

## History Summary of NCS:

### 1999

The vision for New Church Specialties began in the heart of the Founder & Executive Director, **Dr. Larry McKain**. On **July 1, 1999**, Larry launched the ministry NCS on a full-time faith basis. Five months into the launch of NCS, there was not enough money to make payroll because NCS had no start-up capital. Through generous gifts and donations, the ministry of NCs was able to continue.

### 2000

By January of 2000, we launched our first website. The NCS website helped communicate who NCS was, as well as establishing its competency to serve a growing number of individuals and judicatories.

Lonnie Bullock, Dan Croy, Joe Knight and Lee Woolery were drawn together in October of 2000 for a 2-day gathering to perfect the material and share training material and presentations. A brochure announcing our first training event was printed in November and sent out to every Nazarene DS and by December of 2000, enrollment was 80.

The formal control of NCS was given over to a Board of Directors when the first Board was organized on **December 11, 2000**. NCS Founding Board members were Dr. Keith Wright, Dr. Larry McKain, Rev. Ron Greeno, Dr. Lee Woolery, Dr. Jim Kraemer, Dr. David Roland and Marvin McKain. Larry was officially hired by the Board of Directors as the Executive Director on that same day.

### 2001

The following month, **16** Nazarene & Wesleyan District Superintendents attended the first New Church University, along with 142 other enrollees. Many described that first NCU as a genuine "God-moment." A powerful sense of spiritual anointing was felt by everyone who came. The district superintendents gathered during the second day and discussed both the financial challenges as well as the need for the long-term organizational stability of NCS. Out of that discussion, led by Rev. Ron Greeno and Dr. Crawford Howe, the idea of "**NCS Partnerships**" emerged and in less than 10 minutes, over \$50,000 was raised which insured NCS a more stable financial future.

In 2001, several people began helping NCS without compensation, including **Denise McKain, Lonnie & Karen Bullock** and a host of others. In 2001, as volunteers, Lonnie & Karen Bullock began the ministry of **NCS Resources**, shipping books, tapes, CDs, notebooks, shirts and other NCS products across the country. Lonnie also took over the ReFocusing Training Track at New Church University. Phil Spry, Dr. Dan Croy & Dr. Aubrey Malphurs rounded out the NCU presentation team.

### 2002

In January of 2002, **Denise McKain** began officially working for NCS about 10 hours per week as the Office Manager for the NCS Main Office. On **May 1, 2002**, NCS contracted with Lonnie Bullock to as the director of our ReFocusing & Coaching ministries and NCS Resources. Through a joint contract with NCS and his relationship with the Northwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene, Lonnie was able to work full time with NCS. NCS is deeply grateful to

**Dr. Lee Woolery** of the NW Indiana District for his support of Lonnie & NCS during this time of NCS expansion.

In 2002, **Phil Stevenson & Joe Knight** were added to NCU Presentation Team. **Bud Bennett & Ron Richmond** joined the NCU Coaching Team. **Brian Kohagen** joined to oversee the audio-visual needs of NCU. All these people on the NCU Team served without compensation because of their belief in how God was at work and the benefit being provided to pastors and church leaders.

In November of 2002, NCS had brought Phil Stevenson, Lonnie Bullock, Joe Knight and Dr. Lee Woolery together to plan the launch of NCS Parent Church Training. Phil Stevenson led the development of the curriculum in 2002.

## 2003

In June of 2003, Phil was hired as a full-time Senior Consultant. His role was to assist with Church Planting and Parent Church training through a joint contract with NCS & **Dr. Steve Babby** of the Southwest Pacific District of the Wesleyan Church. Also in 2003, NCS hired **Connie Vandersteen** to oversee our Intercession Ministry. Also, that year, the Executive Director role separated from NCU, and Lonnie Bullock became NCU Director. The number of denominational groups using NCU climbed to 18.

## 2004

In early 2004, Larry finished writing a summary of NCS learning over the first five years and the book, "Falling in Love with the Church" was published. In September of 2004, NCS hired **Jolyne Bartley** to be Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director.

## 2005

In January of 2005, Lonnie Bullock became the COO of the organization. Also, in January, **Darla Sivewright** was hired to oversee the NCS Registration Office and manage the on-site work of New Church University training. We continued to expand our Senior Staff. NCS also said good-bye to Phil Stevenson when he was elected the General Director of Evangelism & Church Growth for the Wesleyan denomination in September.

## 2006

We continued our expansion of new resources, products and training initiatives that were launched. Church Health Consultant's Training, Church Health Strategic Planning & Implementation and Church Assessment Consultant Training were all launched under the leadership of Lonnie Bullock. NCS also launched the first international New Church University, held in Naivasha, Kenya. The coaching capacity of NCS was expanded greatly in December with the addition of **Rev. Tim Gates** as the NCS national Coaching Director. The book, "Falling in Love with the Church" was translated into Spanish and NCS selected **Rev. Jose Cardona** to lead the coaching, consulting, and training efforts of Hispanic pastors. **Jeanette Trotter** was added to the NCS Team to assist in the delivery of a growing number of church planter and ReFocusing pastor assessments.

