

III. Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI)

812. Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI)

Article II – Mission, Purpose and Core Principles

SECTION 1. Mission Statement

The mission of Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifelong journey of being and making Christlike disciples in the nations.

SECTION 2. Purpose

The purpose of NDI is to assist local churches in:

- a. Reaching non-believers for Jesus
- b. Establishing new believers in their faith in Christ
- c. Walking with believers to a fully surrendered, heart-cleansed, fruit-bearing, and Spirit-filled life.

SECTION 3. Core Principles

NDI promotes the following five Core Principles that are essential to the discipleship process:

- a. Fervent Prayer
- b. Compassionate Outreach
- c. Comprehensive Biblical Learning
- d. Intentional Mentoring and Equipping
- e. Authentic Relationships

These Core Principles, promoted and modelled on each region, field, district, and local church, will develop Christlike disciples of every age and in every culture.

1) Principle #1 of NDI: Fervent Prayer

Prayer is an essential part of discipleship. In its purest form, prayer is communicating with and responding to God. Prayer was expressly modeled by Jesus who taught His disciples to pray. Jesus' disciples were then instructed to teach each following generation of disciples to pray. The Scriptures reveal that intentional and consistent prayer nurtures and develops our relationships with both God and others, enabling us to see and experience God's activities through His prevenient, saving and sanctifying grace.

Prayer is the bedrock upon which all other ministry efforts are built. As we pray, God inspires us to be actively engaged in the world. Through prayer, we participate in the Holy Spirit's transforming power, both for ourselves and for our neighbor.

Prayer guides us to spiritual success. By deepening our relationship with God through prayer, we experience the Holy Spirit's guidance and find greater measures of spiritual growth and direction. Through intentional, specific, and consistent prayer, the body of Christ becomes the eyes, hands, and feet of the Savior.

2) Principle #2 of NDI: Compassionate Outreach

God's compassionate and redemptive love is foundational to discipleship and the appropriate motivation for Christian outreach. Compassionate outreach reveals God's love for humanity. God is continually reaching out to prepare people's

hearts to receive salvation. It is a disciple's care for non-believers, both local and global, that places a face and hand to God's grace and love. Therefore, a disciple's authentic and loving relationship with non-believers is essential to communicating the beauty of God's grace and salvation.

Outreach is every disciple's calling. Every disciple, faithfully living and loving like Jesus, is to be engaged in nurturing genuine relationships with others. Through a disciple's prayerful and compassionate action, God is reaching out and preparing hearts to receive salvation. When disciples are in relationship with non-believers, they are obeying Jesus' command to go into all of creation to proclaim the Good News (Mark 16:15).

3) Principle #3 of NDI: Comprehensive Biblical Learning

Jesus placed a high priority on teaching his disciples from the Scriptures. It was the knowledge of the Scriptures combined with his instructions that shaped their knowledge of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Learning the Scriptures, through individual and group study, helps disciples to become more like Christ. When we study the Word of God, which is active and living, we uncover who God is, how God loves, and how we are to love others. In doing this, we allow God to speak to us, mold us, and sanctify us.

Knowing God's Word is essential to Christlike discipleship. Being actively engaged in the systematic study and application of the Word of God is a catalyst for spiritual transformation and growth. As we grow and learn, we begin to fully understand and obey God's mission for his disciples to go and reach out to unbelievers with God's love. When we allow the Word of God to

transform us, we are modeling to others the importance of learning God's Word.

4) Principle #4 of NDI: Intentional Mentoring and Equipping

Jesus' method of discipleship was through personal mentoring and equipping of a chosen group of individuals. It was these methods that helped Christianity grow and transform society.

Mentoring and equipping is a discipleship process that introduces new believers to Jesus and reveals how to follow Him personally and fully. Mentoring is a loving way to teach accountability and introduce non-believers to the full knowledge of Christ. All disciples are challenged and continue to grow and become Christlike when every disciple is providing and receiving mentoring.

To become all that God has created us to be as Christ's disciples, we need to be willing to grow and to help others grow as Jesus did. Therefore, mentoring, and equipping others on the journey of discipleship is essential to Christian growth and maturity.

5) Principle #5 of NDI: Authentic Relationships

In the same way that Jesus gathered travelling companions around Himself, we as His disciples, are called to journey together as members of the Body of Christ. Everyone committed to the Great Commission should be engaged in relationships that honor God and edify the Body of Christ.

