

NMD Pastor Reports

2023-2024 Assembly Year



Dear NMD Assembly,

In 2023, our church's primary goal is to make it the Best Year Ever, focusing on fostering a vibrant community, deepening spiritual connections, and expanding our outreach efforts. Through engaging worship services, impactful community events, and meaningful service projects, we aim to create an environment where individuals can grow in their faith and relationships with one another. Building on the successes of the previous year, 2024 marks our commitment to Growing Deeper—both spiritually and relationally. We strive to delve into the core teachings of our faith, providing opportunities for profound spiritual growth and understanding. Additionally, we aim to strengthen our bonds as a church family, cultivating a sense of belonging and unity that empowers us to support one another on our spiritual journeys. Through intentional discipleship, heartfelt fellowship, and a continued focus on outreach, we are dedicated to deepening our roots and expanding our impact within our congregation and beyond.

Rev. Rebecca Komlassan, our youth pastor, exudes passion and commitment in her role. Last summer, she led a group of 12 enthusiastic teenagers and three sponsors to the Nazarene Youth Conference, fostering growth and spiritual development among our youth. She took 38 students and 10 adults to Olivet Nazarene University for Celebrate Life. Beyond this, she runs our Sunday night youth group, providing a nurturing environment for our young members to connect, learn, and grow in their faith. Rebecca's involvement extends far beyond youth activities; she contributes her time and expertise to various areas of our church, embodying the spirit of service and leadership. Her unwavering dedication and warm-hearted approach make her an invaluable asset to our congregation.

Lisa Burgess is the vibrant heart behind our children's ministry. As our dedicated Children's Ministry Director, she orchestrates the annual excitement of Vacation Bible School, infusing it with creativity and spiritual depth. Leading with warmth and enthusiasm, Lisa guides our young ones through meaningful lessons in Children's Church and diligently oversees every aspect of our children's ministry throughout the year. Her passion for nurturing the faith of our youngest members shines brightly, making her an invaluable asset to our church community.

In closing, as I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the countless ways in which our congregation has demonstrated love, compassion, and dedication to our shared mission. From the transformative experiences of the mission trip to Africa to the record-breaking Easter attendance, it is evident that God's grace continues to move powerfully within our community. As we embark on the journey ahead, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the relationships forged, and the joyous moments shared, knowing that together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of others and fulfilling God's call to love and serve one another. With hopeful hearts and steadfast faith, let us press on, trusting in the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit as we continue to grow, learn, and spread God's love to all corners of the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Martin M Hodge

Beaverton Church of the Nazarene

Dr. Sunberg, Rev. Gilmore, Delegates, and friends of this 39th Northern Michigan District; this is my Sixteenth report to this assembly as the pastor of Big Rapids Church of the Nazarene.

I would like to share the renewed vision for Big Rapids Church of the Nazarene, we have strived to reach out and bless our community for many years with a food pantry and sharing the Hope and Love of Christ shared in this ministry.

We have seen a drastic increase over the years of those not only needing help with food, but we have seen the same drastic increase for the need of every day basics items, including clothing, household goods, and an even more extreme need for much need items like soap, cleaner, and hygiene items.

We have begun to offer this expanded ministry and have been able to touch hundreds of lives with everyday needs as well as encouragement and hope. It has been both amazing and painful to see how many in our community are in such dire need. Equally disturbing is the fact that we were unaware of the massive need, or perhaps were not willing to see it.

Our vision for this new year is to expand our reach into our community by including clothing, hygiene, and other needs. But also strive to offer the non-perishable needs of our community by offering the necessity of hope, love, and the message of Jesus Christ.

We continue to seek ways to connect with our community so we can share the Love of Christ with anyone who has lost their way or have yet to find it. We are excited to see what avenues God will direct into as we move forward sharing the Love of Jesus with all who are struggling, and in need of encouragement, hope.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve God's people at Big Rapids Church of the Nazarene as well as the Northern Michigan District.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Robert A. Lyons Jr.

When I was a young man I worked with heavy equipment and heavy tools. Now that I have gotten older I find myself working with much smaller and lighter tools. The work I do now is much more intricate and personal for me, just as it is for us here at Boyne City Nazarene.

We are a much smaller church in number than we were some years ago, however we are doing much more intricate and personal work for our Lord today. God is using His faithful in Boyne City to point people to His Son through faith and prayer these days. He has blessed us, provided for us and is using us in ways we could not have imagined just 5 years ago.

We will continue to use the blessings which God has given us to bless and minister to our community just as long as He sees fit to give us life and breath to do so. He is our Father and we are His children and He will be Served, Praised, and Worshiped here in Boyne City Nazarene.

