

Natural Church Development

NCD through its research has identified these

8 QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS

1. *EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP*
2. *GIFT-ORIENTED MINISTRY*
3. *PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY*
4. *FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES*
5. *INSPIRING WORSHIP SERVICE*
6. *HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS*
7. *NEED-ORIENTED EVANGELISM*
8. *LOVING RELATIONSHIPS*

NCD Testimony

“Our congregation is really benefiting from the NCD process! The overall philosophy and method has been an excellent fit for our church. NCD has enabled us to clarify our greatest need as a church, develop a workable strategy to address that need and has kept us accountable to follow through on our strategy. The whole experience has been energizing and encouraging. The ongoing relationship with our NCD coach has been invaluable!”

Greg Mesimore
Pastor, Edgebrook Evangelical
Covenant Church

Central Conference NCD Coaches

Kent Anderson	Naperville, IL
Karen Brewer	Chicago, IL
Debbie Griffith	Chicago, IL
Rick Hampton	Crystal Lake, IL
Don Holmertz	Stillman Valley, IL
Jack Hudson	Iron River, MI
Bruce Lawson	Chicago, IL
Wiley Samuels	Chicago, IL
Peter Sjoblom	Chicago, IL

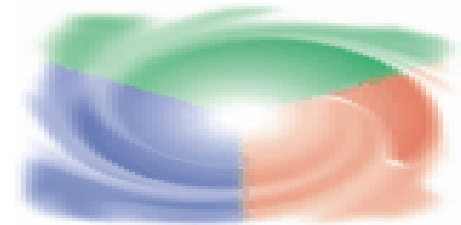


“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow” 1Co. 3:7

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NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

*In the
Central Conference
of the
Evangelical Covenant
Church*



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What is Natural Church Development?

A different way of thinking about growth

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a way of thinking about church growth. Growth should be about quality (health) and not just quantity (numbers). In fact, NCD suggests that quality should take priority over quantity in church growth thinking. At the heart of this concept is the Scriptural picture of the church as a living organism, not just an organization. Looking at the church organically gives us a different perspective on what growth means. The growth of organisms focus on their health, their capacity to reproduce, and how the individual body parts interact. They are grown, not built. They are nurtured, not assembled.

NCD suggests that if church growth is about an organism, the health (quality) of the organism is going to have a direct impact on its size (quantity). If a church can become increasingly healthy over time, it is more likely and better able to reproduce disciples, ministries and eventually itself.

How many times have church leaders counted the numbers in Sunday services and then wondered whether the church community was healthy and continuing to grow toward maturity? Is size really a true measure of health?

The NCD process helps you think about growing your church as a healthy living organism.

A long-term strategic process

Natural Church Development is also a long-term strategic process for progressively improving a church's health. It is a process of continual improvement, not a program that, if implemented to the letter, guarantees "a healthy church." It requires a long-term commitment that is intentional and consistent. At the heart of the process is a sophisticated tool, the NCD survey, which complies with international statistical standards for validity and reliability.

What NCD is not

- NCD is not a prescriptive "silver bullet" program guaranteeing church growth.
- NCD is not a substitute for spiritual leadership motivated to achieve healthy growth.
- NCD is not a substitute for the unique vision that God has for every church. Every church leader must seek the Lord for that vision. NCD will, however, undergird, clarify and stimulate that vision.
- NCD does not bring unity where there is division. The survey is most suited to churches with members united and committed to the ongoing life and healthy growth of the church.
- NCD is not a short-term solution. Deciding to "try NCD this year" will miss the riches of fully exploring the paradigm.

Central Conference NCD Steps

1. Contact the Central Conference for additional information.
2. Church Leadership meet with Coach
3. Select 30 members to participate in the survey
4. Survey team and Coach explore the results of the survey.
5. At a retreat, the Coach guides the Implementation team as they develop an action plan
6. The Coach will contact the Chair of the Implementation team quarterly to provide assistance as needed. Some churches desire additional coaching assistance.

How we can help

The Central Conference believes that NCD will help its Churches grow stronger. Our commitment to each church includes:

- Sending six copies of the introductory 32 page booklet "ABC's of NCD" at no charge for use with church leaders.
- Paying for the processing fees for the initial survey.

Churches are asked to provide a \$500.00 honorarium and cover travel expenses for their Coach. Churches may request financial assistance to fund the NCD process. Churches may also contract with their Coach for services beyond the initial phase.

**Want more information?
Visit the NCD website at
www.ncd-international.org**

**Or
Contact
Debbie Griffith
Director of Ministry Development
at
773-267-3060**



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