

Parent Affiliated Congregations

What is a PAC?

A PAC is a ministry (organic church, multi-site, multi-congregational, new work, NewStart, etc.) that is reported as *affiliated* with a parent church. A PAC has a leader or pastor who is responsible for pastoral care of the group, and is connected with a parent church.

Why PAC?

We want to recognize and celebrate what we want to reproduce! The PAC designation was created to address the needs of churches beginning creative new congregations, who had no way of reporting those new works. Ethnic congregations, organic churches and multi-sites are notable examples. If these affiliated congregations are not registered, they do not receive literature, are not identified via official channels, and do not appear in any database and thus are "off the grid" and unidentifiable for collaborative efforts, networking, and mutual encouragement.

What's the difference between a PAC and a Church Type Mission (CTM)?

CTMs are any not-yet-organized churches which may or may not have a parent church. In contrast, PACs are affiliated with a parent church and may be classified as a not-yet-organized church or an organized church.

If a PAC is not a separate entity, what's the difference between a PAC and a small group?

A small group which is started to reach new people could become a PAC. PACs normally have a leader, are evangelistic, and function as a distinct congregation. Final definitions are left to the discretion of the parent church pastor and PAC leader. Properly licensed leaders of PACs may receive "credit" for time in service as a pastor for ordination and General Church Benefits, etc. PACs will be identified on the Nazarene "Find a Church" web-site to enable interested individuals to locate the PAC..

How are PAC statistics reported?

All PACs are assigned a unique church number. A PAC will appear in the District Journals and within computerized data systems at the Global Ministry Center indented beneath the parent church. This solves a reporting (and identification) problem for congregations-within-churches. A PAC has the option of including some or all of its statistical data with the Parent Church's data. Both the Parent Church and PAC will fill out the Annual Pastor's Report, but there is great flexibility in how the statistics are divided. For example, a PAC may show zeroes or partial numbers for membership, attendance and finances if some or all of those data are included in the parent statistics. Partial reporting of any of the statistical categories for a PAC is available as long as no numbers are reported twice.

What about "Funding the Mission"?

PACs are not a new method of increasing giving. Congregations registered as PACs contribute to "Funding the Mission" based on reported income, just like all other CTMs. Whether the parent congregation reports the income or the PAC reports the income is entirely between the parent church and the PAC. Whichever one reports the income would contribute to "Funding the Mission."

When will this be implemented?

The PAC designation was approved by the Board of General Superintendents in May, 2011 and is available for immediate use when registering a new congregation with the General Secretary's Office.

A final note to district offices:

The PAC designation is an important tool for identifying and celebrating groups and pastors who are new or previously unrecognized. Some current pastors of embedded congregations may have worked for years as a pastor, but have never been officially recognized as one (which has negative status, future employability, and benefits effects). PACs solve this problem by allowing the church and congregation-within-church to report their statistics in combination, while at the same time offering an official status in which the leader of the congregation-within-church can be recognized. We believe this will aid both accurate reporting and leadership development, especially among leaders of ethnic congregations that often find themselves in multi-congregational settings. Searching on the "Find-a Church" feature of the Nazarene web-site will now return a PAC location, allowing interested searchers more choices for available Nazarene Church ministry and worship.