

## Appendix I: DSC Custom Analysis of Renewal Works Survey Data

*The St. Mark's Renewal Works "Experience" is more than the Renewal Works data – it is the conversations sparked by concerns and support for the survey, the thoughtful and balanced written and verbal comments we received about the survey, and it is our personal interactions with the survey, each other, and the parishioners who have shared with us over the last few months.*

We have taken steps to examine the survey results in light of the St. Mark's experience in an attempt to extract as much meaning from the survey as possible. It is clear that our committee has issues with the Renewal Work's framework and underlying assumptions. As a result, the following summary of the survey results is presented independent of the Renewal Work's models and calculations. However, we have included some references to the Renewal Works Continuum to try to explain some of the data.

### Section 1: Spiritual Profile

- **Exploring a Life with God – 42 percent of respondents**

According to Renewal Works, the people in this group have a basic belief in God, but they're unsure about God's role in their lives.

- **Growing in a Life with God – 51 percent of respondents**

According to Renewal Works, the people in this group have a personal relationship with God. They've made a commitment to trust God with their future in this life and the next, but they are just beginning to learn what it means to be in a relationship with God.

- **Deepening in Life with God - 7 percent of respondents**

According to Renewal Works, the people in this group depend on God but they see God as someone who assists them in the things that are important to their life on a daily basis; they turn to God for help and guidance for issues they face.

- **Life with God in the Center – 0 (zero) percent of respondents**

According to Renewal Works, the people in this group would identify their relationship with God as the most important relationship in their entire lives. They see their lives as fully surrendered to God, subordinating everything to God's will and desires.

### Section 2: Pace of Spiritual Growth

**Table 1:**

- About 70 percent of respondents indicated they are growing spiritually. The majority of these respondents indicated they were growing at a slow but steady rate. Eleven percent of respondents reported that they have stalled spiritually.

**Tables 2, 3, and 4:**

- A large majority of respondents (80 percent) indicated they had experienced a time in their lives that they had stalled spiritually.
- The top two reasons respondents cited for the reason they had stalled spiritually were because they experienced doubts about faith (e.g. question God's existence, not trusting fully in God – 18 percent) and they experienced a lack of meaningful church community (14 percent).

- The top two factors respondents cited for being responsible for helping them move on from being spiritually stalled were that they just came to grips with the situation on their own (15 percent) or switched to a different church (15 percent).

### Section 3: Spiritual Beliefs and Attitudes

**Table 5:** Two important themes can be extracted from table 5.

- First, respondents strongly agree with the values of an open community.
  - Ninety five(95) percent of respondents reported that it was important for all ministries and sacraments of the church to be open to all members, regardless of sexual orientation. This was consistent across all categories of the Renewal Works Spiritual Continuum.
  - Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicated that it was important for people of different faith traditions to be in conversation.
- Second, the survey results support the individual comments we collected that indicated the wording of the questions made it difficult for many in our congregation to respond to. For example, there were two questions in this section related to values of an open community.
  1. “I believe we are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value, regardless of race religion, gender or sexual orientation”
  2. “I believe it is important for all ministries and sacraments of the church to be open to all members, regardless of sexual orientation”

The first of these questions compounds two concepts – the belief that we are created in the image of god and the openness to all people regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation. Fewer respondents indicated strong agreement with this question compared to the second question which does not compound concepts (77 vs. 88 percent). In comparing the responses in the categories of the Renewal Works Spiritual Continuum, the frequency of respondents agreeing to this question who were in the “Explore” category was lower for these two questions (67 vs. 86 percent) while the exact same number of respondents who were in the “Deepen” category agreed (93 percent). This suggests that the compounding of the concepts did not allow respondents to adequately express their agreement with the values of an open community.

**Table 7:**

- When asked about the statements regarding spiritual practices, respondents most frequently agreed with the statement that they give away time to serve and help others in the community (42 percent). This category was also the most consistent across categories of the Renewal Works Spiritual Continuum.

### Section 4: Spiritual Practices

**Table 9:**

- The most frequent spiritual practices followed cited by respondents were
  - Praying for others daily or several times a week (59 percent),
  - Praying to give thanks to God daily or several times a week (54 percent), and
  - Praying to seek guidance for their lives daily or several times a week.
- The least frequent spiritual practices followed cited by respondents were
  - Writing about their spiritual life in a journal daily or several times a week (9 percent),

- Reading the book of Common Prayer daily or several times a week (9 percent), and
- Reading the Bible daily or several times a week (18 percent).

**Table 12 and 13:**

- Nearly 30 percent of respondents indicated they have read the entire bible.
- Of these respondents, about half indicated they have read the entire bible more than once (51 percent).

