

Section 1-D

District Leader's Reports

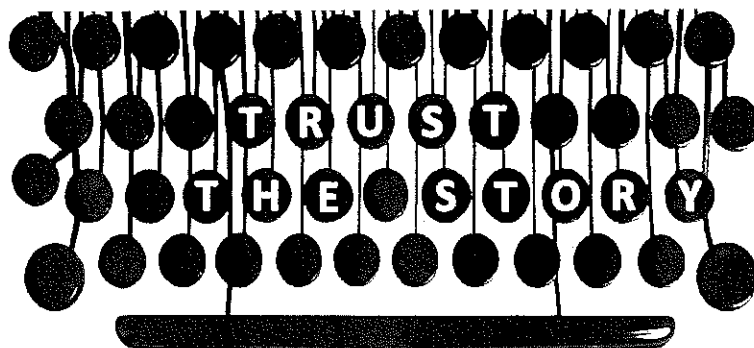
District Superintendent

District SDMI President

District NMI President

District NYI President

Missional Leadership Specialist



Church of the Nazarene
Mid-Atlantic District
Report of the District Superintendent to the District Assembly
April 18, 2020

GREETINGS

General Superintendent, Dr. Carla D. Sunberg; Eastern Nazarene College President, Dr. Jack Connell; DS Emeritus, Dr. Kenneth Mills; Pastors, Associates, Delegates and Friends of this *one hundred thirteenth* Assembly of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Nazarene, I greet you in the powerful name of Jesus our Risen Savior and Coming King!

It is my privilege to bring my fourth report as the Superintendent of the Mid-Atlantic District. By God's help we have gathered in these moments to recognize and affirm our commitment to the ongoing mission, "*to advance the ministry of Jesus Christ.*"

I welcome you as we celebrate the joy of "*holy conferencing.*" These are moments of accountability to one another as well as to the One who has called us to this part of God's Mission Field. I am grateful that you are here and welcome your refreshed commitment to "Trust the Story" as we celebrate His faithfulness and provision.

A STORY

David Brooks writing in his recent book entitled, *The Second Mountain, The Quest for a Moral Life*, tells the story of Trabian Shorters, who leads a fellowship group of African American men out of Miami, Florida called BMe. He challenges the men to understand that a community narrative has four parts. He says, "there is framing (*which defines the context*), narrative (*where we came from and where we are going*), identity (*who we are*), and behavior (*actions that define us.*)"

The **context** for our work is the Mid-Atlantic District spread out across a wide swath of geography comprised of multiple cultures, ethnicities and people groups who desperately need to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

The **narrative** is the record of where we have been and where we are headed in obedience to the call of God upon our lives. The Mid-Atlantic District is replete with a rich history of God's activity and an incredibly bright future ahead.

Our **identity** continues to be shaped by the presence of the One who has called us into His kingdom work.

Our **behavior** must reflect obedience in each context where God has placed us. This is brought sharply into focus as we consider ways to responsibly steward the context and narratives around us.

June 24, 2010 was a warm sunny Thursday, and it was my privilege to be in the Mid-Atlantic District Missional Resource Center's conference room. I was there at the invitation of Dr. Ken

Mills as he began the conversation with a group of individuals regarding the future of the Mid-Atlantic District. The morning began with a breakfast meeting with Dr. Mills and Ken Balch where they outlined the agenda for the meeting and talked about “hoped for” outcomes.

As the plenary meeting began each person was asked to share a word that best described where they were in their personal leadership journey. Words like “*fabric*,” “*legacy*” and “*hope*” were common as we discussed the day’s agenda.

Having no idea that day of all that would transpire, I shared the word, “*responsibility*.” I also shared that this word has two aspects. The first is “*responsibility*” as “*the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something*.” Clearly we have the “*responsibility*” to care for many things related to our shared work. In many ways this report is an accounting of the “*responsibility*” for all that has transpired since we last gathered together.

There is another aspect to this word that can be seen when it is dissected. There is a “*response-ability*” which asks us to respond as circumstances require and demand. I am seeking to increase my capacity to respond to an environment that is ever changing. All of this is an effort to expand the work of the kingdom of God across the Mid-Atlantic District.

My “*response-ability*” and “*responsibility*” are continually forged by the Mid-Atlantic’s **Shared Purpose** and **Shared Vision** which pushes us to venture forward.

