



THE CHURCH

The Local Church

The Church of the Nazarene wants all people to experience the transforming grace of God through the forgiveness of sins and heart cleansing in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our primary mission is “to make Christlike disciples in the nations,” to incorporate believers into fellowship and membership (congregations), and to equip (teach) all who respond in faith.

The ultimate goal of the community of faith is to present everyone perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28) at the last day.

It is in the local church that the saving, perfecting, teaching, and commissioning of believers takes place. The local church, the Body of Christ, is the representation of our faith and mission.

The District Church

Local churches are grouped administratively into districts and regions.

A district is an entity made up of interdependent local churches organized to facilitate the mission of each local church through mutual support, the sharing of resources, and collaboration.

The district superintendent gives oversight to a particular district in conjunction with that district's advisory board.

The General Church

The bases of unity in the Church of the Nazarene are those beliefs, polity, definitions, and procedures as articulated in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

The core of this unity is declared in the *Articles of Faith* of the *Manual*. We encourage the church in all regions and languages to translate—widely distribute—and teach these beliefs to our constituency. This is the golden strand that is woven into the fabric of all we are and do as Nazarenes.

A visible reflection of this unity is represented by the General Assembly, which is the “supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene.” (*Manual* 300)

A second reflection is the international General Board, which represents the entire church.

A third reflection is the Board of General Superintendents, who may interpret the *Manual*, approve cultural adaptations, and ordain to the ministry.

The government of the Church of the Nazarene is representative, and thus avoids the extremes of episcopacy on the one hand and unlimited congregationalism on the other.

The church is more than connected. It is interconnected. The ties that bind us are stronger than a single cord that can be cut at any given time.

What is the source of our common bond? It is Jesus Christ. (Church of the Nazarene *Manual* 2013-2017)