

2009 All Church Retreat Exit Evaluation Responses (57 responses)

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (select one answer for each statement)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer
a. My voice/concerns were heard	27	18	4	0	0	8
b. I heard the voice/concerns of others	36	17	0	1	0	3
c. The retreat activities helped to share ideas, insight	41	10	1	1	0	4
d. I have a better understanding of Church challenges	43	7	4	0	0	3
e. I am inspired to participate in "rethinking" the Church	34	14	5	0	0	4
f. The facilitator was well prepared, materials were relevant	51	1	1	1	0	3
g. Overall the retreat was a success	41	7	3	2	0	4

2. What I learned today that I didn't know is...

- a. Not to limit the pastor's responsibility.
- b. ESUMC has major problems.
- c. How interesting this retreat turned out to be.
- d. The history of religion & the Methodist movement.
- e. El Sobrante fellowship is vibrant and alive and exciting! This is church! What I hoped for was more abundant than anticipated!
- f. The church sees itself as in trouble and needing to change. I agree, but I don't think this is the way to do it.
- g. We need to grow in faith and work for the good of the Church and God.
- h. More sharing.
- i. "Our" church isn't ours; it's God's church.
- j. Sharing my faith with others.
- k. What people are looking for in a church; experiencing God through self & others.
- l. Things are worse than I thought.
- m. The number of interested members and constituents.
- n. A better description of Christian history – FUN!
- o. How open people are about their faith and the willingness they have to share their lives with God and their life experiences with God as well.
- p. How important it is to be available to people. To reach out to others no matter how difficult it is for me.
- q. Changes can be exciting & positive; requires passion about my faith.
- r. How we re-orient our outlook to become God-focused instead of applying the club model to our church
- s. Some deeply personal stories
- t. timeline of Christianity
- u. Do I have to give up my comfort zone for others?
- v. Too much!
- w. How much change is need to save our church -- New concept and definition of "outreach".
- x. Some history and the new challenge
- y. People in ESUMC thrive on personal interaction
- z. That discipleship is not what I thought it was
- aa. Lots of interesting history and how to get started
- bb. The history of ESUMC's founding. Thanks, Dorothy.
- cc. A lot.
- dd. This is a very caring group. We can be intimate in small groups.
- ee. The commitment and compassion the church has.
- ff. We are in the post-modern period that is affecting all churches.
- gg. Why the post-modern church will have to e changed from the modern.
- hh. 1)Active participating in small groups 2) Making the connection between the past present and future
- ii. Members of the church.

- jj. The idea about the change in responsibilities between leadership and lay persons.
- kk. Church history
- ll. We don't need to be a "gas station" church.
- mm. Why we aren't doing the things to bring in new members. How the beginning timeline explained what did work but will NOT work now.
- nn. Lots! The history re: post-modern and the changes needed.
- oo. It's not "our" fault – there is change afoot!
- pp. The whole section on "it's not about you."
- qq. Most everything.
- rr. We're all searching for change either back or forward or as-is.

3. What I want to learn more about is...

- a. God will.
- b. Improving my church membership.
- c. Why Methodism?
- d. How these churches in our own cluster can share more in mission and love...knowing more about real concerns.
- e. More compassion for others
- f. Church work.
- g. How to help promote it (God's church).
- h. Improving my faith in God and Jesus.
- i. How to reach out to others.
- j. Others' past experiences
- k. Possibilities for acceptable changes.
- l. Am I doing enough on my personal basis toward my faith? What is more?
- m. How?
- n. Spiritual visioning and how some of the people who were not here will respond to our value message.
- o. Making it happen.
- p. How to bring this change about in our church.
- q. Just exactly how we get the congregation to think and act more post-modern.
- r. Laity ministry
- s. How to get all to agree about mission.
- t. Where we go next!
- u. How to share my faith with others.
- v. Scripture.
- w. Is the church really up to the challenge of changing? Is Pastor Gaye ready to train us up? What lay programs are out there?
- x. How we can do it.
- y. Growing out of my comfort zone to help others.
- z. History of Christianity and John Wesley.
- aa. How to project my love of God to others.
- bb. How to change ESUMC to post-modern. How to grow? How to contact new people
- cc. 1) How people can share faith. 2) Learning about others experiences with God.
- dd. 1) What is the church doing to align itself with the challenges of maintaining and growing the congregation.
- ee. Challenges to the church today.
- ff. Working/worshiping in small groups.
- gg. Small groups to continue what we hear in church.
- hh. How other churches have changed.
- ii. Creating vision and mission for ESUMC.
- jj. Developing purpose – not clear on establishment of such and how as a group we're going from here to there.

- kk. Most anything.
- ll. Discipleship.
- mm. How our church operates.
- nn. What are other churches doing to increase populations for church membership.

