**III. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

**812. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries In­ternational (SDMI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifetime of be­ing and making Christlike disciples in the nations.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries In­ternational is:

A. Be a people of prayer, engaged in the Word, making Christ­like disciples.

B. Intentionally develop relationships with unreached people so that they become Christlike disciples making Christlike disciples.

C. Teach the Word of God to children, youth, and adults so that they are saved, sanctified wholly, and maturing in Christian experience that results in a life of compassion, evangelism, Christian education, and disciple making.

D. Encourage everyone to faithfully engage in a disciple­ship ministry such as Sunday School/Bible studies, small groups, and other disciplemaking ministries.

**ARTICLE I. SDMI MEMBERSHIP**

**Responsibility List**

Each local church should assume responsibility for reaching all unsaved persons in the community. Each SDMI ministry shall have a Responsibility List. A Responsibility List should include each person for whom the name and contact/follow-

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up information has been obtained. Once a person is added to the Responsibility List, the local church should actively seek to minister to that person as he or she is brought into the fel­lowship of that church. Teachers/leaders of each ministry shall facilitate regular communication and connection between group members and those on the Responsibility List.

The total of all individuals on the SDMI Responsibility List is to be reported in the Annual Pastor’s Report, APR. The Responsibility List includes all age groups for Sunday School, discipleship meetings, Bible studies, and all SDMI ministries.

**SECTION 1.** Participants in the following ministries shall be included on the Responsibility List:

a. Cradle Roll: Children under four years of age who, along with their parents, do not attend any SDMI ministry may be enrolled on the Responsibility List as Cradle Roll.

b. Home Department: Any person physically or vocation­ally unable to attend a regular SDMI ministry may be enrolled in the Home Department and listed on the Re­sponsibility List.

c. Nursing Home/Convalescent Center/Health Care Facili­ty, etc.: Any resident confined to one of these centers who participates in a regular study of approved curriculum.

d. Church-Type Mission: Any group sponsored by the local church or district who meets weekly for at least a half hour to study biblical principles and/or approved curricu­lum with the goal of becoming an organized local Church of the Nazarene.

e. Childcare/Schools: Any group of students in a Nazarene childcare/school (birth-secondary) sponsored/operated by a local Church of the Nazarene.

f. Child Development Centers (CDC): Sponsored/oper­ated by a local Church of the Nazarene.

**SECTION 2.** Removal of Names

Removing names should be done only with the approval of the pastor when the person:

a. moves out of town.

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b. joins another Sunday School class, discipleship group, or church.

c. specifically asks to have his or her name removed.

d. dies.

**ARTICLE II. SDMI ATTENDANCE**

The purpose of counting and reporting SDMI attendance in the local church is to help measure the effectiveness of that church’s effort to make Christlike disciples. All SDMI efforts should lead each participant to become a disciple of Christ, a member of the church, and a disciplemaker.

SDMI attendance includes Sunday School sessions and Dis­cipleship Groups. These categories shall be counted each week by the local church according to the guidelines listed below and in Article I, Section 1 above.

The regional SDMI office needs reports of the Responsibil­ity List and average weekly SDMI attendance from each dis­trict in order to compile an accurate record of SDMI growth within the denomination annually.

**SECTION 1.** Definitions and Reports

The attendance of all Discipleship Groups shall be defined as persons involved in a study of the Bible and its application of the biblical principles for Christlikeness.

a. For most churches, the number of Sunday School/Bible study sessions held will be 52 and shall be reported. The District SDMI Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine any valid exceptions and the frequency of the reporting.

b. A local church having more than one type of disciple­ship ministry group should combine weekly attendance figures and report a single annual average in the APR.

c. Since discipleship ministries can begin or end any time during the church year, the yearly average should be de­termined by dividing accumulative figures by the number of weeks the ministries were conducted.

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**ARTICLE III. LOCAL SDMI BOARD**

Responsibilities of the local SDMI Board are defined in *Manual* 145-145.10 and include:

1. Work with the pastor and the local church board to de­velop/organize an SDMI Board.

2. Work with the pastor to develop and implement a strate­gic plan for discipleship in the local church that is in line with the church’s strategies/objectives and in harmony with the district vision and the mission of the Church of the Nazarene.

3. Research, create, develop curriculum consistent with the Church of the Nazarene theology and mission prepared by the publishing interest of the Church of the Nazarene, coordinate and follow-up: training programs for inten­tional discipleship, leadership development for all church members for church advancement, training for ministry workers involved in all age group ministries, and special projects.

4. Evaluate and report at the annual meeting current local church education and discipleship ministries/projects clearly articulating their outcomes.

