



RENEW 145

Speaking the Faith and
Following Jesus Retreat



MISSIONAL GOD FOR A MISSIONAL CHURCH



Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Missional means 'joining in/with God at work in the world.'

Mary and Elizabeth do a wonderful job of naming what God is up to in their lives and in the world

(Artwork: Elizabeth Greet Mary by Jason Sierra)



SHARE YOUR STORY

Who are the people who help you discover and name the ways God is active in your life and in the world?

Renew 145 Congregations 2020 to 2021

- **Bethel, Winchester** (Cohort 1)
- **Christ, Richmond** (Cohort 2)
- **Christ Roanoke** (Cohort 3)
- **Church of the Good Shepherd, Galax** (Cohort 3)
- **Good Shepherd, Lexington** (Cohort 3)
- **Lakeside, Littleton** (Cohort 2)
- **Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Richmond** (Cohort 2)
- **Resurrection, Fredericksburg** (Cohort 1)



Introductions



SHARE YOUR NAME



SHARE WHICH CONGREGATION
YOU ATTEND



SHARE THE NAME OF SOMEONE
WHO HELPS YOU SEE GOD IN
THE WORLD



OVERVIEW OF THE RENEW 145 PROCESS

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you. **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power, that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. **You, LORD, are faithful** in all your words, and **loving** in all your works. The Lord **upholds all those who fall** and **lifts up** those who are bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works. You are **near to all** who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully. You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them. **You watch over all those who love you**, but all the wicked you shall destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; **let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

Psalm 145:10-21 (ELW)

Renew 145 is an intentional effort to strengthen congregational vitality in the 145 congregations of the Virginia Synod by helping individuals and congregations focus on growing deeper in relationship with God, in relationship with one another and in relationship with their community.

Vital Congregations

Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world

Places where God's people are growing deeper in relationship with God, deeper in relationship with one another, and deeper in relationship with the community around them

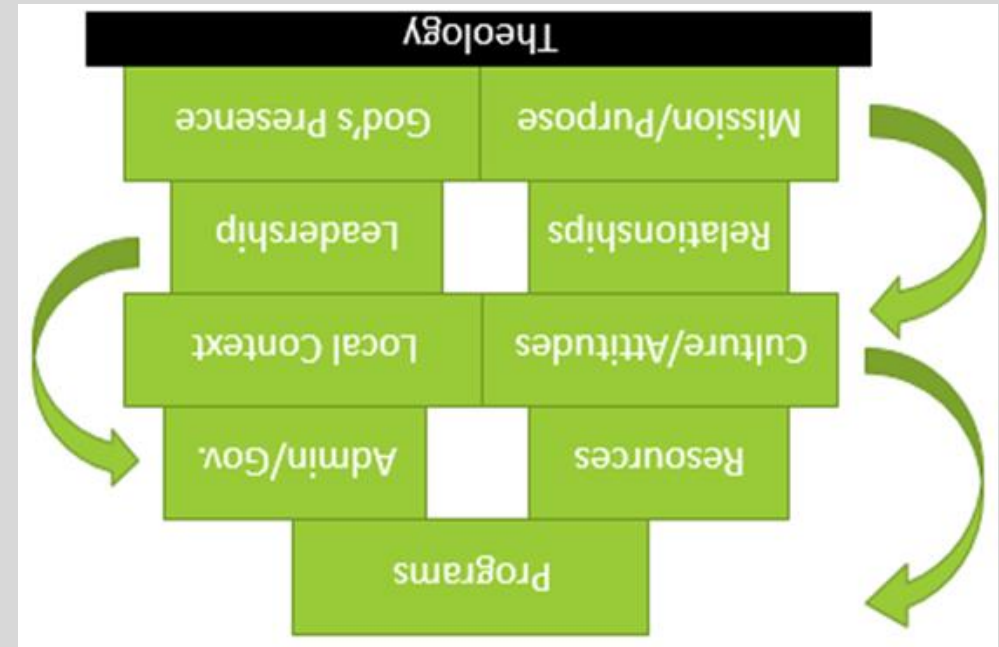


WHY RENEW 145?