4. What I liked most is...

- a. The fellowship.
- b. The connection with other members.
- c. Fellowship.
- d. The speaker was inspiring and so is working in small groups.
- e. The excellent speaker.
- f. Small group discussion and excellent program development, execution and facilitation!
- g. Historical perspective of church, sharing of intimate relations of persons here and the Lord ultimately.
- h. The timeline, brings about recollection and reflection
- i. Learning about other's testimony.
- j. Small meetings.
- k. Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez, very well oriented in the Bible.
- l. Hearing other people's thoughts.
- m. The experience of sharing our emotions of life within God and Jesus.
- n. Group sessions and history of the church.
- o. Sharing of ideas.
- p. There is hope!
- q. The process, the group dynamic. The "forming" exercises of 1st small group. Sharing experiences (personal) made us a closer body.
- r. Feeling that my thoughts are the same as most people's.
- s. I enjoyed the groups. I learned about things I didn't know.
- t. Sharing.
- u. The personal commitment of all our members and the energy of Renae.
- v. The exchanges which took place (fellowship?).
- w. How God has changed lives.
- x. Breaking up the closed groups to share with others.
- y. The energy and knowledge of Renae.
- z. Small group concept and the possibility of implementing this concept in our church.
- aa. Presenter.
- bb. Opening session and 1st small group (intimate) session.
- cc. The information and sharing of others.
- dd. Group sharing.
- ee. History of Christianity, article "Rethink Church" ... good frame of context for discussion.
- ff. Presenter.
- gg. "Listening."
- hh. Open forum.
- ii. Working in small groups. Learning more about the people in our church.
- jj. District Superintendent's presentation.
- kk. 1) The impact of God on my life 2) Practicing Jesus' teachings.
- ll. Fellowship.

- mm. The morning session about how the church is organized based on old/historical means of communication and we need to look at new ways.
- nn. The well-organized presentation.
- oo. Good pace.
- pp. A new way to find spiritual growth which means sharing with the church family and new church family.
- qq. Renae.
- rr. That many of our people at ESUMC come together to hear and learn -- a new energy hopefully and prayerfully!
- ss. Small groups.
- tt. Rev. Renae's discussions and illustrations.
- uu. Willingness to listen or share.
- vv. Rev. Renae's morning talk. She feels like one of us completely. I could follow her most places.

5. What I would do to improve the experience is...

- a. To apply some of it in the greater society – evangelize.
- b. Participating in more activity.
- c. Establish a program to make the church grow.
- d. More coffee for the afternoon session!
- e. Hold workshops like this more often...at least annually. Promote more family-oriented retreats such as a weekend retreat and other planned activities.
- f. Perhaps share concern of we all individually have about church being not all we would like it to be – or hope it would be.
- g. The whole experience was rather off-putting and I felt it was not set up very well.
- h. Pray more and help others more.
- i. Attend more meetings than church on Sundays.
- j. It was fine!
- k. Keep open-minded to learn more about God and Jesus!
- l. Allow more individuals to express themselves in the whole group sessions.
- m. More retreats!!!!
- n. 1) More congregants/members talking during the fish bowl and additional small group breakouts. 2) Variety of media (PowerPoint; more fishbowl...)
- o. Today worked for me!
- p. Nothing! It was more than I expected it would be.
- q. Shorten sitting sessions.
- r. Follow-up on a vision development.
- s. Taking into account people with hearing problems. How, I don't know. (Helpful, huh?)
- t. Continue trying to live a Christian life as an example to others.
- u. Couldn't think of anything.
- v. 1) Get people together. 2) Small groups. 3) Family activities (Church family, etc.).
- w. See examples of upward of the other 70 churches Renae ministers to.
- x. Cannot evaluate this question adequately as I have hit the wall (2:45) and am afraid I'm closing the shop.
- y. A little less lecture.
- z. More time!
- aa. Increased practical experience of other churches.
- bb. Make it personal by growing in Christ.
- cc. Have another one.
- dd. Continue to pray, serve the community.
- ee. The best analogy (wagon train) could have been more directly stated as what values are needed to grow the church (focus on the destination, not the journey).
- ff. Softer chairs.
- gg. Possibly more "sharing" time.
- hh. Have a second retreat.
- ii. It was really well done – kudos.

- jj. Nothing.
- kk. Not sure.
- ll. Have a new hearing aid.
- mm. Get more people involved and excited.
- nn. Touch more people.

Other comment:

I now feel that the pastor no longer must be present for me to learn about God. Because it is not only about what the Bible can teach to us, but what my neighbors have to share about how they experience God in their life. Which helps me look at my own experiences -- where is God in my day-to-day.

PS: I wrote this before the PM discussion.