## 2007

We continue to increase our consulting capacity with several new coaches and consultants being added to the team. Through the influence of Tim Gates, doors opened for Jose Cardona

to deliver an NCU in Spanish in [Quito, Ecuador](#) with 80 pastors & church planters attending. A partnership was signed with Dr. Bernie Slingerland and the Mexico & Central America Region to serve the 7 countries of [Mexico](#), [El Salvador](#), [Honduras](#), [Nicaragua](#), [Guatemala](#), [Costa Rica](#) and [Panama](#) and 1,700 churches and 1,300 missions and new works there.

Under the leadership of Rev. Ron Greeno, [Transitional Interim Pastor Services](#) (TIPS) training was launched.

## **2008**

Jana Starner was added to lead the Church Health Office in Arizona. NCS began developing the Organic Church Network. The TIPS ministry continued to expand and NCS held its first ever, all-staff gathering in April. Darrel Maclearn was added to the staff in May to head the Organic Church Network. Scott Chamberlain was added to the team as our coaching director and Tim Gates joined the NCS Consulting Team full time, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **2009**

The focus of the ministry shifted from national training events to serving the local church. After a review of the long-term effectiveness of training events focused mostly on the pastor, we moved to a local church focus of training pastor and leaders and developed a 2 year plan to coach and resource local churches in Refocusing. We also developed our full church assessment process. After 10 years of serving as executive director, Larry McKain stepped down and Lonnie Bullock was elected as the organization's executive director.

## **2010**

NCS went through a revisioning process as we clarified our focus, rebranded the ministry and organized for future ministry. With the move to electronic delivery of resources, we discontinued providing books and printed material. We redesigned our web site and launched a brand-new website at [www.yourncs.org](http://www.yourncs.org). We expanded the ministry focus of serving the local church well. We developed a 5-year vision for the ministry. We moved the annual meeting to Phoenix, AZ.

## **2011**

As we began to implement the 5-year vision we narrowed our focus to serving pastors and local churches. We expanded our international ministry serving in several areas around the world with a focus on Healthy Pastors leading Healthy Churches. The TIPS ministry continued to grow both in numbers and impact.

## **2012**

The TIPS ministry continued to grow, and we launched [PastorMatch.org](http://PastorMatch.org) to assist churches in their pastoral search. Fifteen Nazarene districts signed on as legacy partners to help build the site. We continued to expand and develop material for the Organic Church. Larry Cook joined our management team.

## **2013**

We officially launched [PastorMatch.org](http://PastorMatch.org) with over 40 Nazarene Districts subscribed to the service. We continued to expand our work with Organic churches in several denominations. We begin to focus on developing resources to equip pastors to be healthy leaders and resourcing churches to be healthy churches. We began to expand into other denominations.

## **2014**

We continued to expand our TIPS ministry and focused our development resources on expanding our ability to serve churches in Revisioning more effectively. Our international ministry expanded into several new countries. We added David Hayes to our staff in partnership with the Southwest Indiana District with a focus on coaching both church plants and Revisioning churches. We continued to use the model for Revisioning with increased impact in local churches.

## **2015**

We redefined our coaches training and narrowed our focus to serve fewer agreements over an extended period. We moved from one-year agreements to two-year agreements with specific agendas for each year. We developed resources to assist churches in determining their mission, values, and vision. This included evaluation tools and an intentional coaching process.

## **2016**

We continued the development of resources and expansion of our international ministry which included trips to Kenya, Ukraine, Malawi, and many countries in Central America. We have now served churches in all 50 states in the US in over 40 denominational families as well as 27 different countries. We began the conversation about the succession of leadership in all areas of the ministry.

## **2017**

We evaluated and moved through a Revision process to prepare for the next season of ministry for NCS. We began to focus on pastoral health and developing resources for pastors in the areas of Relationship, Spiritual, Emotional, Financial, Calendar, Physical and Leadership health. Our TIPS ministry expanded significantly into several denominations.

## **2018**

We began to develop and communicate the 5-year plan for NCS. This included the expansion of TIPS, the development of PastorMatch and a focus on Revisioning of the local church. Don Jackson joined our management team to coordinate TIPS in the Church of God, Anderson. We spent time evaluating and researching the best path forward for NCS. We developed our transition plan and detailed a sabbatical plan for Lonnie.

## **2019**

NCS provided Lonnie with an extended sabbatical during the summer. The NCS management team developed a vision document to guide NCS for the next several years. After evaluation, conversation, and prayer, we decided to move away from our root of church planting to focus on helping leaders and churches ask and discover "What's Next?" for their lives and ministry. The new direction was affirmed by the board in the annual meeting. We celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year of ministry at our annual meeting with a celebration and reminder of all that God has and is doing.

## **2020**

What a year of adjustments, scheduling, rescheduling, and rescheduling again as we navigated COVID. We decided to delay implementing much of the new vision and focused on maintaining and adjusting as needed to serve pastors and churches. We added a new staff structure to support the new vision. David Hayes stepped away and we added Randy Craker (Nazarene),

Eric Norris (Wesleyan) and Bob Moss (Church of God, Anderson) to our management team as the TIPS coordinators for their respective denominations. We recruited a new communications team to help rebrand, develop a new website and expand PastorMatch.org. We also revisited our transition plan for leadership and established a search team for the next executive director.

## **2021**

This has been a year of implementation of the new vision. We have developed a new logo, website, and communication strategy. While we remain New Church Specialties, we are branding NCS as “NXTStep Church Services” to communicate our focus of ministry more accurately is assisting churches in transition, both pastoral and vision.