

# CHURCH HEALTH

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus! The Church Health Community (CHC) is alive and well, focusing on our mission “to raise up healthy churches proclaiming Christ to a hurting world.” The following are CHC members: Gary Kuehner, Ralph Owens, Jim Price, Ken Ogden, Wayne Houck, Gordy Lewis, Mike Sigman, Steve Holubec, and Scott Carr. The CHC met twice since the 2016 National Conference.

The CHC offers help to EC churches/pastors in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, refocus, revitalization, and church health assessment. The following five resources/helps are provided free of charge to EC churches.

**EVANGELISM (A Story Worth Telling: How God Uses Your Story to Tell his Story).** This training event, focusing on the importance of your story (how you came to know Jesus and how he has impacted your life), equips people to share their faith in a natural, non-threatening way.

**DISCIPLESHIP (4TD – Four Tier Discipleship).** This template, based on Christ’s teaching contexts, encourages people to engage in four tiers or levels of discipleship: the crowd (congregational), the twelve (small groups), the inner circle (triads/quads), and the beloved disciple (one-on-one).

**REFOCUS (How to Be a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century).** This training event, based on Acts 2:42-47, is designed to help people focus/refocus on the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20).

**REVITALIZATION (Turnaround Church Affinity Group).** This group is for pastors who want to see their churches revitalized. Group members read “Leading Turnaround Churches” by Gene Wood and discuss how assigned reading material relates to their life and ministry. Frequency of meetings is determined by the group

**CHURCH HEALTH ASSESSMENT (Natural Church Development).** Natural Church Development (NCD) is a process that measures eight quality characteristics that are essential to local church health: empowering leadership, gift-based ministry, passionate spirituality, effective structures, inspiring worship services, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships. The NCD survey is used to measure each quality characteristic. Follow up coaching with a credentialed NCD coach is provided to assist in analyzing survey results.

If your local church is interested in any of the above mentioned resources/helps, please contact Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate, for more information.

At present, six of our CHC members are certified NCD coaches: Gary Kuehner, Gordy Lewis, Ralph Owens, Scott Carr, Jim Price, and Ken Ogden. Six of our local churches have engaged in the NCD process since the 2016 National Conference.

The CHC continues to work with the Christian Education Committee/Youth Network Leadership Team (led by Steve Holubec) and the EC Men’s Ministry (led by Wayne Houck). A FAT (Friday After Thanksgiving) Lock-In for youth took place at Ozzy’s in Leesport, PA November 25-26, 2016. Over 200 were in attendance. An EC Men’s Ministry gathering took place at Twin Pines April 21-22, 2017.

**Future Plans:** The CHC plans to have a link on the EEC website in the near future. This should be up and running by the time of the 2017 National Conference. Also, the CHC plans to develop an assessment tool and a team of coaches for church revitalization.

***Dr. Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate***