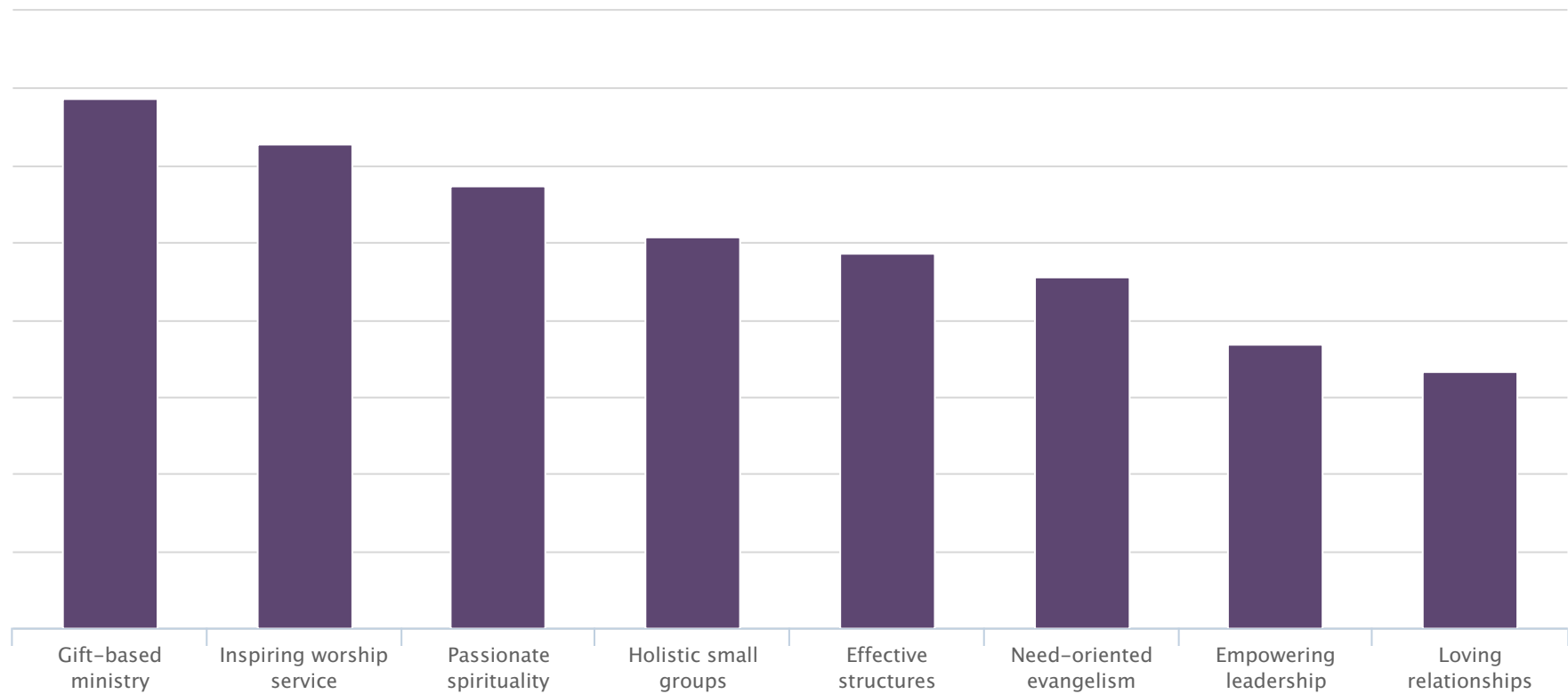


Example Church from the perspective of **Example Survey Participant**

Thursday 11 August 2016



About your profile

This *NCD Perspective* profile is based on *just your personal responses* to your church's Natural Church Development (NCD) Survey. Once the responses you have already submitted are combined with the responses of all of the other survey participants to produce your church's overall result, it may look similar or very different to what you see here. That will depend on how similar your experience of your church life is to the average member.

The categories on the chart are called the *eight quality characteristics* of NCD. They emerged from global research of healthy growing churches. They are essential principles for churches of any kind or size to experience increasing fruitfulness, both in the quality of church life and the number of people who would like to be a part of it.

Based on your personal responses, it would seem that one of the areas you most appreciate and perhaps comes most naturally to yourself or your church is *Gift-based ministry*. The underlying concern behind Gift-based ministry is serving together with others by using your unique God-given abilities.

On the other hand, one of the areas that your personal responses suggest comes less naturally to yourself or to your church is *Loving relationships*. The underlying concern behind Loving relationships is removing barriers and finding ways to connect the people of your church with each other.



