SEC Church Growth & Adventist Mission Department

*Healthier Growing Churches across our Conference.*

We all agree that there is room for improving the health of all our churches, plants and groups throughout the SEC. The SEC through this Department encourages the use of the Natural Church Development, or any other tool, in the process of creating, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, healthier congregations across the SEC.

NCD PROCESS AND CHECKLIST

***PREPARING FOR NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD) IN THE LOCAL CHURCH OR CHURCH PLANT:***

1. Prepare the congregation with a mini series of sermons based on the Biblical principles for healthy and growing churches.
2. Meet with your leadership team and share why you think the NCD process will help the church. Make sure they understand that this is not a programme.
3. Evaluate the readiness of the congregation to engage in the process *(Major conflicts should be resolved before entering the NCD process)*
4. Share the plan with the whole church for their agreement.
5. Select 15-30 key leaders and members who are very involved with the church who will take the survey.
6. Mobilize intercessors for focused prayer throughout the process.
7. Recruit initial members for the implementation team *(see below).*
8. Order the Survey through 

**A Special discount of 20% has been agreed with Rev L Chetcuti who is a very helpful a good friend and very appreciative of the work of the SDA Church.**

**Please also note that after the church Pastor receives the results of the survey, the Church Growth department will pay for one 20 minute telephone consultation with Rev L Checuti. Those of our Pastors who have done it have found it very helpful.**

***SELECTING AN IMPLEMENTATION\* TEAM:***

The implementation team will serve as a guiding coalition for the church as the NCD process is implemented in the congregation. The implementation team shall consist of 6 members and the pastor. One person should be selected as the team leader.

Qualifications:

Spiritually mature

Strategic thinkers

See the Big Picture

Committed to the church becoming healthier

***IDENTIFYING THE MINIMUM FACTOR ISSUES:***

Implementation Team Leader processes the minimum factor with the entire church in a business meeting by using the “Affinity Exercise.”:

a. Each member is given one post-it note or two if the group is 20 or smaller.

b. Members are asked to pray together in pairs or triads for God’s enlightenment.

c. Each member is asked to write on the post-it note ONE reason why the minimum factor exists in the church. No names are needed on the notes.

d. The implementation team then organizes the post-it notes in front of the church according to similar categories. *(For example—Inspiring worship is the low area and several people mention the need for more planning and organization in the worship service…any notes related to this observation would be placed in the same category).* 3-4 key issues should emerge. These become major areas for the implementation team to focus on as they process potential initiatives in preparation to make recommendations to the board.

***CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY:***

Implementation team should meet for 3 months before presenting recommendations to the board. Meetings should be bi-monthly and last 1-2 hours. Six total meetings should take place. During the 3 months the following should be accomplished:

1. It is advisable that each member of the team reads Russell Burrill’s booklet entitled: “Creating Healthy Adventist Churches”. You can order copies of this booklet from the NADEI website in Resources & under Natural Church Development: <http://www.nadei.org>
2. Utilize “Health for the Harvest” and “Releasing Your Churches Potential”. Explore relevant chapters and audio related to your minimum factor. You can order these resources from the above NADEI website. (if you need any help with this, please contact us.)
3. Formulate three specific initiatives for the upcoming year that are SMART goals:

i. **S**pecific

ii. **M**easurable

iii. **A**chievable

iv. **R**elevant to Minimum Factor

v. **T**ime-Frame (a time line for implementation and evaluation)

1. . Process the proposed initiatives through the church board for implementation.
2. . Church board should empower an individual to coordinate the implementation of each initiative.
3. Process the final recommendations with the church body for ratification and implementation.
4. Implementation team should meet on an as needed basis to problem solve and make mid-course corrections.
5. Implementation team should communicate progress, prayer needs and continue to cast vision with both the leadership team and the congregation.
6. Implementation team should not consider their work completed until the church re-tests with NCD 15-18 months after the previous assessment and a new implementation team is selected.
7. Begin to process the concept that healthy churches produce healthy daughters. Reproduction is natural when a church is healthy.

***\*The NCD Implementation Manual can be borrowed from the CG Dep, as it out of print.***