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**Table 14:**

- The books of the Bible most frequently cited by respondents that they have read in whole or part were
  1. Mark (91 percent)
  2. Mathew (81 percent)
  3. Luke (80 percent)
  4. John (80 percent)
  5. Genesis (80 percent)
  6. Psalms (73 percent)
- The books of the Bible least frequently cited by respondents that they have read in whole or part were
  1. Haggai (5 percent)
  2. Nahum (6 percent)
  3. Zephaniah (6 percent)
  4. Habakkuk (9 percent)
  5. Zechariah (9 percent)

**Table 16:**

- Half of respondents indicated they received communion at least once a week over the past year and another 37 percent indicated they received communion two or three times a month.

## **Section 5: Church Attitudes**

It is important to understand that the Renewal Works survey provides a snapshot in time of the attitudes of our parishioners. The survey was administered during a time of significant transition and change with our congregation. The results presented in this section should be interpreted with careful consideration of the experiences and feelings of the respondents during this time.

### **Details of church attitudes**

#### **Tables 17-21: Church Role in Growing Spiritually**

- Only 38 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with our church's role in helping them grow spiritually. Thirteen percent indicated they were dissatisfied with our church's role in helping them grow spiritually.
- The most frequently cited way our church could support our spiritual journey was to encourage parishioners to take personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth (52 percent). Fewer than half of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church delivers on encouraging parishioners to take personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth (42 percent).

### **Tables 22-26: Leaders Role in Growing Spiritually**

- Only 31 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how our church leadership team helps them grow spiritually. Eighteen percent indicated they were dissatisfied with how our church leadership team helps them grow spiritually.
- The most frequently cited way our church leadership team could help parishioners grow spiritually was to be authentic about their struggles (72 percent). Just over half of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church leadership is authentic about their struggles (55 percent).
- The second most frequently cited way our church leadership team could help parishioners grow spiritually was to empower members of the congregation to serve in leadership roles (64 percent). Just over half of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church leadership empowers members of the congregation to serve in leadership roles (56 percent).

### **Tables 27-31: Church Role in Developing Spiritual Practices**

- Only 27 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with our church's role in helping develop spiritual practices. Twenty percent of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied with our church's role in helping develop spiritual practices.
- The most frequently cited way our can help parishioners develop spiritual practices was to provide worship that is challenging and though provoking (80 percent). Just over 60 percent respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church provides worship that is challenging and though provoking (61 percent).
- The second most frequently cited way our can help parishioners develop spiritual practices was to provide liturgy with music that feeds the spirit (66 percent). A similar percentage of respondents they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church provides worship liturgy with music that feeds the spirit (63 percent).

### **Tables 32- 36: Church Role in Developing Spiritual Relationships**

- Only 25 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with our church's role in helping them develop spiritual relationships. Twenty-three percent indicated they were dissatisfied with our church's role in helping them develop spiritual relationships.
- The most frequently cited ways our church could support our spiritual relationships were
  1. Encourage parishioners to be respectful and welcoming to people of other faith traditions (78 percent). A similar percentage of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church encourages parishioners to be respectful and welcoming to people of other faith traditions (70 percent).
  2. Help parishioners to feel like they belong (77 percent). Only 45 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church helps them feel like they belong.
  3. Deepen parishioners' sense of community by serving alongside others (71 percent). Only half of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church deepens parishioners' sense of community by serving alongside others.

### **Table 37: Serving in a Ministry**

- Thirty-two percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with the way serving in a ministry helps them grow spiritually. Only 10 percent of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied with the way serving in a ministry helps them grow spiritually.

**Tables 38- 42: Serving Efforts**

- Only 23 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with the way serving those in need through our church helps them grow spiritually. Only 9 percent of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied with the way serving in a ministry helps them grow spiritually.
- The most frequently cited ways our church could support our serving efforts
  1. Provide opportunities to serve those in need (53 percent). Only 30 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church provides opportunities to serve those in need.
  2. Promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community (48 percent). Only 30 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community.
  3. Allows parishioners to use and develop spiritual gifts (48 percent). Only 27 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very satisfied with how well our church allows parishioners to use and develop spiritual gifts.

**Summary of church attitudes**

In general, the survey results show that overall satisfaction for the spiritual support St. Mark’s gives to respondents could be improved.



The next table provides a summary of the things that respondents indicated were most important ways for the church to support them spiritually. This suggests that respondents want to be challenged in an honest way, value an open community, and desire to be included in spiritual practices with others.

**Top 10 Ways Respondents Want St. Mark’s To Support Them Spiritually**

	<b>Critically or Very Important</b>	<b>Extremely or Very Satisfied</b>
Provides worship that is challenging and thought provoking	80%	61%
Encourages me to be respectful and welcoming to people of other faith traditions	78%	70%
Helps me feel like I belong	77%	45%
Church leaders are authentic about their struggles	72%	55%
Deepens my sense of community by serving alongside others	71%	50%
Helps me in my time of emotional need	69%	36%
Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	68%	44%
Provides liturgy with music that feeds my spirit	66%	63%
Empowers members of the congregation to serve in leadership roles	64%	56%
Challenges me to grow and take next steps spiritually	54%	23%

The next table provides a summary of the things that respondents indicated that the church is doing well to support them spiritually. This suggests that the church is doing well in providing an open and honest community, providing liturgy and music, and empowering members to serve in leadership roles.