Respectfully submitted,

Boyne City

Rev. Bryan Cheever

My Vision for Faith Community Church of the Nazarene.

To welcome the community with open arms. To train an army of people who are passionate about living out God's purpose for their lives. To then, give that army an outlet for sharing the love of Christ through outreach and missions.

I believe everyone needs the hope Jesus offers, so my passion is to help people find that hope and grow in a relationship with Him. I want to emphasize grace and acceptance, yet we're equally passionate about truth, as I try to help people understand who Jesus is and how to take the next right step in their journey of faith.

My vision has been in the last five years, which I have tried to do all the time. To make sure that birthday cards and anniversary cards are sent out. Either call or text people just to see how they're doing. Every Thursday, I go out calling on widows and widowers of our church. I make sure that I am available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to anybody who needs to talk to me. When any of our church members are sick or in the hospital, or need a pastoral visit, I make sure to take time to do that. I know that there's a lot more to be done in the small town of Buckley and in the surrounding communities and I am praying that God will show me how to reach out to a lost and dying community.

Another vision that I have had and that has come to pass is that we are now starting to have children come to our church. Five years ago we had no children at all. And now five years later, if they all come at one time we have approximately 13 kids. Praise the Lord!

My main vision is to see the church grow in the Lord and help people to understand Jesus more.

Sincerely submitted,

Pastor James Canfield

Dr. Sunberg, Rev, Gilmore, members and friends of the Assembly:

The story of the church is the story of Christ: a story of restoring and building relationships, a story of love, a story of transformation, a call to disciple and serve. When we think of the church we often think of relationships, love and service, but too often transformation is left out of the equation. The church is called to equip and support the people of God to be His ambassadors (sending them out) in a broken and hurting world. This process of transformation, from unbelief to faith and from faith to Christlikeness, takes place in the context of a healthy church. A healthy culture provides a place for those who have received the love of Christ to grow in that love and reciprocate that love to those around them. It is that place where we, like those before us, may be called, "disciples."

At Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene our vision is to make Christlike disciples who follow Jesus in a life transforming relationship that results in becoming like Him in ever increasing measure that bears fruit. It is my intent that as we journey the waters of discipleship as a church, we will reach the celestial city not as casual pilgrims, but as mature believers, bringing as many with us along the way as we set out for the Celestial City and the road we will take is the Pilgrims R.O.A.D (Relationships, Outreach, Adoration/Worship, Discipleship).

Why the Pilgrims R.O.A.D? Because the history of the church has revealed how genuine care for others, serving ones neighbor, central celebration, and seeking Christlikeness has led toward transformation that equips saints for service. My hope and prayer is to see Christlike disciples who embody the message of Christ; a message of love, restored relationships, transformation and service. For when we allow the master to touch our head, hands and heart, we will become a different community with a different set of practices that will change this world forever.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jeremy Gomez

Our strong but mighty church has grown this past year, not only in numbers, but in our hearts! This is the first year since I have been a pastor at Cadillac Church of Discovery that our budgets were paid in full. Our annual income increased this past year. We were able to give to the local women's shelter when they were in need as they had to shut their shelter down, with money and supplies to do laundry. Our children's leader increased the number of shoeboxes we sent overseas. Our church was able to hold fundraisers to raise money for a brand new air conditioning unit, so the church would not have to find a way to pay for it. It only took two months for our small church to come up with the \$5,000 necessary for the new unit, and we exceeded the amount at that!

As our small but mighty family grows in all of these ways, we are doing more and more in our community that matters. It is exciting for me to see, as a pastor, each person grow in their relationship toward Jesus. I am so grateful Jesus chose me to be a witness to this!

Cadillac Church of Discovery

2024 Annual Pastor's Report to the District Assembly

Rev. Gil Thibault - Cadillac First Church of the Nazarene

Over the last year, God has been working in many ways in, around, and through our congregation. Much of our emphasis has been on becoming an intentional presence for Christ in our community.

With the homeless shelter just behind our church property, we made our playground, field, and parking lot readily available to our neighbors. We had 3-4 families there every day throughout the summer months with whom we were able to establish relationships and minister to. Some of the children joined us for church from week to week. Many have since moved into housing, and the kids still recognize and greet us warmly in the school halls.

Over the summer, we were invited to begin a partnership with the local chapter of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) in ministering to mothers around Cadillac. Since then, every other Monday evening we've had 30-50 mothers gathering in our Ministry Center, growing closer together and closer to God. We provided childcare for them at each of their meetings and served them and their children.

When it was time for our Annual Harvest Festival, our MOPS friends partnered with us to make it our most successful Festival yet! Along with Bible characters, face painting, games, candy, and lots of food, it was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun with our neighbors in the community.

