a chaplain at a local hospital and served on Council of Churches, as well as served and participated in our local ecumenical services. We continue to pray for God's guidance as we seek the future of our ministry in Penn Yan, asking where is God at work? And where can we join in?

Respectfully Submitted,
Aimee McCroskey

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	122	131	150
Total New Members	8	15	19
Baptisms	0	3	6
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	126	135	160
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	72	132	38
Total Church Income	\$331,352	\$295,350	\$324,855
Educational Fund	\$7,456	\$5,780	\$8,362
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$7,456	\$5,781	\$6,462
District Unified Fund	\$22,367	\$17,340	\$20,050
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$24,637	\$24,149	\$23,402
% Given to Nazarene Missions	8.11%	9.70%	8.27%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Douglas (Kristen) Milne

Start Date: 8/27/2023

Missional Area:

North Country

Community Population:

19,465 →

Church Address:

187 Broad St.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

I am pleased to offer my second report to the Upstate New York District Assembly as the Senior Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Plattsburgh. I am honored to pastor a church with a 100+ year legacy of ministry in this community of the North Country!

We have been basking in God's glory and sharing in God's goodness and many blessings! In June, we re-started our Faith-in-Action Sunday. Rather than meeting for our typical Sunday worship service, we organized service projects in our church and community. Our October Trunk-or-Treat event brought hundreds of neighborhood individuals through our church parking lot. We continued to partner with our local Salvation Army by collecting food for its annual community Thanksgiving dinner, and toys for its Angel Tree ministry to help children and families during Christmas time. Our weekly Thursday night basketball ministry welcomes 15–30 individuals from our neighborhood. These participants often bring their friends and family to watch the games. Not only did they decide to raise funds for new basketball hoops as a way to give back to the church, but they also partnered with us and the local Salvation Army in the Angel Tree Ministry. Finally, we continue to help students at SUNY Plattsburgh through our weekly donations to the Cardinal Cupboard. This service of the University assists students with food and tangible items that they otherwise cannot obtain. It is a blessing for our church to be one of the largest sources of donations for this important and valuable service.

We are pleased to announce that we have started two new ministries. We started a young adult fellowship group on Saturday nights, and we organized a Women's ministry that features a monthly breakfast, occasional activities, and we hosted a one-day women's retreat in October featuring clergy from our district.

What was most exciting of all this past year was the full sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service, our July Baptism service where I had the privilege of baptizing 6 individuals—5 of whom were under the age of 17, and the taking in of 13 new members! Following their membership classes, these 13 individuals all decided they wanted to continue learning from each other, so they formed their own small group!

It has been a great year, and we are praising God for all of it!

Respectfully submitted, Doug Milne

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	94	94	95
Total New Members	0	1	3
Baptisms	0	0	3
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	71	53	48
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	35	55	55
Total Church Income	\$121,171	\$119,930	\$138,354
Educational Fund	\$202	\$2,703	\$3,247
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,730	\$2,703	\$2,620
District Unified Fund	\$2,885	\$7,796	\$8,767
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$2,320	\$8,458	\$8,911
% Given to Nazarene Missions	1.95%	7.59%	6.88%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	Yes	Yes



Duane (Cindy) Leach
Start Date: 7/1/2015

Missional Area:
North Country

Community Population:
15,322 →

Church Address:
11 State Hwy. 72
Potsdam, NY 13676

To the District Assembly of Upstate New York:

This is my tenth report as pastor of the Potsdam Church of the Nazarene. These ten years have flown by at an incredible pace. Serving Jesus Christ in the North Country is a blessing and a privilege, and I am thankful to God for this gift.

The Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, has been working wonderfully in our church family. The call to discipleship has been renewed powerfully as several new Bible Studies have started and are flourishing. Mature Christians have taken up mentoring our new Christians, resulting in a healthy and growing congregation.

In the last few months, three people have confessed their need for forgiveness, repented of their sins, and accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. In addition, Paul Roebar, who holds a Bible study in St. Lawrence County Jail, reported leading an inmate to Christ for a total of four conversions through a church ministry. We praise God for all he is doing!

I report that the vision of starting an emergency shelter has found extreme opposition in the community and has been put on hold for now. However, God has opened doors for Potsdam Naz to partner with a Child Development Center in Jinja, Uganda, and we are exploring what we can do to help out moving forward. One door closes, another opens. To God be all glory. I am excited about Potsdam Naz's road ahead. I can't wait to see the twists and turns.

Respectfully Submitted:
Pastor Bud Leach

Rochester Calvary Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	347	274	267
Total New Members	5	19	10
Baptisms	7	6	3
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	131	161	163
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	92	114	95
Total Church Income	\$507,388	\$536,967	\$492,318
Educational Fund	\$9,797	\$10,454	\$11,820
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$9,797	\$10,557	\$9,456
District Unified Fund	\$29,390	\$31,670	\$31,914
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$73,861	\$72,596	\$75,699
% Given to Nazarene Missions	17.72%	16.26%	18.68%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Dustin (Olivia) Metcalf
Start Date: 2/5/2023

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
43,557 ➔

Church Address:
4045 E. Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, NY 14467

As I reflect on this last year, I am thankful for the ways God has been at work in our church. We continue to see new people attending, and this year, we have seen more of them stay and become more engaged in our church community—even becoming members! Our youth group has been experiencing exciting spiritual growth, and a number of our students are intentionally making decisions to make room for God in their daily lives. It is fun to see adults being inspired by our young people! Our children's ministry has gone through a season of transition but has come out the other side with some encouraging signs of growth and stability. We are excited about what may be ahead for them!

