

# Natural Church Development *summary* guide

**The progress and  
current church life  
tendency of...**

The Salvation Army UK

Territory

November-2013


*Comes more naturally to us*

1 Faith

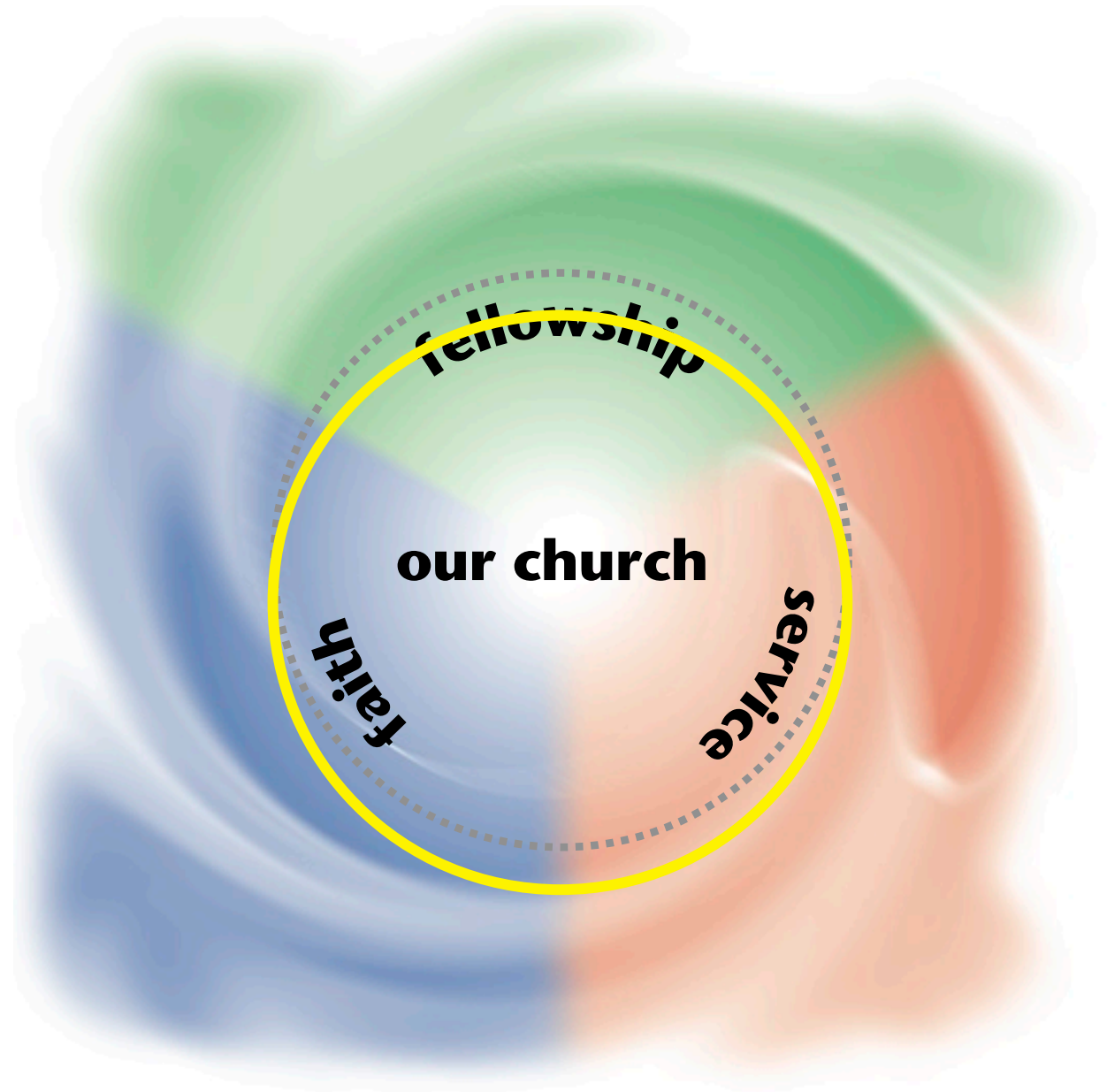
2 Service

3 Fellowship

*Does not come as naturally to us*

Our current church life tendency 

A balanced church 





