

Off The Plateau—

From Plateau to Growth—A Church Training Resource
Northern California Conference • Seventh-day Adventist Church

This training resource is designed to help pastors and church leaders in NCC engage in a five-step NCD process to help churches increase the health of their church by giving them a process to discover and address the key issues constricting their health and growth."

The training will unfold through three integrated formats—a podcast, a webinar, and an in-person Transforming Church Lab—anchored by an intentional commitment to prayer as the foundation for all that we do.

THE EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF GROWING CHURCHES (NCD)

01

Empowering Leadership

Wednesday, April 16, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

In healthy growing churches, leaders multiply ministry by empowering others rather than doing everything themselves. Empowering leaders invest in people, delegate responsibility, and create space for the whole congregation to flourish.

Key Theme: Leaders equip and release others into ministry, multiplying impact by building up rather than holding on to authority.

02

Gift-Oriented Ministry

Thursday, May 21, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Growing churches mobilize every member to serve according to their unique, God-given gifts. When ministry is gift-oriented, people serve with joy and effectiveness because they are doing what they were made to do.

Key Theme: Every believer is identified, equipped, and deployed in ministry according to their spiritual gifts.

03

Passionate Spirituality

Thursday, June 18, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Healthy churches are marked by a faith that is alive, contagious, and deeply personal. Members do not simply attend church — they live their faith with conviction, joy, and a wholehearted love for God.

Key Theme: Faith lived with wholehearted devotion, spiritual practices, and a contagious personal relationship with God.

04

Functional Structures

Thursday, July 16, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

In growing churches, organizational structures exist to serve the mission of God — not to preserve tradition or protect institutional comfort. Healthy structures are regularly evaluated and reformed to support growth.

Key Theme: Structures and programs are continuously evaluated and aligned to serve the mission, not maintain the status quo.

05

Inspiring Worship Service

Thursday, August 20, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Growing churches offer worship experiences that are spiritually alive, contextually relevant, and transformationally powerful. Every gathering is crafted to draw people into a genuine encounter with the living God.

Key Theme: Every worship gathering is designed to create authentic encounter with God and move people toward life change.

06

Holistic Small Groups

Thursday, September 17, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Healthy churches develop small groups that go beyond Bible study to address the whole person — nurturing spiritual formation, deep community, and outward mission. Small groups become the primary place where disciples are made.

Key Theme: Small groups nurture whole-life transformation by integrating spiritual growth, authentic community, and shared mission.

07

Need-Oriented Evangelism

Thursday, October 15, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Growing churches reach their communities by genuinely engaging the real felt needs of people outside the church. Evangelism begins with listening, serving, and building bridges of authentic care that naturally open doors to conversations about faith.

Key Theme: Evangelism begins by meeting real needs, building bridges of genuine care that lead people to encounter the gospel.

08

Loving Relationships

Thursday, November 19, 2026 • 12:30–1:00 PM

Healthy churches are defined by a culture of genuine love, radical hospitality, and belonging that is visible to both members and outsiders. This quality of relationship is what makes a church attractive to seekers and sustaining for believers.

Key Theme: A congregation marked by authentic care, reconciliation, and radical hospitality that makes love the defining quality of community life.

HOW THE TRAINING WORKS

This training is delivered through three complementary formats, each designed to meet leaders where they are and move them forward at a sustainable pace.



Podcast Series

All selected podcast series will explore in depth how to implement the Natural Church Development (NCD) process to help churches increase their health by providing a clear pathway to identify and address the key issues constricting their health and growth, with a special focus on raising the **Minimum Factor** in one of the **eight quality characteristics of growing churches**. Episodes will feature conversations with church leaders, who have navigated the journey from plateau to growth. Leaders can listen individually or use episodes as discussion starters with their leadership teams.

Format: Audio and video episodes, 20–20 minutes each • Frequency: One session per each of the five steps in the implementing process for NCD (5 total) • Owner Jose and Ministerial Team



Interactive Webinars

Live webinar training sessions for pastors and church leaders across the conference to explore each one of the eight characteristics of growing in depth. Recordings will be available for those who cannot attend live.

Format: Live virtual sessions via Stream yard • Frequency: One session per each of the eight characteristics for growing churches (8 total) • Duration: 30 minutes per session • Recording: Available to all registered participants • Owner Jose and Ministerial Team



Whole-Brain Discipleship Lab

A quarterly sabbath afternoon, in-person discipleship Lab to be held at the Conference office. This ten-month pilot program, beginning in January of 2026 and running through October, is designed to help pastors and church leaders develop and implement whole-brain disciple formation pathways in their local congregations.

Format: In-person, full-day intensive • January-October 2027 • Location: Northern California Conference • Who should attend: Pastors, elders, and key ministry leaders

WEEKLY PRAYER CALL

Every Wednesday • 7:00 – 8:00 AM

Prayer is not a program add-on — it is the engine of this work. Join us every Wednesday as we seek God together for our churches.