Two things happened this year that help illustrate the work God is doing. We came into the 2024 fiscal year with a significant financial surplus. The trend for a while was the opposite of this, so this came at a good time for us as we needed to do some reinvesting in our building. Believing that God is doing a new thing at Calvary, we wanted our space to be illustrative of this new work. So, we underwent a summer-long space renewal project that resulted in most of our older sections being repainted, recarpeted, and refreshed. We also wanted to be better about communicating who we are from the front door to the sanctuary, so we added new signage and design features to try to help our visitors get a sense of who we are before they even worshipped with us.

Bringing new life to our space also allowed us to change how we use some of our space. Two significant shifts happened. We moved our teen ministry to the opposite side of our building, and their old space was renovated to become our new food pantry. This last year, we gave out 57 tons of food to over 2200 households. All of this had been done from a tiny room in our church with the help of 96 different volunteers! Our shifting of space now means we have a small market-style food pantry, which allows individuals to shop our shelves for themselves. The upside to this approach is that it offers more dignity to our guests, reduces food waste, and gets them from our parking lot into our actual church building. We are excited to see how God is going to grow this ministry and the bridge between our food pantry and our sanctuary. Our desire is for our friends to experience the fullness of God's grace—body and spirit!

We've done a lot of work trying to get ready for the new thing God wants to do in our church, and this has come at a good point for us. This year, Calvary Community celebrates its 100th year! We are hoping and praying that the decisions we've made this last year will set us on a path of seeing more lives transformed by God. We are entering our second century of ministry, thankful for those who have gone before us, and excited for what God is doing and will do in the future.

Grace and peace to you,
Dustin Metcalf

Rochester Centro Gosen

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	96	102	90
Total New Members	7	6	1
Baptisms	0	9	4
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	102	112	67
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	49	43	12
Total Church Income	\$105,339	\$106,175	\$110,565
Educational Fund	\$2,625	\$2,038	\$1,129
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,899	\$2,003	\$625
District Unified Fund	\$7,089	\$6,011	\$3,000
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$6,381	\$5,245	\$1,527
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.45%	5.2%	1.4%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	No	No



Interim Raul Perez

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
206,848 →

Church Address:
99 Stonewood Ave.
Rochester, NY 14616

As we write this report, we have only been serving for three completed months at the Rochester Spanish church as interim lead pastor. And I am glad to report to you, that the church is alive and growing. Much healing has been taking place, finances are now in order, a brand-new church board was elected and functioning, as well as a new treasurer and secretary. In addition, after four weeks of singing from "YouTube" and a lot of prayers, a new worship team was formed, and this people are on fire. The Lord is faithful and "His love endures forever." Psalm 136.

Now, all of the above (there is more such as completing church building safety relating items), which are necessary things related to the functioning of the church, still are the work of the Lord, it is His church, however, the real victories have been taking place at the altar every single Sunday. Many are responding, confessing, consecrating their lives, offering to be volunteers, and some have dedicated their lives to the Lord for the first time. Others want to learn more about the Nazarene Church. One dear brother, who happens to be very active in the church, stopped me and said: "I want to learn more about those sixteen articles of faith that you are talking about, no one ever has told me about them". What a great teaching moment!!! Starting the new church year, the entire church will go through the sixteen articles of faith one by one. In addition, part of the immediate plans is to train (leaders first and then the congregation) about the functions of the auxiliary organizations (NMI, NDI and YNI) which at this moment are not organized.

Emphasis on the Christian discipline of prayer has been present right from the beginning of this new start. Part of it is the three times per week online prayer program titled "CLAMANDO AL AMANCER" (literally means "Crying out at dawn"). Right online, and for 30-40 minutes, we give the Lord thanks, intercede for families, friends, for one another, the church, the community, the country and the world. As well for missionaries and world issues. A very good number of people from the church participates with us at 6:00 am, and later on more than 150 people view the prayer video. Participants are able to write their prayers requests, and we already have seen some of those prayers' requests answered. The Lord is faithful and "His love endures forever." Psalm 136.

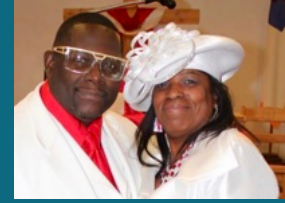
May the Lord continue to bless and help the wonderful, faithful and loving people of the Rochester Spanish church. Their hearts are that of servants, they love Jesus, and they love the church. Our special thanks to our DS pastor Olivia Metcalf, for her continue support, guidance and wisdom during this time of transition. The Lord is faithful and "His love endures forever".

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Raul Perez.

