



### NCM NE Initial Interest Groups

Website: http://nednaz.info/ncmne

Email us with any questions, ideas, thoughts: NCMInfo@nednaz.org

### **Table of Contents**

Welcome	3
Map of Venue	4
Church Point Person	5
Schedule	6
Bios (Presenters, Sponsors, & Organizers)	7
Listening Circles Guide	16
Handbook of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England	17
NCM NE Organizational Chart	47

#### Welcome to the NCM New England Kick-Off Compassion Conference

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England Kick-Off Compassion Conference! We are so glad you're here. Today marks an important beginning for our district — a day to gather, connect, and imagine what compassionate ministry can look like when we work together across New England. We are part of the <u>Center for Missional Imagination and Justice</u> of the New England District. Doesn't that say a lot? Then the conference also co-sponsored by the Esther R. Sanger Center of Compassion (Advancing a Culture of Compassion) and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (Global) "Compassion as a Lifestyle". We are honored!

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England is a Christ-centered network rooted in compassion, justice, and shared leadership. Our mission is to connect and strengthen compassionate ministries across the New England District Church of the Nazarene so that together we may reflect the love of Christ through the 4 C's:

- Connecting linking churches and ministries for support and encouragement
- Communicating sharing resources and best practices to equip leaders
- Collaborating partnering with community organizations to expand impact
- Cultivating growing new partnerships and fundraising for greater reach

This conference is where those 4 C's come alive. As you participate in the day's activities, we invite you to listen deeply, share freely, and open your heart to God's nudging you into new relationships and ideas. Whether you serve in creation care, recovery ministries, foster care and adoption, or another area of compassion — you are part of something bigger: a movement of hope across New England.

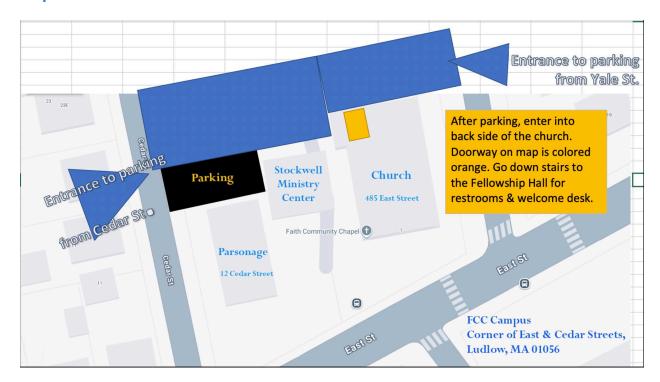
Together, we are building a network of compassion — one conversation, one connection, and one act of love at a time.

We're grateful that you've chosen to spend these hours with us. May this time refresh your spirit, strengthen your ministry, and remind you that in Christ, compassion is the heart of our calling.

With gratitude and joy,

The NCM New England Founding Team
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England

### **Map of Venue**



**Faith Community Chapel Church of the Nazarene** 

465 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056

Parsonage is on the corner of the lot with mailing address: 12 Cedar St., Ludlow, MA 01056

#### **Church Point Person**

#### **Connecting Compassion Across New England**

Each participating church designates a **Church Point Person** to serve as the bridge between their congregation and **Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England (NCM NE).** This simple yet vital role helps strengthen communication, engagement, and connection across our district.

#### **Role Overview**

The Church Point Person connects their local church with NCM NE's growing **movement of compassion.** They help ensure that information, opportunities, and encouragement travel both ways — bringing district resources and updates to their church, and lifting up local stories, needs, and insights to the wider network.

#### **Key Responsibilities**

- Stay Connected Participate in occasional network updates, gatherings, or check-ins.
- **Share Information** Help your congregation stay aware of NCM NE initiatives, Interest Groups, and upcoming events.
- **Lift Up Local Stories** Communicate what your church is doing in compassionate ministry so others can learn, collaborate, and celebrate.
- **Encourage Engagement** Invite members to join Interest Groups, trainings, or service opportunities that fit their gifts.
- **Build Community** Foster relationships that strengthen unity, care, and shared purpose across churches and ministries.

#### Why It Matters

This role is intentionally **low-demand but high-impact**. By staying connected and sharing information, Point Persons help weave a stronger fabric of compassion across New England. Each connection helps us **learn from one another**, **celebrate progress**, **and serve our neighbors more effectively**—living out the call to love God and love others in practical, visible ways.

#### 2025 Program of NCM NE Kick-Off Conference October 25, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30-9:55 a.m.– gathering time for Ludlow Attendees & Watch Party Attendees	
Sanctuary in Ludlow	Local Church Watch Party
9:30 a.m. Start Live-stream on Faith Community Chapel YouTube with peaceful worship music video	Assure connection to FCC YouTube Channel
9:30 a.m. Start Live-stream on NCM NE Facebook Page	5300000 7500000740000 1000071177400004.00500

#### 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. First Session

All attendees take some notes for discussing during lunchtime

10:00 a.m. Welcome by Rev. Lisa Morrison, host pastor

- Opening prayer & Intro of Jeremy Scott: Paul Bowen
- Rev. Dr. Jeremy Scott: Why Compassion? Reflecting a Christlike Heart and Action
- Responsive prayer

Musical pause – 5 minutes preparing for Presenters to give Thumbnail Briefs about Seven Initial Interest Groups

Sam Mohnkern: Creation Care Focuses on stewardship of the earth, sustainability, and inspiring churches to care for God's creation through practical choices.

Alex Lu: Emergency Preparedness Equips individual, churches and communities to be ready for natural disasters, crises, and urgent needs in order to help others in times of need.

Missy Kindt: Everyone Welcome Explores ways to build radically inclusive, hospitable communities - especially for those who feel marginalized or left out.

Eddie Kish: Foster Care & Adoption Supports families and churches involved in fostering or adopting children, while raising awareness of needs of vulnerable kids. John Nielson GriefShare: Centers on providing comfort, connection, and spiritual support to those experiencing loss and navigating grief.

**Don Coombs**: Recovery Ministries Engages with addiction recovery, offering resources, spiritual care, supportive community for those on path to healing. **Lisa Morrison**: School Partnerships Strengthens connections between churches and local schools to support students, educators, and families through practical service and presence.

