

Tool Kits for Church Health Available through the Church Health Commission:

Church Health Facilitators

Church Health Facilitation (CHF) is a process on the part of coaches that help church leaders improve the health of their congregational environment. Although church leaders often perceive that something is amiss, they may need to acquire a better diagnostic process in order to understand the actual difficulty and generate a remedy. The role of CHF coaching is to sharpen this diagnostic process and assist the group to uncover, diagnose and implement corrective measures for a particular problem.

The Urban Network

The Urban Network is a team of local pastors and lay people eager to support and encourage urban and multi-cultural ministries in the churches throughout the E.C. denomination. Through annual seminars and programs, the challenge to recognize the need for these ministries is presented. Opportunities for partnerships are available. The city is a mission field. How can you serve?

Natural Church Development

Do you want your church to be all that God wants it to be? If so, then NCD may be for you. Begun in Germany and tested around the world, NCD is helpful in all types of churches because it builds on a balanced understanding of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The basic tool of NCD is a survey to be taken periodically by thirty active

congregants and a separate form to be filled out by the pastor. This survey measures church health in eight quality areas in order to help you decide where to concentrate your efforts. NCD does not do the work for you, nor does it tell you how to go about the work. It helps you only to decide on what areas you might concentrate. See your Conference Minister for details.

Vision 20/20

The Vision 20/20 process is a way for mature congregations to think through what the 21st Century ministry of their church should be and to institute the changes required to meet the challenge. The first step of the process is to assess their church's strengths and weaknesses and what challenges they now face. They next determine what faith values their members hold above all and what they see as their unique ministry purpose and mission opportunities. Finally they are asked to develop a long-range vision for their church. The result is the basis for rethinking what they are doing now and reformulating their activities to minister more effectively both to their own members and to those around them that need to hear the gospel. This can help a church that knows it needs to change with a process that will help them to find new ministry directions.

Training opportunities

Just-in-time seminars and workshops aimed at meeting a specific need.

In order to get access to one of these tool kits call 1-800-866-7581 or check the Church Health Commission link at www.eccenter.com



SUMMER 2006



CHURCH HEALTH
COMMISSION

REACHING
A HURTING
WORLD
THROUGH
HEALTHY
CHURCHES



A Healthy Church for a Hurting World

John and Mary Everyman are from out of town. John's work has been downsized and he is forced to take a transfer to keep his job. This leads them to buy a house in our town. Mary has had to leave her family and friends behind, as well as her occupation in order to relocate to this area, so new to them.

Their children, Sam and Sue, in their teens, resisted the move but reluctantly packed their things, said goodbye to their friends, got in the car and came here.

The Everyman's arrive at their new residence with anxious minds. They are concerned about several "problems" that seem to follow them wherever they go. Never able to get out of debt, this move will put them further behind, especially with the loss of Mary's income. This financial pressure has affected their marriage. The strain between them has begun to show in tensions with their teenaged children.

Without the support of having extended family nearby, John and Mary begin to wonder "will we ever find peace of mind"? Then one evening there is a knock at their door. Neighbors Tom and Pat have come calling with a warm welcome and a hot casserole for dinner. It smells delicious! After some introductions and getting acquainted conversation, Tom and Pat invite them to their church on Sunday. Something about their enthusiasm and the joy they radiate overcomes the Everymans' inclination to say no.

On Sunday, they are warmly welcomed by several other couples and soon find themselves at ease at Community E.C. Church. The music is uplifting and the pastor's message stirs their hearts. After the service, one of the young couples invites them to a small group that meets in their neighborhood on Thursday evenings. They are told that the small group meets to share prayer needs and to study some wonderful material on parenting. John and Mary are further blessed as they think, wow how did they know we needed help on parenting?

Sam and Sue are invited to several youth activities. This includes offers to pick them up and bring them home. At a time when it is hard to make new friends, this seems like a great place to start.

A Church that Redeems, Just as Jesus intended

Does the story of the Everymans' discovery of a healthy church sound like a "fairy tale" - too good to be true? Would you like your church to become such a life-giving congregation?

The healthy church, one which is "redemptive" fulfills the mission of Jesus.

The mission is reflected in Jesus' quotation of the prophet Isaiah in Luke 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.

A CHURCH EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

The redemptive church is empowered by the Spirit of God to preach salvation in Christ while meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people regardless of who they are, how they are and where they are. It can free them from the oppression of their bodies and souls and lead them into God's Kingdom.

The earliest church contained Christians, described in Acts 2:42-47 as those who confessed Christ through baptism and were first devoted to teaching, fellowship and

prayer. Through them, God showed his presence and his power. They ministered to one another in practical ways. By the Spirit working in them, others were drawn to God.

This was a preaching, teaching, caring, sharing, praying and serving church.

Is it surprising, then, that their numbers increased dramatically.

God uses such a redemptive church to build His Kingdom.



YOUR CHURCH

Your local church can become just such a too-good-to-be-true congregation. It can be a people who reaches out to those who are caught in the grip of sin and self destruction, who yearn for a clear, unchanging word of truth, shared by loving and caring persons, empowered by prayer—a church that grows Christians.

The church health commission exists to help your church become healthy and redemptive in order to reach your hurting world.