Rochester Cross of Christ Deliverance Temple

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	175	154	101
Total New Members	10	0	6
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	20	25	25
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	3	0	0
Total Church Income	\$15,700	\$40,500	\$35,000
Educational Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
District Unified Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$0	\$0	\$0
% Given to Nazarene Missions	0%	\$0	\$0
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Patrick (Regina) McNair

Start Date: 4/23/2006

Missional Area:

Rochester

Community Population:

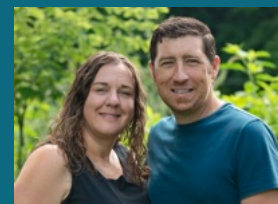
206,848 →

Church Address:

597 N. Goodman St.
Rochester, NY 14609

I have some great news. We have receive 6 new people 5 by of transitioning from another church and 1 young man by way if Salvation in the he walked in off the street, hurting and confused. He gave his life to Christ just last Sunday. All of the people are from our own community. I'm also happy to report that the work on and in the Church is in the is going well as we are looking to purchase new front doors please keep that project in pray. Our new front porch is going up in the next few months as well as a new roof project is under way. Prayer request - Direction, Finance, and Health.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	211	215	210
Total New Members	4	11	3
Baptisms	3	5	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	82	94	77
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	95	29	59
Total Church Income	\$259,337	\$242,800	\$203,783
Educational Fund	\$4,952	\$5,040	\$4,449
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$4,952	\$4,525	\$3,560
District Unified Fund	\$14,855	\$14,400	\$12,012
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$12,727	\$12,736	\$12,669
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.95%	5.68%	7.47%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	No	Yes



AJ & Rachelle Bell
Start Date: 6/17/2024

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
206,848 →

Church Address:
2924 S. Union St.
Rochester, NY 14624

We are thrilled to submit our first report as co-lead pastors at Rochester Grace. We arrived in June 2024, and have enjoyed getting to know the people of Grace, the communities surrounding us, and the beauty of Upstate New York. We are incredibly thankful for the leadership of the church board, interim Pastor Jack Connell, and Pastor Laura, Pastor Mark, and Pastor Tom in the time of pastoral transition.

The people of Grace Church of the Nazarene experienced several deep losses in the months just prior to us getting here, as well as since we arrived. As a church body, we have spent a lot of time grieving with one another, supporting each other, and reflecting on and sharing about the faithfulness of God even and especially through the storms.

We are excited about the ways that Grace Church loves the community we are placed in. Many have been happening for years, including community events such as Trunk-or-Treat, Community Fun Day, Easter Eggstravaganza, and our Food Pantry which serves many local families throughout each month.

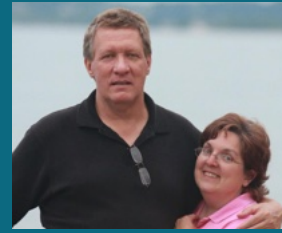
We have also developed new connections with several local elementary schools. We had the opportunity to supply Kleenex, wipes, crayons, and some used clothing for when kids need them. We also had an angel tree to provide gifts for a struggling family from one of the schools, and other families in our community. During National School Counselors Week, we sent a card and gift card to each school's counselors, which were very appreciated by those counselors who work so hard each day. We recently started stocking a shelf in the Religion & Philosophy building at Roberts Wesleyan University with snacks, games, and other fun things for students. It's been wonderful to meet students and faculty each time we go to replenish supplies. We recently had a winter clothing drive and collected many bags of coats and other cold-weather items to give to Cross of Christ Deliverance Temple for them to hand out to those they encounter in need of warmth.

In November, we hosted a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for anyone who needed a place to gather or needed food. We had about 25 in attendance, which included some from Grace Church, some from the community, and 9 refugees we connected with through World Relief. Several community members also reached out to volunteer and helped to prepare and serve the meal. The people of Grace Church provided a lot of home-cooked food to serve; it was a beautiful time together. Since then, we have formed a small group of people who are volunteering with World Relief to serve as a Good Neighbor Team to care directly for a refugee family and welcome them. It's wonderful to see the many amazing ways this church loves the community.

Some may remember Crossroads Youth Center, which reached many teens in our area beginning in the 1990s. The building (The Barn) has been mostly unused for the past few years. We have begun some remodeling and are seeking funding to do further work as we seek to provide a third space in our community. Future dreams include a cafe, tutoring, community classes, indoor playspace, work space, and more. We are praying intently for God's vision and provision for all the property here at Grace, that it can be used to glorify God and bring God's Kingdom here on earth.

As we venture into this church year, our greatest desire is that Grace Church would be a community of disciples who worship in unity, grow in Christlikeness, and are equipped to be sent to love all those around us and make disciples.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	29	32	33
Total New Members	0	5	4
Baptisms	3	3	11
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	55	61	55
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	84	84	81
Total Church Income	\$128,474	\$180, 548	\$162,664
Educational Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$3,123	\$4,247	\$2,761
District Unified Fund	\$4,617	\$9,799	\$9,160
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$8,203	\$11,471	\$8,028
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.42%	6.76%	6.09%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



James (Paula) Cox
Start Date: 6/1/2007

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
206,848 →

Church Address:
855 Long Pond Rd.
Rochester, NY 14612

It's been an interesting year at Trinity. We've gained some new families and lost some others. We've had some great times of fellowship and worship together.

We think we finally had the roof fixed only to walk in on the Saturday after the one storm to find the ceiling tiles in my office all over the floor and water everywhere.

Our cafe finally got completed and we are seeing it already being used and we hope to have more Bible studies and other events there.

Our Wednesday night Kids' Zone is doing well and enough of you "kids" have out grown it that we've started a Teens Zone as well.

I believe God has great things for us in the future at Trinity as we incorporate more "Table prayer times in our worship and focus more on getting closer to each other and to God.

