

TOOL #6: Using your Natural Church Development (NCD) Scores

Natural Church Development, a philosophy (developed by Christian Schwarz) is based on the premise that God has set up certain natural principles that when followed and applied to the church, will result in the growth that God has planned for His church. They work much like the seed that is thrown into the ground and while the farmer sleeps, it sprouts up and grows. We can sow God's Word, follow His commands, do His work (cultivating, sowing and harvesting) but we cannot make things grow. His part is to grow the church; our job is to work at improving the quality of the church.

The NCD Survey tests for the following:

EIGHT QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF CHURCH HEALTH

- 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**

Every church in which a quality index of 65 or more is reached in each of the eight quality characteristics will be a growing church. In other words, genuine quality will ultimately positively impact quantitative growth. The expectation is that all FMCIC churches will conduct the NCD survey. Copies of the Questionnaires for the Pastor and the Lay People are found in Tab 2 in the SPN Binder.

The Lay Questionnaire should be completed by 30 Christian people who are actively involved in your church and regularly part of a small group. The Pastor's Questionnaire is completed by the Senior Pastor.

These questionnaires developed by Christian Schwarz of Christian Resource Ministries must be evaluated by a qualified National Church Development consultant. For first time users the cost to Free Methodist churches for processing the questionnaires and providing a follow-up report is \$200.00 plus GST. Subsequent questionnaires and reports are \$175.00 plus GST. For more information, contact the Ministry Centre at (905) 848-2600.

Bring most recent NCD profile to determine your two lowest scores.