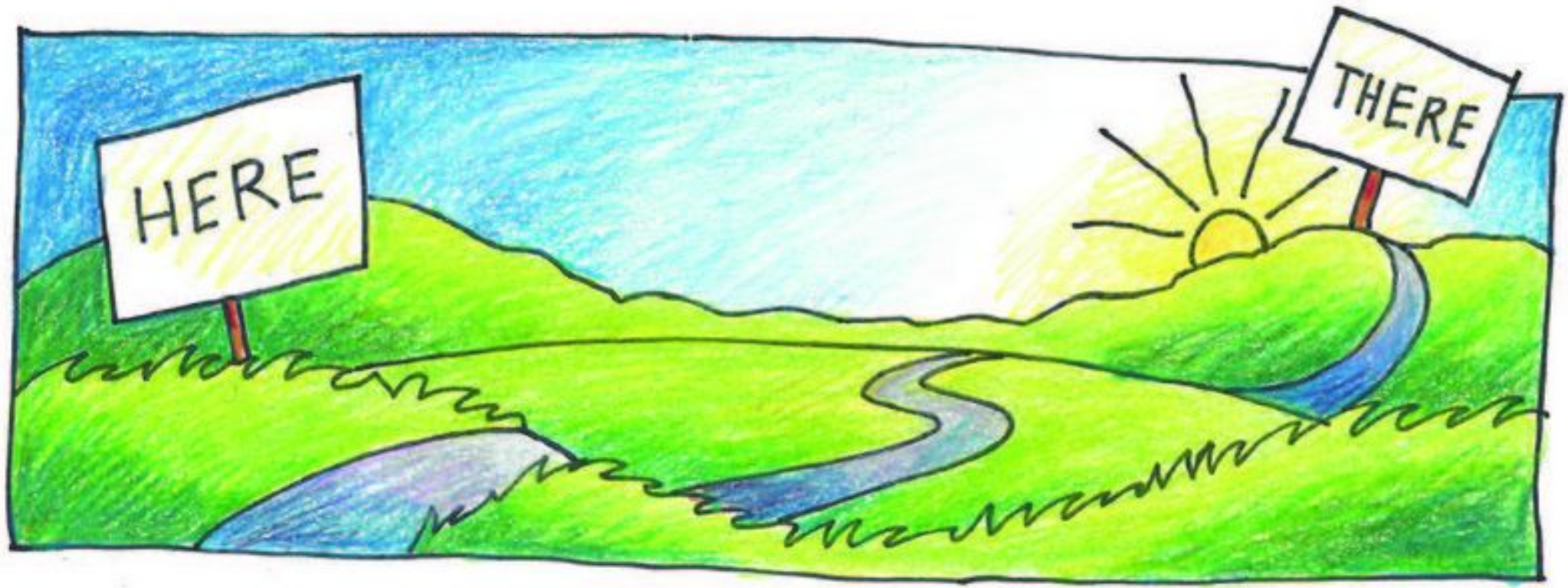


# RenewalWorks™

A Ministry of Forward Movement



# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Summary of spiritual inventory findings of RenewalWorks: A Ministry of Forward Movement*



DATA FROM 2013-2019

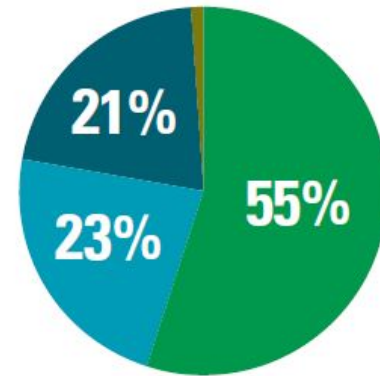
**260** RENEWALWORKS  
CONGREGATIONS

**20,000** EPISCOPALIANS

47% OF THESE CHURCHES HAVE  
101-250 PARISHIONERS

**55%** OF RESPONDENTS  
HAVE ATTENDED THEIR CHURCH 10+ YEARS

## THREE PRIMARY CHURCH ARCHETYPES



**Troubled:** Restless and hungry for greater spiritual growth.

**Extroverted:** Committed to service, mission, and outreach; limited correlation between service and spiritual beliefs.

**Complacent:** Low expectations of transformation, and resistance to change and challenge.

## WHAT WE HEAR BY THE NUMBERS



**60%** want the church to help them develop a relationship with God in Christ.

Only **42%** are extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the way their church helps them develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**57%** percent want to be challenged to grow and take next steps spiritually.