Sanborn Faith Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	55	37	35
Total New Members	0	3	0
Baptisms	0	1	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	35	35	20
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	12	13	8
Total Church Income	\$125,914	\$78,455	\$65,378
Educational Fund	\$1,956	\$1,765	\$1,196
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,439	\$1,944	\$957
District Unified Fund	\$4,317	\$5,295	\$3,229
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$5,411	\$7,609	\$3,287
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.72%	11.78%	8.7%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	No



Angela (Tor) Nielsen
Start Date: 3/29/2021

Missional Area:
Buffalo

Community Population:
987 ➡

Church Address:
3520 Saunders Settlement Rd.
Sanborn, NY 14132

2024 was a hard year for Faith Community Church. Hard decisions had to be made and as is often the case when hard decisions are made, not everyone agreed with the final decision. We lost many of our core members this past year. It was heartbreaking. But we learned how to do new things. We had new leadership step up. We are a more compassionate group of people, a more patient group of people. We may be only a fraction of the church we once were, but we have mighty potential. Nothing is impossible with God!

Faith Community partners with Heritage Christian Services, Northpointe Council Impaired Driving Program, and the St. Pauly's clothing shed.

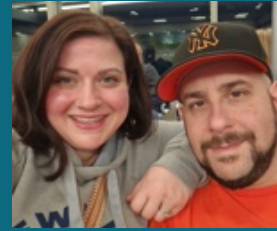
We have also developed relationship with the local SPCA where Pastor Angela acts as their spiritual support when needed. We are contributing to the Niagara County Community College food pantry. Pastor Angela also substitute teaches in the Starpoint Central Schools as a way to build relationship with our young people.

Pastor Angela is starting a new Women's Book Club and Bible Study. Pastor Eric Verbovszky, who although not a pastor at FCC, has led a Zoom study on the preternatural, leads the prayer and anointing service, and preaches/teaches when he can.

FCC will participate with Jarrod Spaulding this spring in Vision Partners, hoping to become a bigger support to the local community.

Will you please continue to pray for the good people of Faith Community Church?

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	61	25	22
Total New Members	2	1	0
Baptisms	1	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	21	21	22
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	8	16	23
Total Church Income	\$112,764	\$101,118	\$93,576
Educational Fund	\$2,370	\$2,148	\$2,343
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$2,599	\$2,148	\$1,875
District Unified Fund	\$7,109	\$6,444	\$6,327
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$6,998	\$5,775	\$5,540
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.88%	6.09%	6.63%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	No	Yes



Elizabeth (Gabe) Criscuolo
Start Date: 11/5/2018

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
65,334 →

Church Address:
2535 Consaul Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12304

It is an honor to be giving my seventh annual report for Schenectady Church of the Nazarene. The experiences, ministry, and growth over the past year has been one of the most beautiful spiritual endeavors I've had the privilege of being a part of. Lives have been changed, new people have stepped into leadership roles, five people have accepted and made a commitment to Christ and we are continuing to move forward as the body of Christ!

We continued our ministry with Northern Rivers and Paige Elementary School. We attended and hosted events. This ministry is now referred to as O.N.E. (Outreach Neighborhood Enrichment). There is a long list of activities that we did with each of these community partners but I would like to emphasize something bigger than the activities. Relationships are being formed between our church body and these community partners. This ministry isn't any specific shape, it changes and morphs from season to season, depending on need, activities, and people. Its shapelessness is what allows us to creatively fill in the gaps and show up as a loving community partner. We are seeing the changes in our neighborhood of people knowing each other and being known!

Last year we collaborated together on something I felt we were being called to which was creating a children's ministry. At the time we had one family with one child under the age of two. So, this was definitely a huge step of faith the church was willing to take! We remodeled a room to become the Children's Church room and held our first VBS in a very long time. The first night was difficult with no children in attendance, however, we pushed through and had the adults engaged in children's worship and God was so faithful. In total, we had 8 kids attend VBS last year with 16 background checked adult volunteers. Now, we have two more families attending our church with four more kids. Through this process five people (3 adults, 2 children) confessed Christ as their Savior! It was a very beautiful day of celebration on VBS Sunday!

So what's next? As we continue to do all that we have been doing, there is a new project on the horizon. We have been ministering to our neighbors, to our community partners, to one another; now we are sensing a call to create a welcoming community space on our property. We will be building a community pavilion in the side yard, something we have dreamed about for a while. It has been determined that it will likely be a project that is done in several stages. This will be a pavilion that the community can rent (for a nominal fee that will go towards maintenance of the pavilion and surrounding it). We will also be holding our annual community cookout, outside worship services, enjoy meals together in the warmer months, and can be used for events like Trunk or Treat, VBS, Father's Day cookout, Graduation Sunday, and more.

God has been so faithful to this church. And watching this church be faithful to God has shaped me deeply as a pastor and as a follower of Christ. They love God and others so very well; it is a privilege to lead them and serve alongside them in this space that God has carved out for us to live life together here in Schenectady.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Criscuolo

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	134	138	139
Total New Members	2	9	6
Baptisms	0	9	4
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	100	116	115
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	103	112	110
Total Church Income	\$204,537	\$213,334	\$276,680
Educational Fund	\$4,421	\$4,508	\$6,720
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$4,421	\$4,577	\$5,790
District Unified Fund	\$13,039	\$13,728	\$18,678
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$12,389	\$15,151	\$20,402
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.99%	8.10%	8.43%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Nathaniel (Laura) Ferguson

Start Date: 9/4/2016

Missional Area:
Rochester

Community Population:
2,261 ➔

Church Address:
8498 Indian Valley Rd.
Springwater, NY 14560

There is so much to be thankful for in Springwater!

