

EDNY Mission Review  
Grace Church, Millbrook  
Annual Meeting 1/21/2024

## Instructions

What does renewal mean in your community? How does it look? How could it look?

- Read the following sentence aloud and try to complete it together. If possible, see if you can come to agreement on one sentence:

“If we are going to experience renewal in our community, we need to....”

- Read the following sentence aloud and try to complete it together. If possible, see if you can come to agreement on one sentence:

“If we are going to experience renewal in our community, we need to stop...”

- Bonus question:

How can the church participate in the healing of the world? How do you see this happening in your community?

- If you have time, you can invite each group to share their responses with the wider community to generate further conversation.

Please collect all of the responses from your community, scan, and email to:  
[missionreview@dioceseny.org](mailto:missionreview@dioceseny.org)

## Responses

Table 1

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

Renewal: define the meaning: refreshed, aspirational

What does it look like:

inclusive parishioners, esp youth, 30-40's; families, #'s inc.

Sunday School

more social than religious

educating—the Episcopal church accepts all people

how do you seek community

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

[strengthen] women of Grace, Men of Grace, youth group nursery—sing a song (idea for working with Preschool having them come once a month to sing a simple song)

movies-youth

social justice, environment

shady knoll (summer family event)

speaker series

## Table 2

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

building community, community activities, fundraisers, ideas, discussion  
new energy to support the church/community activities  
also rejuvenation for the next generation/wave  
starting something fresh & new

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

create opportunities for the parish to come together and build  
examples: potluck, volunteering, study, social events, movies, parish sport/games,  
small group night  
more connecting!

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

thinking church is just the service and the minimum is enough (complacency)

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world:*

leading by example and intentional small actions to help others & be kind

## Table 3

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

Getting your energy back, both physical & spiritual

people who do a lot sometimes need renewal  
people helping people so they don't burn out  
letting go of things than need to be gone/trying something new

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

know how people feel  
what do you need to feel renewed?  
communicate with others in our community to determine interests & needs and  
possible ways to work together  
get leadership—vestries & others together for discussion

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

assuming we know what people need & want

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world?*

write letters to our world leaders  
and have some our leaders of both parties come here to visit our community  
continue our current outreach & encourage the larger church to continue its outreach in  
energy programs etc.

#### Table 4

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

renewal looks like participation in a live community, with a group of real people in the church pews.

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

talk to people in person & find opportunities to interact

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

making excuses

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world?*

spread the good news! (Mission)

other notes: renewal: sense of feeling of love, like spring or Easter

all young and alive

a return or rebirth

renewal looks like more people in the church in person & not online  
[with] energy & vitality you can concentrate more

it looks like people engaged in activities with each other  
no community without real people and real conversations

#### Table 5

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

A) invigoration

B) weaving of new & old people that ...allows for natural [something] of effort, with ...  
new ideas & general energy & excellence & belonging!

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

Spark- communication/follow up/welcoming/awareness of needs & resources &  
people's experience

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

lack of awareness may allow people to slip away

stop burnout

stop notion of having to make things like we used to

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world?*

it is no small thing, the [something] service

#### Table 6

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

next generations

Sunday school in Spanish

inviting

interesting educational programs, concerts

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

engage with the community

make it clear how to connect

series on spirituality

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

silos & embrace difference

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world?*

reach out to AA members who have had bad experience of institutional religion,

provide an experience of God not defined already

Table 7

*What does renewal mean, how does it look:*

a) Every Sunday coming to church is a renewal

b) meeting people we have not seen, renewal of friendship

c) hope

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to:*

“invite” people and be “welcoming”

*If we are going to experience renewal we need to stop:*

doing the same thing

not being able to accept criticism

*How can the church participate in the healing of the world?*

“outreach”

acceptance & listening,

no politics from the pulpit