OUR IDENTITY

Since our last gathering in April of 2019, I continue to experience the faithfulness of God as I travel across the Mid-Atlantic District. God’s gracious activity is apparent in the life of the churches across this great district. It is obvious that although no two places are alike, we serve a God who is the same “*yesterday, today and forever*.”

In an era of increasing polarity caused by factions within the culture, when institutional drift haunts organizations, in a time when organizational paralysis lurks around every corner, it would be easy to go astray if we fail to keep our eyes on Him.

Possessing a Shared Purpose and Shared Vision gives us courage to push out and venture forward into God’s preferred future. Consider:

OUR SHARED PURPOSE & SHARED VISION

Our Shared Purpose/Vision

To advance the ministry of Jesus Christ

Our Shared Vision

*Compelled by God we are a movement of people
who passionately live the story of Jesus Christ*

Our Shared Values inform our decisions and shape the work that God has given us to do...

Our Shared Values

Spiritual Formation...

We Affirm Our Calling To Be Shaped And Formed In The Image Of Christ.

Leadership Development...

We Affirm Our Calling To Develop The Next Generation Of Leaders.

Congregational Vitality...

We Affirm Our Calling To Resource Congregations.

Missional Expansion...

We Affirm Our Calling To Plant The Next Garden.

Stewardship Advancement...

We Affirm Our Calling To Invest Our Time, Talent And Treasure.

OUR MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

Rethinking Mental Models To Develop Versatile & Adaptable Congregations

Reproducing & Multiplying Disciples, Pastors, And Leaders

*Partnering & Collaborating With Churches And Groups Outside The
Local Congregation To Experience The Movement Of God*

We must constantly be reminded as leaders the key to each of these values is the word “*shared*.” Often I am reminded that our “*shared*” vision is guided by our “*shared*” values. I continually re-affirm my pledge to give my best efforts toward leading from these “*shared*” values and commitments. I remain deeply committed to these seminal concepts and continue to look for innovative ways to fulfill these in contextually appropriate ways.

Our **Shared Vision, Purpose, Values and Ministry Principles** have skillfully guided our ongoing efforts to full the Great Commission and involve ourselves in the work of the Kingdom of God over this past year.

PERSONAL GRATITUDE

The Mid-Atlantic District is replete with leaders who are gifted and who daily offer their best efforts under the Spirit’s anointing to bring direction to our shared work.

Words are not adequate to express my full and deep appreciation for the work and leadership of District Superintendent Emeritus, Dr. Ken Mills who has been a trusted friend and encouragement in my life. Much of what we experience today as a district, had its origin in his mind and heart and for this I will always be grateful.

The District Advisory Board has worked tirelessly over this past year to bring their perspective, support and prayer to the work of the Mid-Atlantic District. They are exemplary leaders and gifted servants who daily have prayed that God would enable us to fulfill our calling.

PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

It has been a joy to work with the congregations and ministry leaders across the Mid-Atlantic District. Driving 31,027 miles to meetings and congregational visits has given me a front row seat to God's gracious activity in the life of His church.

It has been my privilege to serve the local church by:

- Meeting with one hundred and three pastors for a meal or coffee.
- Preaching at twenty nine different churches
- Preaching forty three times at churches across the District.
- Conduct twenty four Area Pastor's Meetings
- Overseeing eighteen Pastoral/Church Relationship Reviews with Church Boards in compliance with Manual ¶123
- Conducted fifty four Church Board Meetings
- Participating in four Local LEAD weekends

It has been my privilege to serve the district by:

- Leading twenty District Staff meetings at the District Missional Resource Center.
- Chairing four District Advisory Boards
- Guiding the Board of Ministry
- Conducting three Ordination Seminars
- Conducting Cohort Meetings
- Leading Family Camp
- Visiting Spanish Family Camp, Teen Camp and Children's Camp
- Leading Pastor's & Spouses Retreat
- Leading Mid Atlantic District Executive Retreat
- Participating in Ministry Assessment Center
- Leading new Leaders Orientation
- Participating in Committees (Family Camp Program, TEAM Day and Finance Committee)
- Conducting Mission Advance Planning (MAP) Team
- Led MAD Executive Retreat

It has been my privilege to serve the Eastern Field by:

