

SPIRITUAL LIFE INVENTORY FAQ SHEET

RenewalWorks and the Spiritual Life Inventory

What is it?

The Spiritual Life Inventory (SLI) is an in-depth assessment of an individual parishioner's spiritual beliefs and practices, as well as the Church's role and support for that person's spiritual development. These individual findings – which are collected anonymously – are then aggregated to depict a parish-wide view. This allows an appointed Leadership Team, and the Rector and Vestry to have an in-depth profile of the entire congregation, providing invaluable insights to help guide the strategic planning process. Since this survey was developed in 2004, it has been taken by over 300,000 Christians, representing 15,000 congregations, including many Episcopal parishes. As a result, it is a very robust database with which we can compare and contrast Epiphany's survey results to help us understand and measure our spiritual growth.

Why is Epiphany conducting a parish inventory now?

After careful evaluation, the Strategic Planning Committee, with support of the Vestry and the Rector, has decided to use this research tool as part of our strategic planning initiative.

Who should take the inventory?

We are asking all adult parishioners (age 16 and over) to participate. It's important that every adult member of a family take the survey, as beliefs and practices may be quite different from other family members. This includes parish members who attend infrequently, or have just started attending.

How do I take it and when?

The SLI is designed to be an online survey – taken privately and anonymously. We hope as many parishioners as possible will complete the survey online to facilitate processing; however, the survey can be completed on paper, if you so choose, and mailed to the parish office. The survey will be available over a three-week period, from February 10th to March 2nd. [Click here to go directly to the survey.](#) [link]

How long does it take to complete?

The inventory is not short. Most respondents complete it in 25-30 minutes, although it may take a bit longer for those who find the survey prompts reflection on spirituality and spiritual formation. The online survey must be completed in one session.

What if I don't understand some of the questions or am not familiar with some of the language used?

Answer as best you can, but please complete the survey. Given that the survey has been used with a variety of denominations, it's likely you will encounter a phrase or description that may be different from what an Episcopalian may use.

When do I get my results?

Individual results are anonymous, so you will not receive an individual report. No one but you will know how you have responded to survey questions. SLI is not a 'report card,' and there are no correct or incorrect answers, so do your best to be honest.

When will the church-wide results be available and what will be done with them?

After the survey is completed, the Leadership Team will participate in a series of workshops that will help us process the parish data as a whole. Results of the survey will inform the committee's recommendations to the Vestry, but the survey is only one of several tools we are using as part of our process of discernment and planning for the future.

What if I have additional questions?

If you have questions about the SLI or its place in Epiphany's planning process, please contact the parish office and a member of the Leadership Team will be in touch as soon as possible.