

BIRTH OF A CHURCH

The Church of the Nazarene's roots lie in England's 18th-century Wesleyan revival and in the Holiness Movement of the 19th century. The Holiness Movement began in the 1830s with an emphasis on Christian renewal but was fracturing locally by its third generation. The desire of smaller entities to form a united, stronger body resulted in the rise of the present denomination.

Regional organizations that began on the East Coast, first in New England (1887) and then in New York (1894), merged in 1896 and by 1907 had congregations stretching from Nova Scotia to Iowa.

Regional churches that began in the South, first in Tennessee (1894) and then in Texas (1901), merged in 1904 and by 1908 had congregations stretching from Georgia to New Mexico.

On the West Coast, another denomination originated in 1895 and by 1907 had churches stretching from California to Illinois.

These groups merged in 1907 and 1908, creating the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. To the founders, "Pentecostal" was simply a synonym for "holiness," but in 1919 the church name was shortened because of new meanings that, in the public mind, had become attached to the term.

