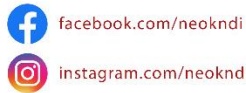


Session Descriptions



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Hosted at Regency Park Church of the Nazarene (Tulsa)
Saturday, August 17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Free admission; Lunch: \$10)

	Mobilizing All Nazarenes in Unity	Blessing Our Community	Bringing People to Jesus	Becoming Christlike Disciples	Nazarene Missions Intl. (NMI)	Nazarene Youth Intl. (NYI)	Children's Ministry	Age Group / Life Stage Ministries
9:00 – 10:15	Keynote – Trey and Candice Brooks: Preparing the Church for 2050							
10:15 – 10:30	Break							
10:30 – 11:20	Are We There Yet? The Journey to an Effective Discipleship Ministry – Greg Pressley <i>Orange Room</i>	Creative Ministries to the Community – Ana Maria Ruiz and Betty Ann Howard <i>Blue Room</i>	Like a Good Neigh-ba... – Keith Schubert <i>Yellow Room</i>	Making Disciples - Teaching Them To Obey – Hal Perkins <i>Purple Room</i>	Intercessor for Global Missions – David Mosher <i>Pink Room</i>	Surviving Ministry Over the Long Haul! – Rod Thelander <i>Green Room</i>	Supporting Children and Others <u>With</u> Complex Needs – Megan Barrett <i>Red Room</i>	A Woman's Journey of Grace – Christy Thornton <i>Brown Room</i>
11:30 – 12:20	Lunch							
12:30 – 1:20	Shepherding Your Small Group (Accountability Care Lists) – Joe Gschwandtner <i>Brown Room</i>	Discover the Power of Sports Outreach: A Key Initiative for "Blessing Our Community" – Jessica Drotleff <i>Blue Room</i>	Practice Based Discipleship – Brady Thelander <i>Pink Room</i>	Living A Holy Life by Forgiving the Offenses of Others and Asking Forgiveness for my Offenses – Jerry Porter <i>Orange Room</i>	Session Title – Lisa Troxell <i>Purple Room</i>	Helping Parents Win – Sam McCullough <i>Green Room</i>	Intentional Family Worship – Trey & Candice Brooks <i>Yellow Room</i>	Fresh Perspectives: Reaching & Empowering Young Adults – Hank Grant <i>Red Room</i>
1:30 – 2:20	Assimilation: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church – Steve Spangenberg <i>Blue Room</i>	Everyone Needs a Cheering Section (The Power of Encouragement) – Keith Schubert <i>Yellow Room</i>	Hearing God Speak – Hal Perkins <i>Purple Room</i>	A People of Grace: Wesley's Discipleship for Today's Nazarenes – Sam Barber <i>Orange Room</i>	NMI President Resources for new and seasoned presidents – Carol Stevens <i>Brown Room</i>	Session Title – Speaker <i>Green Room</i>	Developing worship that works! – Amanda Carroll <i>Red Room</i>	Marriage Ministry in Your Local Church – David Frisbie <i>Pink Room</i>
2:30 – 2:50	Break							
3:00 – 3:50	Circles of Care – Austin Troyer <i>Purple Room</i>	Micro-group Discipleship – Josh Duell <i>Brown Room</i>	Feeding Lost Sheep – Scott Rainey <i>Orange Room</i>	Moving People from Guest to Fully Devoted Follower of Christ – Ronnie Baker <i>Pink Room</i>	How to Care for Missionaries – Arleen Crutcher <i>Blue Room</i>	This Isn't <u>An</u> Individual Sport - Breakout Session – Nick Williams <i>Green Room</i>	Celebrating Milestones – Trey & Candice Brooks <i>Yellow Room</i>	Importance of Prime Time as a Vital Ministry of Your Church – Jeanette Biddle <i>Red Room</i>

Preparing the Church for 2050



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

Preparing the Church for 2050



Trey and
Candice Brooks

*Founders,
Equip to Engage*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

KEYNOTE

Trey and Candice Brooks. Co-Founders, Equip to Engage.

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

YELLOW ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

What are you doing to prepare the next generation to lead the Church forward? Now is the time for us to prepare our local church, district, and denomination for 2050. To accomplish this, it will take all of us - Lay Leaders, Children's Pastors, Youth Pastors, Senior Adult Pastors, Lead Pastors, District Leaders, and Denominational Leaders - serving together.

About Trey and Candice Brooks

Candice and Trey Brooks are Co-Founders of Equip to Engage - a ministry that equips, encourages, and connects children's leaders. They do this through SPARK, speaking at children's camps, and other opportunities. They led GA Kids for General Assembly 2023 and helped lead the family resources for Half-Million Mobilization 2024. Trey and Candice are both graduates of Southern Nazarene University. Candice is a former elementary school teacher. Trey served as Children's

Pastor in Fort Wayne, IN, and Lenexa, KS, and is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary and an ordained Elder. They have three children and live near Oklahoma City, OK.

Assimilation: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Assimilation: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church

Steve Spangenberg

*Pastor,
Bartlesville First Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: MOBILIZING ALL NAZARENES IN UNITY

Rev. Steve Spangenberg. Pastor, Bartlesville First Church of the Nazarene.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

BLUE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

This session will focus on three things: 1. Understanding Assimilation, 2. Developing a Strategy, and 3. Implementation.

About Steve Spangenberg

Pastor Steve is the Lead Pastor at Bartlesville First Nazarene (BFCNaz) in Bartlesville, OK. He has a Master of Ministry from Olivet Nazarene University and over 20 years of full-time ministry experience serving in large and small churches in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and now Oklahoma. Steve and his wife, Caley, are both ordained. They have two kids: Peyton, a freshman at Olivet, and Parker, a Junior in high school.

