

*Refresh,
Revive,
Renew*

Monthly Prayer Retreats for Church Leaders

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*"Let's do our best
to know the Lord.
His coming is as certain
as the morning sun;
He will refresh us like rain
renewing the earth
in the springtime."
Hosea 6:3, CEV*

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Introduction

Prayer should be the foundation of every ministry, the driving force of every decision, and a natural part of the way we relate to each other in ministry. If we really understand the power of prayer, why is it that so little of our work time as church leaders is spent in corporate and individual prayer? In this book, you'll be given an outline for monthly prayer retreats that will help your leadership team break away from the unending list of to-dos and focus on what's most important. They will refresh, revive, and renew your leadership team.

These monthly prayer retreats are intended for participants with a wide range of skills and responsibilities- lay leaders, ministry, program, and administrative staff. Each leadership role is critical and it's important to spend time spiritually caring for the leaders who invest in your ministry.

When and where you do these prayer experiences depend on the scheduling needs of your group. If your team is primarily made of church staff, consider holding these prayer retreats during your regular workday. If your group is made up primarily of volunteers, hold your retreats in the evening or on the weekend. Consider a variety of venues for your retreat- sometimes it's refreshing to meet outside of your regular ministry space to get a fresh perspective. Here are a few places that may be very effective venues for prayer retreats:

- **Another church-** Try to choose a church with a different worship environment than your own. For example, if you are a very contemporary church, meet in a traditional church with stained glass windows. Meeting in a different worship space gives you perspective and a fresh view of the worldwide church.
- **Outside-** Meet in a park, in the woods, on the beach, in a boat. Choose somewhere with seating and shade or bring chairs and a tent if needed.
- **A House-** Meet in a staff member's house, or ask someone in the church to host your group during the day while they're at work. Locate a furnished rental property you can use for the day.
- **A Retreat Center-** Gather at a local retreat center and rent a space for the day. Enjoy the facilities and amenities while you are there.

The most important part of these monthly prayer retreats is that you spend time reconnecting with your heavenly Father- refreshing yourself spiritually, reviving your passion for ministry, and renewing your commitment to God's call on your life.

January-

Re-Treat

This retreat is the best way to start the year off right. It will give your church leadership the chance to reset priorities and renew passion and excitement for ministry in your church and community.

January- Retreat

What to Bring: printed copies of the Re-view questions, Bibles, pens, paper or computer to record task lists and timelines, supplies for Re-lax activity, refreshments

RE-fresh: Start the day with refreshments or breakfast. Spend time talking and enjoying one another's company.

RE-member: Ask each team member to answer the following questions:

- What brought you to this church?
- Why do you choose to be a part of this congregation?
- What do you love about working here?

RE-view: Ask each team member to spend an hour in prayer, considering the following points. Give them a printed copy of the Re-view questions to write down their thoughts and observations.

- What is our church's God-given mission and assignment?
- Is our vision and direction biblical? If yes, how do you know?
- Is it still relevant for our level of growth? Is it still relevant for our people?
- What is successfully moving us in that direction?
- What is moving us in the wrong direction?
- What has the potential for getting us off-track?
- What guardrails do we need to put in place to keep us moving in the right direction?
- Read Habakkuk 2:2. How have we written the vision for our congregation? Do they know it?
- Proverbs 29:18. How can we consistently communicate vision to our congregation?
- Do your personal goals and ambitions line up with our mission and assignment? Why or why not?
- Are you totally committed to the vision and direction of this church?
- What adjustments might we need to make this year?
- What adjustments might you need to make personally to be a more effective part of this team?

RE-new: Talk about your church's vision, direction, and assignment. Go through the questions as a team, giving everyone time to share their thoughts and feelings. Answer the following questions after your conversation:

- What changes (if any) do we need to make to our vision and direction?
- What changes (if any) do we need to make to our structure to more clearly meet our goals?
- What changes (if any) do we need to make in our programs/ministries to better align with our vision and direction?

Finally, create a task list and timeline for each area of change. Decide who will work on each adaptation and determine an implementation date for each project.

RE-lax: End the retreat with something fun your group enjoys doing together. Go out to eat lunch, go bowling, play a team-building game, etc. Have fun being together and steer the conversation away from work-related items and toward personal, relationally-rich conversations.

Personal RE-view Questions

What is our church's God-given mission and assignment?

Is our vision and direction biblical? If yes, how do you know?

Is it still relevant for our level of growth? Is it still relevant for our people?

What is successfully moving us in that direction?

What is moving us in the wrong direction?

What has the potential for getting us off-track?

What guardrails do we need to put in place to keep us moving in the right direction?

Read Habakkuk 2:2. How have we written the vision for our congregation? Do they know it?

Proverbs 29:18. How can we consistently communicate vision to our congregation?

Do your personal goals and ambitions line up with our mission and assignment? Why or why not?

Are you totally committed to the vision and direction of this church?

What adjustments might we need to make this year?

What adjustments might you need to make personally to be a more effective part of this team?

RE-new Timeline and Task List

Change:

Action Step	Start Date	Date of Completion	Person Responsible

Change:

Action Step	Start Date	Date of Completion	Person Responsible