Discipleship happened in old ways and new this past year. Our church secretary, Erica, facilitated a new Bible study in 2 Timothy that was extremely beneficial to all who attended. She will be leading a Lenten study this spring.

We have regular small groups, like the quilting and scrapbooking ministry that share in a Bible study together every Monday.

We read two books by Rich Villodas in Book Club this past year: “The Deeply Formed Life” and “Good, Beautiful, and Kind.” Both books inspired enjoyable conversations, and reflection, as we share this Christian life together.

This past fall, more than 20 people participated in Financial Peace University.

It is important that I mention how all these small groups spend time praying together as well.

We connected with our community by hosting several events, including a community worship service of hope and encouragement; several Red Cross blood drives; our local school district’s high school baccalaureate service; an Easter Egg Hunt; Trunk or Treat; a weekly GriefShare ministry; and a Blue Christmas service in partnership with the local hospice house. Hundreds of people experienced a kind, compassionate, and positive connection with His people through these events.

We went out and served our community by volunteering at the local food pantry, passing out BBQ dinners at the annual town gala, and providing a bounce house and dunk tank for the town fall festival.

Prayer and giving have always been two strengths of the church in Springwater. We look forward to growing deeper in our strengths in how we pray for and bless our community.

God has proven Himself faithful in the lives of His people, continues to bless His church and this community, and we give Him praise!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Nathaniel Ferguson

Syracuse Christ Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	180	181	146
Total New Members	12	12	5
Baptisms	6	4	3
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	125	116	113
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	63	66	57
Total Church Income	\$343,179	\$623,129	\$393,629
Educational Fund	\$7,327	\$13,172	\$9,386
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$7,327	\$13,172	\$7,331
District Unified Fund	\$21,980	\$41,144	\$25,062
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$19,350	\$34,508	\$21,426
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.45%	6.16%	6.25%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Jeff (Kristine) Rogers
Start Date: 2/28/2022

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
145,560 →

Church Address:
3644 Warners Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13209

In the last worship service of 2024, our church gathered for a time of worship and praise. We listened to some powerful testimonies. Then, an inspiring few minutes took place. Many of our people got up out of their seats and came down to the front of the church. They came to get a stone that has no value---yet it meant something to them.

Just prior to that experience, I shared with our people that the Israelites often set up altars to mark and remember important events, times when they saw God's faithfulness to them. A particular example of this being in Joshua chapter 4. After God parted the river Jordan for the Israelites to cross it, together they built an altar of 12 stones, one for each tribe.

People from all across our sanctuary came up to lay a stone down at the altar. For some, the stone represented a prayer request. For others, the stone represented an answer to prayer. Minutes later, you could see stones neatly laid all across the altar. It was evidence of God's faithfulness.

Despite some of the challenges we have faced this year, we see evidence of God's faithfulness.

- 28 people gave their life to Christ this past year
- 5 new members
- 3 baptisms
- We are partnering with a number of groups that align with our mission including:
 - Camillus Middle School (to feed kids in meals over the weekends)
 - Vineyard Church (to develop leaders in our community through the Global Leadership Summit)
 - Prison Ministry (an initiative to share God's love in local prisons)
 - Ononadaga Road Elementary School (assisting them with a function to foster greater community with young families)
 - Syracuse Shalom
 - Northside Community Church of the Nazarene
- We have begun an initiative to grow younger as a church. We have taken a couple steps so far: First, we had a meeting with our young people over a meal and asked them some questions to begin hearing their hearts. Second, we had a meeting with our older people to convey value to them and help them talk through their feelings about our church growing younger. We are working on the next steps now.
- During our Inspiring Hope Campaign we did in the fall, we sent off 84 shoeboxes for Operation
- Christmas Child, packed 11 meals for people in need during Thanksgiving, and set aside \$130 for our benevolence fund to help people who come to us year-round with various needs.
- We hosted Aspire which is a women's conference last November and saw a number of ladies come and be blessed.
- We raised \$42,735 to pay down our mortgage

Reflecting back on this year, God has been faithful to us. Our altar is a representation of that. Let's keep inspiring our community with hope through the love of Christ!

--Pastor Jeff Rogers

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership			2
Total New Members			2
Baptisms			0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person			9
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)			11
Total Church Income			—
Educational Fund			—
Pension & Benefits Fund			—
District Unified Fund			—
World Evangelism Fund + Specials			—
% Given to Nazarene Missions			—
Allocations Paid in Full?			—



AJ & Chelsea Fry

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
145,560 →

Church Address:
214 Caroline Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13209

This past year has been an exciting season for Syracuse Shalom! We've been busy, but more importantly, we've witnessed God moving in powerful ways.

Our Tuesday night prayer gathering continues to grow, welcoming new faces into our community. These gatherings have become a meaningful time to share meals, reflect on how God is working in our lives, and lift up four key prayers: Shalom for our neighbors, hunger for God's righteousness, workers for the harvest, and unity between believers. We've seen God answer prayers in incredible ways, using us to be part of His work and drawing people closer to Christ—not just within our meetings, but in our everyday interactions as well.