Share With Your Team

What are the top two reasons that you decided to join the
Renew 145 team?

What's Your Ministry Foundation?





RENEW 145 CORE COMMITMENTS

Leadership Matters



Pastor

Needs to be on-board and excited about new possibilities



Lay Leadership Team

Core folks willing to invest time and wisdom in process of discovery and transformation



Council

Willing to make space for experiments, to support change, even when change is hard, and create space for renewal

Coaching Matters



Action Plans with
Accountability



1 Coach Per Team



Getting from Point A to B

Typical Renew 145 Cycle



Event



Team Meeting



Coaching Session



Cohort Meets (partner congregation)



Next Event

Renew 145 Event Schedule

March 6-7, 2020 - Speaking the Faith and Following Jesus

May 9, 2020 – Equipping Congregations for Internal Engagement

September 12, 2020 - Equipping Congregations for External Engagement

November 14, 2020 - Core Values / Guiding Principles / Planning for Action

January 9, 2021 - Everyday Evangelism

March 6, 2021 - Storytelling and Celebration



BREAK



CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Vital Congregations

Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world

Places where God's people are growing deeper in relationship with God, deeper in relationship with one another, and deeper in relationship with the community around them

What does vitality look like
in a congregation?

God

Each Other

Neighbor

Assessing Vitality

In Congregational teams, discuss your congregation's current vitality. On a new handout, identify areas or practices that demonstrate vitality in your congregation

In Cohort, discuss what you learned about your own ministry. Which practices/behaviors can you celebrate? Where do you see opportunities and potential resources for growth?

With Your Team . . .

How accurate is your evaluation?

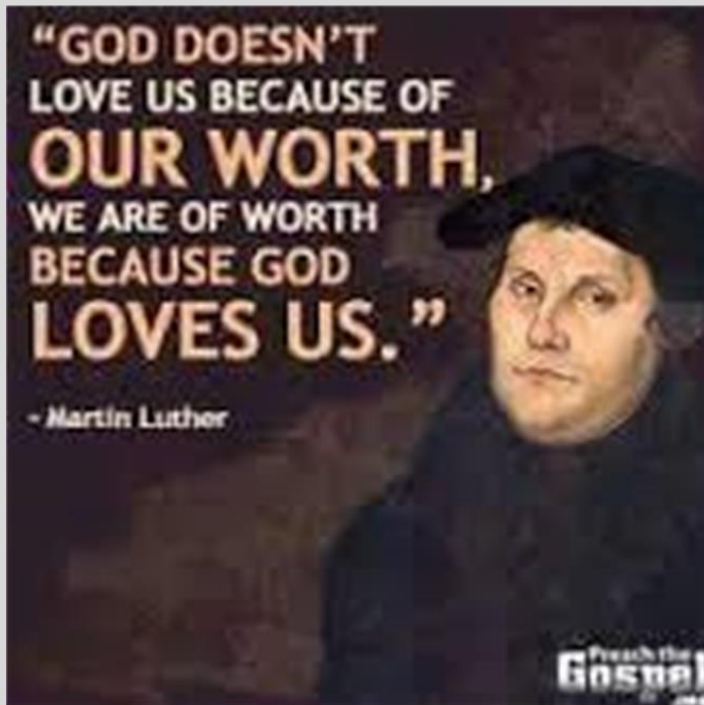
How can you share learnings about vitality?

What has surprised or excited you about today?



SPEAKING ABOUT AN ACTIVE GOD

Martin Luther – 500 Years Later



Studies show that over half of all people who attend a Lutheran church do not actually believe this!

Spiritual Maturity Survey



According to research from the Reveal Study only 28% of Lutherans identify as feeling close to Christ or Christ-Centered

(<https://revealforchurch.com/>)

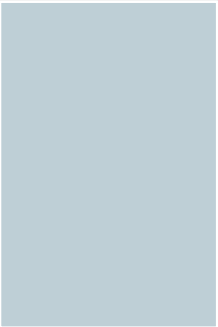


As Lutherans, we often struggle to see how God is active in our lives and in the world.



GOD SIGHTINGS

With your team . . .



?Where did you see
God working around
you this week???



How did God use
someone to bless
you this week?



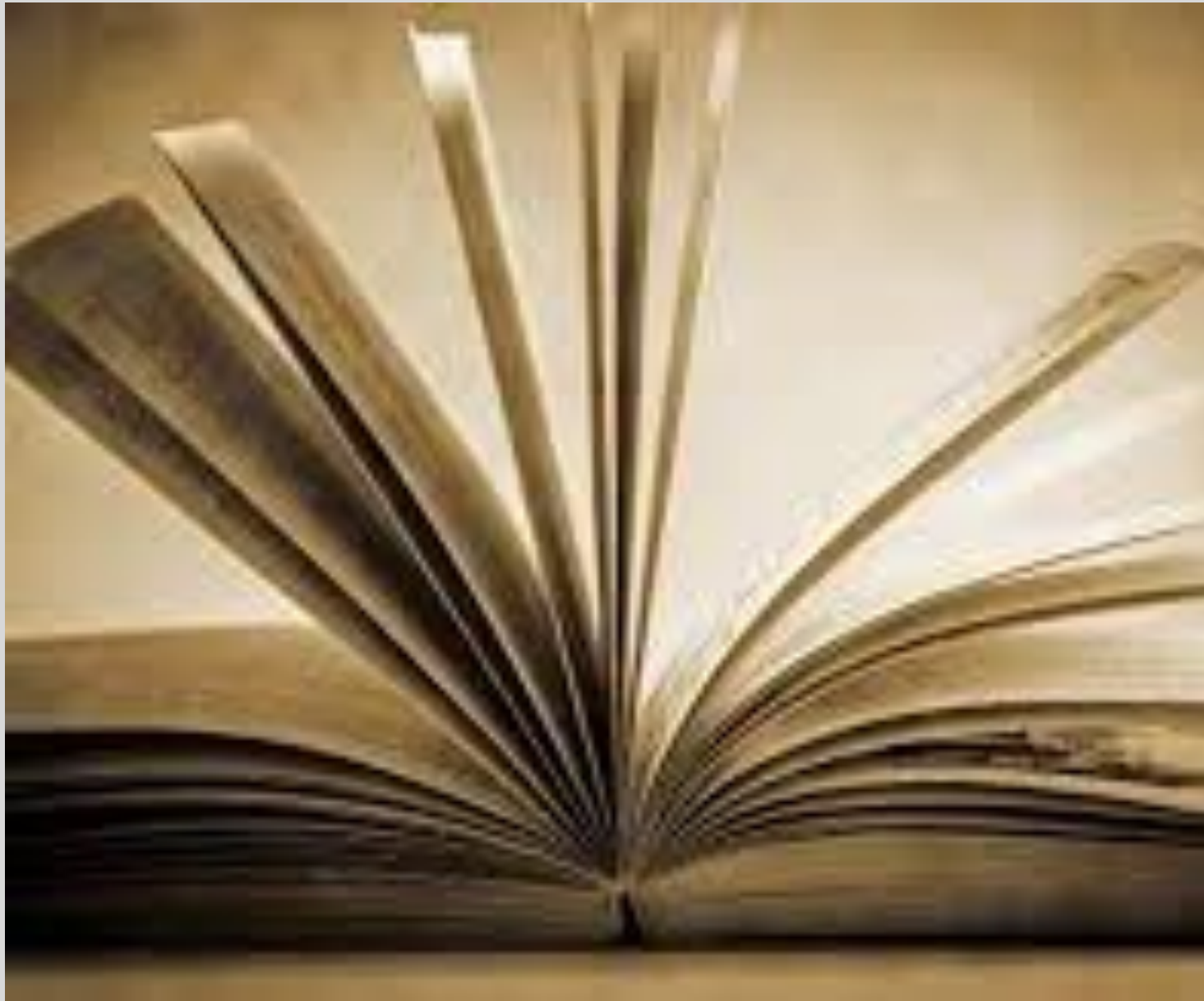
How did God use
you to bless
someone this week?



DWELL IN THE WORD



WHERE DO YOU SEE
GOD SHOWING UP?



Noah and the Rainbow
Abraham and Sarah
Pillar of Cloud and Fire
Manna in the Wilderness
Mary and the Angel
Jesus' Birth
Woman at the Well
Last Supper
Jesus on the Cross
Resurrection
Ethiopian Eunuch
Saul on Damascus Road

With Team and Coach . . .

How do people in your life express their faith in their lives?

Share one example of someone in your congregation expressing their faith outside of worship.

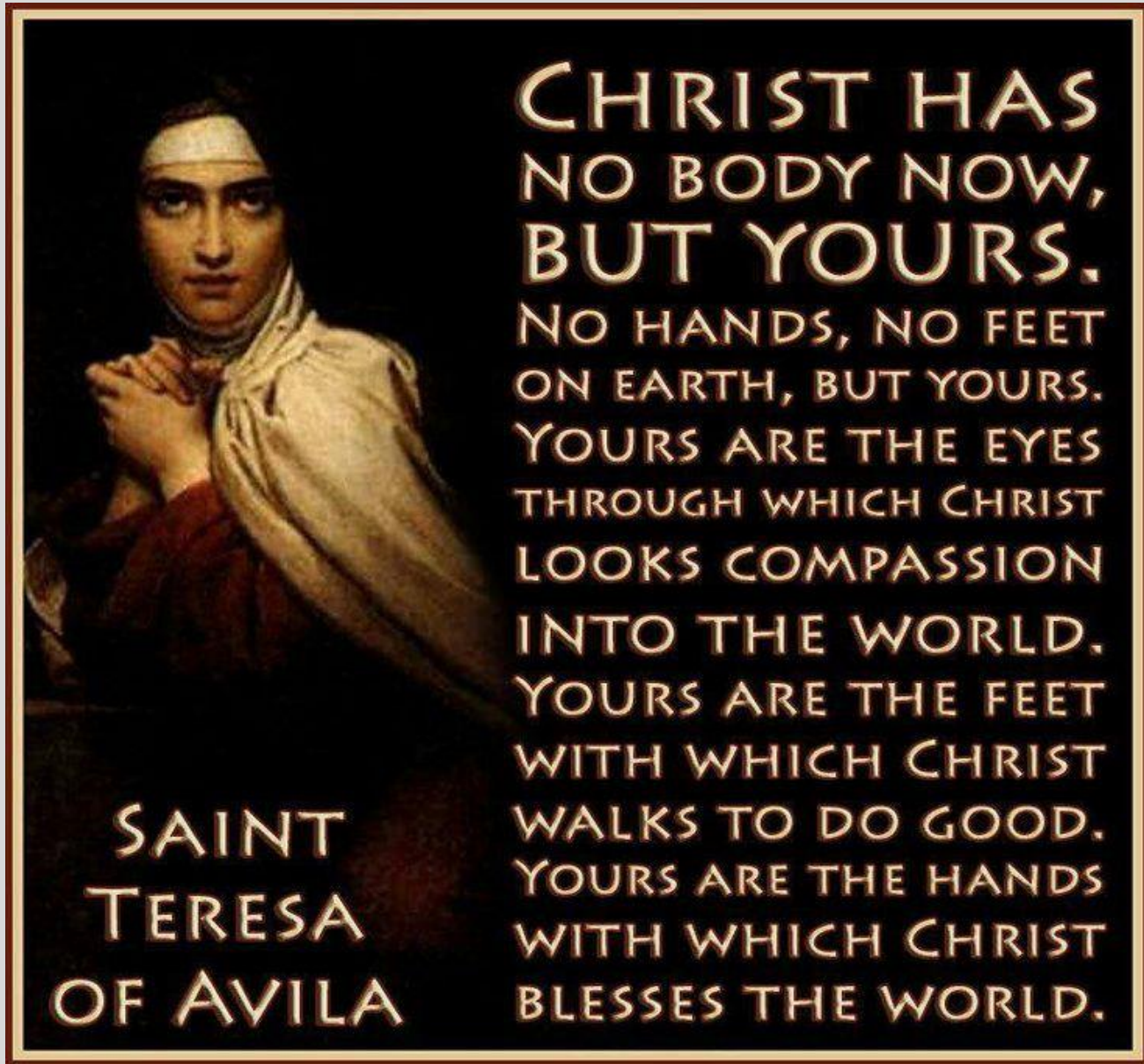
How do the people in your congregation describe God and talk about God's activity?





