

# CHURCH HEALTH

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus! And greetings from the CHC! What a joy it is to be on a team of servant leaders who are committed to raising up healthy churches. The CHC team members include Revs. Gary Kuehner, Ralph Owens, James Price, Kenneth Ogden, Wayne Houck, Gordon Lewis, Michael Sigman, Robert Valentine, and Scott Carr. The CHC met twice (March 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018) since the 2017 National Conference.

The CHC continues to offer help to EC churches/pastors in five specific areas: evangelism, discipleship, refocus, revitalization, and church health assessment. These resources are offered free of charge to our EC churches. The following are brief descriptions/explanations of these five resources.

**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 or model, based on the teaching approach of Jesus, 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 churches focus/refocus on the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20). Six topics are considered: discipleship, fellowship, prayer, ministry, worship, and evangelism.

**REVITALIZATION (The 7 Re's of Revitalization).** This training event offers realistic help and hope that can move your church from survival to revival. Using biblical principles and life experiences, this training event considers seven topics: restoring hope; refocusing on the mission; re-educating your people; restructuring to accomplish the mission; rejoicing in your success; reflecting on what you've done; and resolving to stay on course.

Since our 2017 National Conference, I have encouraged District Field Directors to start/lead revitalization groups in their respective districts. I am pleased to report that at least five such groups are meeting, using various resources (books) to stimulate discussion. If you are interested in starting a revitalization group and would like some guidance, please contact Gary Kuehner (610-914-2983 or [gkuehner@eccenter.com](mailto:gkuehner@eccenter.com)).

**CHURCH HEALTH ASSESSMENT (Natural Church Development).** Natural Church Development (NCD) is a process that measures (using a survey) 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. Follow up coaching with a credentialed NCD coach is provided to assist in analyzing survey results.

The CHC has six certified NCD coaches. At this point in time, six EC churches are at various stages in the NCD process, working with four of our coaches.

The CHC oversees the work of the Christian Education/Youth Network Leadership Team. We are pleased to announce that Robert Valentine is now leading this work. One of Rob's goals is to develop district and denominational teams of youth workers. Once again, a Friday after Thanksgiving lock-in for youth is planned for Ozzy's in Leesport, PA on November 23-24, 2018. A special thanks for Denise Kalisz who served as the registrar for the 2017 lock-in.

The CHC also oversees the EC Men's Ministry led by Wayne Houck. A men's event is planned for Saturday, September 22, 2018. This one day event will be held at Trinity Lighthouse Church in Royersford, PA. The theme will be "Rock Solid Men."

Future meetings of the CHC are scheduled for September 26, 2018, February 27, 2019, and September 25, 2019.

Check out the CHC link on the ECC website. Thank you, Brenda Long, for getting this up and running.

More and more churches are utilizing CHC resources. Praise the Lord! Our prayer is that God will continue to bless the work of the CHC as we continue our pursuit "to raise up healthy churches proclaiming Christ to a hurting world."

A Servant of the Savior,

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