Are We There Yet? The Journey to an Effective Discipleship Ministry



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Are We There Yet? The Journey to an Effective Discipleship Ministry

Greg Pressley
*Pastor,
Sumter, SC First
Church of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: MOBILIZING ALL NAZARENES IN UNITY

Rev. Greg Pressley. Pastor, Sumter First Church of the Nazarene.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

ORANGE ROOM (GROUND FLOOR) [SESSION DELIVERED USING ZOOM]

Description

During this session we will explore some of the best practices for growing an effective discipleship ministry in the local church. The Mission, Purpose, and Core Principles of NDI will serve as our guide as we seek to discover how they can be applied in every size church.

About Greg Pressley

Greg Pressley has been lead pastor of Sumter First Church of the Nazarene for 19 years. He has also served churches in North Carolina and Kansas. He currently serves as the District Secretary for the South Carolina District Church of the Nazarene. Previously he served as NDI President in South Carolina and North Carolina. He is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary. He is married to Jeannie. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Circles of Care



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Circles of Care

Dr. Austin Troyer
*Pastor,
Tahlequah Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: MOBILIZING ALL NAZARENES IN UNITY

Dr. Austin Troyer. Pastor, Tahlequah Church of the Nazarene.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

PURPLE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Christian compassion is a way of life. How do we connect people together and empower them to care and share their burdens together? This seminar will help you think bigger about how your congregation is connected in compassion and how care is not just something the pastor provides. It will also provide a short-term small group plan for helping people share their stories and support each other.

About Austin Troyer

Austin is the pastor of the Tahlequah Church of the Nazarene. He has served there nearly nine years as the lead pastor. He is also a recent graduate of the NTS Doctor of Ministry program where his focus was on congregational care.

Shepherding Your Small Group (Accountability Care Lists)



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Shepherding Your Small Group (Accountability Care Lists)

Joe Gschwandtner

*Pastor,
Wagoner Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: MOBILIZING ALL NAZARENES IN UNITY

Rev. Joe Gschwandtner. Pastor, Wagoner Church of the Nazarene.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

BROWN ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

As small group leaders, God has given us a mission to care for the people He entrusted to us. To facilitate that care, the NDI Bylaws encourage us to maintain an Accountability Care List (ACL) that ensures that as a church, we shepherd everyone God has put us into relationship with. You may be familiar with this concept under the name of "Responsibility List." As part of the refining of our discipleship paradigm during the introduction of "A Journey of Grace," the concept of the Responsibility List has been reviewed and updated and is now known as the Accountability Care List. Come and discover how the ACL assists us in providing for those placed in our care.

About Joe Gschwandtner

Joe Gschwandtner has been pastor of Wagoner Church of the Nazarene since June 2024. He also serves the Northeast Oklahoma District as NDI President. The son of missionaries in the Eurasia

Region, he is passionate about helping people glorify God by becoming and making Christlike disciples in their immediate context and the nations. His wife Rebekah and he have two daughters and two sons.

Discover the Power of Sports Outreach: A Key Initiative for "Blessing Our Community"



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Discover the Power of Sports Outreach: A Key Initiative for "Blessing Our Community"

Jessica Drotleff
Upward Sports

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

Jessica Drotleff. Upward Sports.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

BLUE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Is your church interested in using sports outreach to bless your community? Join us to explore sports outreach and learn how Upward Sports partners with local churches. You'll also hear from a league director who uses sports to positively impact their community. Additionally, discover exclusive benefits through our partnership with the Church of the Nazarene's Blessing Our Community initiative. Come and be part of this exciting discussion and bring your questions for a live Q&A session.

About Jessica Drotleff

Hello, my name is Jessica Drotleff. I serve on the Partner Relations team at Upward Sports, where I help churches leverage sports to share the Gospel and reach more families. As George Barna said,

“We are in a race to the heart of a child and the first one there wins.” I am passionate about helping church leaders win this race.

I am a native of Upstate South Carolina, where I reside with my husband, our precious teenage daughter, and a few furry friends. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, live music, sporting events, and cooking up new recipes.

Micro-group Discipleship



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Micro-group Discipleship

Josh Duell

*Pastor,
Ekklesia Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Josh Duell. Pastor, Ekklesia Church of the Nazarene.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

BROWN ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Micro-Group Discipleship is a method of discipleship that patterns itself after the example that Jesus laid out in the Gospels. It specifically focuses around how he mentored Peter, James, and John. Jesus heavily mentored those 3 of his disciples the most intensely and this model focuses on that type of discipleship. This class seeks to lay out a format for discipling people in a micro group size. Real discipleship has its roots in a friendship based on trust. Some of the elements of the process are confession, study of scripture, and just hanging out. Let's look at the way the best discipleship maker taught us to make disciples.

About Josh Duell

Joshua Duell is the pastor of new start Ecclesia. They are a network of micro churches that meets across the city in multiple locations. He previously served at Audacity Church for over 9 years when

God called him and Audacity sent him to go and plant a church. Josh's passion is to live out the call of Jesus in Matthew 28 to go make disciples.

Everyone Needs a Cheering Section (The Power of Encouragement)



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Everyone Needs a Cheering Section (The Power of Encouragement)

Keith Schubert
*Pastor,
Regency Park Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Keith Schubert. Pastor, Regency Park Church of the Nazarene.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

YELLOW ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Do you know how many words the average person in America speaks each day? According to some estimates, it's close to 16,000! Isn't it incredible how just a couple words can change your day? "I'm sorry...it's over...he's gone..." or "you made it!...way to go!...I'm proud of you...". There is power in the words we speak. The question is, how will we use this power? In this session, join us as we learn the importance of speaking words of life and how they can change the world, one person at a time.

