

The logo for Natural Church Development (NCD) is located in the top right corner. It features the letters "NCD" in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a circular graphic composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent rings in shades of green, blue, and orange, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**NCD**

A solid red arrow points from the left edge of the slide towards the title text.

# **An Explanatory Word about *Natural Church Development* (NCD)**



# Natural Church Development (NCD)

If we are in the flow of **what Jesus is doing**, we will develop

*naturally,  
healthily,  
fruitfully ... as **His Church!***

**‘Natural’** = “**as a result of being ...  
a healthy church**”

## Natural Church Development **as Jesus's Idea**

*<sup>1</sup>I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser.  
<sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not **bear fruit** He takes away, and every branch that does **bear fruit** He prunes, that it may **bear more fruit** ...*

## Natural Church Development **as Jesus's Idea**

*“<sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** by itself, unless it **abides in The Vine**, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup>**I AM the Vine; you are the branches.** Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that **bears much fruit**, **for apart from Me you can do nothing.**”* – Jesus to His disciples  
(John 15:1-2, 4-5, ESV)



# NCD Church Health Survey

- **96** Questions
- **30** Respondents
- ***‘the right 30’***
- An approach informed by ...
  - nearly **30 years** of study;
  - more than **70,000 churches** surveyed;
  - in **186 countries**.

## NCD Church Health Survey Respondent Criteria

- Member of **a group** (*in growing fellowship*)
- **Actively involved** in ministry **and** performing **a regular task** (*currently involved in ministry*)
- Committed to the **life and health** of Bethesda  
(*invested in Bethesda's future*)
- **18+ years old** (*able to understand and respond*)





# **NCD Eight Quality Characteristics of Healthy & Growing Churches**

**Empowering** (Servant)

**Gift-based** (Spiritual gifts)

**Passionate** (Conviction)

**Effective** (Facilitate Fruitfulness)

**Inspiring** (God's Spirit and Truth)

**Holistic** (Sharing Life, Together)

**Need-Oriented** (MPWTA)

**Loving** (God-and-Others-Oriented)

**Leadership**

**Ministry**

**Spirituality**

**Structures**

**Worship Services**

**Small Groups**

**Evangelism**

**Relationships**



## Why NCD & Why Now?

- A **full-body** assessment (a check-up)
  - A desire to continue *a Biblically fruitful ministry* into our next 75 years
  - To ***do better, be better***, and ***pursue all*** that Jesus intends for us
  - To do the best we can ***with what God has given us*** and ***what He's called us to***
  - To listen and respond ***in faith*** and ***hope!***
- 