Jane Jewell introduces J.P. VanDalsem to pray for Lunchtime Listening Circles in Ludlow and at each Watch Party

#### 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break until 1:25 p.m.

Watch Parties also break for lunch and hold Listening Circles

1:25 Gathering music starts in the sanctuary; Restart live-streaming

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Second plenary session: Live-streamed

- Each table gives 3-minute report of biggest takeaway from Listening Circles
- Reflections from NCM Global: J.P. VanDalsem, Church Relations Manager, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
- Closing and Looking Ahead: Jeremy Scott
- 3:00 p.m. Benediction and Dismissal: Jeremy Scott (3:15 p.m. Leave for home)

#### **Bios**



Lisa Morrison, Host Pastor, and Presenter: School Partnerships One of my favorite Bible verses is: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. She will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jer 17:7-8).

My name is Lisa Morrison. I have served in multiple pastoral positions in the Church of the Nazarene, and I'm currently the Lead Pastor of Faith Community Chapel in Ludlow, MA. In addition to my pastoral duties, I also teach pastoral ministry courses for Nazarene Bible College. I've taught in the Religion, Communication, and Adult Studies Departments at Eastern Nazarene College. I also had the

opportunity to serve as the Executive Director and Education Director for Reynolds Institute, which is the District Training Center for the New England District. In 2015, I was a Guest Lecturer at Nazarene Theological College – South Africa (NTC-SA). After my time at NTC-SA, God called me and one of my students to embark on a journey so she could receive her Bachelor of Religion degree from Eastern Nazarene College and her Master in Old Testament from Nazarene Theological Seminary. My greatest passion is preaching and teaching the Word of God, and I want to share the love of Jesus with everyone around me.



#### Paul Bowen, Managing Director Esther R. Sanger Center for Compassion

My life verse is Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

My name is Paul Bowen. I am currently serving as the Managing Director of the Esther R. Sanger Center for Compassion. I also serve as the Executive Director of the Wesley Initiative for Missional Development, which is a new initiative of the New

England District Church of the Nazarene. The Wesley Initiative is focused on strategic planning and sustainability planning for churches and the missional redevelopment of church properties. I previously served as the Head of School at Fusion Academy in Hingham, MA. I also served as the Director of Corporate Work Study at Cristo Rey High School in Boston. I previously served as the Executive Director of the Taconic Retreat Center, and I also served on the staff of Trinity Church in Boston and St. Paul's Church in Lynnfield, MA. I am a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, and I taught as an adjunct at ENC for 12 years. I am married to Melissa Bowen, who serves as a hospice chaplain on the South Shore of Boston. We live in Rockland, MA.



Jeremy Scott, Assistant Superintendent
New England District of the Church of the Nazarene
Most of all, I am passionate about the justice of God as
demonstrated in Jesus Christ and discovering and working
for that which is good and right for those who are
disadvantaged.

John 3:16-18 - "This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters... if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that? Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth."

My name is Jeremy Scott. I am the Assistant District Superintendent for Church Mission & Engagement and President of the board of The Esther R. Sanger Center for Compassion. For years, I've envisioned ways and hoped for means to inspire compassionate ministry. <u>I believe that compassion is not an arm of the Church, but the heart of it.</u>

I served local churches in pastoral ministry for 21 years. Besides all the "normal" pastoring duties, I focused on the justice of Jesus carried out through efforts of compassion. This has included leading the local church in establishing a community food pantry in Kansas City, teaching in jails and prisons in Kansas and Massachusetts, homelessness advocacy, and establishing The Anchor of Hull, a recovery community center in Hull, MA. I am a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Boston University, and earned a doctorate at Duke University.

I'm married to Meghan. We have seven children of our own ranging from toddler to college. We are a foster home so the number of kids is constantly changing. We live in Hanover, Massachusetts, sharing a home with my parents, Rev. Dennis & Dr. Linda Scott. I am a New Englander through and through, having lived in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. But my favorite spot in the whole world is in northwestern Vermont on the shores of Lake Champlain where I have summered with extended family since birth. As I say, "The Spirit is everywhere, but God lives in Vermont."



Jane Jewell, Founding Team Member
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England
Bible verses that guide me are Matthew 25:35–36, Isaiah
58:6–7, and Matthew 22:37–39, which remind us that
love—expressed through compassion and justice—is the
greatest commandment.

My name is Jane Jewell. I serve on the founding team of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England, helping build connections and shared leadership across the region to strengthen compassionate action for those most in need. I also work with Heart-to-Heart, a nonprofit that helps

people reclaim their capacity for compassion — supporting those in prison, returning citizens, and the faith communities that walk alongside them in practicing radical hospitality and care. With 25 years of experience in both for-profit and nonprofit settings, I enjoy helping

mission-driven organizations grow through stronger relationships, collaboration, and systems that support shared goals. I am a graduate of Eastern Nazarene College and earned a Master of Social Work degree from Salem State University. I live in Quincy, MA, with my husband, Dan, and our amazing daughter, Angelina. I attend the Church of the Nazarene in Hingham, MA.



#### J.P. VanDalsem, Church Relations Manager Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (Global)

A verse guiding me in this season is Revelation 21:5: "Behold I am making all things new."

My name is J.P. VanDalsem. I have served in ministry for more than 20 years including roles as Youth College Missions and Lead Pastor. I now serve as Church Relations Manager with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' global office. This summer I traveled to Kenya to learn from local leaders and see NCM projects supporting families through agriculture and vocational training. I hold theology degrees from both Southern Nazarene

University and Trevecca Nazarene University where I also serve as adjunct faculty and as a volunteer assistant with the women's soccer team. I am married to Traci and we have four children. We live in East Nashville in the Little Hollywood neighborhood.



#### Sam Mohnkern, Presenter: Creation Care

A couple of key verses for me over the years that have spoken to me are these: "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.....Seek peace and well-being for the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its peace (well-being) you will have peace." Jeremiah 29:5-7 AMP

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God [all the while] was causing the growth. So neither is the one who plants nor the one who waters anything, but [only] God who causes the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one [in importance and esteem.

working toward the same purpose]; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers [His servants working together]; you are God's cultivated field [His garden, His vineyard], God's building. [Is 61:3]" 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 AMP

"Safety first: Quarrying stones is dangerous. Be alert: Felling trees is hazardous." Ecclesiastes 10:9

My name is Sam Mohnkern. I have been living and working in the natural world in various communities for over 12 years. During the past 4 years I have been operating my own Ecological restoration and tree care business. I hold a local minister's license at the Petersburg Church of the Nazarene where I reside in Petersburg, Pennsylvania. While Pennsylvania is my residence I spend a good deal of time in New England where I live part time. Over the years I worked and served in different congregations and communities through a variety of ministries. I was previously employed by Eastern Nazarene College as the grounds manager and there I received much of my training in the field. Before that role, I

served as a member of a leadership development organization for inner city youth in the Boston area. Through combined experiences, the Lord has utilized my livelihood as a ministry and discipleship tool. I have two amazing daughters who also like to take part in the work of the land and the cultivation of souls.



#### Alex Lu, Presenter: Emergency Preparedness

A verse guiding me in this season is 1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

My name is Alex Lu. I have served in ministry for over 20 years including roles as Assistant Minister and Associate Pastor. I now serve as the Installation Chaplain of Hanscom Air Force Base, MA. I have always been part of the Nazarene Compassionate Ministry whether it is through Child Sponsorship or compassionate ministry involvement

whenever and wherever I find accessible. I hold theology degrees from both European Nazarene Bible College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I am married to Michelle and we have one child, Sophia. We live on Hanscom Air Force Base.



#### Missy Kindt, Presenter: Everyone Welcome

My life verse is Acts 20:24 - I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given to me - the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

My name is Michelle (Missy) Kindt. As District President of NMI (Nazarene Missions International), I am working to mobilize the local churches of the New England district to support and advance global missions. I also teach an English class for English learners at my local church, Wollaston Church of the Nazarene in Quincy, MA.

I have served with my husband, Steve, as he pastored several churches in Pennsylvania and now in Quincy, MA. I am a public school French teacher who enjoys presenting teaching strategies and methodologies to language teachers. I'm also a language student - I study Mandarin!



#### **Eddie Kish, Presenter: Foster Care & Adoption**

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope".

My name is Eddie Kish. I am the Senior Pastor at New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene in Loudon, NH. After studying music at ENC, I went on to receive a Bachelor's in Business as well as a Master's in Christian Ministry from Olivet Nazarene University.

My wife and I recently purchased a home in Loudon just behind the racetrack where we are enjoying the ability to practice hospitality with our friends and neighbors, as well as husbandry with the beautiful 20 acres of forest God has blessed us with (don't worry, I'll let Sam do the talking about trees).

Family is a nuanced word for us, with many meanings and applications. The current residents of our home are myself and Rachel, our adopted daughter Halie (20 and attending Gordon), are bio kids Kaleb (4), Brooklynn (8) and Emma (9), as well as our friend Liz (29). Our children recognize that there is a difference between Uncle Sam (my biological brother), Uncle Lucas (my wife's adopted brother) and Uncle Pauley (my best friend)-they also recognize all of them as family.

8 years ago, Rachel and I entered the world of the foster community, and through it, welcomed a number of lost, broken children, not only into our home, but into the family of God. Sometimes, that relationship lasts for a weekend-in one instance, it is lasting a lifetime. In all cases, the gospel was on display and the Kingdom, if only in small steps, was advanced.

Foster care and adoption, for the Christian, is the opportunity to provide a home, a hope, and a future for a child in need. Like the journey of Israel, it is not without difficulty, opposition and sometimes what seems like all out war. But it is also not without his presence, his provision, and his grace.



#### John Nielson, Presenter: GriefShare

My mission statement verse is Luke 1:17: "And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

My name is John Nielson. I became Lead Pastor of Manchester Church of the Nazarene in July of 2025. Prior to coming to MCN, I was the Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Director of ENC Music at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts (2018-2024). Previous to

ministry at ENC, I served as the Lead Pastor of Melwood Church of the Nazarene MD for 24 years and Associate Pastor of Worship and Lay Ministry at St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene, MA. My wife Amy and I have three grown daughters and one grandson.



#### **Don Coombs, Presenter: Recovery Ministries**

A favorite portion of Scripture for me is Philippians 4:4-8. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

My name is Don Coombs. I am an ordained Nazarene minister working with The Salvation Army as well as a private practice clinician specializing in mental health

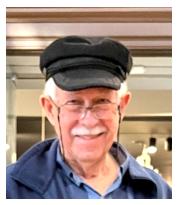
and addiction disorders. I studied at Eastern Nazarene College, Cambridge College, and American International College. My wife, Michelle, and I have four adult children, plus two daughters-in-laws, and two grandchildren. We reside in the Springfield area of Massachusetts and worship at Faith Community Chapel in Ludlow, Massachusetts.



Brian Massey, Founding Team Member
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England
A favorite verse: I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

My name is Brian Massey. I serve on the Founding Team of NCM NE and the Board of Directors of the Institute for Spiritual Life and Psychotherapy. I am an alumnus and former faculty member of Eastern Nazarene College, where I

taught psychology and directed the graduate program in counseling over the past two decades until its recent closure. I now hold a similar role at Curry College in Milton, MA. With the closure of ENC, I am very grateful for continued connection and collaboration with former colleagues and members of the ENC family like this wonderful endeavor, as well as an ongoing research program investigating Emotional Intelligence and its connection with Christlike leadership with former ENC faculty colleagues at other colleges. I live in Hanover, MA, with my wife, Laurie, a local pediatrician who is also passionate about living a life of compassion and service to others, and my two amazing young adult twin daughters, when they are not off at college or work! Our family enjoys exploring and appreciating Creation through kayaking, hiking, and biking.