5. Approve curriculum consistent with the Church of the Nazarene theology and mission/resources/materials that the local SDMI ministries can use.

**ARTICLE IV. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND DEPARTMENTS**

**SECTION 1. T**he Sunday School shall be divided into class­es for children and youth on the basis of age or school grade. For adults the classes should be determined by common inter­ests, mission, topic, etc. Where appropriate, intergenerational classes may also be considered.

**SECTION 2.** When the number of classes within the chil­dren’s, youth, or adult age groups increase, attention should be given to age level organization with a supervisor appointed by the local SDMI Board.

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**SECTION 3.** The duties of the department supervisor shall be determined by the local SDMI Board. Suggested responsi­bilities are listed in the SDMI handbook.

**ARTICLE V. SDMI MINISTRIES TEACHERS AND LEADERS**

**SECTION 1.** SDMI Ministries include Sunday School for all ages, small groups, marriage ministries, men’s ministries, women’s ministries, children’s ministries, Vacation Bible School, interest groups, etc. The ministry/department super­visors and teachers/leaders shall be appointed annually ac­cording to *Manual* 145.8.

**SECTION 2.** The SDMI Board, in consultation with the pastor, may declare the position of any officer or teacher/leader vacant in cases of proven unsound doctrine, imprudent conduct, or neglect of duty.

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

**ARTICLE VI. SDMI MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

a. Coordinate the SDMI under the supervision of the pas­tor.

b. Plan regular meetings for ministry leaders and teachers.

c. Provide training opportunities for present and prospec­tive teachers and leaders.

d. Annually evaluate, develop, and implement with the SDMI Board a discipleship strategy to reach those on the Responsibility List.

e. Regularly report the SDMI statistics to the designated zone, district, or field office.

f. Encourage attendance at local, zone, district, field, re­gional, and global SDMI functions.

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

**SECTION 3.** The SDMI Board shall elect a person to keep the SDMI records. He or she shall keep an accurate record of the Responsibility List, attendance, visitors, and other statis­tics as may be required for all SDMI ministries.

**SECTION 4.** Where appropriate, the SDMI Board shall elect a treasurer to keep accurate account of all moneys raised by SDMI each week and authorize the disbursement accord­ing to the direction of the Board. A monthly report shall be given to the SDMI Board.

**SECTION 5.** All curriculum and other resources used in SDMI ministries shall be approved by the SDMI Board or su­perintendent and pastor.

**ARTICLE VII. SDMI ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION**

**SECTION 1.** SDMI is under the care of the pastor, account­able to the local church board, under the general supervision of the SDMI Board and the immediate leadership of the super­intendent and age-group directors.

**SECTION 2.** If a church who has employed a director of Christian education wishes that person to fulfill the responsi­bilities of the SDMI superintendent, the church should elect another lay person to represent SDMI on the local church board as a voting member. We encourage all possible efforts be made to train and resource local lay leaders for leadership in SDMI.

**SECTION 3.** When a pastor/leader/director to children, youth, or adults is employed by a church, the pastor, in con­sultation with the church board, the SDMI Board, and/or NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for children, youth, or adult ministries to the age-level staff member. In that case, the staff member serving children, youth, or adult ministries carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a local Children’s Ministries (CM) director, NYI president, or Adult Ministries (AM) director. However, the responsibility of the local CM di­

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rector, NYI president, or AM director remains to provide vital lay leadership, support, and representation for local age-group ministries. The pastor and age-group ministry staff member consult with the SDMI Board and NYI Council to define the roles and responsibilities of the three lay positions.

**ARTICLE VIII. SDMI CONVENTIONS**

**SECTION 1.** District SDMI Convention

It is important that each district plan a District SDMI Con­vention annually in order to provide inspiration, motivation, training, and the business of reports and elections. The pro­motion of Sunday School and small group disciplemaking ministries should be a highlight of each convention.

a. Ex-officio members of the District SDMI Convention shall be: the district superintendent; all pastors, assigned ordained ministers, assigned district licensed ministers, retired assigned ministers, full-time associates; district SDMI chair; district directors of CM and AM; district NYI president; district NMI president; all local SDMI superintendents, local CM and AM directors, local NYI presidents; elected members of the District SDMI Board; lay members of the District Advisory Board; any Naza­rene full-time professors of Christian education with membership on that district; and field, regional, and global SDMI officers.

b. In addition to the delegates listed above, each local church in the annual meeting shall elect additional SDMI delegates to the Convention. This number shall be 25 percent of the number of officers, teachers, and leaders of the local SDMI ministries. In case elected delegates cannot attend the convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of the votes received.

c. The District SDMI Board shall appoint a nominating committee to select twice the number of nominees for the elected positions of district SDMI chair and the three elected members of the District SDMI Board, which are then to be elected by plurality vote at the District SDMI

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Convention. These nominees must be members of the Church of the Nazarene, actively involved in one of the ministries of SDMI, and should be selected from the vari­ous age groups (children, youth, and adult teachers/work­ers).

d. The delegates to the District SDMI Convention may elect the district SDMI chair (*Manual* 242) and the three elected members of the District SDMI Board and del­egates to the Global SDMI Convention.

