

How do I prepare for the Renovare Conference? ...

How can we as a congregation prepare for the Conference?

Preparing for something can be so rich and vital. When we attain basic knowledge in the area of the event or learn even more in preparing, we find the whole experience so much more fruitful. Below you may find some suggestions of help to you first as an individual to prepare for the Renovare Conference and then for your congregation to prepare as well.

Personal Preparation

1. Register early and make sure all arrangements are established.
2. Pray daily for the conference and for your own openness and readiness for the day.
3. Consider being a prayer partner in your church for the Renovare conference.
4. Talk to other members of your church who you might encourage to attend.
5. Sponsor someone else who may not have thought of going to the conference.
6. Consider reading the basic resource by Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: a Path to Spiritual Growth* or his new book *Sanctuary of the Soul: Guide to Meditative Prayer*.
7. Consider Chris Webb's new book *The Fire of the Word: Meeting God on Holy Ground*.
8. Take a day apart before the conference for readying your heart for the conference.

Congregational Preparation

1. Renovare is suggesting pastors consider preaching on the spiritual disciplines. Richard Foster's book *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* is a handy guide of 12 disciplines. The study guide and complementary book *Spiritual Classics* are helpful resources in this endeavor.
2. Allowing for Palm Sunday and Easter, a series could begin on January 15 and run through Lent up through April 15. Worship committees can plan for services including dialogues on disciplines.
3. Consider the use of a spiritual disciplines folder which runs 12 weeks. This has a daily scripture reading and encourages daily prayer to coincide with this emphasis. See Springs of Living Water website www.churchrenewalservant.org for this resource entitled "A Closer Walk".
4. Have a congregation wide prayer emphasis on readiness for spiritual renewal in 2012.
5. Invite your church and other prayer networks to commit to being prayer partners for the Renovare conference. You will receive monthly prayer updates with prayer needs and concerns.
6. Encourage people to come. This would be people who may be new to the faith or youth or young adults. It can also be persons who need a booster to their faith and want to grow more spiritually.
7. With the appropriate groups like Deacons and Commissions, review the follow-up sheets and see what plans you want to lay now for spiritual growth in 2012 and follow-up in your congregation.
8. Have series of classes in the Sunday School with adult, young adult, and Sr./Jr. High using the *Celebration of Discipline* book as well as video resources from www.renovare.us.
9. Consider use of lessons on the spiritual disciplines for children grades 1-6 written by Jean Moyer to coincide with this emphasis. Email David Young @ davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org