#### Jon Scott, Office Support Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England

One of my "life verses" 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

My name is Jon Scott. I graduated from Olivet Nazarene University, married Margaret and joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer in Brazil. I learned Portuguese and worked among coastal fishermen to start cooperatives. Then we served over 30 years as Global missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene,

living in post-revolution Portugal and Romania, where we partnered with non-profits to deliver care, food, educational opportunities and hope to those recovering from oppressive regimes. I was director of Nazarene Compassionate Ministry/Romania and helped establish the Romanian Studies Program of ENC. In Mozambique I facilitated ministerial training and in Malawi, as Principal of Nazarene Theological College, I welcomed refugees from a large UNHCR camp near the campus as students. In 2019, God led us to resettle in Massachusetts. I continue part-time work at the New England District Office and as a volunteer on the NED NMI Council and on boards of Esther R. Sanger Center of Compassion and the local church board, at North Street Community Chapel, Hingham.



Lee Kifer, Software Support
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England
I have always tried to follow Colossian 3:23 throughout
my various careers, "Whatever you do, work at it with all
your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human
masters".

My name is Lee Kifer. I have lived in Massachusetts my whole life. I have attended the Fitchburg Church of the Nazarene since 1985. I, my husband, and one married daughter are all ENC alumni. My other married daughter is an MVNU alumni. I have always loved the structure

and interconnectedness of the Nazarene Church. I have lived compassionately by sharing resources, being involved with local community needs, and following NCM for a long time. I served on the New England NYI Council when Ken Stanford was NYI President. Currently, I give software support to the team of NCM New England.



### Amy Hwang, Secretary, Founding Team Member Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England

The Bible verse I cling to as I search for my next full-time job is Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

My name is Amy Hwang. I am an academic librarian with 28 years of experience. I most recently served as Director of Library Services at Eastern Nazarene College until the closure in December 2024. I am married and have one child. I grew up attending St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene in Duxbury, MA, and it still feels most like home to me!

I graduated from ENC and Simmons University. Most recently I traveled to Papua New Guinea to unpack and process boxes of ENC library books for a Nazarene college there.



#### Herb Newell

A Favorite Phrase: Jesus is Coming – Look Busy!

A Verse For Today: ...No! Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of you.

A Favorite Verse: I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

My name is Herb Newell. I am recently retired after serving for more than 4 decades with Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore, Inc. a Nazarene Compassionate Ministry founded by Faith Church of the Nazarene, in Hingham MA. Before this I served in Music Education in MA, VT, and KS, and served Associate Pastorates in Music and Youth in Rochester NY, and Manchester CT. I also organized church operated Day-Care facilities in VT and NY. I have a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and a Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. I also have advanced certificates in NonProfit Management and Behavioral Education. I'm an Ordained Deacon in the Church of the Nazarene and served for many years as the Regional Coordinator for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for Maine, New England, and New York. My Passion is Compassion!

I live on the water in Weymouth, MA with my wife of 50+ years, Carol, who was Bookkeeper for the shelter for 35 years. My daughter, Jodi, and her two boys live in Keene NH but she works for the shelter every weekend so I see the whole clan regularly. In my retirement I'm happy giving up the responsibilities of leadership, but keeping busy with family and friends, shelter volunteers, serving at the church and helping others.

My current goals include encouraging the next generation of compassionate ministers. Let me know how I can help you!



Margaret Scott, Founding Team Leader
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England
One of many life verses is Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

My name is Margaret Scott. I have the pleasure of being the Team NCM NE and also another mission group that empowers African leaders with education opportunities (Education Development United Fellowship).

I live in Weymouth, MA and worship at North Street Community Chapel, Hingham, MA. I have served with my husband, Jon, as Peace Corps volunteers in Brazil and as Nazarene missionaries in Malawi, Mozambique, Romania & Portugal. We are the happy parents of 4 adult children, 3 children-in-law and grandparents of 6 all who live close to us, so, after years of living in far-flung places, now we have the pleasure of being with them more often.

I've studied a lot, graduating from ONU, ENC, U of Lisbon, Portugal and U of Pretoria, South Africa and am still eager to learn. My daily prayer is for kindness to permeate our words, our smiles and our lives - to the glory of the Lord.



#### **Listening Circles**

During the conference, participants will take part in Listening Circles—small group conversations designed to help us slow down, listen deeply, and learn from one another. In these circles, we practice Christ-like hospitality by creating space where every person's story and perspective are valued.

Listening Circles give us a chance to reflect together on what compassionate ministry looks like in our own communities, to celebrate what God is doing across New England, and to strengthen the bonds of understanding and unity that form the heart of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England.

Rooted in our four C's—Connecting, Communicating, Collaborating, and Cultivating—these circles remind us that compassion begins with attentive hearts and open ears.

The term "Listening Circle" is inspired by Indigenous talking-circle traditions that model respect and equality, adapted here for our Nazarene context in a spirit of gratitude and inclusion.

Each table host facilitates Listening Circles by encouraging everyone present to share. As we share, a small object will be passed around the circle to mark whose turn it is to speak. This gentle rhythm helps ensure that every voice is heard and honored in turn.

Each table will make a poster or flash cards to show as a report in the closing session.

#### Potential questions at each table

Introductions: name, church, reason for interest in this group.
Review the description of interest group's purpose stated in the blurb; is it accurate? Is the name of the interest group adequate?
What would be the best way forward to connect with each other?
What would be the best way forward to involve others?

What was the biggest takeaway from your group discussion? Make a poster to be shared upstairs during the closing session.

### **Handbook of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England**

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England (NCM NE) is a Christ-centered network rooted in compassion, justice, and shared leadership developing toward the goal of "strengthening compassionate care throughout New England." This handbook offers tools for equipping local churches and ministries across the New England District (MA, RI, CT, NH, VT) of the Church of the Nazarene. It includes annotated reading lists, best-practice toolkits, regional and Nazarene resources, equity/justice guidance, and practical templates. All the URLs are shown in full for print and are clickable in digital copies.

This resource list will grow and become more useful as the network grows, as more churches connect to and communicate with the NCM New England team. The team needs your feedback regarding the quality of the listed resources, especially a story from you about their effectiveness or lack thereof that may be shared with others so we may learn from each other. Email NCMsecretary@nednaz.org with suggestions for additional resources and your stories.

#### **Disclaimer**

This handbook is a collection of resources, practices, and tools curated by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England (NCM NE) for informational and educational purposes. Inclusion of a resource does not constitute an endorsement of all its content, perspectives, or affiliated organizations. Churches and leaders are encouraged to prayerfully and critically evaluate each resource for alignment with their mission, context, and values.