About Keith Schubert

Keith Schubert is an energetic, fast-paced, visionary, prayerful, encouraging and deeply relational person who loves the Lord. He's been a preacher for as long as he can remember. His childhood

pastor (Jim Kraemer) noticed the call of God on his life and invited him to give his first sermon at age 12. He's continued pastoring these past 25+ years. In his free time he loves watching basketball, reading, going to movies with his wife (Keith describes her as "incredible with a side of awesome"), and watching anything that has to do with the letters E-S-P and N. He has two incredible, imaginative and fun-loving kids — Anna and Amos. He also believes coffee is proof that God loves us and pie is one of His most delicious blessings. When he eats pie and drink coffee, he feels closer to Jesus!

Substance: A ministry of New Life Nazarene Church reaching out to our community and ELL (English Language Learners) Ministry



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Blessing our Community: "Substance" and "ELL" (English Language Learners)

Betty Ann Howard and
Ana Maria Ruiz

*Miami New Life
and Regency Park Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

Betty Ann Howard and Rev. Ana Maria Ruiz. "Substance" Coordinator and ELL Coordinator.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

BLUE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Substance

Substance is a ministry of New Life Nazarene Church in Miami, Ok. The Substance program provides showers, laundry, a hot meal and groceries to the homeless and those with food and housing insecurities. There are resources in place to help those who have experienced addiction, domestic violence and homelessness. Our Substance program wants to show the love of Jesus Christ in service to our community.

English Language Learners (ELL)

How can the church meet the needs of the community? This is not a new question. Every action that the church does to reach out to the community reminds us of the ministry of Jesus.

In the ELL Ministry, both children and adults from different countries are coming to our church to receive help to learn English and tutoring in reading. Our tutors receive them with love: the love of Jesus who taught us: "Love your neighbor as yourself". They come here to learn English and when they come, they find something beyond just English.

Come and discover how this ministry is helping people see and experience the love of Jesus while learning English.

About Betty Ann Howard and Ana Maria Ruiz

Betty Ann Howard was born in Duxbury, Massachusetts, a small town near Cape Cod. She attended a church where she had 12 years of perfect attendance and never heard the salvation message. Betty Ann met her husband Jim when he was stationed at Boston Naval Shipyard on the USS Wasp. They were married in 1969. She and Jim were saved in the Methodist Church in Peterborough, NH in 1975. They have two children and 7 grandchildren. They moved to NE Oklahoma in 1978 when God instructed them to sell their home and move closer to family. Betty Ann and Jim served in children's ministry for over 25 years. When Jim passed in 2021 with covid, God told Betty Ann to get out of the house. She started helping with the Substance program at New Life Nazarene. She is leads this program with the help of the body of Christ at New Life Nazarene Church. Betty Ann also teaches a teen class.

Ana Bautista de Ruiz is a Northeast Oklahoma District Licensed minister. Ana serves as the Vice President for the Nazarene Mission International (NMI) District Council. Ana also serves as the Hispanic Liaison for the NEOK district for many years.

Ana has worked for the last 10 years at Union Public School, where she serves as a district translator/interpreter and works with ELL Students. She loves seeing her students grow in their acquisition of the English Language. She loves her job! She is so thankful to interpret for families and help them to find the resources they need to help their students to succeed in school.

Ana is from Lima, Peru. Ana also served the Lord in her country as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, leading the Marriage Ministry with her husband and cell groups at her home. Ana has also served in developing successful outreach projects in her country to help people in need, including Medical Day Outreach programs for the church, and other programs providing food essentials.

Ana is married to her love and partner Victor Ruiz; She is thankful to have been able to serve their church together in Peru and the US. They have two wonderful married children, Ana Victoria (married to Derek) & Lorenzo (married to Esther). All four attended and graduated from SNU. Ana enjoys spending time and traveling with her family, hiking, and going to the beach and the lake.

Like a Good Neigh-ba...



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Like a Good Neigh-ba...

Keith Schubert
*Pastor,
Regency Park Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Rev. Keith Schubert. Pastor, Regency Park Church of the Nazarene.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

YELLOW ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Long before Mr. Rogers and Jake from State Farm talked about the importance of being a Good Neighbor, Jesus was teaching his followers about it. Of all the things our Savior said were important, loving our “neighbors” (a.k.a. “neigh-bas), ranked right at the top of the list (see Matthew 22:36-40). But, what does it look like to be a ‘Good Neighbor’ to our neighbors? In this session, we’re going to look at some dynamics of the “neighboring way” of Jesus & his followers. The goal of this session is to help us live out this “neighboring way” of our Savior, so when others think of your church and Jesus’ followers they say, “You’re the really great neighboring church! You’re the neighbors who care, love and serve, listen and notice, pray and walk alongside us.”

About Keith Schubert

Keith Schubert is an energetic, fast-paced, visionary, prayerful, encouraging and deeply relational person who loves the Lord. He's been a preacher for as long as he can remember. His childhood pastor (Jim Kraemer) noticed the call of God on his life and invited him to give his first sermon at age 12. He's continued pastoring these past 25+ years. In his free time he loves watching basketball, reading, going to movies with his wife (Keith describes her as "incredible with a side of awesome"), and watching anything that has to do with the letters E-S-P and N. He has two incredible, imaginative and fun-loving kids — Anna and Amos. He also believes coffee is proof that God loves us and pie is one of His most delicious blessings. When he eats pie and drink coffee, he feels closer to Jesus!