# NCD *summary* guide

## The progress and current church life tendency of...

### The Salvation Army UK Territory November-2013

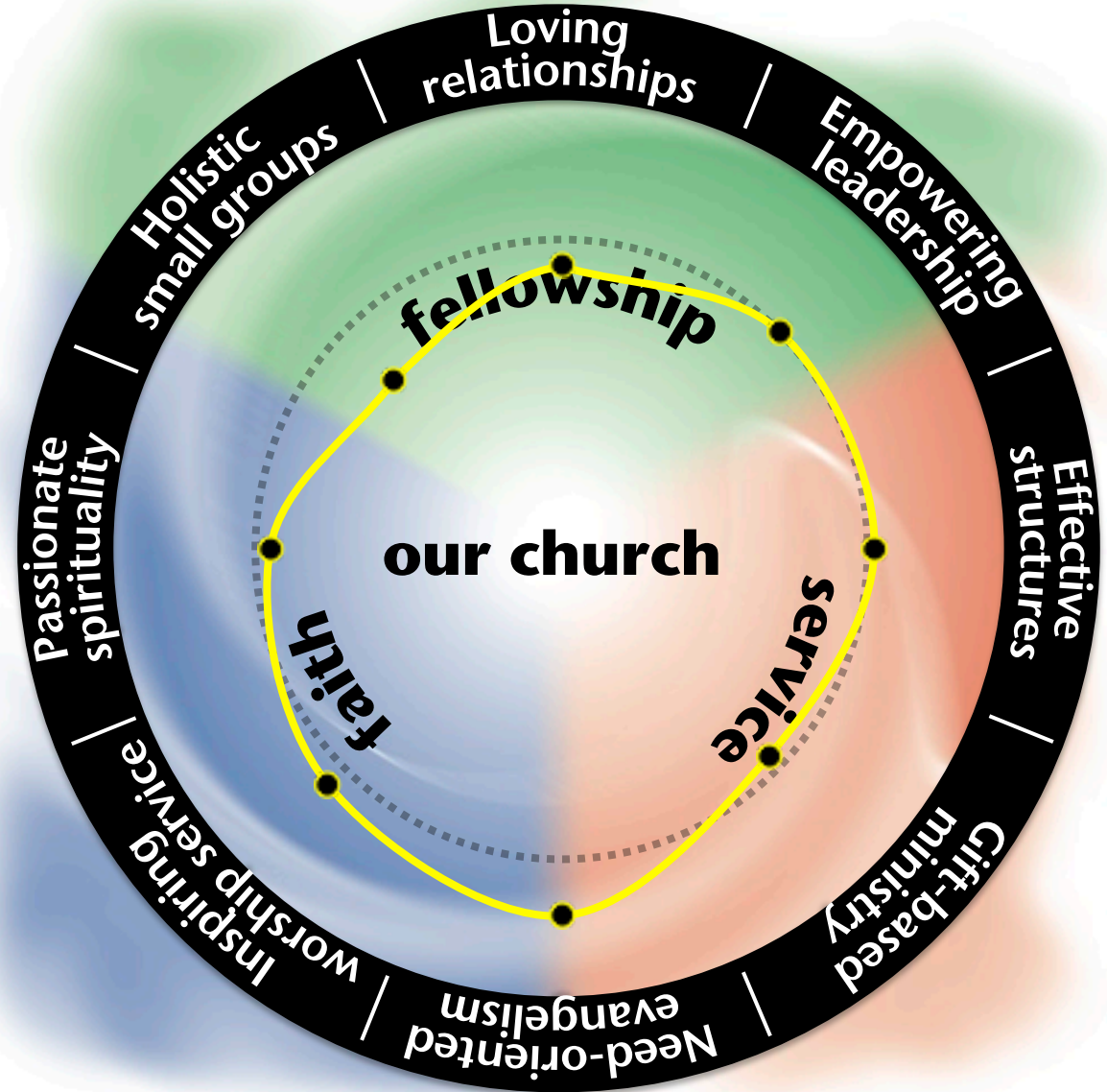
*Comes more naturally to us*

- 1 Need-oriented evangelism
- 2 Inspiring worship service
- 3 Effective structures
- 4 Empowering leadership
- 5 Gift-based ministry
- 6 Passionate spirituality
- 7 Loving relationships
- 8 Holistic small groups