While every effort has been made to provide accurate and accessible information, NCM NE assumes no responsibility for outcomes resulting from the use or implementation of the materials provided. External links are maintained by third parties; availability and content may change without notice.

### Mission, Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England is a Christ-centered network rooted in compassion, justice, and shared leadership. NCM New England connects and strengthens compassionate ministries across the New England District of the Church of the Nazarene to reflect the love of Christ through these capacity-building actions:

- **Connecting** Linking together compassionate ministries in Churches of the Nazarene for mutual support, strengthening and encouragement.
- **Communicating** Sharing best practices and resources through a dedicated webpage and other media to nurture, train and equip.
- Collaborating Facilitating unity between Nazarene ministries and through partnerships with community organizations to improve the delivery of loving care.
- **Cultivating** Exploring strategic alliances with other nonprofits and innovative fundraising for increased impact.

#### **Vision Statement**

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England envisions:

- a vibrant, Christ-centered network of compassionate ministries throughout New England that builds capacity, strengthens local leaders and ministries, and fosters meaningful partnerships.
- creating lasting impact and transformative change in communities affected by poverty, exclusion, and injustice through shared learning, collaboration, and connection — with one another and with external partners.

#### Values Statement

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England values:

- **Genuine Love in Action** Living out the gospel through compassionate, courageous service in New England.
- **Collaboration Over Competition** Choosing partnerships and generosity to multiply impact across ministries.
- Wisdom from the Past Learning from our history—both the faithful witness and failures to do better together.
- **Equity and Inclusion** Creating a community where every person is seen, valued, and welcomed.
- Lived Experience Honoring and elevating the voices of those with firsthand experience of poverty, exclusion, trauma, and resilience.
- **Mutual Support** Building up one another through encouragement, shared learning, and spiritual solidarity.
- **Shared Leadership**\*\* Empowering leaders at every level, across generations, cultures, and roles, to shape and guide the work.
- Sustainability and Stewardship Practicing wise use of resources, people, and energy to build enduring ministries of love and justice.
- \*\* NCM New England Founding Team: Margaret Scott, Amy Hwang, Jane Jewell and Brian Massey, under the New England District leader of the Center for Missional Imagination and Justice, Jeremy D. Scott.

#### **Guiding Principles**

#### A Welcoming Table

We are inclusive and bridge-building, making space for many voices and perspectives in this work.

#### Center Lived Experience

We include people directly impacted by poverty, injustice, and exclusion in the leadership, design, and evaluation of our ministries.

#### • Christ at the Center

Our purpose and practices are grounded in the life and love of Jesus. We seek to be His hands and heart in the world.

#### • From Charity to Empowerment

We aim not just to help, but to uplift—to promote dignity, justice, and lasting transformation in our communities.

#### Hope in Motion

We face challenges with hope, knowing that even small acts of compassion can bring kingdom-sized impact.

#### • Lead Together, Not Alone

We model shared leadership, believing God speaks and works through collaboration across churches, cultures, and generations.

#### • Learn, Reflect, Improve

We commit to a cycle of learning from the past, listening in the present, and evaluating regularly so we can grow in faithfulness, effectiveness, and humility.

#### • Local Roots, District-Wide Reach

Every ministry is shaped by its local context. We honor that uniqueness while building a shared district-wide identity and strategy.

#### • Transparent and Trustworthy

We build trust through open communication, shared decision-making, and responsible stewardship.

#### • We Are Better Together

We believe in the power of collective action and mutual encouragement. The Body of Christ is stronger when it is connected.



#### **Creation Care**

#### **Description**

Focuses on stewardship of the earth, sustainability, and inspiring churches to care for God's creation through careful choices.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

Bauckham, R. (2010). The Bible and ecology: Rediscovering the community of creation. Baylor University Press.

Roots creation care in biblical theology; helpful for congregational study.

URL: https://www.baylorpress.com/9781602583108/the-bible-and-ecology

### Moo, D. & Moo, J. (2018). Creation care: A biblical theology of the natural world. Zondervan Academic.

Accessible, comprehensive scriptural framing of creation care for churches.

URL: https://www.zondervanacademic.com/products/creation-care

# Hayhoe, K. (2021). Saving us: A climate scientist's case for hope and healing in a divided world. Atria/One Signal.

Practical communication strategies from an evangelical climate scientist; builds common ground.

URL: https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Saving-Us/Katharine-Hayhoe/9781982143848

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

The Letter: A Message for Our Earth (2022).

Pope Francis and voices from the global South reflect on faith and ecological crisis.

URL: https://www.theletterfilm.org

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power (2017).

Update on the groundbreaking climate documentary featuring Al Gore; useful for sparking conversation on faith and science.

URL: https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/inconvenient-truth-then-and-now

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

 ENERGY STAR Energy Efficiency Toolkit for Worship Facilities URL:

https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-action-workbook-congregations

Let All Creation Praise (worship & liturgy resources)

URL: <a href="https://letallcreationpraise.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/">https://letallcreationpraise.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/</a>

• USDA: Let's Move! to grow more Community Gardens

URL: https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/blog/lets-move-grow-more-community-gardens

#### **Nazarene Resources**

Nazarenes for Creation Care

URL: https://www.nazarenesforcreationcare.com/

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

· Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

URL: https://www.massipl.org

• Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light

URL: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/riinterfaith.powerlight">https://www.facebook.com/riinterfaith.powerlight</a>

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (CT)

URL: https://irejn.org

New Hampshire Interfaith Power & Light

URL: https://www.nhipl.org

• Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

URL: https://vtipl.org

#### **National / Equity & Justice Resources**

• EPA: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Recommendation Reports

URL: https://www.epa.gov/faca/nejac-recommendation-reports

• GreenFaith (faith & climate justice)

URL: <a href="https://greenfaith.org">https://greenfaith.org</a>

















#### **Emergency Preparedness**

#### **Description**

Equips individuals, churches and communities to be ready for natural disasters, crises, and urgent needs in order to help others in times of need.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

#### Sipes, B. (2014). Disaster ministry handbook. IVP Academic.

Practical guide for congregations to prepare, respond, and recover faithfully.

