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## INTRODUCING: DISTRICT INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

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The state of Michigan is experiencing growing cultural and racial diversity. The Michigan District Church of the Nazarene is beginning to reflect this reality. Our district is becoming more global and diverse in its composition and outreach. Did you know that we have ministry through organized churches, church plants, and ministries to more than 6 language groups? Every week, Nazarene congregations on our district worship (or host congregations that worship) in Haitian Creole, Kinyarwanda, Burmese, Nepali, English and more. In addition, we have multicultural congregations and ministries bringing together people from various cultural backgrounds in worship and service.

To support and develop this growing movement, the district leadership team has created the Intercultural Ministries department. What is "intercultural" ministry? Intercultural ministry is an intentional community-driven ministry approach among distinctive cultural, ethnic, and language groups. It holds in tandem two focuses. One is empowering and equipping congregations, ministries, and communities as they minister in their distinct cultural context. The second is on developing deep understanding and respect, the mutual exchange of ideas and cultural norms, and the development of deep relationships between and among those distinct groups.

Intercultural ministry envisions a flourishing interconnected and interdependent district family of local churches and ministries equipped for ministry in their context while enjoying diverse and robust fellowship and collaboration.

The goal of the District is to provide ongoing support toward this vision. To facilitate this, the District Leadership Team welcomed Joe Young as the District Intercultural Ministries Director.

Joe and his wife Cheryl have served 25 years as pastors and missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene in the USA and Southeast-Asia. Their pastoral ministry experience includes youth, children, and lead pastor roles with a multicultural flavor in urban and rural settings. Their missions experience includes discipleship, leadership and district development, ELL, social work, and theological training in 3 countries, among several language groups. They speak English and Bahasa Indonesian.