- Attending Eastern Nazarene College Board of Trustees Meeting (October & March)
- Eastern Field District Superintendent's Field Retreat
- Chairing the District Superintendents Council-Liaison to Board of Trustees

It has been my privilege to serve the General Church by:

- Attending Leadership Conference (General Superintendents & District Superintendents)
- Attending M19 Evangelism Conference
- Participating in Black Strategic Readiness Task Force
- Attending Estes Park Clergy Consultation in Colorado
- Participating in Black Ministries Conference Planning Meeting
- Attending Course of Study Clergy Consultation

HIGHLIGHTS/FAST FACTS

New Churches Organized – 2019-2020

- Gambrills-Crofton Life Bridge Church (Pastor Juan Mendez) 50 charter members
- Marriottsville Impact Church (Pastor Eric Valenstein) 51 charter members
- Cockeysville Bethel Church (Pastor Olivia Rodriguez) 52 charter members
- Dundalk Solo Christo Salva (Pastor Fredy Lopez) 75 charter members

Church Planting (2005-2020)

- 48 churches started
- 22 organized
- 14 church plants are active
- 14 disorganized

Ordained/Credentialed Ministers (2005-2020)

- 125 people ordained or had credentials recognized (39 of these were women)

Women in Ministry (2020)

- *Lead Pastors (12)*
- *Associate Pastors (23)*
- *Elders (14)*
- *Licensed Ministers (15)*
- *1st Time District License Candidates (8)*

Leadership Development

- Strengths Training – nearly 700 leaders
- LEAD Events – 430 lay leaders

Churches

- 98 Organized Churches (5 inactive)
- 16 Plants/Missions/CTMs/Preaching Points (2 District Mission Status)
- 109 (Active/Organized Churches/Plants, etc.)

It is a privilege to serve with an incredible group of servant leaders who passionately fulfill their calling by investing themselves in the work of the Mid-Atlantic District. Each day I am reminded of the grace of God which has been extended to me and for the honor I have of serving with these leaders

Words are not adequate to thank the special and gifted people who have served so faithfully over this past year. Please join me in expressing appreciation to the following exemplary leaders:

- Richard Wilson, Chairman of the Finance Committee
- Jonathan Batchelder, Chairman of Camp Program Committee
- Kelly Spitler, Ministerial Resource Committee Chair (and Pastoral Support)
- Steve Grosvenor, Board of Ministry Chair (retired 2020)
- Brian Remsch, Board of Ministry Chair
- Ben Spitler, Advisory Board Secretary
- Brian Remsch, Paul MacPherson and Norm Huffman, Pastoral Prayer Retreat Coordinators (RENEW)
- Paul MacPherson, TEAM Day (Leadership Advance) and SDMI Chair
- Sharon Kessler, District NMI (Missions) President
- Derek Parson, District NYI (Youth) President

In addition to these, I am grateful for these teams who have faithfully served over this past year.

- District Advisory Board Members
- District Finance Committee
- Properties and Credentials Committee
- Missional Strategy and Church Planting
- Pastoral Enrichment Committee
- Mission Partnering Fund Committee
- Ministerial Resource Fund Committee
- Board of Ministry Members
- Trustees to Eastern Nazarene College
- Family Camp Program Committee
- Williamson Bible Institute
- NMI Council Members
- NYI Council Members
- SDMI Council Members

I want to especially recognize the Mid-Atlantic District staff for their dedicated service since our last Mission Advance. They have been very helpful to me over this past year and their service has been exemplary in their efforts to continue to move the district forward.

- Doreen Armstrong - District Treasurer
- Kenneth Balch - District Missional Leadership Specialist
- Roland Edouard - District Haitian Consultant
- Karen Gray – Office Administrative Assistant
- Philip Heap - District Latino Consultant
- Terry Sowden - Assistant District Superintendent and District Secretary

Lastly, I want to say a special thanks to my wife Diane for her daily prayers, faithful support and constant encouragement. She has tirelessly traveled with me across the district and has been a blessing to the churches where she has been.

I am particularly grateful of her and her leadership team in their faithful efforts to resource and encourage women in ministry leadership as well as those whose spouses serve in leadership on the Mid-Atlantic District.

We enjoy traveling together and continue to enjoy God's blessings on our family. We are grateful for your prayers and support as we have served among you.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the last couple of years focused attention has been given to the rebirth of three strategic congregations from three different areas of the Mid-Atlantic District. Each of these congregations has a storied past and possesses great promise for the future.