Perhaps one the greatest example of being a Christ-like presence in our community came through our long-time member Bill (not his real name). Bill is well-known in the community and has a job where he is often seen at the local grocery store. It was not unusual to find Bill speaking with, encouraging, and even praying with folks from the community in the aisles of Meijer.

This last year, Bill felt God calling him to reach out more to our community. Since then, he has started a Sunday School class, restarted Wednesday night prayer meetings, and begun a monthly 'Open Gym' night for the community.

It isn't always easy to gauge results from events like these, but we believe that serving our community in the name of Christ is how we are called to live. Jesus calls us to love and serve no matter where we are, no matter who we are with. That is the goal we are striving for as a church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gil F. Thibault

Pastor's Report to the District Assembly

Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene

Settling In:

Our family has found a warm and welcoming home in Charlevoix. Adjusting to this new community has been both exciting and challenging, but we have settled in nicely. Our children have adjusted well to their new school, forming friendships along the way. Their resilience and adaptability have been a blessing, allowing us to be able to rest in the assurance of God's love and grace for our family.

Church as Family:

Charlevoix Church of the Nazarene has become our second family. Their love and support have been unwavering. The congregation's ceaseless prayers and intentional investment in our lives have touched us deeply. We are grateful for their care, understanding and willingness to step in and help whenever and wherever they can.

New Additions:

This year, we had the joy of welcoming Debbie into membership following last year's District Assembly. Her presence has enriched our church community. Ministry is about doing life together, and the way our church rallied during trials exemplifies God's intention for His people, the church, and the extension of the church into our community. Like the prodigal son, some wayward souls have returned to a relationship with Christ. The Holy Spirit's work is evident in their newfound hope and enthusiasm. We recognize that ministry is not without challenges, but God's mercy endures forever.

Hope Amid Challenges:

We faced losses—great saints who left us—but the church's unity during those tough times was precisely what God intended. Focusing on eternal hope, we celebrate the Spirit's movement within our community and our renewed hope of how God wants to use each of us to be His hands and feet, bringing the Gospel message to our friends, families, co-workers and others. Pressing forward empowered by the Holy Spirit to see lives transformed, marriages restored, and relationships renewed.

In closing, while it is true we may not know what the future will hold, we can be rest assured that Christ is with us always. Therefore, let us continue to press on, finding abundant life not in ourselves but in Christ alone. May God's Holy Spirit sustain each of us, may His church be united in Him and may our hearts, minds and spirits be renewed daily by the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

In His Service,

Cody Rhode
Senior Pastor

Cheboygan Church of the Nazarene
Report to District Assembly, April 20, 2024
VISION

Our vision for the Cheboygan Church of the Nazarene is a focus on the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of our church body, through 1) an emphasis on loving God (through discipling immature believers) , 2) loving our neighbors (through our continued compassionate ministries), and 3) loving ourselves (with more boundary setting and renewal times).

We are hoping to express the reality that life in Christ is one in which:

The mundane melts into majestic.

The outstanding ousts the ordinary.

Brokenness becomes beauty.

Faith fixes fallen.

Better boots out bitter.

Happiness hampers with hopelessness.

Homes harvest holiness.

Doubt collides with confidence.

Rage and resentment are rearranged.

Fault and blame fade into forgiveness.

Our plan is not new to us, but as we sense a yearning in our community for more of God and His ways, we want to address this heart stirring with more intentionality.

As we disciple, our hope is that we can train people in the ways of holiness, obedience and serving God. As we love our neighbors, we hope that they will not only experience God's saving love for themselves, but that they in turn will be able to love others in greater ways. As we love ourselves, we hope that our self-care will allow us to pause and be continually renewed with the strength and stamina we desperately seek each day.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastors Jon and Wynne Schott

Katie and I are zeroing in on 30 years with Clare Church of the Nazarene. These have been the best years of our lives. CCN has been simultaneously, our church home, a place of growth, an employer, but most of all, our family. Our pursuit, as a church, is embodied in the words: "We are a family of faith resolved to irresistibly engage the lost". The important word here being family. Families have problem children. Families have troublemakers. Families have needy, sickly members. Families have controlling difficult people. But families do not throw family away. Families look out for one another. Healthy families learn how to love one another.

We have landed on a strong belief, that our greatest gift to our community and to each other, is not preaching, teaching, style of worship, or our Sunday morning experience. This is important stuff, but we believe our first priority is pursuing "a relationship with God worth having". That can be difficult.

