

Congregational Survey

Personal statistics

1. How long have you been associated with Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church? _____
2. How long have you been a Unitarian Universalist? _____
3. How often do you attend the Sunday service (if you are teaching RE, please include this in the number):

___ Once a month ___ 1-2 times per month ___ 3-4 times per month
4. What was your prior religious affiliation(s), if any?

5. Gender: Male ___ Female ___ Transgender___
6. Age: (*Circle one*)
14-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-79 80+
7. Which of the following best describe where you live?

___ North Side ___ City of Pgh (other than NS) ___ East suburb ___
South suburb ___ West suburb ___ North suburb ___ Outside of
Allegheny County
8. Marital Status: (*Circle one*)
single married divorced widowed living w/partner
9. What best describes your ethnic/racial background:
 - a. Caucasian
 - b. African-American
 - c. Latino/Hispanic
 - d. Native American
 - e. Asian American
 - f. Other _____
10. How would you describe your children's ethnic/racial background?

11. Number of children in each age range:

	Number	Number in religious education.
0-3		
4-6		
7-11		
12-18		
> 18		N/A

12. How do you describe your sexual orientation:

___ Heterosexual ___ Gay ___ Lesbian ___ Bisexual

The Congregation

13. How important **to you** are the following aspects of congregational life?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
a. Worship			
b. Fellowship			
c. Celebrating common values			
d. Meditation or prayer			
e. Intellectual stimulation			
f. Music/aesthetic satisfaction			
g. Spiritual growth			
h. Denominational involvement			
i. Religious education program (children and youth)			
j. Social justice concerns			
k. Participation with fellow congregants in social justice activities			
l. Adult RE programs			
m. Social get togethers			

14. What would you list as the main strengths of Allegheny?

- a.
- b.
- c.

15. What would you list as the main challenges currently facing this congregation?

- a.
- b.
- c.

16. Please indicate which of the following, or what combination, best describes your religious orientation. *(If none seems adequate, add your own statement.)*

- Theological Christianity: Jesus is a unique revelation of the divine.
- Ethical Christianity: Jesus is a great moral teacher.
- Judaism.
- Humanism: Human nature is the basis of all religion and ethics.
- Atheism or Non-theism: The concept of deity is not helpful.
- Skepticism: There is no way of knowing the truth with regard to theological matters.
- Agnosticism: I simply do not know "the truth" about theological matters.
- Ethical Religion: The function of religion is to encourage the development of ethical living.
- Theism: God (Christian or other concepts) is the center of faith.
- Naturalistic Theism: The powers we have traditionally attributed to a supernatural god are inherent in the natural world. The natural world elicits our respect and devotion.
- Mysticism: It is possible for humans to have a vital identification with the Cosmos.
- Earth centered spirituality which celebrates the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- Eclectic: Includes values from many different sources, including world religions.
- Other: _____

17. During the past year have you attended any denominationally related gathering (activities such as Summer Institute, General Assembly, district meetings, youth conferences, etc.)?

___ Yes ___ No

Sunday services

18. How important **to you** are the following items, which may be a part of the Sunday Service?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
A. Music by the congregation (hymns, songs, chants, rounds)			
B. Music for the congregation (choir, instrumental, solos)			
C. Joys and concerns			
D. Silent or guided meditation			
E. Morning address (sermon, talk, presentation)			
F. Inspirational Readings / Words			
G. Other _____ _____			

19. How important to you are the intergenerational services?

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Not important

20. How important to you is the after service fellowship (coffee hour)?

___ Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Not important

21. Please rate **your** interest related to the content of the service:

	Very Interested	Somewhat interested	Not interested
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a. Theological values			
b. Values and perspectives on social justice issues			
c. Judeo-Christian traditions			
d. Non-western religions			
e. Coping with life			
f. Religious implications of science and modern knowledge			
g. Philosophical ideas			
h. Our UU tradition			
i. Creative and artistic activities			
j. Spiritual Growth			
k. Other _____ _____			

Minister's Role

22. How important **to you** are the objectives of the worship service:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
a. To inspire			
b. To show new paths for individual growth and change			
c. To provide a supportive environment for developing and sharing of individual feelings and beliefs			
d. To encourage individuals and the congregation to act on their convictions			
e. To build community			
f. Other _____ _____			

23. Of the following ministerial functions, please rate each according to its importance to **you**.

	Very	Somewhat	Not
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	important	important	important
a. Sunday service			
b. Personal counseling			
c. Social action / advocacy			
d. Religious education: adult			
e. Religious education: children and youth			
f. Administration			
g. Expansion of membership			
h. Making pastoral calls			
i. Fundraising			
j. Participation in denominational activities			
k. Building community			

24. Leadership style: Which leadership style would you most prefer in your next minister?

- a. ____ An dynamic, charismatic leader with definite objectives
- b. ____ A facilitative leader whose objective is to aid the congregation in reaching its objectives.
- c. ____ Whatever leadership style is the minister's natural style is satisfactory to me.
- d. ____ Other. _____

The search committee and the Board of Trustees have also discussed whether to continue with the title of minister/director of social advocacy versus the title of minister with the responsibilities of social advocacy being very explicit in the ministerial job description. We have been advised that the dual title may actually be confusing to

prospective candidates who have trained to be either a “pastoral” minister versus a “community” minister.

25. Do you feel we should:

- a. ___ Use the title Minister but make the social advocacy role explicit in the job description
- b. ___ Continue to use the dual title of Minister/Director of Social Advocacy

Comments:

The search committee and the Board of Trustees recognize that our ministerial candidate pool will be limited by the fact that we are recruiting for a $\frac{3}{4}$ time ministerial position. We continue to have discussions within the committee and with individuals in the church as to whether we are ready to take the next step, make a serious commitment and become a full service church. We recognize that we have a significant presence in the North Side community and the UU world including our city and district. We know we are serious about the work this church does and that we have an important message to share. We recognize the financial constraints with which we continue to deal (spending exceeding our income). The question then becomes how to balance the vision and the financial realities. Are we ready or able to make the financial commitment to increase our pledges and/or spend the Church savings in order to move to the next level?
Your comments are greatly appreciated.

Comments:

26. Is there anything else you would like your search committee to know in regard to the ministerial search?