Following a careful review of each church and after pondering the future possibilities each church was declared "*inactive*" as they entered into a period of rest. As soil is allowed to lay fallow, each of these churches have been through a season of lying fallow as new seeds have been planted which will lead to future harvests.

Annapolis Hope Rising under the capable leadership of Pastor Lenae Ross is going through a season of preparation as new relationships are built and new alliances are forged. I am grateful for the faithful leadership of the Prestas and Jesus te Ama as they have welcomed the new congregation. At present, the church is going through a time of enjoying meals around the table as they get better acquainted with their community and look for innovative ways to minister to those who call Annapolis home.

Washington, DC Mosaic has been a significant church in the nation's capital for over a century. Their ministry impact has birthed ministries and ministers who have had worldwide impact. Recently, Dr. Bryan Todd has been hired to serve as the Executive Director of the Washington, DC Mosaic. A comprehensive study of the community has been completed, an intensive evaluation of the current facilities has been undertaken and an evaluation of the current ministries as well as the future opportunities have been analyzed. The future is bright and the possibilities for effective and innovative ministries are on the horizon.

State College is home to Penn State University and one of the top ten concentrations of millennials in the United States. The statistics of the community beg for a strong Nazarene congregational presence that shares the good news of the Gospel in innovative ways. Presently, I am in active conversation with individuals who we pray will join us as we re-birth the State College Church.

Rev. Zach and Ashley McDonald are presently pastoring an independent church plant immediately behind the State College church building. They have become active prayer partners, ministry supporters and friends awaiting a new start in State College. They are with us during this Mission Advance and have been consistent encouragers as we have prayerfully looked ahead.

CLOSING

As we consider our shared future, I am reminded that God is calling us to levels of “*obedient risk*” that future generations will benefit from. The environment is not always conducive to “*obedient risk*.” Many great opportunities are missed because we have succumbed to “*YBH Thinking*” Yeah, But How? We are reminded that every great work of God always begins with “*Yes*” before we understand “*How*.”

The Psalmist penned powerful words in the 102nd Psalm...

¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the Lord, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.

¹⁶ For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory. ¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea. ¹⁸ ***Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord:*** Psalm 102:15-18

Where we find ourselves today is the result of decisions that were made in the generations who have come before us. It is also true that where we find ourselves is the result of decisions that others have failed to make. What decisions should we make in these days that future generations will applaud?

Consider your place of ministry and the church you are a part of, how much time is spent in the typical meeting dealing with situations or circumstances that are the result of a previous generations failing to make a decision?

My prayer is that as the Mid-Atlantic District, we will make decisions that future generations will recognize and benefit from. My prayer is that the decisions we make will extend the borders of the kingdom and that people will be swept into joy of obediently fulfilling God’s purposes.

The work that we do today is a “*letter to the future*.” I want future generations to recognize the hand of God working through our hands to create sustainable ministries that deeply impact people’s lives. Join me in praying that we will make decisions today that will result in people coming to Christ, answering the call to service and living out the Gospel.

By God’s help, I pledge my best efforts to continue to write a “*letter to the future*” that will be grounded in His grace!

Grace and Peace!

DAVID W. BOWSER

2. District SDMI Chairperson

It is my privilege to report to the Mid-Atlantic District on behalf of the SDMI Council. I want to take this opportunity to thank the District SDMI Council for their hard work and faithfulness this past year: Tamara Adams, DeVona Cordell (Women's Ministries), Robin Curtis (Children's Ministries), Eric Folk, Judy Carney (Treasurer), Yolanda Lynner, Brian Remsch, Jim Moyers (CLT), Amy Varner (Secretary), and Kay Wilder. It is truly a joy to serve God and the Mid-Atlantic District with each of you.

One of the things that we, as a council, are committed to is the ability to partner with the local church in "Advancing the Ministry of Jesus Christ." To that end, the MAD SDMI council seeks to be a resource to help the local church. It is our hope to be able to provide financial assistance for the purpose of purchasing curriculum and supplies, as well as providing training for those churches that may not otherwise be able to provide programs such as Vacation Bible School and other ministry opportunities. Please check the MAD SDMI Facebook page and the SDMI page on the district website occasionally, as we will be using that as a primary way of making churches and leaders aware of what is happening through the ministry of the Mid-Atlantic SDMI.

