

## NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD) ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

In the spring of 2008, the first NCD core team, led by Jerry Proffitt, concluded its work on the NCD characteristic – Passionate Spirituality, a process that began in 2006. In March of 2008, upon the conclusion of the first NCD team's work, a second random survey of congregational members was taken and the scores from that survey revealed that the Passionate Spirituality characteristic had improved 34% since the first survey, along with improved scores for other characteristics. The second survey also revealed that the NCD characteristic – Loving Relationships, was now the lowest scored characteristic. Jerry Proffitt reported the results of the first NCD core team's work to the Church Council in May of 2008 with the recommendation that a second NCD core team be formed to address the Loving Relationships characteristic. Council unanimously approved the formation of a second NCD team and continuation with the NCD process.

In August of 2008, a new NCD core team was formed to address the minimum characteristic Loving Relationships. The initial core team recommended and approved by Council was comprised of Jana Abbott, Tom Yingling, John Buckner, Joan Bowen, and Pastor Jacobson, with Jana Abbott appointed to lead the second round of NCD.

On November 10, 2008, the first NCD team held a transition meeting with the second NCD team to acquaint the second team with the NCD process and report on their work. Following that meeting, the second NCD core team recruited additional members to serve on the new NCD team: Anna Flynn, Mike Honas, Zoe Hoyle, Jeremy Koehler, and Joy Leimer.

On December 8, 2008 the second NCD team met with Pr. Len Dale from the Central States Synod, who guides and assists congregations using the NCD process. Pr. Dale provided an orientation and overview of NCD and directed us in the process to begin our work on Loving Relationships.

The second NCD team began its work in earnest when it held its first meeting on January 4, 2009 and explored the methods that would be used to gather information and feedback from the congregation to discern the meaning of Loving Relationships. The second NCD team will be addressing the Loving Relationships characteristic throughout the course of 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana D. Abbott  
January 8, 2009