God has also opened doors for a new Compassionate Ministry in our community, which we've named the Shalom Network. With God's guidance, we've formed a board and established ourselves as a charitable organization dedicated to wholeness and restoration. In a truly miraculous way, He has provided the means for us to launch a food truck—allowing us to engage with the community while raising funds for a future space where we can further His mission. One young woman felt called to deepen her faith and step out in obedience; in January, she moved in with us to join this journey, and it has been a joy to see the Holy Spirit working in and through her.

Additionally, we've started a regular Bible Study, which has led to meaningful connections. One young man, who identifies as an atheist but longs for greater spirituality, has been engaging with us in deep discussions. As we continue to meet, pray, and witness God at work in his life, we hope to one day welcome him into the family of believers.

God is moving, and we are grateful to be part of His work in our community!

Syracuse Northside Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	157	156	160
Total New Members	111*	0	11
Baptisms	0	0	13
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	23	122	123
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	13	99	117
Total Church Income	\$322,958	\$95,519	\$129,223
Educational Fund	\$1,258	\$1,670	\$2,659
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,258	\$1,677	\$2,456
District Unified Fund	\$3,842	\$5,012	\$8,286
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$3,585	\$5,565	\$7,447
% Given to Nazarene Missions	7.52%	8.26%	8.14%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Clare (Chuck) Pietra
Start Date: 5/1/2022

& Jules (Josephine) Mukendi
Start Date: 9/4/2022

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
145,560 →

Church Address:
Syracuse, NY

Greetings General Superintendent, Dr. Metcalf, and members of this district assembly,

It is a privilege to report to you the work of Northside Community Church of the Nazarene for the 2024-25 church year. It has been a grounding year for Northside. We are 7 years old at this assembly. Planted as a refugee church in 2019 and merged with an American church in 2022, we consist of East Africans, Americans, and deaf Americans and refugees. This past year, the Lord has solidified us in one vision and purpose. As the pieces of our multifaceted church come together, we have learned how to work together in leadership to make decisions that benefit the entire church. Although we are many parts, we are one in the Lord. We understand what it means to care for one another in the decisions we make. This unity has bound us together, and we are learning to move as one. Of all the things we were able to accomplish together, this unity is something that God has done. We are humbled, grateful, and strengthened to move forward. To God be the glory.

Last year at District Assembly Jules Mukendi was ordained as Elder in the Church of the Nazarene. This year, Minister Ahadi Tumba and Minister Godfrey Gedeon will receive their first district licenses. Each of these pastors have faithfully served our church in this past year. We received 11 new members and baptized 13 committed believers. In September, we began the planting of a deaf church. Please pray for our deaf leaders as they work to build the deaf church. In November we partnered with Nazarene Bible College of East Africa to support the education of Swahili speaking ministerial candidates in the U.S. In January we began the integration of Swahili ministers into the English-speaking congregation. We paid our financial responsibilities in full and continue to discuss and plan for the road ahead.

The unity God has given us moves us into our next phase of establishment. Our three areas of focus in this upcoming year are services, pastoral care, and discipleship. After 7 years of building, the year ahead will be focused on teaching and discipling our people. We are seeking to teach and to grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ through his Word. We believe this knowledge impacts how we live as His holy people. Additionally, we will work to provide services and gatherings where people experience God's presence. We are praying for this work of the Holy Spirit among us, and among God's church worldwide. We will also make pastoral support and care a focus in our discipleship model.

The people of Northside are a special people whose love for the Lord is demonstrated by the way their hearts are open to His leadership. To the church, all our parts and all our people, I am blessed to be with you. May the Lord Jesus Christ have His way among us in this upcoming year. Pray for us, district family. We are praying for you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Clare E Pietra and Rev. Jules T. Mukendi
Pastors

Syracuse Valley Worship Center

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	44	45	45
Total New Members	0	1	0
Baptisms	1	1	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	23	26	26
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	5	7	18
Total Church Income	\$61,507	\$61,100	\$72,526
Educational Fund	\$300	\$300	\$75
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$746	\$462	\$462
District Unified Fund	\$750	\$750	\$975
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$2,408	\$1,844	\$1,722
% Given to Nazarene Missions	4.07%	3.11%	2.43%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Jonathan (Dianne) Cramer
Start Date: 5/1/1991

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
145,560 →

Church Address:
2929 Midland Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13205

Dear friends,

I love our congregation. It is an incredible blessing to work and worship alongside such a loving, dedicated, and committed group of the saints of God. We are one body, from many nations, and diverse life experiences. And although our numbers have dwindled as of late, we are nevertheless filled with love for God, one another, our community, and a continuing zeal to win our community to Jesus Christ.

I thank God over and over again for His great faithfulness to us. I am grateful to our congregation for their steadfast faith and service to God and His Kingdom. I am grateful for the Carthage Church of the Nazarene for their support of us through their prayers and a monthly offering. I'm also grateful for a District Superintendent who has always been very kind, encouraging and ready to help us in any way that she can. And finally, I am grateful to each one of you who have prayed for us and supported us in so many ways through all these years of ministry. May God richly bless you and your work for the Kingdom of God.

I am confident that the best days of ministry are still ahead for the Valley Worship Center Church of the Nazarene. And when the Holy Spirit is poured out on the dry and thirsty land of our labor and love, and when the increase is given and the harvest is brought into the household of faith, it will only and always be to the glory of our great and mighty God in heaven. Hallowed be His name. For without God we can do nothing. But with God, all things are possible. Faithful is the One Who calls us. He will do it.