Leadership Advance/TEAM Day once again proved to be a powerful tool for equipping the local church leaders for ministry within their local congregations. Special thanks to the TEAM Day council for their extraordinary leadership; as well as to Pastor Tim Brooks and the congregation and amazing staff of Ellicott City Crossroads for being such gracious hosts, and for making this year's transition in location go seamlessly. This past year, we were privileged to have Dr. Ed Stetzer, Billy Graham Distinguished Chair of Church, Mission and Evangelism at Wheaton College, as our keynote speaker, as well as a wide variety of workshops, including Dr. Doug Hardy, Professor of Spiritual Formation at Nazarene Theological Seminary. This year, we are looking forward another great event featuring various workshops conducted by some of our talented district leaders, as well as a 4-workshop track focusing on the missional church to be led by Dr. Josh Sweeden, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Church and Society at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Lauren Snodgrass, who serves as the Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Program and Church Engagement Coordinator will also be joining us to speak on Compassionate Ministries within the Local Church.

Perhaps the most exciting news we have regarding TEAM Day is that we have confirmed **Dr. Leonard Sweet** as our keynote speaker. Dr. Sweet has written extensively on the church's ability to faithfully carry out her mission in today's world. In his new book, *Rings of Fire*, Sweet challenges the reader to lead their neighbors to the feet of Christ "in the face of eruptive and disruptive culture changes from economics and communications to bioethics and beyond." You will not want to miss this exciting day of training and fellowship on November 7, 2020 at Ellicott City, MD Crossroads Church of the Nazarene.

Each year, MAD SDMI Ministries will be presenting two "Servant Hearts Awards" to laypersons who have made a significant contribution to the ministry of the Mid-Atlantic District. The recipients of this year's awards will be presented during Mission Advance. They will be presented with a statue of Jesus washing the feet of one of the disciples and a certificate that

reads, "Recognition of a Servant Heart: This certificate is given in appreciation to (name) for the years of dedicated service given to the various ministries of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Nazarene."

Thank you for the privilege of serving God by serving each of you who are a part of the Mid-Atlantic District. May God continue to make His presence known in and through the ministry of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,

PAUL D. MACPHERSON

SDMI Achievement Awards

Exceptional

Berkeley Springs
Delmar Haitian
Gettysburg
Melwood
Pleasant Ridge
Shippensburg The Local Gathering

Superior

Catonsville De Restauracion
College Park
Cumberland Bethel
Federalsburg Haitian
Georgetown Haitian
Smyrna Faith
South Carroll
Skylesville Impact

Honor

Dover Mountain Grove Chapel
Dundalk Solo Cristo Salva
Fawn Grove
Frederick First
Gambrills-Crofton LifeBridge
Hagerstown
Milford
Mount Airy New Beginning
North East
Rockville
Severn Grace Pointe Community
Shippensburg

3. District NMI President's Report

District Superintendent Dr. David Bowser, Dr. Carla Sunberg, District NMI Council, delegates, members, friends and guests, it is my privilege to present my twelfth annual report for the Mid-Atlantic District Nazarene Missions International (NMI). It is truly a joy to serve a district who prays fervently, gives generously, shares the story of what God is doing around the world in and through the Church of the Nazarene, and is made up of individuals who have given their time to be involved in missions in their community and around the world. Thank you for your faithfulness to Pray, Tell the Story, Engage Children and Youth, and to Give so that our churches keep the flame burning brightly for Jesus!

Nazarene Missions International, Who We Are --

Nazarene Missions International (NMI) is the organization responsible for engaging and mobilizing the local church in missions in the Church of the Nazarene and is the denomination's representative for missions in the district and in the local church. NMI is people praying, giving, building, and engaging all ages with the good news of Jesus.

NMI is a direct line for missions in the local church and is the denomination's organizational representative dedicated to the cause of world evangelization. It is the distinctive task of NMI to bring each mission area into the local church in such a vital way that every Nazarene will be glad to be part of global outreach, spreading the good news of full salvation (holiness) to the ends of the earth. NMI provides the infrastructure, the spiritual dynamic vehicle, whereby the local church is mobilized in mission.