The core of our faith and life is to love God and love others. When we know we are unconditionally loved by God and unconditionally loved by one another, unity in the Body of Christ

results. This unconditional love knows no cultural, generational, or structural bounds. This unconditional love is made possible only through the working of the Holy Spirit.

When we deeply care for one another, we discover just how rich our identity is in Christ, and spiritual growth results. Such loving relationships help us walk the path of holiness because we are receiving both encouragement and loving correction. These Spirit-enabled relationships are necessary as we support one another in living a fully surrendered and Spirit-filled life.

SECTION 4. Global Mission

As we live out the core principles of NDI in the life and ministries of the local church and in the practices and behaviors of every Nazarene, we will accomplish the mission of making Christlike disciples in the nations. We recognize that discipleship will look different as culture shapes our methodologies, but our global mission, purpose, and core principles remain the same. To discover regional expressions of these core principles, as well as more information regarding NDI, please see the articles below and your NDI regional handbooks.

ARTICLE III. NDI Accountability Care List (ACL)

SECTION 1. Each local church should strive to reach all unsaved persons in the community. In order to accomplish this goal, the NDI ministry of the local church shall create and sustain an up-to-date Accountability Care List (ACL). An ACL should include the name and contact/follow-up information for every person who regularly attends any of its NDI ministries and any individual the local church has encountered through outreach ministries or relational discipleship/evangelism. Once a person is added to the ACL, the local church should actively seek to minister to that person in the name of

Jesus as he or she is brought into the fellowship of the local church.

The ACL should be divided among active NDI ministries across the church to include all those contained on the full list. Teachers/leaders of each ministry shall facilitate regular care and connection between the local congregation and those on the ACL.

The ACL shall become an active prayer list for the church through its regular NDI ministries. The ACL should prompt the local church to build Christ centered relationships with all people on the list. The ACL is intended to provide relational accountability for the body of Christ to its responsibility in the community.

The total number of all individuals on the ACL is to be reported in the Annual Pastor's Report. The ACL includes all age groups and all NDI ministries. (For a full description of the varying NDI ministries refer to your regional handbook.)

SECTION 2. The following groups of people shall be included on the ACL. A person may attend more than one group. In this instance the ACL grouping represents the group for ensuring accountability for discipleship of that person.

- a. Sunday School/Bible Studies/Small Groups/Home Groups: All those who regularly attend regular small groups of any kind in the church should be included on the ACL.
- b. One-on-one Discipleship/Mentoring: Any individual being discipled or mentored by someone in the church should be included on the ACL list.
- c. Online outreach ministries: Any individual who visits the church through technology should become a part of an online ACL list.

- d. Home Bound: Any person relationally connected to a local church who is physically or vocationally unable to attend a regular NDI ministry should be listed on the ACL.
- e. Nursing Home/Convalescent Center/Health Care Facility, etc.: Any resident confined to one of these centers who is relationally connected to a local church shall be included on the ACL.
- f. Childcare/Schools: Any group of students in a Nazarene childcare/school (birth-secondary) sponsored/operated by a local Church of the Nazarene.
- g. Students: When students of the church leave for educational purposes, the role of the local church is not completed. These students shall continue to be on the ACL. The sending church should regularly reach out to the student in loving care.
- h. Child Development Centers (CDC): Sponsored/operated by a local Church of the Nazarene.

SECTION 3. Review of Names/Removal of Names

The ACL shall be reviewed and updated quarterly by the local NDI board in consultation with the pastor.

Caring responsibility for a person or family on the ACL may be transferred from one NDI ministry group to another with the approval of the local NDI board.

Removing names from the church's master ACL should only be done with the approval of the pastor when a person:

- a. moves out of town.
- b. joins another church.
- c. specifically asks to have his or her name removed.
- d. has not attended for one year and has been faithfully ministered to by an appropriate NDI leader (with the exception of d. , e. and g in Section 2) .

ARTICLE IV. NDI ATTENDANCE

The purpose of counting and reporting NDI attendance in the local church is to help measure the effectiveness of that church's effort to make Christlike disciples, fulfilling the purpose of NDI. All NDI efforts should lead to the lost coming to faith in Jesus, new Christians being established in their faith in Christ, and believers experiencing the fullness of the Spirit, maturing in grace, and becoming disciple-makers. NDI attendance measures, therefore, should reflect this desired purpose.