Practice Based Discipleship



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Practice Based Discipleship

Brady Thelander

*Pastor,
Sapulpa Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Rev. Brady Thelander. Pastor, Sapulpa Church of the Nazarene.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

PINK ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Are you dissatisfied with a discipleship culture focused on cognitive comprehension? Are you ready to build disciples that not only know the Word but can put it into practice? Do you want to become a church that is known for putting faith in action? Jesus told us the difference between the wise and the foolish has more to do with what we put into practice than what we know. Let's talk about practical ways to modify your discipleship system to focus on practice.

About Brady Thelander

Pastor Brady Thelander has been in local church leadership for 16 years. He has served Nazarene churches in Olathe, KS, Chicago, IL, and Sapulpa, OK. He has been the pastor at Sapulpa Church of the Nazarene for 5 years.

Feeding Lost Sheep



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Feeding Lost Sheep

Scott Rainey
*Pastor,
Huntington, IN
First Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Dr. Scott Rainey. Former Global NDI Director.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

ORANGE ROOM (GROUND FLOOR) [SESSION DELIVERED USING ZOOM]

Description

“I want to share my faith. How do I start?” If you have ever thought this, please join our workshop to learn...

- how to discover who near you is open to Jesus
- when and how to start spiritual conversations
- how to keep these conversations going
- and how to walk with someone toward the cross of Christ

Don't miss out on a workshop that will change your life and alter the eternity of people you love!

About Scott Rainey

Dr. Scott Rainey has been a pastor in the church of the Nazarene since December 1994. He has served as staff pastor, lead pastor, missionary, and denominational leader. In January 2024, Dr. Rainey returned to his first calling as pastor. He and his family now live in Huntington, Indiana, where Dr. Rainey serves as lead pastor of First Church of the Nazarene. He is enjoying hearing “Pastor Scott” again, leading a congregation to love Jesus with all their hearts, and walking with people of Huntington from no faith to new faith to mature faith.

Hearing God Speak



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Hearing God Speak

Hal Perkins

*Author, Discipled
by Jesus*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Rev. Hal Perkins. Author, Discipled by Jesus.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

PURPLE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Being discipled by Jesus requires listening to Jesus. Hearing the voice of our Lord is at the heart of being His follower yet for many Christians, it is one of the most challenging tasks of discipleship. How do I know it is His voice? What if there seems to be no answer? Is there a right posture to enable us to hear God speak? How do we discern His direction and what is the role of fellow believers in my discerning God's direction?

About Hal Perkins

Parent of 4, all in full time ministry. Pastor for 40 years. Full time traveling conference speaker for 10 years. Author of 6 books on being and making disciples of Jesus in the family, church, and world. Currently Discipleship Pastor of Radiant KC Church, Kansas City.

Living A Holy Life by Forgiving the Offenses of Others and Asking Forgiveness for my Offenses



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Living A Holy Life by Forgiving the Offenses of Others and Asking Forgiveness for my Offenses

Jerry Porter
*General Superintendent
Emeritus*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BECOMING CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

Dr. Jerry Porter. General Superintendent Emeritus.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

ORANGE ROOM (GROUND FLOOR) [SESSION DELIVERED USING ZOOM]

Description

We have all been wounded and mistreated. Holiness is more than a crisis experience in my past. Holy living requires that I do what the Lord told us to do, forgive 70 times 70. It is not enough to forgive, I must also humble myself and ask forgiveness when I offend or wound someone else. It is not enough to confess my sin to the Lord and ask forgiveness. I am invited to ask forgiveness for my offenses against others. This is practical daily holy living!

About Jerry Porter

Dr. Jerry D. Porter served as a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene for 20 years.

He was chosen for this highest elected office in the denomination at the 24th General Assembly at San Antonio, Texas, in June 1997, while serving as the district superintendent for the Washington (DC) District of the Church of the Nazarene.

Dr. Porter was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the son of Dr. and Mrs. William Porter. He married Toni Dubs from York, Pennsylvania. The Porters were blessed with two children, Amy Jo and William Britt. At age 17, Amy's left arm had to be amputated due to synovial cell sarcoma cancer in her wrist. She battled courageously for the next four years and passed away December 2, 1995.

Jerry and Toni graduated from Bethany Nazarene College (now SNU) in 1971 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in religion and Spanish, respectively. In the summer of 1972, Jerry received a Master of Arts degree in theology. He also did graduate studies at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1988 Southern Nazarene University conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

He was ordained an elder in the Church of the Nazarene on the Houston District by General Superintendent Charles Strickland in 1974 while pastoring the Angleton, Texas, Church of the Nazarene, on the Houston District.

Following a 2½-year pastoral tenure, Jerry and Toni were appointed missionaries to the Dominican Republic to help launch the work of the Church of the Nazarene. The assignment included church planting and directing the theological education by extension program. Following rapid and explosive growth of the church in the Dominican Republic, the Porters were assigned to San Jose, Costa Rica, where he served as rector of the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas. During the next seven years, the seminary grew to an enrollment of over 100 students on campus with nearly 3,000 in extension centers throughout Latin America.

In 1986, Dr. Porter was elected by the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene as the Mexico and Central America regional director. This region encompassed seven nations from Mexico to Panama and, at that time, represented 22 districts with over 50 missionaries and six theological institutions.

During Amy's treatment in Dallas in early 1992, Jerry was elected to serve as the third district superintendent on the Mid-Atlantic District (formerly Washington District) which encompasses Maryland, Delaware, south central Pennsylvania, Washington, D. C., and eastern West Virginia. In addition to his responsibilities as district superintendent, Dr. Porter was also chairman of the board of the Washington Nazarene Bible College Extension, a member of the Board of Trustees of Eastern Nazarene College and of Nazarene Theological Seminary, and a member of the Hiram F. Reynolds Research Institute at the International Center. Dr. Porter has written various publications in Nazarene journals and is known primarily as a missionary evangelist.

