

Natural Church Development



Growing Healthy Churches the Natural Way

What is Natural Church Development?

Natural Church Development is a process of discovering and improving the health of your church. Using a diagnostic survey with 30 participants in your church, you will measure your church health in 8 quality characteristics of healthy churches:

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift-oriented Ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structures
- Inspiring Worship
- Holistic Small Groups
- Need-oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

What makes the difference in church health is the **adjective** describing the quality characteristic. Every church has some kind of leadership, but healthy churches have **empowering** leadership.

Working with the Minimum Factor

The NCD survey is like a health check-up. When you visit your doctor for a physical the doctor doesn't say, "You're eyes are great, and the key to your overall health is to keep looking at more things." Instead, your doctor is more likely to point out the areas of your personal health that are causing the most risk to your overall health. You'll probably be encouraged to focus on improving the minimum health factor in order to improve your overall health. NCD will focus your church on improving your minimum quality characteristic in order to improve your overall church health. All eight characteristics are important and necessary for church health, but focusing on the least healthy area of your church helps set priorities that will result in the greatest improvement to the overall health of your church.

Growing Healthy Churches

The secret of growing churches is not in the brilliance or talent of the church leaders or programs, but in the spark of God's life that lives within the church itself. As we learn in Mark 4:26-29, God has put the growth potential into every congregation, we need to

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release this potential by removing barriers to growth and your church will naturally grow all by itself! Natural Church Development is focused on removing barriers to help nurture a healthy church, and with health will come growth.



The NCD Process

Taking a survey alone won't improve your church's health. It's what you do with what you learn that's important. Using life-giving principles of healthy organisms, the NCD process will guide your church through real change to promote real improvement in your church's overall health and strength.

- **Step 1: Prepare** – Understanding NCD, gathering leadership buy-in, activating prayer, and recruiting a Church Health Team to guide the process happen at this step.
- **Step 2: Diagnose** – Take the NCD survey and explore the results through in-depth analysis within the congregation. Identify 3-5 key issues to address in next 12 months.
- **Step 3: Plan** – Church Health Team develops and presents a strategic plan with measurable, actionable goals to address the 3-5 key issues in the next 12 months.
- **Step 4: Implement** – Church Health Team, with the help of an NCD coach, leads the entire church in working and adapting the plan to transform the health of the church.
- **Step 5: Evaluate** – At the end of the plan's implementation the church will check itself to see how the plan brought real improvement to the church's health. At this point you might re-take the survey and begin the process again to work on a new minimum health factor.

A Process that Works

Natural Church Development affirms the uniqueness of each and every church, and it has a proven record of improving churches of all sizes throughout the world. Check out the testimonies and results of thousands of churches throughout the world in a wide variety of cultures and languages at www.ncd-international.com.

Using a NCD Coach

What Your Coach will do as Basic Coaching Activities

- Orientation for Pastor & leadership team
- Church Health Team training
- Review NCD Survey results with Pastor & Church Health Team
- Facilitate Action Planning Workshop
- Ongoing coaching & availability by phone and e-mail throughout process
- Final review of NCD process with Church Health Team

What the Church will do for Basic NCD Process

1. Explore the NCD Process by having church leaders read "**ABC's of Natural Church Development**" (\$2.00 each)
2. Recruit and support work of Church Health Team throughout NCD process
3. Conduct the **Natural Church Development Survey** (\$175)
4. Fully participate in diagnosis, action planning and implementation of NCD process recommendations
5. Honor assignments, deadlines and agreed tasks within NCD process schedule
6. Surround Pastor, Church Health Team, NCD process, and Coach with intentional and committed prayer throughout process
7. Provide feedback and reflective review of NCD process that can be made available to other churches considering NCD
8. Commit to give serious and prayerful consideration to future requests for participation in Congregational Development training and

NCD Resources Available From

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