MISSIONAL

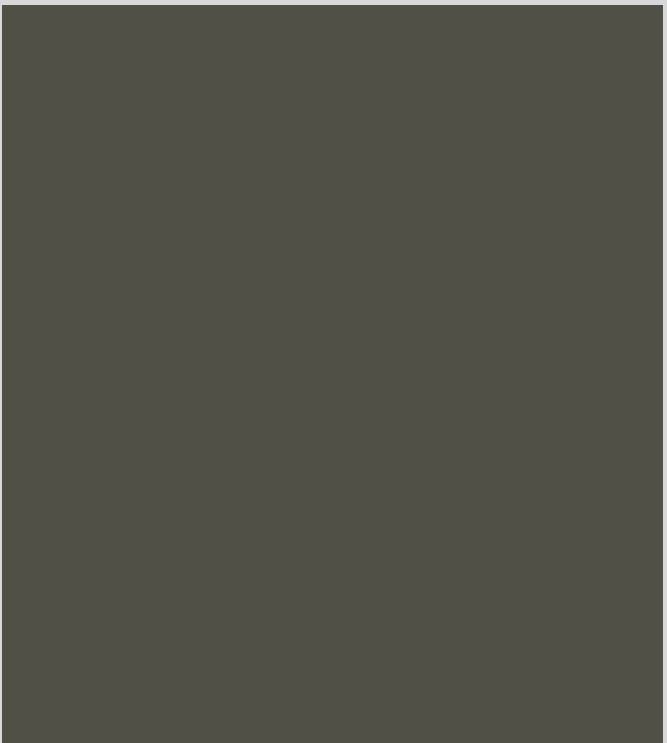
Joining in/with God at work in the world



SAINT
TERESA
OF AVILA

CHRIST HAS
NO BODY NOW,
BUT YOURS.
NO HANDS, NO FEET
ON EARTH, BUT YOURS.
YOURS ARE THE EYES
THROUGH WHICH CHRIST
LOOKS COMPASSION
INTO THE WORLD.
YOURS ARE THE FEET
WITH WHICH CHRIST
WALKS TO DO GOOD.
YOURS ARE THE HANDS
WITH WHICH CHRIST
BLESSES THE WORLD.

Joining in
God's Work in
the World





Let Your Light So
Shine Before
Others that They
May See Your
Good Works and
Glorify God

Vocation does not Necessarily Mean Occupation

All that we do, living a life of faith in the world is our work as a part of the kingdom

Four arenas

Work life – paided of

Family life

Civic life

Church life

Each of us live out multiple vocations – serve as presence of Christ for our neighbor through our calling in baptims

Vocation – We are ‘called’
to join our work to God’s.

In our baptism, we are joined
to the work of Jesus.