Growth is evident everywhere you look. I wish I could mention every name. Let me identify some of the significant ministries and leaders, that have blessed us this past year: Mops, Julie Cole - CenterShot Archery, Bob Losinger - Quilts of Love, Shelby Campau - Facilities and Food, Johnnie Randel - Salt & Pepper, Sharlene Fair - Prayer Meeting, Denny Dubendorf - Worship team, Doug Field - Children's Worship, Dawn Field - Hospitality & Greeting Crew - Life Groups/Engagement/Youth, Pastor Scott and Leah - Dist. Assembly Coordinator, Gayle Losinger - NDI, Bruce Owens - Finance Team, Marty DeRocco.

In addition, we enjoy great staff, teachers, assistants, chair set-up crews and LCB. I know mentioning names can be boring and risks the danger of omission. Please grant grace. These are just a few of the people that are the reason we are growing, getting healthier and engaging the lost.

I must say thank you to my wife, Katie. She stands alone as the most respected and honored person in my life. Her integrity and love for Jesus challenge and inspire me.

Please remember we are family. You are not alone. We are not alone. We are family. We are his children. I am so thankful for our District leadership and for all of you fellow pastors. Now, more than ever, we need to evict judgement - and criticism - and comparison. Let's renew our identity as "The People of God", called unto holiness.

Respectfully submitted in characteristic randomness,

Tim Fall

EAST TAWAS CHURCH of the NAZARENE PASTORS REPORT

Dr. Sunberg, Rev. Gilmore, members and friends of this 39th District Assembly. This is my 12th report as pastor of the East Tawas Church. Fifty-six years of pastoral ministry has not prepared me for the changes that life and technology require. However, God has been faithful and I remain willing to do the work of ministry until He makes it clear otherwise. The tremendous support of my family and my great congregation is what makes that possible.

You have the facts and figures, but these are just the results of the people that make ministry happen at the East Tawas Church. There are great days ahead for our church because I see God equipping us in new ways. We have a young man that is excited about becoming involved in youth ministry. There are some that have attended for years and now are very interested in becoming an official member of the church. We will be looking for opportunities to be a blessing to our community.

The East Tawas Church is alive and well! I am up to date with my Lord spiritually, and look forward to doing His will for my life. To God be the glory for all He has done!
"And now, you know the rest of the story. Good day."

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jerry Wallace, pastor

This year we are planning to focus on blessing our local community. Our town has three large churches which do major food distributions. One of those is the Salvation Army. Our congregation keeps a box in the back of the church to collect groceries which Kay delivers to the Salvation Army when she volunteers in their office.

Escanaba has an excellent Pregnancy Care center. We have a cradle in the back of our church which is used to collect baby items per their donation list which are then taken to the pregnancy care center.

Harbor Towers, a low-income apartment building has 173 units. One of our members, Diane, lives in the tower. We have re-started our quarter project. It costs \$2.50 to do a load of laundry, which is a hardship for many residents. Diana puts \$2.50 of quarters into a baggie with a card from our church that says "just because your loved". She hands them out personally trying to make sure all residents receive a touch of love. We also send devotional materials to the residents which they grab up quickly.

This year we are going to set up the "Dawn Jones Memorial Free Table". Dawn Jones, a member of our church, passed away a couple years ago. She collected gently used clothing or household goods and set them on a table in front of her home. People knew it was there, and if they needed an item, it was theirs free. Dawn kept the table full every day, covering it when it rained. When she noticed people visiting, she would go out and pray with them. We may not be able to keep up that frequency, but our plan is to bless one of our lower income neighborhoods by making it available on a regular basis.

Our sewing ladies have been making mastectomy pillows and sending them out of the area. Recently they have found an outlet in our community and have provided these locally. They are hoping to give away more in our community this coming year. They also provide lap quilts and fidget blankets to the local nursing homes and prayer shawls when they hear of a person struggling emotionally.

This year we are going to reinstitute Blessing Baskets. Each month we choose a person in our area that we hear is going through hard times emotionally or physically. We then bless that person and their family with a basketful of love. This might include gift cards, items we know they need, edible treats and some type of devotional gift.

We continue to minister to our local nursing home by preaching and providing gifts on a regular basis. We also provide Christian music for all events at the community chapel on the UP State fairgrounds.

We will continue throughout the year to keep our hearts open to however God can use us to bless our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Ann Salyer

Greetings Northern Michigan District

To God be the glory, it is my privilege to submit my nineteenth pastors report from the beautiful port city of Frankfort. God has continued to bless our ministry as we have been able to reach out to our community and meet needs of those less fortunate. It has been such a blessing to witness God's goodness. It is so encouraging to realize that a small church with very limited resources can touch so many families. It is also a blessing to witness God help us to meet every need of our small church. I believe we have been able to pay all of our budgets in full for a fourth consecutive year. I would also mention that it's been four years since we started our CANS FOR A CAUSE ministry. I feel the Lord has blessed our church with our outward focus on our community.

