

# 810

## Nazarene Youth International Charter

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity."  
1 Timothy 4:12*

### 810.1 Our Mission

The mission of Nazarene Youth International is to call our generation to a dynamic life in Christ.

### 810.2 Our Members

Membership in Nazarene Youth International includes all persons participating in Nazarene youth ministry who choose to embrace our stated vision and values.

### 810.3 Our Vision

The Church of the Nazarene believes that young people are an integral part of the Church. Nazarene Youth International exists to lead young people into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and to facilitate their growth as disciples for Christian service.

### 810.4 Our Values

1. We value **Young People**...significant in the kingdom of God.
2. We value the **Bible**...God's unchanging truth for our lives.
3. We value **Prayer**...vital interactive communication with our heavenly father.
4. We value the **Church**...a global holiness community of faith, diverse in culture but one in Christ.
5. We value **Worship**...life-changing encounters with an intimate God.
6. We value **Discipleship**...a lifestyle of becoming like Christ.
7. We value **Community**...building relationships that help bind us together and to God.
8. We value **Ministry**...extending God's grace to our world.
9. We value **Witness**...sharing God's love in word and deed.
10. We value **Holiness**...a work of grace whereby God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, enables us to live a life representing Christ in who we are and in everything we do.

These values are important dimensions of the holy life and are to be reflected in the life and ministry of NYI at every level of the church. (Please refer to the Articles of Faith in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* for more

information on these values.) In reflecting these values, we acknowledge the following Guiding Principles.

### **810.5 Our Guiding Principles**

- 1. *NYI exists for youth.***  
Nazarene Youth International exists to attract, equip, and empower young people for service in the kingdom of God and to facilitate their integration into the Church of the Nazarene.
- 2. *NYI focuses on Christ.***  
Christ is central to who we are, the Word of God our authoritative source for all we do, and holiness our pattern for life.
- 3. *NYI is built on relational ministry to youth in the local church.***  
Effective ministry to young people in the local church is critical to the health and vibrancy of NYI. Relationships and incarnational ministry form the foundation for Nazarene youth ministry, guiding young people toward spiritual maturity in Christ.
- 4. *NYI develops and mentors young leaders.***  
NYI provides opportunities for emerging leaders to develop and utilize their gifts within an environment of nurture and support, assuring strong leadership for the Church of the Nazarene. Leadership training, accountability, and mechanisms for evaluation and modification of ministry are vital functions of NYI.
- 5. *NYI is empowered to lead.***  
Relevant youth ministry requires that responsibility for ministry and organizational decisions reside with NYI leadership and the appropriate governing bodies at every level. A sense of belonging and ownership, a passion for service, and input in decision-making are key ingredients for the empowerment of young people through NYI.
- 6. *NYI embraces unity and diversity in Christ.***  
NYI is committed to understanding and celebrating differences and diversity in language, color, race, culture, socioeconomic class, and gender. Our differences do not diminish unity but enhance our potential and effectiveness. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways must always be a high priority.
- 7. *NYI creates networks and partnerships.***  
A climate of cooperation characterizes our relationships at every level of NYI. Networking within the church enhances the development and deployment of young people for service; NYI actively participates in such cooperative endeavors.

### **810.6 Our Ministry Framework**

The Nazarene Youth International Charter provides the foundation for organizing, planning, and implementing youth ministry at every level of the Church of the Nazarene. Standard ministry plans are provided that local, district, and regional

NYI groups are encouraged to adapt in response to youth ministry needs in their own ministry situation. Ministry plans at every level must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene.

### **810.7 Revisions**

The NYI Charter may be amended through resolutions approved by the Global NYI Convention, according to the Global Ministry Plan.

## **D. GLOBAL MINISTRY PLAN**

### **Ministries**

#### **810.400 Evangelism**

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

#### **810.401 Discipleship**

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

#### **810.402 Leadership Development**

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

### **Revisions**

#### **810.403 Provision**

1. The Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan provide the structure for organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the global level. The Global NYI Convention may revise the NYI Charter and Global Ministry Plan in response to youth ministry needs around the world through submitted resolutions. All amendments to the Global Ministry Plan must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene.
2. Any area not covered by the NYI Charter or Global Ministry Plan is under the authority of the Global NYI Council and the director of NYI.

#### **810.404 Process**

1. The Global NYI Council, in cooperation with the director of NYI, establishes and publicizes the process for amending the Global Ministry Plan and the Nazarene Youth International Charter through submitted resolutions.
2. Any District NYI Council, Regional NYI Council, the Global NYI Council, or at least six sponsoring delegates to the Global NYI Convention may submit these resolutions. Resolutions must be in proper resolution form and received by the stated deadline.
3. The NYI office must receive all resolutions at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the Global NYI Council in the year of the Global NYI Convention.
4. Resolutions must be distributed in written form to Global NYI Convention delegates prior to the Global NYI Convention.