URL: <a href="https://www.ivpress.com/disaster-ministry-handbook">https://www.ivpress.com/disaster-ministry-handbook</a>

# FEMA. (2025). Developing and maintaining emergency operations plans (Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101, Version 3.1).

Gold-standard template for local organizational emergency plans.

**URL**:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\_npd\_developing-and-maintaining-emer\_qency\_052125.pdf

## Aten, J. D. (2019). A walking disaster: What surviving Katrina and cancer taught me about faith and resilience. Templeton Press.

Reflections on faith, trauma, and resilience with lessons for churches.

**URL**:

https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/templeton-press/a-walking-disaster/9781599475752/

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Fire in Paradise (2018, PBS Frontline).

Examines California wildfires and emergency response; prompts reflection on disaster readiness.

URL: https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/fire-in-paradise/

Storm That Drowned a City (2005, PBS NOVA).

Explores Hurricane Katrina's impact; helpful for discussing resilience and preparedness in faith communities.

URL: https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/storm-that-drowned-a-city/

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

FEMA: Faith-Based and Volunteer Partnership Resources
 URL: <a href="https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/faith-volunteer">https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/faith-volunteer</a>

National Child Traumatic Stress Network: Psychological First Aid (PFA) and SPR URL:

https://www.nctsn.org/treatments-and-practices/psychological-first-aid-and-skills-for-psychological-recovery

• Ready.gov: Build an Emergency Supply Kit

URL: https://www.ready.gov/kit

Red Cross: Disaster Training

URL:

https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/disaster-training?srsltid=AfmBOoqvR2jNdp3iLK4\_jGJDU KanQhW7yPyMhUbEcMo6tljN6xAX8rt7

Red Cross: Ready Rating (Preparedness self-assessment)

URL: https://www.readyrating.org

#### **Nazarene Resources**

Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR)

URL: <a href="https://www.usacanadaregion.org/compassionate-ministries/nazarene-disaster-response">https://www.usacanadaregion.org/compassionate-ministries/nazarene-disaster-response</a>

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

URL: https://www.mass.gov/mema

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)

URL: <a href="https://riema.ri.gov">https://riema.ri.gov</a>

• Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)

URL: https://portal.ct.gov/demhs

NH Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM)

URL: <a href="https://www.hsem.dos.nh.gov/">https://www.hsem.dos.nh.gov/</a>

Vermont Emergency Management (VEM)

URL: https://vem.vermont.gov

#### National / Equity & Justice Resources

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

URL: https://www.nvoad.org

Advocates for Disaster Justice

URL: https://www.advocatesfordisasterjustice.org/









#### Why?

- Love your neighbors Assist and reach out to our neighbors
- Spiritual witness

#### Benefits of improved English

- · Navigate society more easily
- Increase job opportunities
- Combat isolation



#### Who can be a "teacher"?



- Friendly
- Patient
- Enjoy talking to people they don't know
- Sympathetic listener

#### How do we start?

- Three training sessions
- January 10, 2026 at Wollaston
  February 7, 2026 -online check-in
- March 7, 2026 after the NMI Prayer Luncheon









#### **Everyone Welcome**

#### **Description**

Explores ways to build radically inclusive, hospitable communities—especially for those who often feel marginalized or left out.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

Vanier, J. (1998). Becoming human. Paulist Press.

A vision of dignity, belonging, and shared life shaped by L'Arche communities.

URL: <a href="https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/3-185-3/becoming-human.aspx">https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/3-185-3/becoming-human.aspx</a>

Soerens, M., Yang, J., & Anderson, L. (2018). Welcoming the stranger: Justice, compassion & truth in the immigration debate. Revised and Expanded. IVP.

Puts a human face on the issue and offers concrete ways for churches to welcome immigrants.

URL: https://a.co/d/b0qcAku

Swinton, J. (2012). Becoming friends of time: Disability, timefullness, and gentle discipleship. Baylor University Press.

Reimagines discipleship through disability theology and practices of gentleness.

URL: https://www.baylorpress.com/9781481309356/becoming-friends-of-time/

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Welcome to Shelbyville (2011).

Depicts a small town grappling with immigration and belonging; great discussion starter for churches.

URL: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1578846/

Crip Camp (2020).

Powerful disability rights documentary; highlights the importance of accessibility and inclusion.

URL: https://www.netflix.com/title/81001496

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

Religious Entities Under the Americans With Disabilities Act (from ADA National Network)
 URL:

https://adata.org/sites/adata.org/files/files/Religious%20Entities%20Under%20the%20ADA\_final 2018(1).pdf

Neurodiversity Hub (practical inclusion)

URL: https://www.neurodiversitvhub.org/

• Reentry Partnerships: A Guide for States & Faith-Based and Community Organizations (DOJ)

URL: https://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/docs/reentry-partnership.pdf

#### **Nazarene Resources**

Nurturing Care (Nazarene Theological Seminary)

URL: <a href="https://www.nts.edu/nurturing-care/">https://www.nts.edu/nurturing-care/</a>

• Nazarene Disability Ministries / Support Resources

URL: https://www.usacanadaregion.org/kids/support-resources

Wonderful Works Ministry (adapted discipleship)

URL: https://www.wonderfulworksministry.org

• Practicing Hospitality: Practical Ways to Support Displaced People in Your Community

URL:

https://ncm.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/How%20to%20Help%20Toolkit%20for%20displaced%20people.pdf

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

 MA: Disability Law Center URL: https://www.dlc-ma.org

• RI: Dorcas International Institute (immigration/refugee)

URL: <a href="https://www.diiri.org">https://www.diiri.org</a>

• CT: IRIS – Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services

URL: <a href="https://www.irisct.org">https://www.irisct.org</a>

• NH: Disability Rights Center NH

URL: <a href="https://drcnh.org">https://drcnh.org</a>

VT: USCRI Vermont (refugee services)

URL: <a href="https://refugees.org/field-office/uscri-vermont">https://refugees.org/field-office/uscri-vermont</a>

#### National / Equity & Justice Resources

National Disability Rights Network

URL: <a href="https://www.ndrn.org">https://www.ndrn.org</a>

Q Christian Fellowship

URL: https://www.qchristian.org

Prison Fellowship (reentry)

URL: <a href="https://www.prisonfellowship.org">https://www.prisonfellowship.org</a>



#### **Foster Care & Adoption**

#### **Description**

Supports families and churches involved in fostering or adopting children, while raising awareness of the needs of vulnerable kids.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

Purvis, K., Cross, D., & Sunshine, W. (2007). The connected child: Bring hope and healing to your adoptive family . McGraw-Hill.