Our vocational calling is not
just what we do, but even
more why and how we do it

Theologyofwork.org

Vocation:
All of Life
Matters to
God



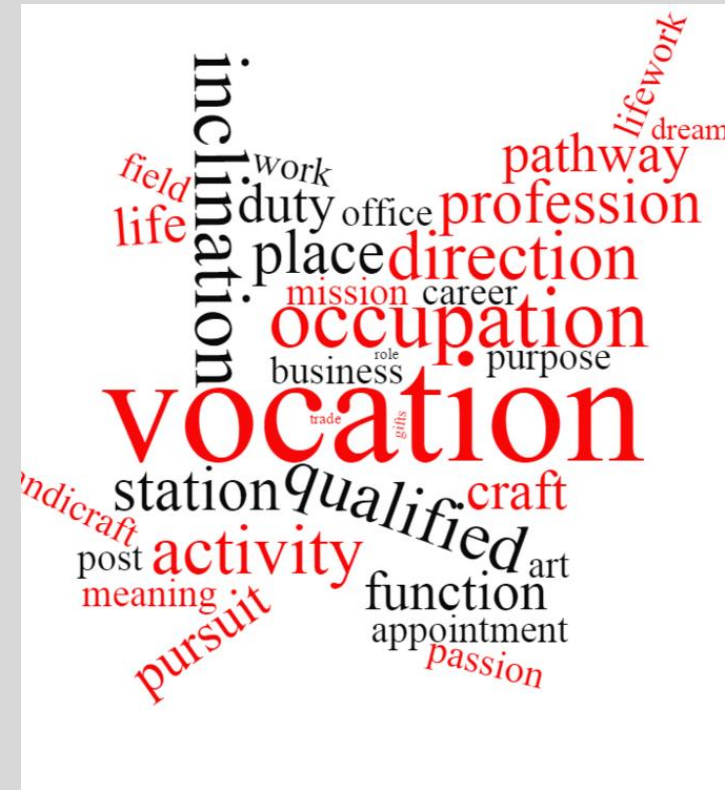


FIND A NEW FRIEND YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE YOU ARRIVED

Pick Someone from within Your Cohort If Possible

Claiming and Naming Your Vocational Calling: Vocational Interview

- Tell me about the work you do.
- How does what you do contribute to the world God loves?
- What are some issues you face at work?
- How does your faith make a difference in how you deal with these issues?
- How can I be praying for you?





LANGUAGE MATTERS

It is Possible to Talk Your Way into a New Pattern of Behavior



DO NOT CONFORM ANY LONGER
TO THE PATTERN
OF THIS WORLD,
BUT BE
TRANSFORMED
BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.
- ROMANS 12:2

Read Romans 12:1-13

What words or phrases stick out for you today?

How might this passage of scripture help provide a framework for following Jesus and speaking the faith?

Romans 12:1-13 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.



Jesus doesn't start with a program. Jesus nurtures people of faith.

A pattern of commitments and practices which shape your life as a follower of Jesus

Regular and Repeated

Examples of Practices:

Scripture reading

Prayer

Devotional Reading

Worship

Sabbath


Serving

Generosity

Nurturing Relationships

Developing a Rule and Rhythm of Life





People Succeed
When They Develop Plans
And
Create Accountability



HOMework

Seeing God in
Action

Speaking the Faith

Vocational Story

Identify Rule of Life

Individuals
and
Teams

Between
Now and the
Next Time we
Gather



TEAMS AND COACHES

- Set Your Team Meeting Date in the Next Two Weeks
- Set Your First Coaching Session by Zoom or In-Person
- Clarify Work to Accomplish Before You Meet

**Renew 145 Event Schedule
Upcoming One Day Events
10 AM to 3 PM
At A Site Your Cohort Selects**

May 9, 2020 – Equipping Congregations for Internal Engagement

September 12, 2020 - Equipping Congregations for External Engagement

November 14, 2020 - Core Values / Guiding Principles / Planning for Action

January 9, 2021 - Everyday Evangelism

March 6, 2021 - Storytelling and Celebration

Closing Thoughts



CLARIFICATIONS



ONE TAKE-AWAY FROM
THIS RETREAT



NEXT EVENT:
MAY 9, 2020



FEEDBACK

wertz@vasynod.org