NDI attendance includes all NDI ministries. These ministries shall be counted each week by the local church according to the guidelines listed below and in Article III, Section 1 above.

The regional NDI office shall obtain reports of the ACL and NDI attendance from each district in order to compile an accurate account of NDI growth within the denomination annually.

SECTION 1. Definitions and Reports

The attendance of all Discipleship Ministry groups shall be defined as persons involved in Bible engagement and its application of the biblical principles for Christlikeness.

a. NDI attendance should consider:

- 1) How many individual people is the local church engaging with along their discipleship journey? In this case, every individual is counted only once. This number allows the church to evaluate the effectiveness (growth or decline) of reaching new people from its community.
- 2) How many discipleship "touches" occur during any given week/month? With NDI's purpose of walking with every individual into a deeper experience with God toward holiness, believers may attend multiple NDI activities during

- any given period of time. The purpose of this number is to see the full effect of the discipleship effort of a local church. People, in this category, may be counted more than once as they may attend more than one meeting each week.
- b. Attendance figures from all discipleship ministries groups shall be reported regularly to the local church board and on the Annual Pastor's Report.
 - c. The District NDI Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine the frequency of the reporting (monthly, quarterly, or annually). All reporting will be submitted to the district.

ARTICLE V. LOCAL NDI BOARD

SECTION 1. Responsibilities of the local NDI Board are defined in *Manual 145- 145.10* and include:

- a. Work with the pastor and the local church board to develop/organize an NDI Board.
- b. Work with the pastor to develop and implement a strategic plan for discipleship in the local church that is in line with the church's strategies/objectives and in harmony with the district vision and the mission of the Church of the Nazarene.
- c. Research, create, develop, and ultimately approve curriculum consistent with the Church of the Nazarene theology and mission.
- d. Coordinate with NYI and NMI to develop training programs for:
 - 1) Prayer Ministries across the local church.
 - 2) Compassionate outreach to meet the felt and real needs of the surrounding community and help people come to faith in Jesus.
 - 3) Comprehensive biblical learning to include teacher training and Bible engagement of the entire congregation.

- 4) Intentional Mentoring and Equipping. In an effort to develop leadership among church members, mentoring and equipping ministry workers involved in all age group ministries should be ongoing.
 - 5) Authentic Relationships. Since the world will recognize Christ's disciples by our love (John 13:35), developing Christ-centered relationships in the local church shall be a priority for NDI ministries.
- e. Evaluate and report at the annual church meeting current local church education and discipleship ministries/projects clearly articulating their outcomes.

ARTICLE VI. NDI Ministry Organization and Leadership

SECTION 1. When a local church offers Sunday School for all ages, the Sunday School program shall be divided into classes for children and youth on the basis of age or school grade. For adults, the classes should be determined by seasons of life, common interests, mission, topic, etc. Where appropriate, intergenerational classes may also be considered.

SECTION 2. Other NDI ministries such as small groups, home groups, one-on-one discipleship/mentoring may last for a set period of time with breaks in between the formation of new groups.

SECTION 3. When the number of classes within the children's, youth, or adult age groups increase, attention should be given to age level organization with a supervisor appointed by the local NDI Board in consultation with the pastor.

SECTION 4. The duties of the department supervisor shall be determined by the local NDI Board in consultation with the pastor.

Suggested responsibilities are listed in the NDI regional handbooks.

ARTICLE VII. NDI MINISTRIES TEACHERS AND LEADERS

SECTION 1. NDI Ministries teachers and leaders shall be appointed annually according to *Manual* 145.8.

SECTION 2. The NDI Board, in consultation with the pastor, may declare the position of any officer or teacher/leader vacant in cases of proven unsound doctrine, imprudent conduct, or neglect of duty. This loving accountability to both the individual and the congregation as a whole is vital and necessary to healthy discipleship in the body of Christ.

SECTION 3. All teachers/leaders and substitutes should be persons of prayer, engaged in the Word, and intentionally being and making Christlike disciples.

ARTICLE VIII. NDI MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1. The local NDI President shall be elected each year according to *Manual* 113.10-113.11 and 127. The duties of the NDI President shall be to:

- a. Coordinate the NDI under the supervision of the pastor.
- b. Plan regular meetings for NDI ministry leaders.
- c. Provide training opportunities for present and prospective local NDI leaders.
- d. Annually evaluate, develop, and implement with the NDI Board a discipleship strategy to ensure all attendees of the local church and those on the ACL are encouraged and supported in their journey from no faith to new faith to mature faith, from being a disciple to being a disciple-maker.