Only **38%** felt they were extremely or very satisfied with how the church challenged them to grow and take next steps.

Only **14%** of the 20,000 respondents say they reflect on scripture daily.

**42%** have never met with members of their church clergy individually, and **48%** have never talked with a spiritual mentor.

## WHERE ARE WE SPIRITUALLY? THE FOUR STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### EXPLORING

Affirmed belief in God, though not sure what faith claims they would make about Christ. Generally, faith is not significant in their day-to-day life.

19%

### GROWING

They are committed to the Christian faith but still have many questions and have not developed a personal relationship with God in Christ.

54%

### DEEPENING

Transition to value a personal relationship with God over their church membership. They feel close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance.

### CENTERED

A personal relationship with God in Christ is the most important relationship in their lives, but that doesn't mean their spiritual journey is over.

23%

4%

73%

Consider themselves to be at an early, less mature stage of spiritual growth. Parishioners that fall into the first two stages are highly dependent on the church—and specifically the clergy—to help teach, guide and mentor.

*RenewalWorks*<sup>™</sup>  
A Ministry of Forward Movement

## The Process

- ▶ **Step 1** The vestry and rector decide to work toward making spiritual growth a priority in Grace Church's life and ministry.

# The Process

- ▶ **Step 1** The vestry and rector decide to work toward making spiritual growth a priority in Grace Church's life and ministry.
  
- ▶ **Step 2** Grace Church signs up through Forward Movement. We get:
  - Spiritual Life Inventory for Parish to take
  - Report w/ our data
  - Timeline; training materials; coaching webinars
  - Facilitator's guide & materials
  - Participant's workbook

- ▶ **Step 3** Complete the church profile about our parish.
- ▶ Select a date for launching the Spiritual Life Inventory (SLI).
- ▶ The SLI and workshop dates go on Grace's calendar, and we begin talking up the program and how the parish's participation and prayers can help.
- ▶ Prepare a promotional plan 4-6 weeks prior to the SLI launch to ensure enough time to get the word out.

- ▶ **Step 4** Select a workshop facilitator and a team consisting of nine to twenty-four parishioners, depending on the size of our church.
- ▶ The team includes clergy leaders and should represent a cross section of our community.
- ▶ Team members should be willing to commit to the four workshop sessions and the homework assigned to help them prepare.



- ▶ **Step 5 Spiritual Life Inventory Launch:**
- ▶ The parish completes the anonymous, online SLI, which is available for three weeks.
- ▶ The SLI is designed to learn where people are in their spiritual journeys and how the parish helps in that journey and where they might do better.

- ▶ **Step 6** Workshops begin two to three weeks after the Inventory closes.
- ▶ Each session begins and ends with prayer and reflection and builds on the work of the previous sessions.
- ▶ Facilitator and Participant guide books will walk the team through each workshop.
- ▶ Here's a quick look at the four workshops:



- ▶ **Workshop 1: Where have we been?**

The main topic is spiritual growth.


- ▶ Exercises help team members reflect on the dynamic nature of their own faith and the role played by their parish and clergy in supporting and encouraging spiritual growth.



- ▶ **Workshop 2: Where are we now?**


The team looks at our parish data, basic information on demographics and growth for our church and region.

- ▶ This builds a picture of where we are now that can be used in the next two sessions as we consider new ways to help our church grow in love of God and neighbor.

- 
- ▶ **Workshop 3: Where do we feel called to go?**  
Using RenewalWorks research and our data, focus on how Grace can encourage and support spiritual growth.
  - ▶ Explore five best practice principles found in spiritually vital churches and consider how those principles can be applied to Grace.

- ▶ **Workshop 4: How will we get there?**  
Review what we've learned and develop a few concrete next steps for refocusing on spiritual growth to present to the vestry and parish.
- ▶ Team members consider their individual commitments to spiritual growth.
- ▶ We close the workshop series with thanksgiving to God for the time and work together and with hope for its impact on the future.

- ▶ **Step 7** The Workshop Team shares what it has learned with the vestry and parish.

- 
- ▶ **Step 7** The Workshop Team shares what it has learned with the vestry and parish.
  - ▶ **Step 8** Spiritual growth emerges as the priority at Grace, bringing new energy to every aspect of our life together and our mission in the world.