Nazarene Missions International, What We Do --

NMI helps develop missionaries, assists in sending missionaries, supports missionaries through prayer and giving, educates individuals and congregations as to the work of Nazarene Missions, welcomes and hosts missionaries when they return for home assignment, helps equip missionaries to return to their field of service, is the global missions advocate in every local church, and nurtures the spirit of missions in everyone.

Trusting the Story, Where We Came From --

In response to Christ's Great Commission, the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America founded the Woman's Missionary Society in April 1899. NMI traces its origin primarily to this organization and the work of global missions even before the founding of the Church of the Nazarene. Passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and full salvation fueled the beginning of the Church of the Nazarene. While methods have changed over our history, passion for the Great Commission remains the heartbeat of our mission today.

Trusting the Story, Serving Today --

Our churches have been actively engaged in mission this year. Four missionary families toured our district and many others visited churches as Faith Promise speakers. We heard the story of

what God is doing around the world first hand! At least forty-three churches were linked to four missionaries and supported them in prayer and communication. At least four churches (and likely more) were actively engaged in partnerships with Fields, churches and districts in other world areas. Forty-nine churches gave over \$36,000 for Alabaster. Almost every church who reported indicated that they prayed for missionaries and global missions work. NMI partnered with NYI in their Youth Equipped to Serve event to engage youth in missions. NMI also provided a missionary couple in residence at Family Camp who met with the children, pre-teens and teens as well as adults, engaging children and youth in missions. Seven Work and Witness teams served in Jamaica East, Jamaica West, Cuba East, Cuba West, Peru and Fawn Grove Compassion Center. As of February 28, 2020 our churches gave over \$694,000 to World Evangelism Fund and \$895,000 to Approved Mission Specials.

Two individuals who have been important to missions on our district for many years moved from their earthly home to their home in heaven this past year. Mrs. Doris Carnahan served as District NMI President for seventeen years. Miss Rose Handloser, served thirty years as a missionary to Africa, and after returning to the States served on our District NMI Council. We have donated to Missionary Health Care by registering both of these incredible women on the Memorial Roll. I would like their family and representatives to join me on the platform as we present them the Memorial Roll Certificate for their loved one.

This year we spent considerable time in prayer and preparation for a restructuring of the District Council. Each member worked through Strengths Finder to help us understand everyone's primary strengths. Then we determined specific responsibilities for every council member considering their passions and spiritual gifts. The council has a new energy for serving and everyone understands their role. District NMI is made up entirely of volunteers so this restructuring has helped us to serve more efficiently.

Trusting the Story, Where It's Leading Us Tomorrow --

Two years ago I announced that this would be my final term as District NMI President. Our Council has spent these two years preparing for a transition of leadership resulting in two names that you have voted on to be the next President and Vice President. I am excited about a new generation of leadership taking the helm and guiding us forward! Rachel Hubbard and Jeremy Post will join me to share their vision of how NMI will move forward into a new decade.

Appreciation --

I want to publically express my appreciation for each of the missions-passionate people who serve on our District NMI Council. They are an amazing team! I especially want to thank Rachel Hubbard and Jeremy Post for serving as my Core Team and preparing for leadership. They partnered in many of the responsibilities of District President and joined me attending Eastern USA Area and USA/Canada Regional NMI meetings and conferences. They gave an amazing amount of their time and energies to NMI.

And a huge thank-you to my husband, Al, who was my partner in life and missions and a follower of Jesus before he concluded his time here and moved to heaven this past October. His quiet, behind the scenes service to NMI and the Church will be greatly missed.

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SHARON E KESSLER

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Respectfully submitted,

SHARON E KESSLER

4. DISTRICT NYI PRESIDENT

It is my absolute privilege to bring my second report as Mid-Atlantic District NYI President. This past year has been a year filled with great events led by fantastic teams of leaders, and continued collaboration amongst youth workers from across the district as we learn and resource each other in this great adventure of youth ministry.

Our Council

I have the honor of working alongside an incredible team that makes up our District NYI Council. These gifted leaders invest time and energy to share wisdom in our meetings and provide leadership in our different ministries and events. This team of event coordinators, age representatives, and executive council members are a joy to work with, and serve our district well. This has been a year of great celebration of what God has done, and the unique challenges that our leadership team addressed with continued wisdom and grace.