- e. Regularly report local NDI statistics to the designated zone, district, or field office.
- f. Encourage attendance at local, zone, district, field, regional, and global NDI functions.

SECTION 2. The duties of the age-group discipleship coordinators are outlined in *Manual* 147.1-147.9 and 148.2.

SECTION 3. The NDI Board shall elect a person to keep the NDI records. He or she shall keep an accurate record of the Accountability Care List (ACL), attendance, visitors, and other statistics as may be required of all NDI ministries.

SECTION 4. Where appropriate, the NDI Board shall elect a treasurer to keep accurate account of all moneys raised by NDI ministries and authorize the disbursement according to the direction of the Board. A monthly report shall be submitted to the NDI Board or NDI President (if the church does not have an NDI Board), and pastor.

SECTION 5. All curriculum and other resources used in NDI ministries shall be approved by the NDI Board, or NDI President (if the church does not have an NDI Board), and pastor.

ARTICLE IX. NDI ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION

SECTION 1. NDI is under the care of the pastor, accountable to the local church board, under the general supervision of the NDI Board and the immediate leadership of the NDI President and the ministry coordinators. The NDI Board should ensure the local church is protecting its youth and children (see *Manual* paragraph 129.30).

SECTION 2. If a church has employed someone to give oversight to NDI responsibilities such as a director of Christian education, and

wishes that person to fulfill the responsibilities of the NDI President, the church should elect another layperson to represent NDI on the local church board as a voting member. We encourage all possible efforts be made to train and resource local lay leaders for leadership in NDI.

SECTION 3. When a pastor/leader/ministry coordinator to children, youth, or adults is employed by a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board, the NDI Board, and/or NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for children, youth, or adult ministries to the age-level staff member. In that case, the staff member serving children, youth, or adult ministries carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a local Children's Ministries (CM) coordinator, NYI president, or Adult Ministries (AM) coordinator. However, the responsibility of the local CM coordinator, NYI president, or AM coordinator remains to provide vital lay leadership, support, and representation for local age-group ministries. The pastor and age group ministry staff member shall consult with the NDI Board and NYI Council to define the roles and responsibilities of the three lay positions.

ARTICLE X. NDI CONVENTIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. District NDI Convention

It is important that each district plan a District NDI Convention annually in order to provide inspiration, motivation, training, and the business of reports and elections. The promotion of evangelism and disciple making ministries should be a highlight of each convention.

- a. Ex-officio members of the District NDI Convention shall be: the district superintendent; all pastors, assigned ordained ministers, assigned district licensed ministers, retired assigned ministers, full-time associates; district NDI President; district

coordinators of CM and AM; district NYI president; district NMI president; all local NDI Presidents, local discipleship coordinators, local NYI presidents; elected members of the District NDI Board; lay members of the District Advisory Board; any Nazarene full-time professors of Christian education with membership on that district; and field, regional, and global NDI officers.

- b. In addition to the delegates listed above, each local church in the annual meeting shall elect additional NDI delegates to the Convention. This number shall be 25 percent of the number of officers, teachers, and leaders of the local NDI ministries. In case elected delegates cannot attend the convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of the votes received.
- c. The District NDI Board shall appoint a nominating committee to select twice the number of nominees for the elected positions of district NDI President and the three elected members of the District NDI Board, which are then to be elected by plurality vote at the District NDI Convention. These nominees must be members of the Church of the Nazarene, actively involved in one or more of the ministries of NDI, and should be selected from the various discipleship ministries, including but not limited to children, youth, and adult.
- d. The District NDI President, three elected members of the district NDI board, and delegates to the Global NDI Convention shall be elected according to Manual paragraph 242.

SECTION 2. Global NDI Convention

In conjunction with each General Assembly, NDI shall observe a Global Convention with delegates in one or more locations around the world. Elected delegates (and guests) shall meet for the purpose of inspiration, motivation, and training to equip and enrich involvement in fulfilling the mission and purpose of NDI globally.

The Global Convention shall also include regional forums (onsite or via electronic means) composed of the Regional NDI Council, the regional director, the regional NDI coordinator, and the elected and ex-officio district NDI delegates from that region. The forums shall include in their agenda the election of a nominee for consideration to serve as the NDI representative on the General Board. The Global NDI Council and Global NDI director will then select one name from the six regionally nominated names and submit that one name to the General Assembly for approval (*Manual* 332.6).

