

Alabama North District Church of the Nazarene Convention Day
NYI President's Report
Gardendale Church of the Nazarene
Saturday, April 12, 2025

Welcome and Voting (Bethany Martin and Jeremy Hagood)

- Bethany Martin welcomes all to the NYI Convention. She then welcomes Jeremy Hagood to introduce the ballot. Jeremy Hagood ran the election.

Introduction (Bethany Martin)

- NYI...Nazarene Youth International. For over 100 years, NYI has called our generation to live a dynamic life in Christ. NYI exists to lead young people into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and to facilitate their growth as disciples of Christian service. We do this through the message of NYI: BE (Evangelism), DO (Discipleship), and GO (Leadership Development).
- In Evangelism, we are God's light. In BEing in Christ and BEing with others, we allow the Holy Spirit to work through our lives. Teen Camp is a time for our youth to BE. Last year, we had around 60 teens at our Alabama North Teen Camp. Meril Chaplin (Mitchell), Associate Pastor at Gallatin First Church of the Nazarene, spoke about what it looks like to abide with God and follow his voice. This summer, from June 8 until June 12, we are excited to have Pastor Jacobi Campbell join us at Dotson Baptist Camp.
- Through Discipleship, we DO life together. We learn what it means to talk, serve, sacrifice, fall, and get back up together. This past year, we created a college fund to help our students stay connected. Carol Isom has been an integral part of this, keeping our Alabama North NYI students at Trevecca connected to our district by dropping in and delivering snacks and encouragement. We hope to expand this to all our NYI college students this year. This past year, we also created a scholarship fund. Through our scholarship fund, teens who need financial assistance can complete an application requesting scholarship money for specific NYI events. We utilized the scholarship fund this past year and hope to use it even more in the coming year.
- In Leadership Development, we challenge and empower youth and leaders to GO out into their communities as models of Christ's servant leadership. Last September, the Alabama North NYI hosted the Southeast Field NYI meeting at Camp McDowell. However, this was just the beginning of Leadership Development throughout Alabama North NYI. Aaron Martin was selected to attend Third Wave in January—a global leadership conference. Our district also had three youth workers attend Fuel—a youth worker's retreat in Georgia sponsored by the Calling Cooperative from Trevecca Nazarene University in March.

- It is our mission to BE, DO, and GO. The Church of the Nazarene believes that young people are an integral part of the Church, and we hope that the Alabama North NYI reflects this belief. I am so excited for you to hear from some of our youth about upcoming events and how they are more than just a part of NYI; they are part of the Church of the Nazarene.

NYI Introduction Video Played

The Becoming Conference (Angela Sumitra)

- The Calling Cooperative sponsors the Becoming Conference, a two-track experience at Trevecca Nazarene University this summer (June 24 to June 28). Becoming Conference exists to assist students in discovering their call. There are two tracks to choose from:
 - The YES track (must be in grades 9-12 for the 2025-2026 school year) is for students interested in further discovering their call to pastoral ministry.
 - The Mission Nashville track (must be in grades 7-12 for the 2025-2026 school year) is designed for students who may want to study fields outside of church ministry but are just as interested in growing as disciples of Jesus.
- Angela Sumitra talked about her personal experience attending the Becoming Conference by saying, “Last year, I was able to attend the Becoming Conference on the Mission Nashville track. So in Mission Nashville we did a lot of volunteer work. One of the opportunities we had was to help out at this cafe that sold all sorts of little soaps and stuff and they also were a kind of daycare and we got to help clear out their playground which couldn’t be played on because there were so many weeds growing. The thing that impacted me the most was probably what the lady who was directing said—about how we were helping create a space for these children in need to play and grow in their faith. Since then, I’ve really enjoyed being able to help and volunteer when I can, because it gives me the chance to make an impact on others' lives.”
- You can register now to go this summer. The early bird cost (\$275 per student and \$190 per adult) is due April 25. You can talk to James Dolinger for more information and how to register.
- The Becoming Conference Video Played

Pastor Kid Retreat (Luke Sessions)

- The Alabama North District had a record number of pastor's kids (8 teens and two adult chaperones) attend the PK Retreat last October!
- Luke Sessions talked about his personal experience attending PK Retreat.
- If you are a PK who did not make it last year, we hope you can join us this year! It will be October 3rd through October 5th at Laguna Beach Christian Resort in Panama City Beach, Florida. There is something so special about this event, joining together with other PKs in our Southeast Field. Talk to Bethany or Seth Martin for more information!

District TNT (Addyson Shadden)

- Each year, during our District TNT (Top Nazarene Talent) event, students from our local churches come together and give glory to God by using their talents for Him. Students can compete in various categories, including art, academics, music, worship arts, drama, individual sports, and team sports. District TNT prepares our district for TNT at Trevecca Nazarene University by building teams and allowing at least one student or group to represent our district at the field level at each event. This past year, we had over 150 people registered, an increase of around 50 from our previous year. Covenant Church of the Nazarene has been a great host, and we are excited to have them host us again (November 7 to November 9). Thank you to Jeffery Woods, Mitchell Pittman, Greg Tinker, Jeremy Hagood, Joe Hughes, Covenant, and everyone else who helped make this event a huge success!
- Addyson Shadden talked about her personal experience attending District TNT by saying, “Lastly, I am going to tell you about my personal experience at District TNT. Something I like about this event is getting to see my friends, competing, and seeing others use the talents God has blessed them with. People have asked, “Why should I go to this event?”, and I think you should go at least once to see how it is, compete, make new friends, and to have fun, all while glorifying God! I remember my first district TNT back in 2022. I was so excited to finally be a part of this event, and to get to know the people I am friends with today! Thank you.”