Another outward focus is our online ministry. Our online ministry through zoom has made it possible for individuals across the country to join us. Our zoom services (made possible by the generosity of Portland Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Mi) also made it possible for our local people to join us when illness strikes. What is so encouraging is that everyone online is engaged especially during our Sunday school and our Wednesday bible study. Just recently we have had a mother of three young children join our zoom meeting. She has an eagerness to learn, and we feel blessed that she is able to join us.

Reaching further, out of our community, our congregation is sponsoring a teacher at a Christian school in Guatemala. Children in this class, many who are living in the dumps and have seen violence, death and hopelessness all around them, are learning music, and reaching out into their communities with their musical talents teaching others about Jesus.

Another encouraging sign is that our attendance has increased above pre- pandemic attendance levels. For years our church had mostly senior adults in attendance but now several families with children have joined us which has been a true blessing. All in all, 2023 was a great year with many blessings. We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev William R Borton

Good morning, Dr. Carla Sunberg, Dan Gilmore, Jeremy Gomez and the rest of the Assembly thank you for this opportunity to present my tenth annual report.

I am privileged to be the Pastor at the Fremont Church of the Nazarene. We have been blessed to be able to share in communion with the church family and pray for the healing of the sick. We have had another tremendous year in Fremont.

We have been having a couple attending our church for a little over a year now. They started coming because the kids had been asking them to attend so they could see their mom. They stay with their grandma and grandpa. Since they have been coming regularly, she has given her heart to Christ this year. She has brought other family members as well. When they come to church for Wednesday night Bible Study or for Sunday morning, they have a car full of people with them. Now the family is still coming regularly and continues to learn and grow.

We have also continued doing dinners after church every other month or so. We enjoyed a Harvest dinner on a Saturday last fall to honor the farmers. We were able to borrow a bounce house for kids this year. We did have an Amish family that lives down the road from the church stop by for lunch and we also had a couple from the community stop by as well. We were able to have about 35 people for lunch, and 25 meals were packaged up and taken to where they were harvesting around us that day. I believe that God uses many different things to bring people to the church.

When there are needs, people will come to my bi-vocational job and search me out to let me know what they have for prayer requests granting us additional opportunities to be a part of their life through prayer. I thank God for the chance to be in the community every day and being able to pray with people and for people.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ronald A. VanSyckle

Gaylord Church of the Nazarene
Pastor's Report for the 2024 District Assembly
Northern Michigan District

The 2023-2024 Church year for the Gaylord Church has been one of growth and many blessings. The Church has grown in all areas of ministry, both in new people but also in spiritual growth. One area of growth has been in the Children's Ministry. We have had several new families with children that have been faithful attenders and will become members in the New Year. Worship services have increased and the spirit in the services is strong, we are being visited by new people seeking God and fellowship.

We have registered a new church called Elevate Ministries a Church of the Nazarene with Reverend Duane Nelson as the lead Pastor along with his wife Sherry. Elevate has received a Hope Grant from USA/ Canada to help with the needs of this new ministry. The plan is for this new church to become an organized church before the end of the 2024 calendar.

The Kovalchuk family which sponsored and brought from Ukraine are thriving here in Gaylord. They have become members of the Gaylord church and are active in ministry. Mom and Dad have full time employment and their three children are thriving in school and have made new friends. We are helping them to become permanent residents in the USA. We thank the churches and our Districts NMI with their many gifts to help with the Kovalchuks immigration Process. We have also been blessed with two foreign exchange students, one is from the country of Georgia and the other is from Moldova. These students have been sponsored and living with families from our church.

We are moving forward as a Great Commission church as we put our prayers into action. We look forward in this new year as we continues to pray for and receive God's continued blessings.

Sincerely,
Reverend Robert Miner
Lead Pastor
Gaylord Church of the Nazarene

This year marks my 36th year of ministry and my 23rd year of serving as Pastor of the Gladwin Church of the Nazarene. I marvel at God's grace and mercy as He has allowed me to serve Him and to minister alongside the faithful saints of the Gladwin Church of the Nazarene.

I stand in awe at what God has accomplished through us this past year. There have been many challenges - both personally and professionally but as always, "Nothing is Impossible when we put our Trust in God". God is Good! All the time! This past year, we have experienced firsthand how much He loves and cares for us.

