

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



DATA FROM 2013-2019

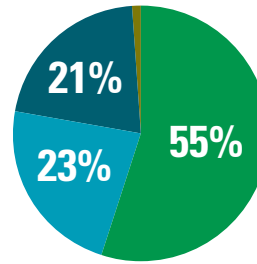
260 RENEWALWORKS CONGREGATIONS

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.

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

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



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

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

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 → GROWING → DEEPENING → CENTERED

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.

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

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

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.

19%

54%

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.

FOUR CATALYSTS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Engagement with scripture
2. Transforming power of the Eucharist
3. A deeper prayer life
4. The heart of the leader

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Download the full research summary:

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What We're Learning

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