MaD TEAM

Ministry and Discipleship Team

# Purpose: To understand, encourage, challenge, and equip NELCSA congregations to love and follow Christ.

**Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow me, they must deny themselves, pick up their cross and follow me.”** Matthew 16v24-26. We confess that salvation is only through the death and resurrection of Christ. When we realise God’s forgiveness through Jesus’ death, we love and want to follow Jesus.” To love Christ is to experience Christ in our daily lives, in our good times and in our suffering.

How: The love of Christ shown in his death and resurrection. We can share this love, by seeking to live out the concept of “dying to self” for the blessing of others, walk a road with someone else with care and love in their suffering and joy, celebrate and share the joy of belonging to Christ. Live out 1 Corinthians 12v26 which says, “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured every part rejoices with it.”

# Understand

Listen, observe, ask, see, perceive, and seek to know the background, history, context and needs of the congregation.

How: Investigate where a congregation comes from and where they are now. Seek to promote an awareness of the need to understand the congregation.

# Encourage

To uplift, confirm and motivate congregations in their strengths and ministries.

How: Using the understanding received identify the strengths that can be used on the way forward.

**Challenge**

To create awareness for congregations to seek and discover God’s calling/mission to minister and equip disciples. To challenge congregations to go back to the basics of a personal relationship with God, to rediscover the Theology of the Cross, and to live out this faith in real life.

How: Ask the hard questions. What does it mean to become and be a Christian? What does it mean to have a relationship with Christ? How to have fellowship with Christians? Are you really a Christian community? Where is God at work around you and in you? Challenge preconceptions of God, others and themselves. Challenge people to act out their faith. Think outside the box.

**Equip**

Tools for congregations to love and follow Christ. Tools for congregations to discover the diverse ministries in the congregation and community around them.

How: What do you use as resources in your congregation? Are we willing to use what we discover? Create opportunities for people to live out their strengths. Encourage to make use of existing opportunities. Seek out valuable courses, articles, books, practical suggestions, etc. for congregations to be challenged and grow, to understand themselves and their communities.