Last spring, "Elijah's Table" our meal ministry underwent a major change which many thought might lead to its demise. For the last couple of years we had been using a closed ice cream shop to feed the needy in Gladwin. It was in March that we learned the building was put up for sale, and we would need to leave immediately. We bounced around for April & May then wound up moving back to our Church, a fine facility, but 5 miles outside of town. Based on previous experience (pre-covid) we were leery of this move, but were left with few options.

Then, God stepped in. By excelling in take-outs we did ok. Then we started taking orders from the two senior high rises and the homeless mission, we met old high points and set new records of meals served.

We continue to seek God's blessing and direction as we serve the needy in Gladwin County. Refining what it means to be the "Hands & Feet" of Jesus!

God's grace is sufficient for our need. He comes to us with open arms and loves us as we are. We continue to strive to serve Him as He leads us to do His will.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark D. Boyce, Pastor
Gladwin Church of the Nazarene

Greetings,

It is recorded in the Holy Bible that: "When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful" (Proverbs 29:18 NLT). The King James translates this same verse in the following way. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18 KJV).

In the days we live, people seek all around them to find and secure, joy and happiness. But true joy and happiness can only be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ the Lord! In preparation of this report I looked back at my philosophy of ministry report. In which I was asked to write down while in supervised ministry study. Now some fifteen years later that same philosophy of ministry report guides me today. Just as God's Word give vision and revelation to the people that heed and obey its instruction.

In the past several years as a local church we have met our World evangelism budget, district allocations. We helped to fund Nazarene Compassionate Ministry and further we invested locally into Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry. Many Inmates lives have been transformed from their former life; since they allowed Jesus to enter their hearts. All because you the church have obeyed the leading of God's Word. My vision and prayer, is we continue to listen, obey and follow the Holy Spirit's leading in years to come; to empower and equip members to fulfill their call to ministry. It is only through prayer that we can breakdown strongholds that keep people in fear and bondage, thus not allowing them to realize their true potential in Jesus Christ. We have welcomed three new members into full church membership. There are two more individuals seeking to join the local church in the coming months. Three inmates that have been released from Clare County Jail and are working jobs and have families restored and are actively involved in local area churches.

Respectfully:

Dr Carla Sunberg, Rev Dan & Jacki Gilmore and Guest and Members of this Assembly. This is my 32nd report for the Iron River Church. God has been alive and well here in Iron River. We are experiencing God grace and goodness through our ministry. The Church has been blessed as we work in our area of Missions and added a Local Pastor Licensed and is working in different areas of ministry with Sunday School, Youth and our electronic communication devices and tools. Kate has been a great God send to our church. Her an her Mom went on the work and witness trip. We had two Missionaries visit and loved having them We have had another all church campout in June and are planning another this year. I have had some health trials and God has sent a great eye doctor and with much needed eye injections to help regain my vision. I have still been able to do Radio broadcast every Sunday day morning through out the year sharing the word of God through out Northeast WI and Western Upper Michigan touch lives and drawing others to Christ in Homes, Cars, Camps, cottages, workplaces, wherever their is radio or streaming event. People have recognized my voice and say "are you on the radio". Ears are hearing and lives are being ministered to. May God continue to enable us here to be used for his glory and Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Tim Hall Sr.

Dr. Carla Sunberg, Rev. Gilmore, delegates and friends of the 38th Northern Michigan District Assembly, my name is Nancy Grody giving you my fourth report as the pastor of the Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene. The Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene has continued to focus on the power of prayer and loving as Jesus loves. We have continued to monthly devote 24 hours to cover our church, the leaders of our church, communities, state, and nation, our friends and family, our missionaries, and so much more with prayer. We have all had the opportunity to come to the throne room of grace in prayer both individually and corporately. Our mission as a church is defined by three words: Reaching, Loving and Discipling. Jesus Christ exemplifies this throughout Scripture. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10), "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you" (John 15:9), and "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give it to you" (John 15:16).

Our vision is to reach our community in new and inviting ways. This year we began a youth ministry with only one teen currently attending our church. With the love and compassion of a wonderful youth leader that group has grown to five. Some might find this number small, but to us and God we see this as a 400% increase. That is not a number that seems small anymore, is it? God is working in the lives of these five teens as well as the workers. Each week we are all challenged to develop a stronger relationship with God and invite others to join us. I believe God is asking us to expand our outreach ministries this year, to bless our community. I have encouraged my congregation to join me in prayer for opportunities to reach our community with God's love. God is always working toward furthering His kingdom, and asking that we join Him in obedience in 2024. I look forward to walking beside my congregation as we journey together in God's grace, accomplishing God's plan for His Church, locally at the Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene, globally, as well as individually as we live our lives for His glory.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Nancy Grody

In our forward momentum efforts at The Rock COTN and Stepping Stones Children's Center, we plan to continue to invest in, connect with and expand our impact for the Kingdom of God by creating new opportunities to equip the parents who entrust us with the care and education of their children.

