



# Revive

A ministry of Forward Movement, Revive is part of RenewalWorks, which is committed to building cultures of discipleship in Episcopal congregations.

Learn more at

[www.RenewalWorks.org](http://www.RenewalWorks.org)

EQUIPPING **LAY LEADERS** TO BE **SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

Revive is a discipleship program to help active lay leaders—wardens, property and finance officers, committee chairs, vestry members, church school teachers, youth ministers, pastoral visitors, and liturgical ministers—grow in confidence as spiritual leaders.

Revive is about transformation through spiritual formation.

*“I have never experienced anything like it. It was transformational!”*

In just 10 months, this small-group program transforms leaders of practical church ministry into confident spiritual leaders who love God and participate in Christ’s ministry.

This program is offered as a gift of thanks for the dedicated service of those lay people who work hard for their church but often feel like they don’t really know God—or they’ve lost touch.

Lay leaders join their ordained minister in a safe, small-group setting, where they have the opportunity to gain confidence in praying, in understanding scripture and in developing their sense of call. They find language to describe their spiritual experiences and grow in intimacy with God through Christ.

## REVIVE IS ABOUT

- » Developing a deeper relationship with God & others
- » Transforming the spiritual experience
- » Being fed spiritually
- » Gaining confidence in serving in Jesus’ ministry

## THE PROGRAM INVOLVES

- » An opening and closing retreat
- » Three modules of six, two-hour sessions: fall, winter and spring
- » A trusted small group that offers support and mentoring
- » Experience with ancient and modern prayer practices, scripture study methods, and spiritual discernment assistance.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- » Opening Retreat: Spiritual Story
- » Module 1: Communicating with God
- » Module 2: Engaging in Scripture
- » Module 3: Called to Ministry
- » Closing Retreat: Crafting a Rule of Life

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# Principles behind the program: Deep Speaks to Deep

**Clergy who facilitate this program do not have to be spiritual saints or advanced spiritual directors. But they must be intentional about their own spiritual growth and open to a relationship with Jesus.**

**We have some of the most educated and competent business leaders in our parishes, capable of organizing complex and effective outreach ministries like soup kitchens and seniors' care. But when they are asked to say grace, open a meeting with prayer, or explain their faith—even to their children—they feel anxious and uncertain.**

Anglicans are traditionally spiritually formed through liturgy and private devotions. But these are not enough.

We need to speak about the activity of God in our lives in small groups

or with mentors in order for our experience of God to be integrated and form meaning.

Discipleship floats on a sea of talk. People come to our churches with their sacred yearnings. Into their outstretched hands, we place church responsibilities, theological statements, devotion to liturgy, interest in history or architecture, and perhaps a duty to service. These are not unimportant, but they can also distract people from God who is the source of their yearning and who is inviting them into a deeper, intimate relationship.

In the 2016 Lambeth report *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making*, Archbishop Moon Hing said: "A narrow, pietistic attachment to Jesus, whether individualistic or ecclesial, was never what God

intended and will not serve us well today." What were we intended for? We were intended for relationship.

*"This course changed me. I have a peace within and a calmness that regardless of what happens, I know I am never alone."*

To engage in this relationship and to follow Jesus, as Archbishop Hing says, is "the most challenging, the most beautiful, the most costly, the most rewarding journey we could ever choose to begin."

To support our lay leaders in building a relationship with the living, grace-filled, loving God is quite simply the most important and transformative gift we can give our long-serving and dedicated servants of the church.



"Thank you for giving me a chance to get close to God."

## About the two retreats, and three seasonal modules

### **Opening Retreat: Spiritual Story**

The objective of this six-hour retreat is to develop trust within the group, an appreciation for God's gift of diverse personality temperaments, and an awareness of each participant's own spiritual story.

### **Module 1: Communicating with God**

The objective is to expose participants to at least 10 prayer practices, including imaginative prayer, the examen, body prayers, labyrinth, icons, contemplation, and journaling, etc. Participants usually begin with little prayer experience outside the Sunday liturgy. If they have prayed,

it has most likely been in the form of petitions, asking God to fix difficult life situations. By the end of this program, leaders will have developed a regular prayer life that often involves contemplation and discernment.

All will have led public prayer and shared their faith stories.

### **Module 2: Engaging in Scripture**

The objective is to expose participants to four methods of using the Bible for spiritual formation, enabling them to lead short Bible meditations for church meetings. The four Bible study styles used are the inductive method,

Luther's Garland of Prayer, *lectio divina*, and the Four-Pages method.

### **Module 3: Called to Ministry**

The objective here is to reflect on significant topics of faith and deepen the participant's spiritual maturity. This module includes topics such as group spiritual direction, discernment, spiritual gifts, death and dying, forgiveness, creeds and belief statements, and spiritual leadership.

### **Closing Retreat: Rule of Life**

The objective is to conclude with the crafting of a Rule of Life that orients participants as followers of Christ.