

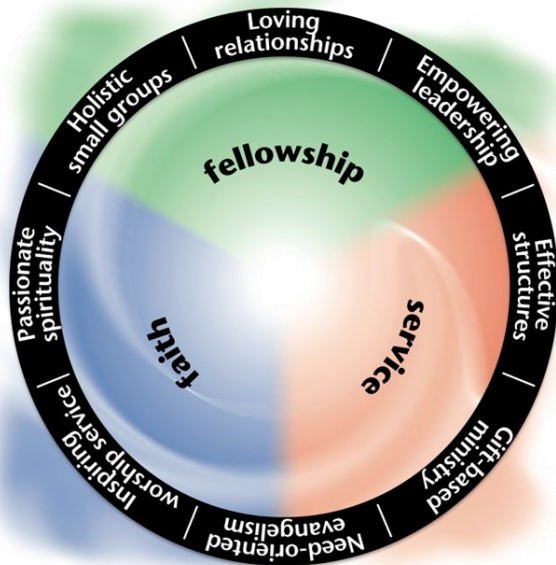


Giving
Hope
Today



IS MY CHURCH HEALTHY?





Biblical Insights:

Jesus' profound words in John 15:1-17 remind us that healthy organisms, including churches, naturally exhibit growth. He calls us to be fruitful, bearing lasting fruit that honors His teachings. Let us strive to increase our fruitfulness day by day.

Understanding Our Role:

God is the ultimate grower of the church. A church grows all by itself. All churches have all-by-itself growth potential inside them like all living organism do. Just as a farmer tends to his fields (Mark 4:26-29), our role is to remove barriers that hinder this growth potential. While we cannot do God's job, we can't expect God to do ours.

Introducing the NCD Process:

To facilitate the measurement and enhancement of our church's health, we present the Natural Church Development (NCD) Process. Since 2022, a dedicated NCD Team has been implementing this process across Ontario, to measure church health and identify areas of improvement.

The Eight Quality Characteristics:

According to NCD, healthy churches exhibit eight distinct characteristics:

1. Empowering Leadership
2. Gift-based Ministry
3. Passionate Spirituality
4. Effective Structures
5. Inspiring Worship Service
6. Holistic Small Groups
7. Need-oriented Evangelism
8. Loving Relationships

The NCD Survey:

The NCD Survey measures the descriptors of each characteristic, providing valuable insights into the current state of our church's health. By participating in the survey, we can identify areas of strength and areas that require attention.

WHICH OF THE 8 QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS COMES MOST NATURALLY AND LEAST NATURALLY TO YOUR CHURCH AT THE MOMENT?

The NCD Process Involves:

1. Embark on the Journey: Introductory Meeting between NCD Team and Church Team
2. Uncover the Truth: 30 (+/-) members participate in the NCD Survey
3. Insights and Action: Debrief Profile between NCD Team and Church Team
4. Church Health Check: Story Guide Congregational Meeting
October 29, 2023, 12:00 Noon — 2:30 pm
5. Break Barriers: Collaborate on Establishing an Action Plan to remove obstacles
6. Turning Plans into Reality: Execute the Ac-


Frequently Asked Questions

Why focus on church health?

Numbers alone don't reveal the full story and amidst member decline and engagement, health becomes paramount.

Why NCD?

NCD delves into essential aspects of church life - leadership, evangelism, worship, relationships and spirituality.



Dear Church Family,

Church health relies on the active involvement and contributions of each member. We warmly invite **you** to join us for a Church Health Check on **Sunday, October 29**. Together, let us embark on this transformative journey of self-improvement and cultivate a stronger, more vibrant church community.

Warmest blessing,

Major Roy Snow

Meet the NCD Team



Major Chris Rideout heads the Corps Mission Resources team. Prior to this, he served as an Area Commander, overseeing 26 churches in the GTA, following an incredible 16 year tenure as a pastor/corps officer alongside his wife, Tina. Chris and Tina take great joy in being loving parents to two grown children and the proud grandparents of two grandchildren.



Majors Brian Bishop and his wife Glenda assumed their roles as Divisional Corps Missions Consultants since 2022. They bring with them a wealth of experience, having served as pastors for 32 years, with a remarkable 21-year tenure at Northridge Community Church. Brian and Glenda are blessed with three wonderful daughters and sons-in-law, along with five energetic and amazing grandchildren with the anticipation of welcoming another grandchild in the near future.



Bill Bickle is the Canadian representative for Natural Church Development (NCD). He works with businesses, faith-based organizations, and charities, focusing on optimizing leadership teams for great outcomes, fun, health and spiritual growth. Bill and his wife Marnie reside in Port Hope, where they are actively involved in restoring old houses and engaging with their local church community.