Following many months of investing in the daycare center's facilities as well as the Stepping Stone's staff, we are prepared to spend much more of our time investing in the spiritual care of the parents of the children we serve for the Lord. Our goal for the 2024-2025 year of ministry is to complete the restructuring of a designated ministry space in the facility to offer and lead biblical parenting classes. This area/space in the facility has been long waiting to be repurposed & renovated as a large meeting area for these classes. This space will house between 30–40 parents in a "house type" setting for ministry.

We are ever aware of the many challenges that parents face as they attempt to navigate parenting in the 21st century and have a great desire to inspire parents to investigate how the Scriptures instruct, support and impact their lives as they parent their children. I have always said: "Don't simply raise a child...raise a future adult."

The meaning behind my statement is simple and pointed. If we only focus on raising children in the moments of life with correction for acts, rather than redirection for future growth, we will find ourselves mostly focusing on current behaviors of the child rather than investing in "training a child in the way he/she should go." The Scriptures are very clear that our role is to train children for the future days of life. That training must include training the parents to know and understand the Biblical basis of this instruction.

Many of the parents who bring their children to Stepping Stones do not have a sincere or deep connection with God, the Church or what the Scriptures teach. I am a firm believer that when people begin to delve into God's Word, His Word will never return void. Even if we do not witness immediate results, that does not mean His Word returned void. I believe it means that His Word is ministering to their hearts and spirit through the witness of the Holy Spirit of God. Change generally comes over time, and it is our desire to invest in the lives of these parents as they seek to raise their children through positive and Biblical principles.

In closing, I would ask you to join us in prayer as we invest in, equip and nurture the parents of the of 53 precious children that attend Stepping Stones Children's Center.

Respectfully submitted—Pastor Steve Myers

I am thankful for the enabling of the Holy Spirit in my life. He has put God's love in my heart. I thank Him for my wife and family. We have a small church with a big heart of love. The people give far beyond the need. Our service has the anointing of God because of prayer. We want to "Bless our Community" in service and sacrifice to God. We can not do business as usual. We must think big with plans to reach people. We must change our small thinking to enlargement of vision. God is able to help us go forward.

A miracle happened this year when our need for many repairs to our roof was met. James Mosley from the Clare Church and 7 men from Huskey Metal Roof Company Came to our rescue. They did not charge for labor, just for material used for repairs. We were very grateful for their men who did an excellent job.

Mancelona is a poor community with many needs. I thank God for those who reach out and bless us. Thank you Cherry Grove Church for your Christmas gift and Reed City Church for your gift at the Pastors and spouse retreat.

I love the Lord with all my heart and He saves and sanctifies me today. I love the word of God. Let us stand for the truth of God's word in a world of hatred and violence, Jesus is coming soon! Jesus is Lord! Pray for us as we endeavor to reach people for Him.

Respectfully,

Dennis P. Burton

Greetings to this fine assembly, from Huron Shores Church of the Nazarene. We have had a very good year here in Oscoda. This is our first full year of our Sunday afternoon Caravans program and it is going very well for a few older people relating to children. We thank the Clare church for allowing us to borrow their Pinewood Derby track, it was a real hit with kids and parents. We had another successful vacation Bible School.

We have finished most of our remodeling projects, but we all know there is no end to those. We are excited about our debt reduction. In just a little over two years we have gone from \$44,000 in debt to under \$16,000. We are still looking for some folks who can help lead in worship with our music. God is faithful.

We are experiencing some great growth in our leadership team and many individuals. We also have started a Wednesday evening study group studying how to be the best "Faithful Followers" of our Resurrected Savior. We are keeping our faith in our Sovereign Lord for He is in complete control.

Jennie, Walter, and I have just completed our third year. Of a three month promise, as supply pastor in Oscoda. We are praying and seeking our Sovereign Lord for our future. We pray God is working in all our families across Northern Michigan District.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Young

As we ended the 2022-2023 church year and prepared to head into the new year, I shared from Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Because I know that God continues to move among us, this passage is my prayer for our church in this new year. My desire, more than anything else, is that we would follow Christ closely, that God would stretch and expand our faith as we follow wherever God leads, that we truly would seek God's will in everything we do and that God would be glorified in and through us. All that is necessary is trust. Trust God with everything we are and live that trust out in obedience to God's leading.