- a. Ex-officio delegates to the Global NDI Convention shall be: district superintendents, district NDI Presidents, elected district coordinators of specific discipleship ministries; NDI regional coordinators, NDI field coordinators, other discipleship ministry regional coordinators; and directors and staff of the global NDI office. In addition, professors of Christian education at Nazarene colleges, universities, and seminaries may attend as delegates.
- b. In addition to the ex-officio delegates, each district should elect four additional delegates or a number equal to ten percent of the organized churches on the district, whichever is greater.
- c. The following guidelines should be followed in elections for the Global NDI Convention delegates:
 - 1) The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, district NDI President, and at least three others appointed by the District NDI Board. They shall select three times the number of nominees to be elected.
 - 2) The District NDI Convention shall elect an equal number of delegates and alternates representing the various NDI ministries (including teachers/workers of youth). Those elected should be persons who are presently and actively involved in the respective area from which they are elected. The number of alternates elected should include alternates for ex-officio district officers. Persons should not be elected

who will serve as delegates to the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention or the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention because the three conventions run concurrently.

- 3) Delegates shall be elected by ballot (secure electronic balloting is acceptable when in-person balloting is not possible) in the District NDI Convention within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.
- 4) As nearly as possible, elect an equal number of laity and clergy—50 percent laypersons and 50 percent assigned ministers, elders, deacons, or licensed ministers. When the total number is uneven, the extra representative should be a layperson.
- 5) District NDI leaders elected prior to and holding office at the time of the Global Convention shall be the ex-officio members of the convention.
- 6) A plurality vote shall be sufficient for election.
- 7) If any elected delegates cannot attend the Global NDI Convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of votes received. If elected delegates and alternates are unable to attend, the district superintendent, district advisory board, and district NDI President together are authorized to fill such vacancies.
- 8) At the convening of the Global NDI Convention, each delegate shall reside on and be a member of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district he or she was elected to represent.
- 9) Districts who are able to financially support NMI, NYI, and NDI delegate attendance at the global conventions should aim at providing fair support for all attending delegates.

- 10) If the election of delegates for the Global NDI Convention does not take place at the District NDI Convention, delegates can be elected at the District Assembly or by another method approved by the NDI global director and regional office.

SECTION 3. Election of Global NDI Director

The NDI Global Director is elected according to the General Board Policy Manual (section 5.6) which states:

- a. The JGS, in consultation with the Global NDI Council and BGS, have nominating authority to fill a vacancy in the position of Global NDI Director.
- b. The JGS and the Global NDI Council serve as the search committee to consider the nomination of candidates.
- c. The search committee submits a ballot with up to two names to the Local Church Committee of the General Board.
- d. The Local Church Committee of the General Board ratifies the ballot by two-thirds vote if the ballot consists of one individual or by majority vote if the ballot consists of more than one individual.
- e. The BGS elects the Global NDI Director from the ballot.

ARTICLE XI. GLOBAL NDI COUNCIL

SECTION 1. Purpose

The Global council exists to guide, facilitate, and promote the total mission of NDI by working with regional, field, district, and local NDI leaders in connecting global strategies for effective disciple making.

SECTION 2. Composition

- a. The Global NDI Council shall meet at least annually, either in person or by electronic media, and consists of the regional NDI coordinator from each Global Missions region and the Global

NDI director, who chairs the meeting. The NDI General Board Representative should be invited to participate in selected meetings throughout the year.

- b. The regional NDI coordinators are to be appointed by the respective regional director in consultation with the Global NDI director.

SECTION 3. Duties of the regional NDI coordinators shall be:

- a. To represent and champion the purposes of NDI on their region.
- b. To provide vision and inspiration related to the implementation of strategies and resourcing consistent with the global and regional vision for the church.
- c. To research, create, develop, and coordinate training initiatives for intentional discipleship leadership development for regional, field, and district church advancement, connecting all the ministries of the church to the task of making Christlike disciples who reproduce Christlike disciples.
- d. To attend and submit a report at the annual Global NDI Council meeting.
- e. To bring the nominee(s) for NDI General Board representative, selected by their regional forum, to the Global NDI Council. The Council will present one name to the General Assembly for election as the NDI representative to the General Board (*Manual* 332.6).

ARTICLE XII. NDI AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the General Board members present and voting.