Thanks to our student representatives: Mason Moser, Bethany Tymes, Dulci Moots, Lauren Border, Noah Balch, and Josh Clugston. Thanks to our executive council members: Melissa Moser, who puts in many hours, faithfully keeping our finances straight; Jesse Happel, for serving as our secretary and taking amazing notes of our meetings; as well as Gregg Alsbrooks and Josh Kleinfeld for their continued wisdom on the council.

I want to take a special moment to thank our new Vice President, Kevin Liddle. During his first year in this role, he has been a huge support and help as we work together as leaders. As we have had time to work together this past year, it has been so neat to see how our personalities and gifts complement each other. I am excited to be able to continue to partner with Kevin as we look towards the future for our district.

Our Purpose

To quote our charter: *The Purpose of the Mid-Atlantic District Nazarene Youth International (NYI) is to provide a ministry of support, coordination, and guidance to the local youth ministries. This includes ministries to motivate, equip, and involve young people in and for discipleship, generosity, church growth, mission, and leadership in the Kingdom of God.*

We exist to support the local youth ministries that stretch across our diverse district. We cannot be a youth group to the students of our district - that can only happen at the local level. What we *can* do, is provide meaningful events and work to connect, equip, and encourage the local youth worker.

What makes our district NYI so great is the gifted, godly women and men who serve in our local youth ministries. We have so many who have served for many years in their local ministry, and you can see it in the impact their youth ministries have made for the kingdom of God. We are also blessed to have many newer youth workers serving in local ministries in so many creative ways. I do want to take a moment to welcome three new youth pastors who have joined the district this past year: Bryce Karafa, Chris Fuller, and Jared Tucker. We are so excited for them to be a part of the team and for the other youth workers who I may have missed in this report.

Events and Ministries

As I mentioned earlier, we have an amazing team of event coordinators who run top-notch events and ministries for Mid-Atlantic youth and youth workers. So, let's thank God for what He has done through these leaders and ministries.

Jesse Happel continues to do an amazing job leading our *Youth Worker Cohorts*. This important ministry brings youth workers together for encouragement, sharing of ideas, resourceing, and prayerful support. Jesse also took on the responsibility of coordinating the youth ministry portion of *TEAM Day* this year. Under his leadership, NYI had a variety of topics and resources covered during our workshops for youth workers and student leaders all centered around the theme of Leadership Development. We are so appreciative of him taking on this ministry to youth workers and student leaders.

The youth portion of *Family Camp* this year was once again led by Matt Moser with the help of Scott Mankamyer. We are thankful for their leadership in creating meaningful times of teaching, worship, and also providing fun activities for community to happen amongst our students at Family Camp.

Heather Ingram continues to be a *Festival of Life* rock star. She works tirelessly to organize and plan both District FOL and FOL@ENC, with the help of Natalie Staley, for our district. We were sad that FOL@ENC had to be postponed due to COVID-19. However, during this time of changing plans, we were once again reminded of how blessed we are to have her at the helm of FOL for our district, with her quick and clear communication during this unprecedented time we find ourselves in.

This was a big year for us with *Nazarene Youth Conference* happening this past July. We are so thankful for JR LaPearl and Justin Bronder's leadership for our district in creating an amazing trip and experience for our 180 students and adult leaders. They joined 9,000+ other teenagers from across US and Canada at NYC this summer in Phoenix, AZ. In a year that had constantly moving parts, I also want to thank all of the amazing adult leaders who showed so much initiative and adaptability in making this a life changing trip for our high schoolers.

Going along with our theme of Leadership Development in 2019, our *Teen Summer Camp* this past year focused on the theme LIGHT IT UP. Our Team Camp Leadership Team is, in my opinion, the prime example of team leadership. As I have said before: I like to call Teen Camp our "Avengers Movie" where many heroes of youth ministry come together to use their unique gifts to pull off a powerful week for our middle schoolers and high schoolers. I have the privilege to be a part of this "power team" as Josh liked to call it, led by Brian Schafer and Kevin Liddle. This team included Josh Kleinfeld, Ryan Scott, Josh Massey, Eric Valenstein, and Jesse Happel. They meet throughout the year to plan, dream, and create together.

I am so thankful for Wade Thompson who continues to lead our biannual Field event, *Quest* for our district. We are sad that this leadership event had to be canceled due to COVID-19, but the leadership is hopeful that it will be able to be rescheduled next year.