For the past several months, I have had a longing to know more of God's direction for the New Horizons church as we look to the future. I say all the time, "God is not finished!" and I believe it! But what does that mean? What can we do now that will enable us to follow where God leads in the future? What does it mean for us to be the church God created us to be and what is God calling us to specifically? How are we to be engaging our communities for Jesus? These are the kinds of questions I have been wrestling with and praying about. I believe God is calling us to engage these questions and seek God's direction together.

2024 is the 85th anniversary of the founding of New Horizons Church of the Nazarene. It was 1939 when God led a group of Christ followers to gather together as a church to serve God and minister in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. 85 years ago! In 2039, the church will celebrate its centennial birthday. 100 years of ministry, serving Jesus together. What a celebration that will be! Some of us won't be here for that party but our call to obedience and faithfulness is the same. What can we do today and over the next 15 years that future generations will look back on as pivotal to God's work in their time? What is God calling us to today that we will be able to celebrate at the church's centennial celebration? How can we follow God's leading? So this year, may we commit to trusting God with all our heart, depending not on our own wisdom but on God's. May we seek Jesus in everything we do and allow him to lead us along the straight path. All because we know, God's not finished!

Dr. Sunberg, Rev. Gilmore and Members & Friends of this NMD Assembly,

It is a privilege to submit my twenty-first report on behalf of the wonderful men, women and children who call RCnaz their home.

Since her inception, the Reed City Church of the Nazarene has strived to serve her community with grace and generosity. Even though 102 have passed, this desire remains strong and with God's help, RCnaz will continue to make a difference within her community and surrounding area.

RCnaz's mission focuses upon two things - Moving Closer & Reflecting Christ. As each one of us, continually and confidently, moves closer to God our desire of becoming recognizable reflections of Jesus Christ will come to fruition.

Abundantly grateful for what has been and hopeful for what is yet to be.

Rev. Chris DeMott

Reed City

Lead Pastor, RCnaz

Dr. Sunberg, Rev, Gilmore, members and friends of this Assembly:

It is my pleasure to present my 25th report on behalf of the church in Traverse City. God has blessed us in this past year by connecting us with new friends through our ministries which reach into our community. We continue to provide a warm meal and fellowship each Tuesday evening through Grace Point Café, and we also are working with those in our community who are seeking solutions to the growing problem of homelessness. Many of those experiencing homelessness camp in the wooded area across the street from our church, which makes us a natural location for efforts to minister to those in need. We also are continuing our partnership with Narcotics Anonymous by providing space for their meetings, which gives us the opportunity to introduce them to our ministries as well.

We are also seeking to make disciples by helping our congregation to grow spiritually through deeper connection with Scripture. We continue to read Scripture together each day according to a schedule we share each week. This allows God the opportunity to speak to us both individually and collectively.

God has also blessed us by bringing some new leaders onto our team. Some of these are people who are new to our church, while others have attended for a considerable time and are now taking that next step. It's exciting to see how God is working in the lives of his people, helping them to grow spiritually and to respond to his call to join his work.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Rice, Pastor

Weidman church of the Nazarene this year is hopeful as we look forward. We are looking to be very intentional about making Christ known. We will be accomplishing this in the following ways.

Evangelism: We will be sharing the Gospel from the pulpit, and will encourage people to share their faith in the following ways, by relationships with others, through Gospel tracts, and through our outreach events. Also, we will be providing tangible ways to invite other people to church. As well as teaching them how to share their faith.

Discipleship: We will be using Chick Shavers Basic Bible Studies for new and growing Christians. Every visitor will receive a packet from a member of the church and be encouraged to fill it out and follow up with the Pastor or one of the board members. This will give a natural way for people to get involved and the possibility for other contacts with visitors.

Visitors and people who have been absent for awhile will also receive cards as a way of encouragement.

Prayer: We believe that prayer is vitally important for the church and will be continuing to emphasize it during our Sunday School and Morning worship service. In addition to this we will be having a weekly prayer service with which we are very intentionally praying for the ministry of the church as well as our members and attenders.

Out reach: We are going to be careful and strategic with our events so that we are doing things that impact our church and our community. These event will show people love, be easy to attend, be well advertised, and have creative ways of inviting people to church and provide ways for people to get information about the church.

Volunteering in the community. My family as well as any others who would like to volunteer in the community will be encouraged to do so. Having a face in the community outside the walls of the church will help us to build relationships, all the while expanding our circle of influence.

Online live stream: The church will continue to live stream our services as well as share our recorded services with shut-ins. It is very important to use technology to reach people. The two sites that we will be using is facebook as well as youtube.

We believe that our job at Weidman Church of the Nazarene is to love people and bring them to the Lord and to help them grow, and equipping them for living a holy and pleasing life for the Lord, and for doing service for the lord.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Gunderman