

1 *Districts: Their Purpose*

“Our church is a denomination of local churches organized into districts.” We have heard this statement many times at district assemblies, district gatherings, and even at the dinner table when trying to explain to others the concept of the district. While the idea of a district may sound familiar to many who have been a part of the Church of the Nazarene for some time, the idea of a district sounds foreign to believers in pioneer missionary works or even unnecessary for those who are part of large, self-contained, growing congregations in the West.

Like most institutions that survived the twentieth century, the district has not escaped being scrutinized by some who don’t see the value of investing in yet another layer of church bureaucracy. Yet, there are more reasons than pragmatic, business ones that factor into the necessity of districts. We need to explore a broader view of districts than the purely financial or institutional bottom line.

Districts ensure that the current and future generations of church members can continually maximize God's resources for the sake of our mission to "make Christlike disciples in the nations."¹