Our *Youth Quizzing*, under the leadership of the amazing James Moots, continues to help students engage in God's Word and build relationships across the district. James' welcoming and engaging spirit makes it easy for new churches to join in, and makes all feel a part of the quizzing family.

This past December, we held our bi-annual retreat, *YES (Youth Equipped to Serve)*. This event gives 11th and 12th graders a chance to wrestle with their calling while being mentored by those currently in unique ministries. We are blessed to once again partner with NMI and our district leadership to create an encouraging and life-changing experience for our high schoolers.

2020-2021 Theme: Stewardship Advancement

This year we are continuing the tradition of taking one of the district's 5 core values and flesh it out through some of our district NYI events. This past year we focused on the core value of LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. This theme was the emphasis of many of our events this past year, including NYI Convention, Teen Camp, and TEAM Day. This year we are going to focus on the core value of STEWARDSHIP ADVANCEMENT. This will be the focus of NYI for the upcoming 2020-2021 year.

Last Thanks

As I wrap up this report, I want to thank the people of Laurel Nazarene Church, who believe in the importance of student ministry in the local and district level, and are supportive of me in this role. Also a gigantic thank you to my wife, Aubree, for her support and sacrifices in making it possible for me to serve in this position. And lastly, thank you to my two boys, Waverly and Wren for just being awesome!

Respectfully Submitted,

DEREK D. PARSON

5. District Missional Leadership Specialist

In my 18th year serving as district staff working to develop leaders for Christ's mission among us as part of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Nazarene, I've continued to invest deeply in identifying, recruiting, mentoring and equipping pastors, staff and volunteers for effective and fruitful leadership in ministry. Just as one cannot determine the health & vitality of an individual congregation from a quick glance or from looking at a one-year report, it's important to take a long view of the district from time to time in order to be able to appreciate the fruitfulness of our labors. Leadership development for ministry is a life-long process and necessitates continual attention to ensure effective shepherding & missional impacts on the communities God has placed us in to serve & bless. I am grateful to be a part of a district that keeps focused on preparing servants for the work of God's Kingdom coming right in the middle of our day-to-day lives.

Some of our efforts look like this; in the past 15 years 51 new congregations have been planted and continue to serve their neighbors as witnesses for God's love and redemption. Twenty-two of these new works have been recognized as fully organized congregation in the Church of the Nazarene including two Latino congregations in Cockeysville & Dundalk Maryland this church year. Fourteen of these 31 congregations are not yet organized. In the same time frame an additional 15 congregations were planted but after time had passed were rendered inactive and ceased to meet. These are not failures. These churches represent attempts to reach new neighborhoods and communities and we've learned important lessons in how to start new churches from these. In total 46 new churches were started on our district in the past 15 years. That's good work.

In the same 15 years 120 people were ordained into vocational ministry or had their credentials recognized in the Church of the Nazarene. Nearly 700 people have participated on some level in StrengthsFinder training helping them to gain deeper self-awareness of how they're equipped to serve God in their lives. In the past 9 years over 430 lay people on our district have participated in our Leadership Engagement and Discovery (LEAD) trainings equipping them to be more effective leaders in their local churches. All of this represents our district's determination to prepare people for ministry now and in the future. God is blessing people and we get to play a vital role in these blessings.

My individual contribution to this overall work this past year includes helping to plan, supporting, executing and participating in (on some level or another) Ministry Assessment Center, TEAM Day, Pastor & Spouse Retreat, Family Camp, 2 pastoral installation services, 2 church organizations, 22 pastors area meetings, Mission Advance, 27 meetings with the Connections Church board or staff in Halethorpe (assisting in pastoral transition & supervising staff), a 3-day board of ministry meeting, 4 church/pastoral relations reviews, 4 Local-LEAD weekends on our district and 2 on another, 18 MAD Staff meetings + the Executive staff retreat (4 days), 184 individual meetings for mentoring and/or coaching for around 25 people, 9 planning meetings for district ministries, 6 pastor cohort meetings, 4 District Advisory Board meetings, 1 StrengthsFinder 101 & 2 Emotional Intelligence Level 1 trainings, 3 ordination seminars, the Estes Park Clergy Development Consultation (3 days), the YES (Equipping Youth to Serve) Retreat and administrating the MAD Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Balch
Missional Leadership Specialist,
husband of The (Saint) Sally, father of Joel & Noah