His wife, Toni, has taught Christian education and women's ministry classes at the seminary in Costa Rica as well as served on the region and on the Mid-Atlantic District as women's ministries coordinator. She also organized and directed the scholarship program for ministers' children on the Mexico/Central America Region. She has a master's degree in theology, is a frequent speaker at women's retreats and seminars, and is a Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Child Sponsorship spokesperson. Toni has taught Spiritual Formation classes several times at Asia Pacific Nazarene

Theology Seminary in the Philippines and to Latino ministerial students in the USA. Following their retirement in 2017, the Porters served the church in a Muslim creative access area. Currently they are volunteering in the Dutch Antilles, helping to strengthen the church, launch new congregations and train leaders. Their son Bill and his wife Kristin, and their grandsons, Ben and Nate, live in Argyle, Texas.

Making Disciples - Teaching Them To Obey



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Making Disciples - Teaching Them To Obey

Hal Perkins

*Author, Discipled
by Jesus*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BECOMING CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

Rev. Hal Perkins. Author, Discipled by Jesus.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

PURPLE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Pastors, parents, small group leaders, Sunday School teachers are all commissioned by Jesus: “teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Massive challenge. We will examine “taking authority” and how to effectively implement authority in a Christlike way to produce the goodness of God in those we are called to disciple.

About Hal Perkins

Parent of 4, all in full time ministry. Pastor for 40 years. Full time traveling conference speaker for 10 years. Author of 6 books on being and making disciples of Jesus in the family, church, and world. Currently Discipleship Pastor of Radiant KC Church, Kansas City.

Moving people from guests to fully devoted followers of Christ



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Moving people from guests to fully devoted followers of Christ

Ronnie Baker

*Pastor,
Audacity Church*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BECOMING CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

Rev. Ronnie Baker. Pastor, Audacity Church.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

PINK ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Oscar Wilde said, "It is always the best of intentions that the worst work is done." As pastors and church leaders, we can have the best intentions in discipleship, but where do you begin in creating a practical discipleship pathway? In this session, you will be guided to create a personal, applicable, and intentional way to move people in your church from attendee to ministry partner.

About Ronnie Baker

Ronnie is the husband of Ashlee Baker. They have been married for 25 years. They have ten exceptional children and three precious grandchildren. Ronnie and Ashlee are the Co-Founding Pastors of Audacity Church of the Nazarene, a church they started in a living room with five adults ten years ago.

Ronnie also serves NEO District as the New Start Coordinator. His goal is to plant and revitalize churches across our district.

He also has the privilege of serving the USA/ Canada Church of the Nazarene as an Assessment Director, where he has helped over fifty church planters across the United States. He often says he wasn't born a Nazarene but chose to become one.

A People of Grace: Wesley's Discipleship for Today's Nazarenes



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



A People of Grace: Wesley's Discipleship for Today's Nazarenes

Dr. Sam Barber
Global NDI Director

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: BECOMING CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

Dr. Sam Barber. Global NDI Director.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

ORANGE ROOM (GROUND FLOOR) [SESSION DELIVERED USING ZOOM]

Description

Using the familiar metaphor of a trip to the doctor's office, Sam will help us see the Presenting Problem of discipleship, the Diagnosis of lackluster discipleship, a Treatment Plan for improved effectiveness in discipleship, and a Prognosis for Nazarene discipleship...which is surprisingly good! The hope for today's discipleship runs through the yesterday's of John Wesley's methodology. We invite you to come and learn the transformational power of loving accountability.

About Sam Barber

Dr. Sam Barber was elected Global NDI Director in July of 2024. Sam most recently served the church as District Superintendent of the South Central Ohio District. He and his wife, Jill, have

served four churches as lead pastor for over 33 years. Their ministry has taken them from Ohio to North Carolina and to Kansas before returning to South Central Ohio.

Dr. Barber holds a Doctor of Ministry from Nazarene Theological Seminary as well as master's degrees from Malone and Duke Universities, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from MVNU. In addition to pastoral ministry, Dr. Barber has served as adjunct professor, guest speaker, trustee, and author, most recently publishing, *A People of Grace: Becoming Disciples Together*, along with articles for *Holiness Today*. He was elected to the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene in 2023.

Sam is passionate about discipleship and believes that the Great Commission is not reserved for the spiritually elite but is instead, the very heart of the gospel and interwoven with the decision to follow Jesus.

Sam is married to Jill who has served in ministry and leadership roles across the years in the local church, the business world, and the denomination. She has served Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, Nazarene Theological Seminary, and the United States Canada Region of the Church of the Nazarene. She currently serves as the Communications and Connections Director for SCO. Jill is also a writer having been published in both *Grace and Peace* and *Holiness Today*. The Barbers have one son, Ross, who lives in New Albany, OH, and serves as the Director of Audio for The Columbus Vineyard churches.

Sam and Jill have loved serving the church across more than 30 years of ministry.

Helping Parents Win



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Helping Parents Win

Sam McCullough

*One Hope /
Feed Youth Ministry*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Sam McCullough. One Hope/Feed Youth Ministry.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

GREEN ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

The research is clear, parents are teen's number one influence. Partnering with parents can't be an afterthought, it needs to become a focus. Learn 3 ways to help parents win!

About Sam McCullough

Sam McCullough serves as the NextGen Director for North America at OneHope International. He served at his local church as a pastor for 13 years and is passionate about NextGen ministry. He's been married to his wife Britney for 12 years and has two children.

Surviving Ministry Over the Long Haul!



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Surviving Ministry Over the Long Haul!