**SECTION 2.** Global SDMI Convention

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

The Global Convention shall also include regional forums composed of the Regional SDMI Council, the regional direc­tor, the regional SDMI coordinator, and the elected district SDMI delegates from that region. The forums shall meet for the purpose of electing a nominee for consideration to serve as the SDMI representative on the General Board. The Global SDMI Council and Global SDMI director will then select one name from those nominated and submit that one name to the General Assembly for approval (*Manual* 332.6).

a. Ex-officio delegates to the Global SDMI Convention shall be: district superintendents, district SDMI chairs, district directors of CM and AM; SDMI regional coor­dinators, SDMI field coordinators, CM and AM regional coordinators; and directors and staff of the global SDMI office. In addition, professors of Christian education at Nazarene colleges, universities, and seminaries may at­tend as delegates.

b. In addition to the ex-officio delegates, each district should elect four additional delegates or a number equal to ten percent of the organized churches on the district, whichever is greater.

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c. The following guidelines should be followed in elections for the Global SDMI Convention delegates:

1. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, district SDMI chair, and at least three others appointed by the District SDMI Board. They shall select three times the number of nominees to be elected.

2. The District SDMI Convention shall elect an equal num­ber of delegates and alternates representing the various SDMI ministries (including teachers/workers of youth). Those elected should be persons who are presently and actively involved in the respective area from which they are elected. The number of alternates elected should in­clude alternates for ex-officio district officers. Persons should not be elected who will serve as delegates to the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention or the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention because the three conventions run concurrently.

3. Delegates shall be elected by ballot in the District SDMI Convention within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.

4. As nearly as possible, elect an equal number of laity and clergy—50 percent laypersons and 50 percent assigned ministers, elders, deacons, or licensed ministers. When the total number is uneven, the extra representative shall be a layperson.

5. District SDMI leaders elected prior to and holding of­fice at the time of the Global Convention shall be the ex-officio members of the convention.

6. All elected and ex-officio delegates present in the Dis­trict SDMI Convention shall be eligible to vote for Glob­al SDMI Convention representatives.

7. A plurality vote shall be sufficient for election.

8. If any elected delegates cannot attend the Global SDMI Convention, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of votes received. If elected delegates and alternates

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are unable to attend, the district superintendent and dis­trict advisory board are authorized to fill such vacancies.

9. At the convening of the Global SDMI Convention, each delegate shall reside on and be a member of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district he or she was elected to represent.

10. Delegates who attend the convention should have finan­cial assistance from the district comparable to expenses provided from the district for NMI and NYI Convention delegates.

11. If the election of delegates for the Global SDMI Conven­tion does not take place at the District SDMI Conven­tion, delegates shall be elected at the District Assembly.

**ARTICLE IX. GLOBAL SDMI COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1.** Purpose

To promote the total program of SDMI by working with re­gional, field, district, and local SDMI leaders in connecting global strategies for effective disciplemaking.

**SECTION 2.** Composition

a. The Global SDMI Council shall meet at least annually, either in person or by electronic media, and consist of the regional SDMI coordinator from each Global Mission re­gion and the Global SDMI director, who chairs the meet­ing.

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

**SECTION 3.** Duties of the regional SDMI coordinators shall be:

a. To represent and champion the purposes of SDMI on their region.

b. To provide vision and inspiration related to the imple­mentation of strategies and tools consistent with the re­gional vision for the church.

c. To research, create, develop, coordinate, and follow-up training initiatives for intentional discipleship leadership

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development for regional, field, and district church ad­vancement, connecting all the ministries of the church to the task of making Christlike disciples.

d. To attend and submit a report at the annual Global SDMI Council meeting.

e. To bring the nominee(s) for SDMI General Board repre­sentative, selected by their regional forum, to the Global SDMI Council. The Council will present one name to the General Assembly for election as the SDMI representa­tive to the General Board (*Manual* 332.6).

**ARTICLE X. SDMI AMENDMENTS**

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

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