Supporting your church leaders through this process

Along with every other church member, you have a unique perspective on church life based on your own experiences and interaction with others. When it comes to guiding your church forward, the leadership of your church must bring together the guidance of God and the *collective* experiences of the broader congregation. In initiating the NCD Church Survey process, your leadership is endeavouring to do this to a greater extent. There are a few steps you can take to support them in this process:

- You have already taken the first step by providing your responses to the NCD Church Survey. Their eyes and ears cannot be in all places at all times and so your responses combined with others will dramatically increase their vision capacity.
- Since your leaders must focus on the overall result and not just their own or other individual's perspectives, they will need some time to reflect on the results and think of what it all means for them at a personal level and for the sake of your church. Please *give them space to do so and pray for them during this process*.
- Based on your own perspective of church life as shown through the chart above, seek out leaders who have played a part in developing the strengths shown there (e.g. Gift-based ministry) and *find some way to affirm and encourage them*. Those strengths that you personally experience within church life didn't appear out of nowhere. People of influence have partnered with God in bringing them about, in some cases for quite a long time.
- Finally, you can further support your leaders to help your church become as healthy and fruitful as possible by considering the practical steps in the following sections.



Relating to your church's overall result

As mentioned, your leaders will need some space to be able to consider the collective results for your church. Due to very different dynamics that can become apparent through the results, along with other factors in church life, your leaders may be advised to work through the results more as a smaller group or perhaps with wider involvement. Either way, you can help your church make progress by taking the steps mentioned earlier and the ones outlined in the next section. However, if you are invited to reflect on the overall results for your church, take along your *NCD Perspective* profile to the meeting, either on a device, or by downloading and printing it off, and consider the following:

Your church's *highest* quality characteristic

- If, when you see your church's overall results, the *highest* scoring quality characteristic is one of the four highest on your *NCD Perspective* profile, then lead the way in celebrating that strength as a church. Affirm those who have influenced that area in church life and honor their partnership with God in making visible that aspect of God's Kingdom, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
- If your church's highest quality characteristic is *not* in the four highest on your *NCD Perspective* profile, then take some time to reflect on why many in your church *do* have a positive experience of that area. Ask them about their experiences and perhaps share with them why you don't experience that area as positively as they do.

Your church's *lowest* quality characteristic

- If your church's *lowest* scoring quality characteristic is one of the four lowest on your *NCD Perspective* profile, it is very important that you speak up about your experiences of that area when invited to comment on your church's results. Keep in mind that the majority of people in your church have a similar experience to yourself in terms of that lowest area (which is why it ended up scoring lower). It may be that you will be speaking up for some who are not present in the discussion or are too shy to share their experiences. Of course, your experiences will not be exactly the same as others who scored that area low, however the combined perceptions from people like yourself will help paint the picture of what those challenges look like in church life and provide clues about how to move forward with them.
- If your church's lowest quality characteristic is *not* in the four lowest on your *NCD Perspective* profile, then please ask questions of others and listen to their experiences of that area. Take some time to reflect on why many in your church *do not* have as positive an experience of your church's lowest area as you perhaps do. Ask them about their experiences and perhaps share with them why you experience



that area more positively than they do. Also, consider what the experience of newcomers to your church will be—either when they first make contact or when they start to become more involved—as a result of your church's lowest quality characteristic.

Whether your perspective of church life is very similar to the majority, or very different, there is an important contribution you can make, both to the church as a whole (in accordance with the above points) and in your sphere of influence on the basis of your *NCD Perspective* profile.



What you can do right away

Whether or not your perspective is similar to the overall result for your church, it is your experience of church life and maybe also reflects the experience of some of your family or friends. So, quite apart from whatever work you or others do to develop your church as a whole, there is great value in you taking some simple steps for the sake of your particular sphere of influence. Consider the following options:

- [Cycle Starters](#) are simple action steps you can do to develop your sphere of influence and your church as a whole. Just [look up](#) the quality characteristic you would like to address and get started!
- [The All By Itself Pathway](#) is a short booklet written by the founder of NCD. In a conversational style, it introduces the eight quality characteristics, including Gift-based ministry and Loving relationships. Available in [paperback](#) and [eBook](#).
- Online [eTests](#) are available to help you more specifically understand your role in each of the NCD quality characteristics. With more available soon, the currently available eTests relate to:
 - [Empowering leadership](#)
 - [Gift-based ministry](#)
 - [Holistic small groups](#)
- Specific books are available to deepen your understanding of each quality characteristic. These are part of the [NCD Discipleship Series](#). Each book also includes a personal test for helping you determine your starting point with respect to the given topic (some available above as eTests in online format). Bulk discounts also apply if you would like to explore the topic as a group or as a whole church. With more under development, the currently available books relate to:
 - [Empowering leadership](#)
 - [Gift-based ministry](#)
 - [Passionate spirituality](#)
 - [Holistic small groups](#)
 - [Loving relationships](#)
- The NCD [Communal Test](#) provides a direct connection between the NCD quality characteristics and the kind of people best able to contribute to developing each one. It will help you find out which of these areas you can significantly influence within the life of your church and beyond.