5. Resolutions are considered first by the Global NYI Council and by a Resolutions Committee of the Global NYI Convention, composed of up to two NYI delegates appointed from each region by the Regional NYI Council. Resolutions which receive a majority vote of either body to recommend their approval are then considered by the Convention.
6. Resolutions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of all delegates present and voting at the Global NYI Convention.
7. All approved changes in the Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan become effective no later than 90 days following the Global NYI Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

## **Membership and Ministry Focus**

### **810.405 Composition and Accountability**

1. All local NYI groups, district, field and regional NYI ministries, and their members constitute Nazarene Youth International.
2. The global NYI is accountable to NYI membership, the responsible general superintendent for NYI, the global mission director, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents.
3. The global NYI reports annually to the General Board and reports to the Global NYI Convention and to the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene.
4. The director of NYI is responsible for general coordination and supervision for the development of youth ministry for the Church of the Nazarene through Nazarene Youth International.
5. NYI offices around the world work together with the Global NYI Council for the effective implementation of youth ministry for the Church of the Nazarene.

### **810.406 Ministry Focus**

1. The ministry focus of Nazarene Youth International is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. Regional, field, district, and local NYI councils may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, consistent with the ministry plan for that level.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, Nazarene Youth International establishes three divisions — early youth, senior youth, and college/university/young adult.

## **Leadership**

### **810.407 Officers**

1. The elected officers of the global NYI are a chair and a vice chair.
2. Global NYI officers must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene, be active in youth ministry, be leaders in personal example and ministry, and be members of the Global NYI Council.
3. Global NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative

expenses of global NYI officers is allocated as a part of NYI funds.

4. A global NYI officer may serve in his/her position no more than one full term.

#### **810.408 Elections**

1. The Global NYI chair is elected by the Global NYI Convention and will serve until the close of the following General Assembly or until his/her successor is elected.
2. The Global NYI vice chair is elected by the Global NYI Council at its first meeting during or following the General Assembly and will serve until the close of the following General Assembly or until his/her successor is elected.
3. A vacancy occurs in the position of global NYI chair or vice chair when he/she resigns from office or is removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Global NYI Council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. In the case of a vacancy among the global NYI officers, the Global NYI Council will elect his/her replacement from among its members.

#### **810.409 Responsibilities**

1. The responsibilities of the global NYI chair include:
  - a. Presiding at the meetings of the Global NYI Convention and the meetings of the Global NYI Council.
  - b. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.
2. The responsibilities of the global NYI vice chair include:
  - a. Cooperating with the chair in every way possible to carry out effective youth ministry globally.
  - b. Ensuring accurate records of all proceedings of the Global NYI Convention and all meetings of the Global NYI Council are kept for submission to the General Board.
  - c. Chairing the Global NYI Council, providing alternate representation on any boards or councils, and fulfilling any designated duties in the absence of the global NYI chair.
  - d. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.

#### **810.410 Paid Staff**

1. The responsible general superintendent for NYI and the General Board assign the responsibility for the global NYI to the director of NYI. The director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Board of General Superintendents.
2. The Board of General Superintendents elects the director of NYI subject to General Board election procedures.
3. Should a vacancy occur in the position, it is filled according to the following sequence:
  - a. The responsible general superintendent nominates the director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council and Board of General Superintendents.
  - b. A ballot is then presented to the Global NYI Council for approval by

- majority vote and is subject to General Board election procedures.
4. After nomination by the general superintendent responsible for NYI, an incumbent director of NYI is approved by majority vote of the Global NYI Council at its first scheduled meeting following the General Assembly, and is subject to General Board election procedures.
  5. The director of NYI may not serve as an elected global NYI officer.
  6. The director of NYI serves ex officio on the Global NYI Council, the Executive Committee, all regional councils, and other global NYI committees as appointed.

## **Council**

### **810.411 Composition**

1. The Global NYI Council is composed of the director of NYI and one representative from each world region, who is selected by their respective Regional NYI Council in consultation with the regional director.
2. Other appointed persons as deemed necessary by the Global NYI Council may be appointed to serve as non-voting members of the council.
3. All Global NYI Council members must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene.

### **810.412 Responsibilities**

1. The Global NYI Council, in collaboration with the director of NYI and NYI staff, establishes procedures for global NYI and gives direction and support to the development of youth ministry resources for all levels of NYI, subject to approval of the responsible general superintendent for NYI and the General Board. The NYI ministry is designed to reach young people for Christ and respond to their spiritual growth needs; it is facilitated through the director of NYI and NYI leadership around the world.
2. The Global NYI Council provides a forum for the support and development of effective youth ministry programs, events, and resources at the regional level, consistent with the mission and vision of NYI.
3. The Global NYI Council provides an avenue for the representation of regional, field, district, and local levels of NYI by council members to the NYI staff. Council members also represent the global NYI by initiating contact with their region, fields, districts, and local churches on behalf of the Global NYI Council and the Nazarene Youth International Office.
4. The Global NYI Council assists in the planning and administration of the Global NYI Convention.
5. The Global NYI Council gives input to the youth area of the Sunday School and helps promote growth in enrollment and attendance for youth and training for youth Sunday School teachers and leaders globally, in cooperation with Sunday School Ministries.
6. The Global NYI Council reviews the annual budget and expenditures of the

NYI office provided through the General Board.