Humbly submitted,

Jonathan Cramer

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	27	24	24
Total New Members	0	0	0
Baptisms	1	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	10	10	11
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	12	12	13
Total Church Income	\$34,860	\$44,378	\$41,506
Educational Fund	\$200	\$250	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$352	\$294	\$312
District Unified Fund	\$200	\$250	\$1,600
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$1,714	\$1,769	\$2,010
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.17%	4.15%	5.09%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



David (Kathy) Drake
Start Date: 12/1/2002

Missional Area:
North Country
Community Population:
934 →

Church Address:
8065 State Rte. 3
Vermontville, NY 12989

Although attendance is low, we continue to worship together with a strong group of fellow believers. We have a thriving adult Sunday school class that is always interested in discovering new insights throughout the Scriptures. Within our fellowship time together, there is a very evident desire to grow in the spirit and develop a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior. There is also a deep seeded hope that we will all see our loved ones come to God and that our constant prayer. We look forward to the future where we can continue to grow as a church and keep reflecting the love of Christ in our community.

David Drake Sr.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	249	232	235
Total New Members	8	11	9
Baptisms	0	5	18
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	195	225	246
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	106	141	157
Total Church Income	\$421,765	\$516,532	\$474,913
Educational Fund	\$9,496	\$11,622	\$11,748
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$9,496	\$11,622	\$9,484
District Unified Fund	\$28,472	\$34,880	\$32,004
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$34,038	\$40,336	\$35,653
% Given to Nazarene Missions	9.04%	8.61%	8.25%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Bob (Julie) Tharp
Start Date: 1/16/2017

Missional Area:
North Central

Community Population:
25,622 →

Church Address:
535 Thompson Blvd.
Watertown, NY 13601

Dear District Family,

This is my ninth report to the District Assembly, and the Lord has once again blessed Watertown Life with a wonderful year. God is transforming lives!

More people than ever have joined a Grow Group and are enjoying scripture study and fellowship resulting in Spiritual growth and Christian maturity.

We have also welcomed more visitors this past year than in previous years. We have enjoyed getting to know several families who have decided to make Life Church their church home.

Our online audience has grown tremendously this year. We are also making a greater effort to help people discover Life Church via online searches and visits to our website.

Our youth group is growing thanks to the teens who are excited to participate and bring their friends.

Scotty MacPherson started a Sunday Afternoon youth group meeting, and Life Church is happy to announce that we have hired Scotty as our full-time youth minister.

We hosted last year's District Assembly and are happy to serve in this capacity again this year. God has blessed us to be able to be the gathering place for the district family.

Our biggest outreach events of last year were our Eggstravaganza, Soccer Camp, Day Camp/VBS, and Fireworks night on the church lawn. These events drew hundreds of kids and families for great fellowship and fun.

Pastor Ron Graeflin led a group of volunteers to host a Good News Bible Club at a local elementary school as well.

A group of adults and teens went on a Work and Witness trip to Front Step Compassionate Ministry Center in Philadelphia, PA last summer. We enjoyed working directly with children in the neighborhood and accomplished several physical projects around their building.

The people of Life Church endeavor to LOVE, GROW, and SERVE every day, where we are, and our prayer is that the Lord will help us extend His love to everyone around us.

Blessed to be His,
Pastor Bob Tharp

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	57	57	56
Total New Members	2	1	0
Baptisms	0	0	1
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	39	32	33
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	6	32	12
Total Church Income	\$78,558	\$77,071	\$73,088
Educational Fund	\$1,665	\$1,644	\$1778
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,711	\$1,670	\$1,422
District Unified Fund	\$4,995	\$5,010	\$4,799
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,570	\$4,018	\$4,011
% Given to Nazarene Missions	6.66%	5.99%	6.02%
Allocations Paid in Full?	Yes	Yes	Yes



Grace (Ken) Govenettio
Start Date: 11/26/2017

Missional Area:
North Country

Community Population:
775 ↘

Church Address:
5784 NYS Rte. 86
Wilmington, NY 12997

Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:34)

LOVE => GROW => SERVE => PRAY

As together we celebrate the work of our church, we unite in gratitude to God for the opportunities we have been given to join in God’s reconciling work in the world.

Growing in Love has been our #1 focus, as this past year has been a time of intentionally drawing near to God and one another. We embraced the call to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). This love took tangible form as we welcomed new people into our congregation, fostering an atmosphere of warmth and fellowship, where all could encounter Christ’s compassion.

Our outreach efforts included a number of activities, perhaps most notably monthly fellowship dinners - in the church, at the beach, in local establishments - where family, friends, and neighbors joined us to share meals and stories, building bridges of connection. This is The Kingdom drawing near—love breaking through barriers to relationships that can lead to transformed lives.

Growth in faith marked our year as we leaned into discipleship. We began last year with our “People of Grace” study group. Our small group flourished, meeting weekly to study Scripture and pray together. In the fall, we met for “Fireside Chats” pursuing God together in fellowship and study of the Word.” This growth brings us closer to The Kingdom, where we are transformed increasingly into Christ’s likeness.

