

(N=22)

SCALE = 1 (strong disagree) to 6 (strong agree)

## WHAT is Retreat for?

- 1) Retreat is a time to engage in fun activities.

AVG = 5.1; MEDIAN (mid-point) = 5; MODE (most common) = 6; RANGE = 2-6

- 2) Retreat is for introspection, getting to know myself.

AVG = 4.1 MEDIAN = 4; MODE = 4; RANGE = 2-6

- 3) Retreat is for getting to know others.

AVG = 5.7 MEDIAN = 6; MODE = 6; RANGE = 5-6

- 4) Retreat is a time to grow and be challenged.

AVG = 5.2 MEDIAN = 5; MODE = 5; RANGE = 4-6

- 5) Retreat is important for strengthening existing relationships.

AVG = 5.6 MEDIAN = 6; MODE = 6; RANGE = 4-6

- 6) Retreat is important for welcoming others and forming new relationships.

AVG = 4.6 MEDIAN = 5; MODE = 5; RANGE = 3-6

## NOTES

- Strong support for all
- Weakest support for #2, #6
- Strongest support for #3, #5

## WHO is Retreat for?

- 2 =  I don't care, and I trust the committee to decide (may stop now).

- 14 =  I care somewhat.

- 6 =  I care a lot.

- 1) Retreat is only for active members.

AVG = 3.3 MEDIAN = 3; MODE = 5; RANGE = 1-6

- 2) Retreat should include family of active members.

AVG = 4.8 MEDIAN = 5; MODE = 5; RANGE = 2-6

- 3) Retreat should include former member

AVG = 4.3 MEDIAN = 5; MODE = 5; RANGE = 2-6

- 4) Members should be free to invite friends.

AVG = 2.8 MEDIAN = 2; MODE = 2; RANGE = 1-6

## NOTES

- Low support for #4
- Mild support for #1
- Moderate support for #2, #3
- Wide range on all

I value retreat primarily as a time to ...

- I think it's often been helpful to get to know newer members.
- Connect with people with similar views and to strengthen our faith together while having a great time in the fun and solitude of the Adirondacks.
- Nourish our identity as a community with particular convictions, beliefs and practices.
- Create space outside of hustle for reflection, discussion, depth, reconnect with God, fellowship, and creation.
- Deepen relationships within our congregation.
- Grow together as a congregation, get to know who we are.
- Get to know current members. We, as a group, are retreating.
- Have lots of fun with other RMF people (and guests).
- Fellowship, fun, relaxation, renewal.
- Building relationships in a new setting. Take space away from the busyness of the city.
- Connect with people from church. Enjoy the lake.
- Relax, talk, strengthen relationships with others.
- Connect with people and to be challenged.
- Share with each other on a "deeper" level, not just have fun.
- Reflect on God, fellowship with others, grow closer to both. Can't get closer to both if too busy. Last retreat was perfect for these.
- Interact with people in church in a setting and time scale that's unique.
- Mostly all of the above, except, since it is primarily a time for us to interact with ourselves, not to be bombarded with new people.
- Get out of the urban area with my community.
- Reflect, pray, educate and get closer to God.
- Joyfully join as a church in creation to experience life together on more than Sunday a.m.
- Grow as a community. Perhaps delve into an area (topic) important to our church.

## Comments on "Who is retreat for?"

- It's been very nice to have past members there—when I know them—but it usually seems like a distraction if I don't know them it seems that they somewhat divide the group based on who knows them.
- I think retreat has been a formative experience for new-ish members and has opened people's eyes to the way RMF works. As someone who was invited soon after just visiting RMF, retreat shaped my understanding of RMF as a community, faith and fun-driven and made me feel welcome and appreciated. I hope this extends to all.
- Conversations of depth cannot take place with unknown people, no longer a guaranteed space of safety and honesty.
- I think that LT or Retreat Committee should develop a policy (clearly disseminated) on what category of "new attendee" is eligible to attend: been here 1-3 weeks? 1-2 months? or etc..
- The "free to" language helped me realize that my biggest concern with "who" is how it happens/when it happens/how does it affect the planning committee's goals and tasks.
- Inviting non-current/active members dilutes the experience of getting to know current/active members. Getting to know new people has its place but not here.
- I see retreat as also serving a bit of an "outreach" function (covert exposure to Christian community to people who would not come to church).
- OK to have a cut-off date for registration. I actually do trust the committee to use their discretion on after-deadline registrations.
- I think the "invite" list really depends on what the overall reason/value of retreat is.
- It is most important to me that people who are new to our fellowship not be excluded. I.e., they come for 2-3 Sundays before retreat is scheduled and then hear that everyone else is heading to retreat except them. I would hope we could still leave the flexibility and openness to include them.
- These are my opinions (this side of sheet). They are not overly strong.
- I don't mind additional friends/family who aren't active coming, but it seems that they should pay for their expenses. It concerns me to have many extra folks coming who aren't engaging in the retreat sessions.
- I somewhat sympathize with the notion that retreat is for our group, and not tons of outsiders. So family/former members OK, but excessive invitations of friends may be a little much. It distracts us from interacting with each other a bit, and can be a bit costly. Kids can maybe be the exception to the rule, as bringing friends may enhance their experience.
- If the activity is not a withdrawal of the community from its normal existence it shouldn't be called "retreat." If it is not limited to the community (i.e., RMF), we could call it "Autumn Fest" or "Fall Fun Time," etc.. Most retreats are for a well-defined, limited group.
- The joy of the church should be freely shared as space allows.
- When new visitors come in August and early Sept., it should be up to the retreat committee to extend an invitation to these people to attend retreat.