Rod Thelander
*Pastor,
Sand Springs Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Rev. Rod Thelander. Pastor, Sand Springs Church of the Nazarene.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

GREEN ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

Pastoral ministry is tough and pastors are dropping out of ministry in record numbers. There are many reasons for this, and there are important lessons and practices we can learn and implement to help us “survive” ministry over the long haul. In this session, Pastor Rod Thelander will be sharing some of the personal lessons he has learned, and the life practices he has implemented, in sustaining a pastoral ministry of over 42 years. He has pastored small churches, medium sized churches, and larger churches. This seminar will be relevant and inspirational for pastors of all ages and in all stages of ministry.

About Rod Thelander

Rod Thelander has been a pastor for over forty years. He has served as a senior pastor for all of his ministry in the Church of the Nazarene, and has been involved in ministry on five different districts.

He has served in leadership not only on the local level, but on the district and regional levels as well. Rod and Mary have three children, B.J., Bethany, and Brady; and eleven grand-children; and one great grandson. Rod's greatest joy comes from preaching God's Word, spending time with his family (especially shopping with Mary!), fishing, golfing and taking evening rides on the motorcycle.

Intercessor for Global Missions



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Intercessor for Global Missions

David Mosher

*NMI Council
Member, Prayer*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Rev. David Mosher. NMI Council Member, Prayer.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

PINK ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

A Discussion of: What an Intercessor Is; How does an Intercessor become a Missionary as taken from Norman Grubb's book Rees Howells Intercessor; and Practical Things to Do in the Life of the Church to be an Intercessor for Global Missions

About David Mosher

Graduated from Southern Nazarene College with Bachelor's Degree in Physics, Minor Math and Education; Graduated from Nazarene Theology Seminary with Master's Degree in Missiology. Served as Math/Science Teach and Principal in Christian Schools for 10 years; Served 32 years as missionary for Church of the Nazarene on Africa Region, 10 years in Eswatini as Math and Science Teacher and Church Planter; 6 years in Mozambique as Church Planter, Extension Education Teacher for Pastors, and Trainer of District Superintendents; 6 years in Sao Tome and Principe as

Church Planter, Extension Education Teacher for Pastors, and Mission Director; 2 years in Zambia as Extension Education Teacher for Pastors and Support for District Superintendents; 4 years as Principal of Nazarene Theological Seminary of Central Africa in Malawi; Present: Semi-retired and serving as Senior Adult Associate Pastor in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

NMI President Resources for new and seasoned presidents



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



NMI President Resources for new and seasoned presidents

Carol Stevens

*President,
NE Oklahoma District
NMI*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Rev. Carol Stevens. NMI President, Northeast Oklahoma.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

BROWN ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

(Everything I need to know about being an NMI president and was afraid to ask)

If you are a newly elected NMI president or you have been an NMI president for a while, and you would like a reminder of things you need to be focusing on through the year. What does your church need to do to accomplish the mission we have.

About Carol Stevens

Carol Stevens is the Northeast Oklahoma District NMI President. Carol has served on the NMI council for several years before being elected the president in 2018. Carol is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and serves as Children's Pastor at Claremore Church of the Nazarene.

Carol was born in Monclova, Mexico while her parents were missionaries there. She has a deep passion and love for missions and missionaries. She has served the Lord in various ways in the church. Carol would like to motivate and encourage others to love missions as much as she does.

How to Care for Missionaries



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



How to Care for Missionaries

Arleen Crutcher
*NMI Council
Member,
Care & Connections*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Arleen Crutcher. NMI Council Member, Care & Connections.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

BLUE ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

Description

This session will discuss how we as individuals, churches and the district take care of our missionaries. It will explain the Northeast Oklahoma district's Care and Connections program and clarify how local churches and individuals participate in that program. It will also provide practical directions and insights regarding connecting, supporting, and communicating with our missionaries, including what we can do, what we should do and what we should not do. Discussion will include viewpoints from some of our missionaries.

About Arleen Crutcher

Arleen is the Care and Connections coordinator for the Northeast Oklahoma District. She is a member of her local church's Missionary Council and a past president. She also teaches a young adult Sunday school class. Her passion for missions has taken her to several short-term mission

trips to Mexico and Kenya. She is a registered nurse and nurse educator and currently teaches online for a faith-based university. She holds a master's degree in nursing and a PhD in education.

Supporting Children and Others With Complex Needs



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Supporting Children and Others With Complex Needs

Megan Barrett
*Children's Pastor,
Bartlesville First Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Megan Barrett. Children's Pastor, Bartlesville First Church of the Nazarene.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

RED ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Supporting people with complex needs requires much of us as people. Discover tools and strategies to assist in developing relationships with them and learning how to better support them and love like Jesus. It doesn't take an expert to support someone with a trauma history or special needs, it just takes someone who wants to be present for them.

About Megan Barrett

Megan Barrett is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. She comes from Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband and two children. Before entering full time ministry as the Children's Pastor in Bartlesville, Ok, she was a social worker for eight years. She enjoys travelling, playing games, is a self-proclaimed foodie, and caffeine in most forms.

Intentional Family Worship



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Intentional Family Worship

Trey and
Candice Brooks

*Founders,
Equip to Engage*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Trey and Candice Brooks. Co-Founders, Equip to Engage.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

YELLOW ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

"Family Worship" is often used to describe service when children join worship in the sanctuary with their families. In this session, we will look at intentional ways of engaging children and families when they are worshipping together.

About Trey and Candice Brooks

Candice and Trey Brooks are Co-Founders of Equip to Engage - a ministry that equips, encourages, and connects children's leaders. They do this through SPARK, speaking at children's camps, and other opportunities. They led GA Kids for General Assembly 2023 and helped lead the family resources for Half-Million Mobilization 2024. Trey and Candice are both graduates of Southern Nazarene University. Candice is a former elementary school teacher. Trey served as Children's

Pastor in Fort Wayne, IN, and Lenexa, KS, and is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary and an ordained Elder. They have three children and live near Oklahoma City, OK.

