

Support the Movement

We believe we are responding to God's call to reach more people, more young people and more diverse people for Jesus Christ.

We seek to share God's love with everyone through creating new places for new people to experience the Good News!

We have witnessed God raising up new leaders, equipped in a variety of ways, so join us on this journey of starting new United Methodist Churches across the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Fund the Movement

To fuel this movement the Alabama-West Florida Conference seeks financial partners!

Does the idea of raising new leaders for new congregations hold a special place in your heart?

Do you want to make a real difference in shaping the future of The United Methodist Church?

Have you received deep meaning from being a part of a new, vibrant congregation?

If you answered "Yes" to any of those questions, you are ready and need to make a vital difference in the lives of many through investing in new church start missionaries, their teams and churches starting churches.

Pray for the Movement

As a prayer partner you are helping to build our conference's church planting movement through prayer.

Every gift, whether large or small, is **an investment in the Kingdom of God**. Please make checks payable to: *Alabama-West Florida Conference* and mail to: Congregational Development Office, 2600 W. Strong St., Pensacola, FL 32505.

For more information about ways your congregation can be involved in church planting ministry, please contact us.



Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

These are the practices that lead to excellence and fruitfulness. By fully engaging these practices churches move toward fulfilling their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Imagine!

A fruitful, vital, missional congregation...
what does it look like?

Radical Hospitality

Passionate Worship

Intentional Faith Development

Risk-taking Mission and Service

Extravagant Generosity

Seminars are being developed to help imbed these words into a congregation's culture, and to stimulate conversation and commitment about the mission of the church throughout the entire congregation, helping people understand the "why" of church life which is a source of real motivation and passion for ministry.

"Becoming A More Inviting Church"

Got Questions?

During our time together we will help answer your questions.

Imagine... what would happen if more people understood that church isn't just a building but **people** on a mission to share love and hope. In Jesus' final instructions to his friends, he said this, **"a new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."**

(John 13:35) There is probably no better measure of a person's connection to Jesus than seeing how that person loves others.

If you're on a quest to discover how to become more inviting.

Will you come and journey with us?

Seminars for the above are forthcoming. They will be posted at www.awfumc.org

If you would like information on how your church can become a site host church for a seminar, please contact Sandy, AWF Office of Congregational Development at sgutting@mchsi.com or 850.430.4300.

The Office Of Congregational Development

Exists

**To Enable The United Methodist Churches Of The
Alabama-West Florida Area To Better Fulfill Their Mission
By:**

- **Starting New Congregations and**
- **Assisting Existing Congregations To Excel In Ministry**

- New Places for New People
- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
- Natural Church Development
- Demographic Information
- Leadership Seminars
- Visionary Shares

We care about helping every church—large or small
to excel in ministry! Please contact us today:

Office of Congregational Development

Sandy Gutting, Office Administrator
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Pensacola, FL 32505
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Office: 850-430-4300
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new places for new people

The Board of Congregational Development is actively engaging new church ministries in our conference. New churches create new places for new people, often un-churched people, and thus typically reach many new people for Christ. The Board of Congregational Development has put together a comprehensive process for starting new congregations. This plan includes an extensive discernment/assessment process for determining potential church planters along with providing appropriate training. It includes a support component partnering a new church pastor and congregation with a healthy mother church, a district support team, and the Board of Congregational Development. In addition the plan calls for a continual/supportive evaluative relationship with the new church as it moves to becoming a fully self-supporting congregation.

A person can enter the church planter assessment process either by nomination by his/her District Superintendent or by self-selection. The discernment process is designed to help determine if the potential new church pastor has the call of God and the gifts and graces to engage this special ministry. If you feel you may be called to this ministry, please let your District Superintendent know and then visit our Conference web site www.awfumc.org click on Ministries-Congregational Development and click on the two (2) assessment tools. One is "Am I Being Called To Plant A New Church" and the other is a spiritual gifts assessment. Please complete both of these and forward the results to Sandy Gutting (sgutting@mchsi.com), Office of Congregational Development.

Those who successfully complete the assessment process will be placed on a list made available to the Bishop and the Cabinet. Of course you will discuss with your District Superintendent when is best for you to be considered for a new church appointment. Please note that completion of the process does not guarantee that you will be appointed to launch a new church.

If you have any questions, please call or email Neil McDavid (334.356.8014; neil@awfumc.org), Director of Connectional Ministries or Sandy Gutting, Office of Congregational Development. (850.430.4300; sgutting@mchsi.com)

Natural Church Development



- You will find through Natural Church Development "NCD" a greater understanding of how God wants his church to grow. You will learn how to release the growth potential within your church and take the next steps to becoming a healthy, growing, reproducing church.

WHAT DOES THE TERM 'NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT' MEAN?

Natural Church Development means what it says... Living organisms grow, bear fruit and reproduce naturally - God made them to do this - so long as they are fed, watered and kept healthy. This is true of people. It is true of animals. It is true of plants. And it is true of the church. The church is a living organism. When we tend to the baseline health of the church, the growth then follows automatically. This is more than theory. The Natural Church Development program, based on the idea above, has demonstrated that when churches get to a certain level of health, they ALWAYS grow. Location, population, average age of the members - none of these factors will stop a church from growing, when that church is really healthy.

WHAT CAN A LOCAL CHURCH DO WITH ALL THIS?

1. Contact Sandy at the Office of Congregational Development or Barbara Sadler our NCD Consultant 334.805.7044 to get more information and to express interest in doing Natural Church Development.
2. Make a covenant with a NCD Consultant (trained by the Office of Congregational Development) to work with the church for one year.
3. Thirty members take a survey asking about their experience of church life.
4. Based on the survey, one area is highlighted as a priority for immediate work.
5. The church forms a Church Health Team who works for one year overseeing the development of the area chosen.
6. At the end of a year, the Consultant administers a second survey as a way of measuring improvement.

A Web Based Information Service for Your Church—Exclusively Available Through Your Alabama-West Florida Conference-Office of Congregational Development.

Is there a cost? NO

How to get there...

1. Type www.link2lead.com
2. To register for the first time, select the REGISTER button on the left menu



Do the ages of people in your congregation reflect the ages of people in your community? Do the racial and economic make-ups of your congregation reflect that of your community? Do the ministries in your congregation reflect the needs of the people in your community? Answering these questions requires having accurate, objective demographic information about your community. The Annual Conference has contracted with Percept® so that this information is available to you online for free. If you have difficulty registering your church on the Link2lead site, please call Sandy Gutting, Office of Congregational Development 850.430.4300 and she will assist you.

Included Standard Resources.....



Member View-is the simplest and most powerful Member Household location resource available.

ChurchLink NEW! Would you like to see who our 200 closest neighboring churches are?

ichange The iChange & iLeadType surveys are designed to assess a person's response to change, and characteristics of their leadership style.



Would you like to know how the programs your church offers match up to the interests of people living in your community?



What changes are projected? What are some faith facts I can learn about people in the area? The answers to these questions and dozens of others are located in the 10 Facts Series. Use the 10 Questions Workshop and Worksheet to introduce the 10 Facts Series to leaders in your church.



First View is Percept's six-page, full color, graphical demographic report on a selected study area. Create any study area boundary or a radius around the church a county boundary or a selected zip code area.