Trauma-informed strategies (TBRI) for parents and churches supporting foster/adoptive families. URL: <a href="https://child.tcu.edu/resources/#sthash.5WeLMgnY.dpbs">https://child.tcu.edu/resources/#sthash.5WeLMgnY.dpbs</a>

### Purvis, K., & Qualls, L. (2020). The connected parent: Real-life strategies for building trust and attachment. Harvest House Publishers.

Provides practical advice and powerful tools to encourage secure attachment in your family. URL: https://www.harvesthousepublishers.com/books/connected-parent-9780736978927

# van der Kolk, B. (2015). The body keeps the score: Brain, mind, and body in the healing of trauma. Penguin Books.

Insights from one of the world's foremost experts on trauma.

URL: https://www.amazon.com/Body-Keeps-Score-Healing-Trauma/dp/0143127748

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Instant Family (2018).

Hollywood film inspired by foster-to-adopt experiences; accessible entry point for congregations.

URL: <a href="https://www.paramount.com/movies/instant-family">https://www.paramount.com/movies/instant-family</a>

#### ReMoved (2013).

Short film dramatizing the experience of foster children; widely used for training and awareness.

URL: <a href="https://removedfilm.myshopify.com/">https://removedfilm.myshopify.com/</a>

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

 Empowered to Connect — Free Digital Downloads URL: https://empoweredtoconnect.org/downloads-2/

National Child Traumatic Stress Network: Resources

URL: <a href="https://www.nctsn.org/resources">https://www.nctsn.org/resources</a>

Adoption Network — Knowledge Bank

URL: https://adoptionnetwork.com/knowledge-hub/

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

 MA: Dept. of Children & Families (DCF) — Foster Care URL: https://www.mass.gov/foster-care

 RI: Dept. of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) — Foster Care & Adoption URL: <a href="https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/foster-care-adoption">https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/foster-care-adoption</a>

• CT: Dept. of Children & Families (DCF) — Foster Care and Adoption URL: https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/foster-care-and-adoption

• NH: Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS) — Foster Care URL: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/child-protection-juvenile-justice/foster-care">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/child-protection-juvenile-justice/foster-care</a>

• VT: Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) — Adoption, Foster & Kinship Care URL: <a href="https://dcf.vermont.gov/dcf/fsd/care">https://dcf.vermont.gov/dcf/fsd/care</a>

#### **National / Equity & Justice Resources**

 Casey Family Programs — Keeping Children Safe with Families URL: https://www.casey.org/

 Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption URL: <a href="https://www.davethomasfoundation.org">https://www.davethomasfoundation.org</a>



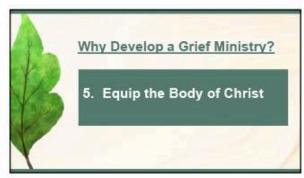


















#### **GriefShare**

#### **Description**

Centers on providing comfort, connection, and spiritual support to those experiencing loss and navigating grief.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

#### Lewis, C. S. (1961). A grief observed. HarperOne.

A short, honest Christian classic on bereavement; helpful for small groups.

URL: <a href="https://www.harpercollins.com/products/a-grief-observed-c-s-lewis">https://www.harpercollins.com/products/a-grief-observed-c-s-lewis</a>

#### Wolfelt, A. D. (2013). Understanding your grief. 2nd edition. Companion Press.

Compassionate, practical guidance on mourning and meaning-making.

URL: https://www.centerforloss.com/bookstore/understanding-your-grief-2/

#### O'Connor, F. (2004). Blessed are those who mourn. Orbis Books.

Pastoral reflections linking the Beatitudes to grief support.

URL: <a href="https://www.orbisbooks.com/blessed-are-those-who-mourn.html">https://www.orbisbooks.com/blessed-are-those-who-mourn.html</a>

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Speaking Grief (2020, PBS).

Documentary exploring the realities of grief and the need for compassionate support networks.

URL: <a href="https://speakinggrief.org/documentary">https://speakinggrief.org/documentary</a>

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

GriefShare — Small Group Program for Churches

URL: https://www.griefshare.org

Hospice Foundation of America — Grief Archives

URL: https://hospicefoundation.org/category/grief/

• National Alliance for Children's Grief (NACG) — Grief Support Resource Library

URL: <a href="https://nacq.org/resource-library/">https://nacq.org/resource-library/</a>

#### Regional Resources (New England)

• MA: Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts

URL: https://www.hospicefed.org

• RI: HopeHealth — Grief Support Readings

URL: <a href="https://www.hopehealthco.org/services/hospice-care/grief-support/grief-support-readings/">https://www.hopehealthco.org/services/hospice-care/grief-support/grief-support-readings/</a>

CT: The Connecticut Hospice

URL: https://www.hospice.com

 $\bullet$  NH/VT: Dartmouth Health — Visiting Nurse and Hospice (VNH)

URL: https://www.dartmouth-health.org/vnh

#### **National / Equity & Justice Resources**

• The Center for Prolonged Grief — Guides + Other Resources

URL: https://prolongedgrief.columbia.edu/resources/

· National Alliance for Care at Home

URL: https://allianceforcareathome.org/



#### **Recovery Ministries**

#### **Description**

Engages with addiction recovery, offering resources, spiritual care, and supportive community for those on the path to healing.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

#### May, G. G. (1988). Addiction & grace. HarperOne.

Classic integration of spirituality and recovery; accessible for church groups.

URL: https://www.harpercollins.com/products/addiction-and-grace-gerald-g-may

#### Rohr, R. (2021). Breathing under water. 10th anniversary edition. Franciscan Media.

Twelve Steps spirituality within a Christian contemplative lens.

URL: https://www.amazon.com/Breathing-Under-Water-Spirituality-Twelve/dp/1632533804

#### White, W. (2017). Recovery rising. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

Field wisdom on recovery movements and systems change.

URL: https://a.co/d/ffnrg7Q

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Heroin(e) (2017).