Developing worship that works!



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Developing worship that works!

Amanda Carroll
*Children's Pastor,
Tulsa Central Church
of the Nazarene*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Amanda Carroll. Children's Pastor, Tulsa Central Church of the Nazarene.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

RED ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

We're diving into innovative ways to inspire young hearts in worship! We'll be exploring how students learn and express themselves in today's world. Get ready for an interactive, high-energy session where we encourage you to bring your enthusiasm for worship and embrace fresh ideas as you craft a program for your students. Join us for a dynamic journey of discovery and inspiration!"

About Amanda Carroll

Amanda Carroll brings over 15 years of vibrant experience in children's and youth ministry, from Ohio and Texas to her current role as Family Pastor at Tulsa Central Church of the Nazarene. With a background in education and a passion for teaching young hearts about Jesus Christ, Amanda sees the world through a unique lens. She's had the joy of speaking at camps nationwide, spanning

various denominations. Amanda believes that worship is not just about singing—it's a transformative way of life!

Celebrating Milestones



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Celebrating Milestones

Trey and
Candice Brooks

*Founders,
Equip to Engage*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Trey and Candice Brooks. Co-Founders, Equip to Engage.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

YELLOW ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Are you looking for ways to mark significant times in the life of the families in your church? Are you looking for ways to help parents connect to each other? In this session, we will explore how we as the church can come alongside parents/primary faith influencers and encourage families through Milestones.

NOTE: This isn't about Family Worship but is about ministry to the families and the importance of ministry to families.

About Trey and Candice Brooks

Candice and Trey Brooks are Co-Founders of Equip to Engage - a ministry that equips, encourages, and connects children's leaders. They do this through SPARK, speaking at children's camps, and other opportunities. They led GA Kids for General Assembly 2023 and helped lead the family

resources for Half-Million Mobilization 2024. Trey and Candice are both graduates of Southern Nazarene University. Candice is a former elementary school teacher. Trey served as Children's Pastor in Fort Wayne, IN, and Lenexa, KS, and is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary and an ordained Elder. They have three children and live near Oklahoma City, OK.

Marriage Ministry in Your Local Church



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Marriage Ministry in Your Local Church

David Frisbie
*Certified Marriage
Trainer, Pastor, Author*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: AGE GROUP/LIFE STAGE MINISTRIES

Dr. David Frisbie. Certified Marriage Trainer, Pastor, Author.

1:30 AM - 2:20 AM

PINK ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

How to launch, support and grow a vital marriage ministry in your local church. It's up to you!

About David Frisbie

Dr. David & Lisa Frisbie, Coordinators of Marriage & Family Ministry for the Global Church of the Nazarene. David and Lisa have authored 43 books and have traveled to 48 world nations, in addition to all 50 of the United States.

Fresh Perspectives: Reaching & Empowering Young Adults



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Fresh Perspectives: Reaching & Empowering Young Adults

Hank Grant

*Executive Pastor,
Audacity Church*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: AGE GROUP/LIFE STAGE MINISTRIES

Rev. Hank Grant. Executive Pastor, Audacity Church.

12:30 PM - 1:20 AM

RED ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

In today's rapidly changing world, young adults face unique challenges, but also have incredible opportunities. Our role as leaders is to understand their needs, leverage their strengths, and empower them to make meaningful contributions to the church and their world. This session we'll explore fresh perspectives and strategies for reaching and empowering young adults.

About Hank Grant

Hank Grant is one of the Executive Pastors at Audacity.Church. He has served in full-time ministry for over twenty years. Serving as a youth pastor, outreach director, young adult pastor, associate pastor and overseas missionary. He is passionate about seeing people walk in the call that is placed on their lives, whether they are 13 or 93!

A Woman's Journey of Grace



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



A Woman's Journey of Grace

Christy Thornton
*Northeast Oklahoma
District Women's
Ministries Director*

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: AGE GROUP/LIFE STAGE MINISTRIES

Rev. Christy Thornton. Women's Ministries Director.

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

BROWN ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

Discipleship is a journey from grace to grace to grace. This workshop will look at 5 Core Principals of Discipleship and discuss how we can incorporate these principles in women's discipleship ministry locally.

About Christy Thornton

Christy Thornton is the Northeast Oklahoma District Women's Ministries Director. She is an ordained deacon in the Church of the Nazarene and serves as Administrative Pastor and Women's Pastor at Tulsa Hills Church of the Nazarene. She and her husband, Jim, recently celebrated 25 years of ministry to the Calvary/Tulsa Hills Church family. Prior to Tulsa, they ministered in Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon. She and Jim are proud parents to Tyler and wife, Kenna; Josh and wife, Maddie, Jacob and two granddaughters, Charlotte, and Ella, who are the lights of her life!

Importance of Prime Time as a Vital Ministry of Your Church



DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



Importance of Prime Time as a Vital Ministry of Your Church

Jeanette Biddle

August 17 | Hosted at Regency Park in Tulsa

TRACK: AGE GROUP/LIFE STAGE MINISTRIES

Jeanette Biddle.

