

Decisions that Define Us at RENEW:

- We have decided that teaching the gospel without demonstrating the gospel in love is not enough.
 - *Romans 1:16 the Gospel is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes"*
 - *The Gospel in two words= Come & Go // GOOD NEWS = so often sounds like BAD news*
- We have decided that having a good church club is not enough, good fellowship is not enough, and just being a member of that club is not enough.
 - *Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*
- We have decided that having good programs is not enough, that change without transformation is intolerable, and that staying where we are is not an option.
 - *Eph 4:22-32*
- We have decided that singing songs without worshipping is empty, and having meetings without inviting and acknowledging God's presence is pointless.
 - *Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*
- We have decided to let the Bible be our authority and guide for life; not opinions, preferences, or creeds.
 - *This is part of the definition of 'Non-Denominational' / Anthropomorphism = idolatry*
- We have decided that reading about the book of Acts without living the book of Acts is unthinkable.
 - *Acts 2 – sense of Awe*
- We have decided that confident faith is good but bold faith is better.
 - *Moses / Joseph of Arimathea - Mark 15:43 / Paul - Acts 9:28*
- We have decided to be a distribution center of God's blessings, not just a warehouse.
 - *We are blessed to be a blessing - Genesis 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."*
- We have decided to be Holy Spirit filled, led, and empowered – anything less doesn't work for us.
 - *Acts 13:52 – "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."*
 - *Luke 12:11 – "for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*
 - *John 14:26 – "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*
 - *Encouraged by / warns / convicts / comforts / etc.*
- We have decided to be the ones telling the stories of God's power – not the ones only hearing about them.
 - *Addictions healed // marriages Renewed // Given up on God = Relationship Rekindled*
- We have decided that living saved but not supernatural is not living at all, and short of what Christ died for.
 - *Romans 12:11-13 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*
- We have decided that we are a battle ship not a cruise ship, an army not an audience, Special Forces not spectators, missionaries not club members.
 - *"Taking Ground for the Kingdom" = Matt 16:18 (gates of hell will not prevail)*
- We have decided to be radical lovers and outrageous givers.
 - *Renew in 3D = Love God, one another, everyone else (including the unlovable – look at Jesus)*
 - *Matt 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
 - *Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it"*
 - *2 Corinthians 9:6-12 – sows sparingly, reap sparingly*
- We have decided that we are a mission station and not a museum.
 - *James 2:18 "But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."*
- We have decided to meet people where they are – but love them too much to let them stay there.
 - *Liberal & Conservative Churches miss it – one lets people stay in sin, the other won't allow people to come unless they "clean up" first = neither work // Jesus = John 8:1-11 [woman caught in adultery]*
- We have decided to be clique-free / a hospital for the soul-sick / color-blind / & a place for second-chances.
 - *Someone once said it was impossible to keep cliques from forming...this is not true*
- We have decided to welcome people with tattoos or not, piercings or not, suits or shorts, fat or thin, young or old, rich or poor.
 - *1 Samuel 16:7 "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*
- We have decided that it is better to fail while reaching for the impossible that God has planned for us than to succeed settling for less.
 - *Psalms 37:5 "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:"*
 - *Luke 1:37 "For no word from God will ever fail."*
- We have decided to be disciples, make disciples, baptize disciples, and continue to teach disciples to obey Jesus.
 - *Matthew 28:18-20*
- We have decided that in all that we do, it is for the Glory of God's name...not our own.
 - *Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*
 - *Psalms 34:3 "Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together." ((pride=danger))*
- We have decided that we are not limited by 4 walls of a building and our influence is not restricted to one location. The people are "the church", and we are a church in motion.
- We have decided that we will not be satisfied until our world cries out, "Those who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6, NKJV).

What decisions define you?