**Top 10 Items Respondents Indicated That St. Mark’s is doing well To Support Them Spiritually**

	<b>Critically or Very Important</b>	<b>Extremely or Very Satisfied</b>
Encourages me to be respectful and welcoming to people of other faith traditions	78%	70%
Provides liturgy with music that feeds my spirit	66%	63%
Provides worship that is challenging and thought provoking	80%	61%
Empowers members of the congregation to serve in leadership roles	64%	56%
Church leaders are authentic about their struggles	72%	55%
Deepens my sense of community by serving alongside others	71%	50%
Helps me feel like I belong	77%	45%
Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	68%	44%
Encourages me to take personal responsibility for my own spiritual growth	52%	42%

Inspires such a sense of ownership that the church becomes an important part of who I am	52%	40%
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The next table provides a summary of the items respondents indicated the church could do to improve in terms of the gap between the percentages of respondents who indicate the item was important compared to the satisfaction with that item. This information is not weighted by the importance of an item and should be interpreted as such.

**Top 10 Items Respondents Indicated That St. Mark’s could improve To Support Them Spiritually**

	Critically or Very Important	Extremely or Very Satisfied	Gap
Helps me in my time of emotional need	69%	36%	33%
Helps me feel like I belong	77%	45%	32%
Challenges me to grow and take next steps spiritually	54%	23%	31%
Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	68%	44%	24%
Provides opportunities for me to serve those in need	53%	30%	23%
Promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community	48%	27%	21%
Deepens my sense of community by serving alongside others	71%	50%	21%
Allows me to use and develop my spiritual gifts	48%	27%	21%
Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually	47%	27%	20%
Provides worship that is challenging and thought provoking	80%	61%	19%

**Section 6: Organized Spiritual Activities**

**Tables 43-45:**

- 77% of respondents have been going to church regularly for over 25 years. 70% of respondents have been going to St. Mark’s for over 10 years. Only 1% of respondents have been going to church regularly for 2 years of less, and 6% of respondents have been going to St. Mark’s for 2 years of less.
- 62% of respondents are definitely staying at St. Mark’s and 5% are probably/definitely leaving St. Mark’s.

**Tables 46-54:**

- Sunday Morning Service
  - 175 respondents attend (93%)
  - 63% of respondents attend 3-4 times a month
  - 75% of respondents are satisfied (47% being extremely or very satisfied) with the service, 11% are dissatisfied/somewhat dissatisfied
- Sunday Evening Service
  - 51 respondents attend (27%)

- Of those who attend 20% of respondents attend 3-4 times a month; 35% 1-2 times a month; 33% once every 2-3 months
- 79% of respondents are satisfied (57% extremely or very satisfied) with the service, only 4% somewhat dissatisfied
- Additional Teaching/Midweek Worship
  - 33 respondents attended in the last year
  - 84% of respondents are satisfied (51% extremely or very satisfied) with the service, only 3% are dissatisfied
- Small Groups
  - 40% of respondents meet with a small group once a month or more, 46% do not currently meet in small groups (30% used to).
- 18% of respondents meet with someone they are helping grow spiritually, 72% do not (10% used to).

## Section 7: Spiritual Activities with Others

### Tables 55-56:

- 62% of respondents talk to a close friend who helps them grow spiritually, when reworded to spiritual mentor/confidant this drops to 26%.

### Tables 57-59:

- 49% of respondents serve in ministry at the church at least once a month, 30% do not currently serve.
- 23% of respondents serve those in need through the church at least once a month, 29% do not currently serve.
- 42% of respondents serve those in need outside of church at least once a month, 16% do not.

### Tables 60-63:

Overall 67% of respondents are satisfied with St Mark's role in helping them share their faith (only 21% extremely or very satisfied), 16% are dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied.

94% of respondents engaged in spiritual conversations with people outside of church in the last year.

1. The most common being conversations about non church events (ie books, movies) 87% of respondents doing this. Other common practices included:
  - a. Learning about others spiritual beliefs (80%)
  - b. Inviting them to church (79%)
  - c. Shared their story/faith (79%)
2. The least common was giving Christian books or music with only 20% of respondents doing this.

Only 1% of respondents do not currently give to the church, 67% give as able, 32% tithe (10%) or are working towards it.



## **Love of Others Attitudes**

### **Tables 64-67:**

“Striving for justice and peace is an essential part of who I am”