Oscar-nominated short about women leading recovery efforts in West Virginia.

URL: https://www.netflix.com/title/80192445

The Anonymous People (2013).

Documentary on the 23 million Americans living in long-term recovery; challenges stigma.

URL: https://www.kinolorber.com/film/theanonymouspeople-1

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

Celebrate Recovery (church-based recovery)

URL: https://celebraterecovery.com

SAMHSA: Faith and Community Engagement

URL: https://www.samhsa.gov/communities/faith-based-community-engagement

• :Toolkit for Faith-Based Organizations to Prevent Overdoses and Reduce Harm

https://www.overdosefreepa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FCC\_Faith-Based-Toolkit\_2021.pd f

• CDC: Overdose Prevention Resources

URL: https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/communication-resources/index.html

#### **Nazarene Resources**

Nazarene Recovery Ministries (stories & guidance)
 URL: https://www.nazarene.org/article/recovery-ministries

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

• MA: Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)

URL: https://www.mass.gov/orgs/bureau-of-substance-addiction-services

• RI: BHDDH (Substance Use Conditions)

URL: <a href="https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-useaddiction">https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-useaddiction</a>

• CT: Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

URL: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS">https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS</a>

• NH: Dept. of Health & Human Services (Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Substance Misuse)

URL: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/alcohol-tobacco-other-substance-misuse">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/alcohol-tobacco-other-substance-misuse</a>

• VT: Dept. of Health — Alcohol & Drugs

URL: https://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drugs

#### **National / Equity & Justice Resources**

Faces & Voices of Recovery (advocacy)
 URL: https://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

 National Harm Reduction Coalition URL: https://harmreduction.org

SAMHSA

URL: https://www.samhsa.gov



#### **School Partnerships**

#### **Description**

Strengthens connections between churches and local schools to support students, educators, and families through practical service and presence.

#### **Annotated Books & Readings**

#### Putnam, R. D. (2015). Our kids: The American dream in crisis. Simon & Schuster.

Explains widening opportunity gaps and why church–school partnerships matter.

URL: https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Our-Kids/Robert-D-Putnam/9781476769905

#### Payne, R. K. (2013). A framework for understanding poverty. Aha! Process.

Common framework (debated) that many school–church teams use to understand barriers and supports.

URL: https://www.ahaprocess.com/product/framework-book-seventh-edition

# Warren, M. R. (2001). Dry bones rattling: Community building to revitalize American democracy. Princeton University Press.

Case studies of faith-based community organizing with schools and neighborhoods.

URL: <a href="https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691074320/dry-bones-rattling">https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691074320/dry-bones-rattling</a>

#### **Movies / Documentaries**

Waiting for "Superman" (2010).

Critiques the U.S. public school system; prompts discussion on justice and community action.

URL: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1566648/

#### Teach Us All (2017).

Explores educational equity and civil rights; useful for school-church partnership reflection.

URL: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6588332/

#### **Best Practices / Toolkits**

MENTOR: Start a Program

URL: https://www.mentoring.org/resource/start-a-program

Afterschool Alliance: Starting a Program

URL: <a href="https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/starting-a-program/">https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/starting-a-program/</a>

ASE Education Foundation: Adopt-A-School Toolkit

URL: https://adoptaschoolkit.com/

Coalition for Community Schools — Impact

URL: https://www.communityschools.org/learn/start-a-community-school/impact

#### **Nazarene Resources**

 Nazarene Compassionate Ministries — School Partnerships URL: https://www.ncm.org

#### **Regional Resources (New England)**

• MA: Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education (Office of Student and Family Support) URL: https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/?section=family

 RI: Dept. of Education — Students and Families: Engaged Communities URL: <a href="https://ride.ri.gov/students-families">https://ride.ri.gov/students-families</a>

• CT: Dept. of Education — School-Family-Community Partnerships URL: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/sde/sfcp/school-family-community-partnerships/how-to">https://portal.ct.gov/sde/sfcp/school-family-community-partnerships/how-to</a>

NH: Dept. of Education — Partners
 URL: <a href="https://www.education.nh.gov/partners">https://www.education.nh.gov/partners</a>

• VT: Vermont Afterschool

URL: https://vermontafterschool.org/

#### **National / Equity & Justice Resources**

• Learning Policy Institute — Equitable Access and Opportunity URL: <a href="https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/topic/equitable-access-and-opportunity">https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/topic/equitable-access-and-opportunity</a>

EdTrust — EduReimagined
 URL: https://edtrust.org/rti/edureimagined-edtrusts-vision-of-education-equity/

#### Nazarene Compassionate Ministries New England (NCM NE) - Phase 1 Organizational Chart

New England District Church of the Nazarene (NED NAZ) Fiscal Sponsor Asst. District Superintendent for Church Missional Imagination & Justice

# NED NAZ Christian Social Action Committee (CSAC) known as NCM New England A network of ministries of compassion Strengthening Compassionate Care throughout New England

1. Coordination hub. 2. Liaisons with NED Assistant DS 3. Orients & monitors network for missional alignment with vision, and guiding principles, 4. Promotes cross-point collaboration, 5. Event planning, 6. Communications 7. Strategic Development & Planning 8. Explores Partnerships

#### **Initial Interest Groups**

- 1. Creation Care
- 2. Emergency Preparedness
- 3. Everyone Welcome
- 4. Foster Care & Adoption
- 5. Grief Share
- 6. Recovery Ministries
- 7. School Partnerships

#### **Church Point Persons**

NCM/ Local Church Key persons of network (local church contacts

- 1. Communication hub
  - 2. Promote mission
  - 3. Share local stories

#### **NED NAZ State Reps**

(MA, CT, RI, NH, VT)

- 1. Plan with CSAC
- 2.Encourage Church Point Persons in the state
  - 3. Promote mission
  - 4. Assure sustainability

Internal role structure for each Interest group: 1. Convener (facilitates meetings), 2. Caretaker (builds relationships & alignment), 3. Curator (resources & learning), 4. Connector (shares updates with Coordination Team).

#### Congregational Connection / District Feedback

NCM NE uses a distributed leadership model with feedback. NED NAZ is the fiscal sponsor of NCM NE.