Growth in service was a cornerstone of 2024, reflecting our missional heart. This year we experimented with something new: joining our community at the Thursday evening beach concerts all summer, offering fellowship and an opportunity for crafts and prayer. Beyond our walls, one of our members traveled for a mission in Mexico, aiding in construction projects and sharing the Gospel. Locally, our partnership with the food pantry served approximately 100 families each month, a quiet but powerful witness to God’s Kingdom. As one volunteer said, “Serving isn’t just giving—it’s seeing God’s love in action.” Through service, we drew near to the holy work of Christ’s hands.

Prayer anchored us in 2024, aligning our hearts with God’s will. We launched a weekly prayer gathering last spring, interceding for our church, community, and world. Those participating together felt His Spirit stirring us toward deeper dependence upon Him. Stories of answered prayers abounded: healing from illness, a prodigal child returning home, and unity among our leadership. Prayer not only brought us near the Kingdom, but into its very courts, as we sought God’s presence and power.

This past year has shown us that we are "not far from the Kingdom of God." Yet, we are not content to linger on the edges. We will press on toward the holiness God desires, a holiness rooted in love, nurtured by growth, expressed in service, and sustained by prayer. Together, may we become a people who not only draw near to the Kingdom but live fully within it, reflecting the glory of our holy God.

Respectfully Submitted,
REV M. Grace Govenettio

Wolcott New Life Community

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Membership	64	67	67
Total New Members	0	3	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Avg. Worship Attendance, In-Person	30	15	18
Avg. NDI Attendance (formerly SDMI)	18	15	6
Total Church Income	\$83,803	\$80,651	\$87,348
Educational Fund	\$1,397	\$0	\$0
Pension & Benefits Fund	\$1,491	\$0	\$0
District Unified Fund	\$4,149	\$4,875	\$5,406
World Evangelism Fund + Specials	\$4,442	\$0	\$4,838
% Given to Nazarene Missions	5.6%	0%	6.15%
Allocations Paid in Full?	No	No	No



Pastoral Transition

Missional Area:
Central

Community Population:
4,085 ➡

Church Address:
13206 Ridge Rd.
Wolcott, NY 14590

Greetings in the powerful name of Jesus.

As we continue to be the interim pastor of the Wolcott New Life Community Church of the Nazarene, we have seen the spiritual growth of the members of this small community of faith. They work together, pray together and faithfully attend to church every Sunday. Sunday services are always blessed, and in spite of the fact of the absence of live music, worshipping is real, meaningful and up lifting. In one of those services, two children and one teenager from the same family, accepted Jesus as their savior. Their parents explained to us that they never told their children to do that that morning, that they just responded themselves to the invitation. How wonderful is to see how the Holy Spirit work in our lives.

Last year the church organized and promoted several activities to make their presence within the community, this included a Thanksgiving community dinner and a Friday Night movie at the church. The efforts to start a Spanish speaking group in the church has been very difficult, for the simple reason of the instability of the immigrant / migrant population of the area. Still, we continue to visit, pray and keep in touch with some of them and assisting them. Twice last year the church opened its doors for long hours workshop for migrant workers presented by support organizations of the area.

The church continues to prepare financially for the calling a permanent pastor. In conjunction with the district, a plan is already in place to repair the church's parsonage, looking to complete the work during the Spring and Summer times.

We want to take this opportunity to give thanks to pastors AJ and Chelsea Fry for taking over the responsibility of preaching on Sunday. We continue to assist the Wolcott church, conducting board meeting and fulfilling pastoral work as needed.

We ask for your prayers for this beautiful community of believers, as they themselves seek the Lord's will for the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Raul Perez

Section FIVE

Upcoming Events

Stay up-to-date by going to our website: www.upstatedistrict.org or our district auxiliary social media pages.



May

NMI Emphasis

Missionary Health Care



Lay Retreat

May 16-18

Camp-of-the-Woods



Summer Sports Camp

May 30-June 1

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center



June

NMI Emphasis

World Mission Broadcast



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

June 10

8am and 7pm



Prime Time Retreat

June 25-27

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center



July

NMI Emphasis

Educational Institutions



Family Camp

June 28 - July 6

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

July 8

8am and 7pm



Children's Discovery Camp

July 16 - 19

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center



August

NMI Emphasis

Care and Connection (LINKS)



Missional Grant Applications Open

August 1

Applications will be on the website and in the newsletter



Teen Camp

August 4-9

Brooktondale Camp & Retreat Center



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

August 12

8am and 7pm



September

NMI Emphasis

Alabaster



Mission Area Gatherings—Locations TBA

September 6, 11-1

September 13, 11-1

September 20, 11-1

September 27, 11-1



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

September 9

8am and 7pm



Missional Grant Applications Due

September 15

Submit to office@upstatedistrict.org



Nazarene Mission Team to Guatemala

September 19-28



October

NMI Emphasis

Mission Priority One



Mission Area Gatherings—Locations TBA

October 4, 11-1

October 18, 11-1



NYI Fall Retreat

October 11-13

Location TBD



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

October 14

8am and 7pm



November

NMI Emphasis

Thanksgiving Offering



Leadership Team Retreat

November 6-9

Penn Yan



Pastors' Prayer Zoom

November 11

8am and 7pm



December

NMI Emphasis

Compassionate Ministries



Advent

December 1-24

Join churches across the district as we celebrate Advent with *Hope of All the Earth* devotional book



January

NMI Emphasis

Volunteer Ministries



Ministry Kid Retreat

January 17-19

Location TBD



February

NMI Emphasis

Alabaster