3:00 AM - 3:50 AM

RED ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)

Description

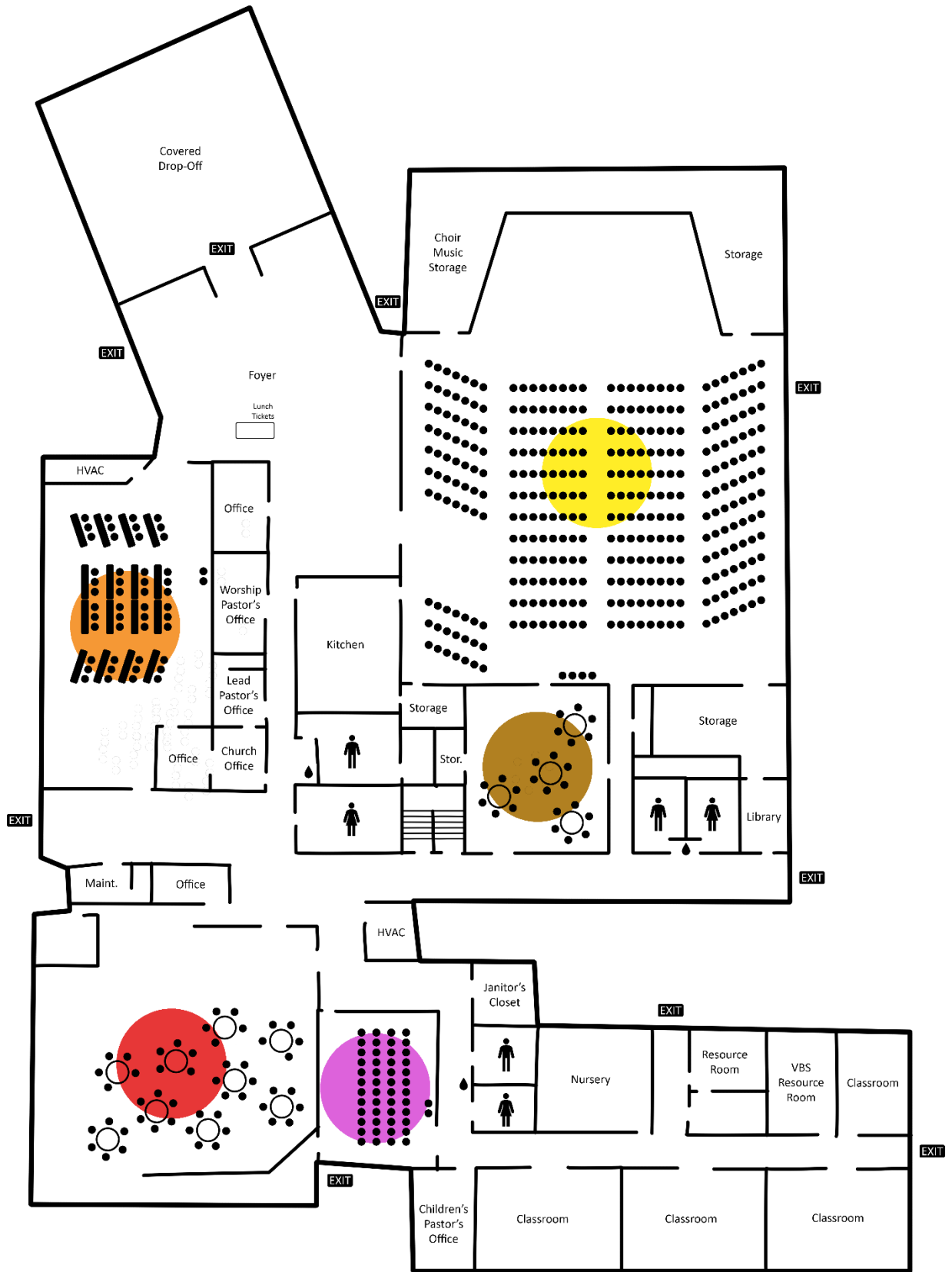
This session will discuss the crucial role that Prime Time ministry plays in evangelizing, cultivating and nurturing continued spiritual growth, and celebrating Prime Time adults as disciples of Christ. As the population ages, the opportunity to minister to that population also expands. This provides churches with the possibility of extending their reach into an underserved population. Beyond the spiritual benefits of evangelization are the vital health and social benefits. Our need to be a part of a community does not diminish as we age, it increases. Our churches can fulfill that need as well as the need to know and follow Christ.

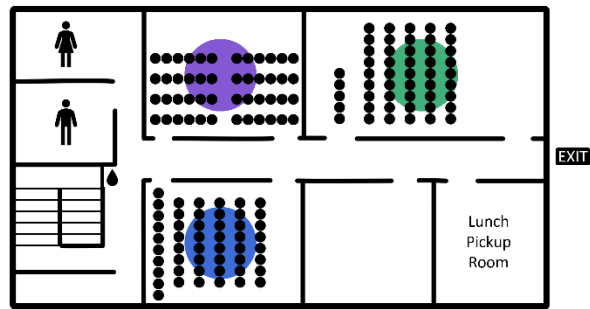
About Jeanette Biddle

Jeanette is the NMI President for her church, Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Bristow. She also teaches adult Sunday School, is the Diaper Closet Ministry Coordinator, and Southwest Zone Leader for Prime Time Ministry. Jeanette is the wife of Pastor Ron Biddle of Fellowship Church of the Nazarene. She's also a mother and grandmother.

After earning her M.A. at Oregon University, Jeanette taught Communication and Cultural Anthropology at several Universities and Colleges for twenty years.

As a cultural anthropologist and the family genealogist she believes in the value of stories and community. As a Christian, she strongly believes that not only are our stories valuable but together with our testimonies we can use them to forge relationships and develop community which are cornerstones of evangelization which also does not diminish as we age. Prime Time Ministry offers both opportunities for seniors.





Host Site

Regency Park Church of the Nazarene

8707 East 51st Street

Tulsa, OK 74145

About DDD

The District Discipleship Day (DDD) is a training and discipleship event organized jointly by the Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) auxiliaries of the Northeast Oklahoma District of the Church of the Nazarene.