

RenewalWorks

from Forward Movement

Example 1 - Announcement of RenewalWorks initiative to the parish

Dear friends:

This is one of the most important letters I've written to our parish in the six years that I've been privileged to serve among you.

The coming academic year brings exciting, new beginnings at Church Name. We're embarking upon Year Two of the Good Book Club, as together we read the four gospels and explore what it means to be a Christ centered community. And in a focused way, we will take stock of how we are growing spiritually.

Throughout the fall, a group of parishioners will be reflecting on where we are and where we are called to be. This process will begin with a survey. That's where we need your help.

I'm asking that you set aside about 30 minutes to take a Spiritual Life Survey. Unlike previous surveys done here at CHS, this survey focuses on you, on your spiritual life and how CHS helps you grow spiritually.

The survey findings will help shape decisions about how to create the best possible ministries and programs. Your feedback will directly impact how we allocate resources to further our spiritual journeys. Our Vestry voted unanimously to engage this process. The survey is anonymous, run by a third party, and we will only receive composite findings from the church as a whole. The survey is open to all parishioners, 18 years and older, and we encourage all to take the survey, whether you attend every week, or are only able to be with us a few times a year.

Your participation is important and so we thank you for setting aside about 20 minutes to complete the inventory. Please go to the link below and take the survey, starting any time: (insert SLI link here).

For those who prefer to take the survey "on paper", we will offer opportunities to take it in the Parish Hall.

We look forward to taking the next steps in growing our faith together. Join me in praying for this process and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do.

Example 2 -Announcement of RenewalWorks initiative to the parish

My dear sisters and brothers,

Several months ago, your vestry made a commitment to plan for our spiritual future by retaining the help of RenewalWorks. We believe that faithful stewardship includes thoughtful planning. I have asked 7 leaders to serve as the RenewalWorks leadership team which will work over the next 10 weeks to adopt a spiritual strategic plan for growth and ministry to be presented to the vestry and to the congregation in the fall.

The first piece of the RenewalWorks process will be to collect information on our parish. This will be done through an online survey – more of an inventory our of beliefs, spiritual practices and service. In addition, the inventory asks questions about how you feel our parish helps us grow in the Spirit, and in love of God and our neighbors.

I hope each of us – clergy, staff and parishioners - will complete a survey. The aggregated data of our parishioners will help shape the work of the workshop team. We want to hear from you. In fact, our goal is 100% participation by all adult members (persons 16 years and up).

You needn't take my word solely. Read what Martha Lewis, an active parish member since 1971, says about completing the Spiritual Life Survey:

“My faith and spirituality are grounded. Ever since my first Episcopal Church Sunday school class in 3rd grade, I've had a relationship with God that isn't necessarily spectacular, but steady, ever-present, perhaps even automatic. And though my faith has not stalled or been in doubt, there have been times when it wobbled, but faith is a gyroscope that rights me when I doubt.

During the process of filling out this survey, I found myself pausing. My spirituality is not “mine” alone; it has been nurtured and supported by my Christian community, the church name. My nourishment has come, in part, from the opportunities provided by our parish and the community. The survey was an honest report, and a helpful assessment of what's been true for me. I hope all of us will take it—it was worth every minute!”

Following is a link to the survey itself. [INSERT SURVEY LINK]. Completing the survey will cost you about 40 minutes. I wouldn't ask you to make this time sacrifice if I didn't believe our life depends upon hearing— anonymously—from all of us. I'll see you in church!

Faithfully in Christ,

Example 3 - Announcement of RenewalWorks initiative to the parish

Dear Saint Luke's Family,

We invite you to participate in the Episcopal Spiritual Life Inventory (SLI), an important first step in our new Spiritual Life Initiative.

Saint Luke's has been invited to join other Episcopal churches nationwide who have participated in a comprehensive survey of spiritual life to provide valuable information on our congregation's faith journey. The survey was created by RenewalWorks, an Episcopal organization charged with advancing spiritual growth or growing in love of God and neighbor. It is intended to be thought-provoking.

RenewalWorks partners with Episcopal churches of all sizes and demographics. While some of the questions may not resonate with you personally, they will form the basis for a broader study for the national church. Regardless of where you are on your faith journey- satisfied or seeking a new direction- we want to hear from all adult members of your household. Your results will be completely anonymous and confidential.

The following link takes you directly to the Saint Luke's survey: <http://>

We suggest that you set aside about 30-40 minutes to complete the SLI. It is important to note that once you start the survey you must complete it - it is not possible to take part of the survey and resume at later time. All completed surveys will be aggregated by RenewalWorks to create an overall parish snapshot.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, provisions have been made with the church office to use one of their computers or to complete a confidential hard copy version. Please contact XX for information.

The survey link can also be accessed 9/21-10/6 on our website here: All completed surveys are due by Sunday October 6th.

Following the SLI, a group of leaders will meet to complete four guided workshops which will study the parish data as well as best practice principles of spiritually vital congregations. The leaders will also convene a series of discussions to explore these issues together as a community. These discussion groups will include an opportunity for us to meet in small group and build community while we examine faith life at Saint Luke's Parish.

Thank you for your time and contribution to our Spiritual Life Initiative,
The Rev. Denise Trogdon and The Spiritual Life Initiative Team

Example 1 – Ministry leaders/vestry members email to participate in SLI

Date

Dear Altar Guild –

I hope you have heard about Christ Church’s fall focus to discern the spiritual focus of the church. This process, led by RenewalWorks, begins with a church-wide survey called the Spiritual Life Inventory (SLI). It will be different from other church surveys you may have participated in -- as it asks questions about your spiritual beliefs, spiritual practices and church and community serving. Our individual responses aggregated will provide a snapshot of the make-up of Christ Church.

As a member of the Altar Guild, it is important for our voices to be captured in this discussion.

I hope you will join me in completing the SLI here by (Date):

[Link Here](#)

I look forward to discussing your thoughts on the SLI at our next meeting.
Faithfully,