

## HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

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### Natural Church Development (NCD)

There is **hope**  
for every local church in the  
North Alabama Conference to experience  
**growth**  
and that hope is revealed through  
**Natural Church Development**  
*Rev. Dale Cohen*  
*Dir. of Connectional Ministries*



Natural Church Development is an important resource in the district and conference to produce healthy church growth. We encourage churches, assisted by their NCD coach in collaboration with the pastor to utilize NCD for a healthy congregation. NCD resources are available in the District Resource Center for churches to use.

Click [Natural Church Development](#) for more information on NCD at the conference site. You may also be interested in:

- [NCD and Your Church](#)
- [NCD Introductory Video](#)

A testimonial to the effectiveness of NCD in the district is this 2008 article on Dadeville First UMC.



See [NCD sparks growth, excitement at Dadeville First](#)

## Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



In addition to Natural Church Development, the district is also a proponent of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Some churches in the district have found this resource helpful in their growth and development. Resources needed to implement this program are in the District Resource Center.

Five practices of fruitful congregations are:

- Radical hospitality
- Passionate worship
- Intentional faith development
- Risk-taking mission and service
- Extravagant generosity

To lead the congregation through the five practices, begin by taking a look at the resources at [Cokesbury online](#).