Third Wave (Bethany Martin and Aaron Martin)

- Third Wave has been created as a global forum for 18 to 29-year-olds to gather and develop as emerging NYI leaders. It is a leadership conference hosted by the Global NYI Office taking place in Ecuador, South Africa, Thailand, Costa Rica, India, and most recently, the United States of America in Orlando, Florida. All six regions worship, fellowship, learn, serve, connect, and pray together. Individuals are first recommended and then must go through an interview process. Each field allows 5 participants to attend, so it is a big deal that Alabama North's very own Aaron Martin was selected to represent the Southeast Field this past January at Third Wave.
- Aaron Martin talked about his personal experience attending Third Wave.

Winter Retreat/Breakaway (Isaiah Davis)

- Our annual winter retreat allows students to “break away” from everyday life through biblical teaching, worship, fellowship, and fun. It provides a spiritual boost to students in the middle of the school year. This past Winter Retreat was at Camp Sumatanga with around 40 students. Thank you, Jamie Beard, for leading this event and planning a Spirit-filled weekend.
- Isaiah Davis talked about his personal experience attending Breakaway.

TNT @ TNU (Grant Wilson)

- Top Nazarene Talent (TNT) at Trevecca Nazarene University happens annually, allowing students from our district to come together with other districts on the Southeast Field. Much like District TNT, TNT @ TNU's first focus is to encourage students to use their talents and abilities for Christ and to give glory to God. Regional TNT promotes unity and teamwork within our district through competition, encourages fellowship and relationship-building with students from other districts, exposes them to Trevecca's campus and programs, and provides meaningful corporate worship and teaching. Our district numbers have grown 3.45% from last year's numbers. Be praying for our 87 students and 35 adults who will be going in May.
- Grant Wilson talked about his personal experience attending TNT @ TNU by saying, "I like TNT @ TNU because I get to play and hang out with everybody—building stronger connections with people. I enjoy having the opportunity to play sports with others. I think this event is important because it can help teens get more involved in their local church. They can also experience all of the fun and fellowship that NYI has to offer. I also enjoy the leaders. One time Joe said if we won the basketball championship that he would take the team for a steak dinner and that really motivated us. Before TNT @ TNU, I never knew that I would be able to experience God through sports—but I realize now that I can."

NYC (William Randolph and John Parrish)

- NYC 2026 Video #1 Played
- Hosted by the Church of the Nazarene, the Nazarene Youth Conference is a powerful youth event held in different locations over the past six decades. NYC takes place every few years and provides an opportunity for high school students from the USA and Canada to be united in a time of worship, teaching, and community service. NYC has inspired young people for many generations to live out God's call in their lives. NYC 2023 in Tampa, Florida, had over 10,000 participants, making it the largest NYC yet.
- William Randolph talked about his personal experience attending NYC by saying, "NYC was one of the best things I've ever experienced. It changed my life on how I view God and my faith. When I heard about NYC, I was unsure if I really wanted to go to Tampa to just listen to people talk about God. I thought that I had heard plenty about God being a PK, but I was wrong very wrong. NYC answered a lot of questions I had about God. When NYC was coming, I was in a very hard spot. I just had a ton of questions, and I was doubting God. I questioned if he was real and why am I told to live a life for Him when I don't even know He's there. NYC answered those questions. When I was sitting in those sessions something touched my heart and I knew He was there. I don't know what it was exactly, but I could tell it was Him. I strongly encourage anyone that can go. It changed my life, and I know it can change yours. The reason I chose to talk about NYC is because when I was there, I met a ton of new and really cool people all around the

USA and Canada and it was a lot of fun. That's the reason NYC is my favorite event. I can't wait for NYC26 in Salt Lake City.”

- NYC 2026 Video #2 Played
- John Parrish talked about NYC 2026. He shared information regarding location, cost, etc.

Closing Remarks (Bethany Martin and Jeremy Hagood)

- This past year would not have been possible without the Alabama North NYI Council. Our Executive Council, Joe Hughes, Jeremy Hagood, and Daryl Randolph, have been great in helping me lead. Our zone and student representatives have also been necessary to send out information and provide feedback to improve our district events. Thank you to our DS, Arnie Wilson, who always supports our events and encourages us. It takes a team for Alabama North NYI to run, and we have the best. Thank you all! Alabama North NYI wants to continue to learn and grow together—building communication with students and leaders. If you are not already following our Facebook and Instagram pages—Alabama North NYI, please do so to keep updated with upcoming events and information. Also, we have some exciting new NYI merch for sale: polos, hats, and sweatshirts. We have forms to fill out if you are interested in buying merch. As we continue this new NYI year, know that our mission remains. We aim to come alongside the youth and college ministries of the Alabama North District Church of the Nazarene. Now, for our election results...
- Election results were shared by Jeremy Hagood. The Financial Report and Proposed Budget were then shared by Jeremy Hagood and both were accepted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bethany Martin, ALN NYI President
Saturday, April 12, 2025