7. The Global NYI Council directs and reviews the expenditure of funds provided through NYI events and partnerships subject to the approval of the responsible general superintendent.

#### **810.413 Committees**

1. The Executive Committee consists of the elected Global NYI officers and the director of NYI. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the Global NYI Council when it is impractical or impossible to convene the entire council. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The Global NYI Council may establish specific ministry committees as necessary for advancing its work.

#### **810.414 Paid Staff**

1. The director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Global Mission Director and the Board of General Superintendents. The Global NYI Council may recommend revisions to these duties to the responsible general superintendent for NYI.
2. The director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council, designates the responsibilities of paid staff of. The Global NYI Council and global NYI Office staff work in cooperation and harmony with each other.
5. The director of NYI may not serve as the Global NYI chair.

### **Meetings**

#### **810.415 Global NYI Meetings**

1. To provide effective ministry to young people, global NYI ministry may involve a variety of gatherings for worship, teaching, training, fellowship, and evangelism. Global NYI leadership works together with regional, field, district, and local NYI leadership to plan ministry globally, related to specific groups, and geared to multiple regions, so that youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene may be most effective.
2. Global NYI leaders and staff are actively involved with NYI on every level as a resource for effective ministry.

#### **810.416 Global NYI Council Meetings**

1. The Global NYI Council meets annually to advance the mission and vision of NYI. The meeting is scheduled in connection with the annual meeting of the General Board.
2. The global NYI officers or director of NYI may call special meetings as necessary, in consultation with the responsible general superintendent for NYI.

#### **810.417 Global NYI Convention**



1. A Global NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions to advance youth ministry around the world. Reports are received and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI is transacted at the Global NYI Convention.
2. The Board of General Superintendents sets the length of the Convention and the time it convenes, from recommendations of the Global NYI Council to the General Assembly Program Committee. The global NYI officers and director of NYI oversee the convention, with the assistance of the Global NYI Council.
3. All delegates of the Global NYI Convention must be members of the Church of the Nazarene and Nazarene Youth International and 12 years of age or older at the time of the Global NYI Convention. Additionally, each district NYI delegate must be a member of and reside on the district he/she represents at the time of the convention.
4. The Global NYI Convention is composed of the Global NYI Council, the director of NYI, duly elected executive regional officers (no more than three), the regional, field, national, and district youth coordinators, and district NYI delegates as follows:
  - a. Districts with 1,000 or fewer NYI members may send the following delegates:
    - (1) The district NYI president serving at the time of the Global NYI Convention;
    - (2) One ministerial delegate active in NYI leadership who is an assigned elder, deacon, or district-licensed minister;
    - (3) One lay delegate over the age of 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI leadership; and
    - (4) One youth delegate between the ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI.
  - b. In addition, a district may send an additional ministerial delegate, lay delegate, and youth delegate between the ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention, for each successive 1,500 NYI members and/or the final major part of 1,500 members (751-1,499 members).
  - c. The size of the district delegation is based on the district NYI membership report for the District Assembly in the calendar year immediately prior to the Global NYI Convention.
  - d. All district delegates are to be elected by ballot by majority vote at a session of the District NYI Convention within 18 months of the Global NYI Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or extensive preparations are necessary. Alternate delegates may be elected after elected delegates on another ballot from the remaining nominations by plurality vote, with first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc., designated by the number of votes received. Delegates and alternates must be elected by March 31 of the year of the Global NYI Convention.
  - e. The student body president of each Nazarene university, college, or theological school, may also serve as a delegate, as a representative of the partnership of NYI with his/her institution. Should he/she be unable to serve or attend, a representative selected by the student government may provide alternate representation.

5. In the case of districts without an organized NYI (no District NYI Convention), Global NYI Convention representation may be comprised of one delegate of NYI membership age chosen by the District Assembly. Should a delegate withdraw prior to the convention, the District Advisory Board may appoint a qualified delegate.
6. The bar of the Global NYI Convention is set to enable all duly elected delegates to participate in the voting of the Global NYI Convention. This voting will take place by the voting procedures established by the Convention Business Committee.
7. A caucus for each region is held during the Global NYI Convention and is composed of the Regional NYI Council, the regional director and regional youth coordinator, and elected district NYI delegates from that region.

Number of members	Number of delegates*	Number of members	Number of delegates*
4-1750	3	4751-6250	12
1751-3250	6	6251-7750	15
3251-4750	9	7751-9250	18

\* Number of elected delegates from a district NYI does not include *ex officio* delegates (district NYI president, regional NYI presidents and coordinators, global officers and members-at-large from a district, etc.).