*Does not come as naturally to us*

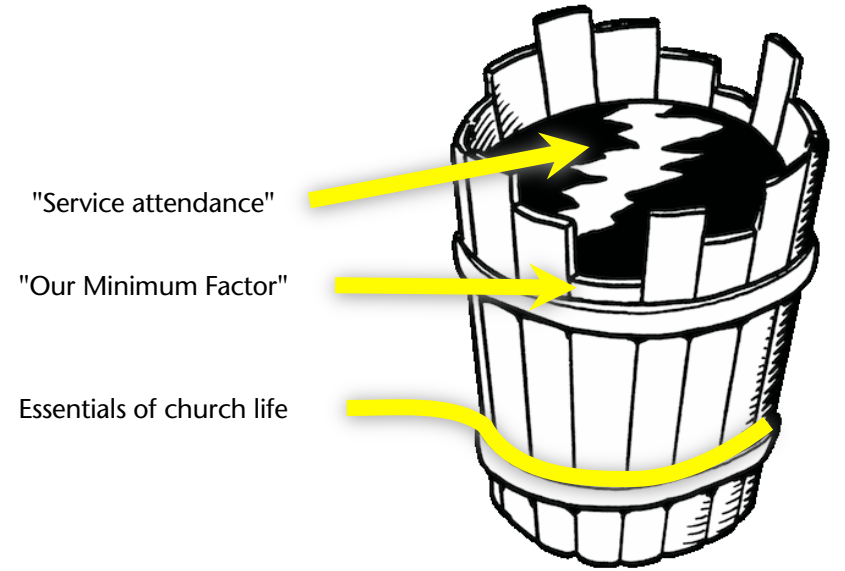
Our current quality characteristic tendencies 

Our current quality characteristic average 

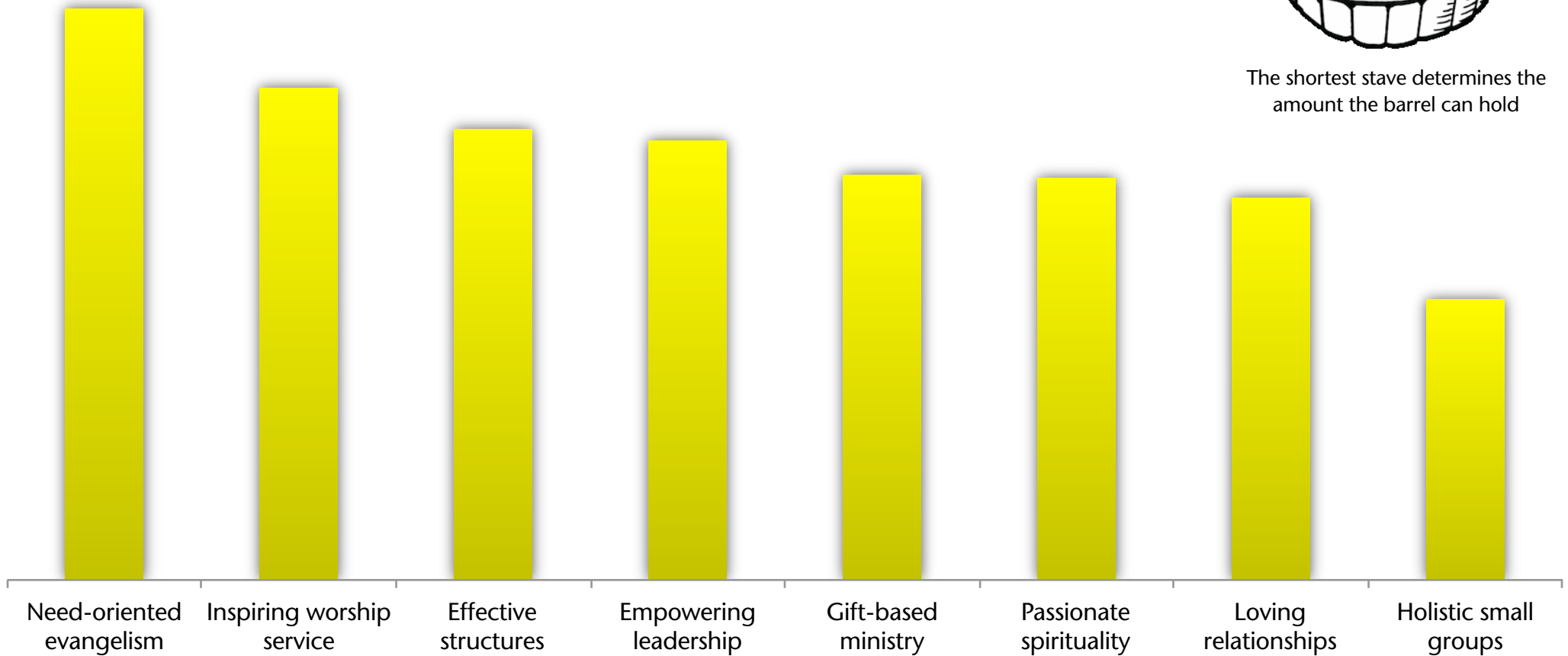




# NCD *summary* guide



The shortest stave determines the amount the barrel can hold





# Summary Guide thoughts and questions

This NCD Summary guide provides an overview of your church's current NCD Survey results intended to draw out questions for ongoing discussion.

## **Your current church life tendency (page 1)**

Seeing the church in terms of fellowship, service and faith is one of the longest standing ways of defining the essentials of church life. Based on your church's NCD Survey responses, the diagram on page 1 indicates which of these aspects are more or less emphasised in your church right now and therefore which one comes more naturally in church life and which does not. NCD research strongly indicates that balance across these three areas is one of the essential keys to long-term sustainable healthy church growth. If your church is relatively balanced, then aspects within each area can be further developed according to the detail that will follow in the results.

## **Your tendencies in a little more detail (page 2)**

In the background of fellowship, service and faith, presented in the black circle on page 2, is a more detailed breakdown indicating eight essential areas of church life. This diagram shows more specifically why the more natural and less natural areas from page 1 have emerged. You will see that some of these eight aspects are inside the grey broken line as they are either under-emphasised or not yet well understood and therefore do not come as naturally to your church. Again, from an NCD research perspective, balance across all of these eight areas is an important pursuit with the least developed of these aspects currently holding back the long-term healthy growth of your church to the greatest extent right now.

## **The minimum barrel (page 3)**

Page 3 shows these 8 essential areas in their order of strength for your church. Imagine that these bars on the chart are the staves of the barrel in the picture. What you can see is that the barrel (your church) can only hold as much water (the blessings of God) as the shortest stave will allow. For example, if one of the blessings of God is the number of people you experience gathering together in your church, then that gathering will "leak" primarily because of your least developed of these eight areas.

## **Summary questions for the previous pages**

- What is your first impression about the results in your church's Summary guide? What surprises or doesn't surprise you?
- As you look at the eight essential areas on pages 2 and 3, which would you have anticipated was best developed in your church? Which one least developed?
- How do you see your church's best-developed aspects from page 1 or 3 lived out? How could these strengths be better celebrated?
- Which of the colour areas on pages 1 and 2 do you feel would be most apparent to the average newcomer to your church? Which would appear most lacking? Why?
- Given that every church has a least developed aspect, would you agree that the ones indicated on pages 1 and 3 accurately reflect your church? If not, which do you believe is least developed and why?
- God consistently grows churches in which all of these areas are well developed. So, what might your church not yet fully understand about the nature of God as seen through your least developed areas on pages 1 and 3?
- What is the simplest possible step you could personally take to improve those lowest areas? What, if anything, would prevent you from taking that step?

## **Next steps**

Speak to your pastor about your desire to be further involved in the NCD process within your church. Your involvement might be at the same time that the leadership works on their personal responses to the results or perhaps after that. In the meantime, please pray that decisions will be made in your church to more fully reflect the fullness of God's Kingdom and prepare yourself to be a part of that process of transformation.