

Compilation of responses from Cottage Meetings, May - September 2016

Question 1: What do you value about UUCY?

Community: (33) A liberal community, intellectual banter, welcoming inclusiveness, not just tolerance but appreciation of others.

Acceptance

Being with like-minded people sharing non-traditional values

- Children, important to have them here
- Community
- Community
- Community – like-minded people w/similar values
- Community of acceptance
- Connection: A place that reflects my values.
- Diversity
- Family – validation
- Fellowship
- Fellowship
- Fellowship, the support to put spirituality and values into my daily life, to identify and be my better self
- Free thought community
- Freedom, understanding
- Friendship
- Haven, a safe place that encourages and represents justice, liberal thoughts
- Home
- Multiple generations interacting – family involvement
- Open minded, compassionate community centered on sense of spirituality
- Open minded, compassionate, community centered on spirituality
- Opportunity for small group involvement
- People – supportive, open, accepting, wise
- Respect, honor, authenticity, humor
- Safe place
- Safety – attitude
- Sharing – community
- Sharing of resources. Using the church for functions important to us.
- Small group interaction

- Spiritual community
- Support
- That it's here.
- The people, the building.

- Spirituality: (26)**
- An opportunity to slow down, step outside daily life and be inspired to be a better person.
 - Comfortable place to be yourself
 - Diverse beliefs, acceptance of others.
 - Diversity in message/philosophies
 - Fellowship, the support to put spirituality and values into my daily life, to identify and be my better self
 - Freedom
 - Freedom to worship as you please
 - Makes me feel whole
 - Music – Hymns
 - Nurturing spiritual growth, gratitude, open-mindedness, tolerance
 - Open minded, compassionate community centered on sense of spirituality
 - Open minded, compassionate, community centered on spirituality
 - Personal growth – spiritual awareness
 - Personal growth/spiritual awareness
 - Purpose
 - Respect for diversity
 - Respite, inspiration, reflection.
 - Searching
 - Service from sharing personal values
 - Spiritual Growth & evolution
 - Spiritual home base
 - Spiritual home base
 - Spiritual questions
 - Spiritual questions
 - Spiritual w/o dogma
 - Sunlight in sanctuary
 - Would like religion to bring people together rather than being a dividing force.

- Justice: (9)**
- Acceptance of GLBT people

- Community outreach
- Encompassing wider identity/vision
- Haven, a safe place that encourages and represents justice, liberal thoughts
- Respect for diversity
- Saying “yes” – supporting people’s work in the community
- Sharing of resources
- Social Justice
- Survival of the church as a liberal beacon
- We can counteract the divisive nature of broader society.

Learning: (13)

- Ability to question and answer
- Activities for kids – religious program for kids that is NOT fundamentalist.
- Always learning
- Continuous Growth
- Inquiry, questioning
- Purpose
- Purpose
- Searching
- Smart people and free-thinkers
- Thought-provoking speakers
- Uncertainty or doubt as a virtue
- UU Tradition
- Value of uncertainty/doubt
- Values w/o mythology

Question 2: A peak experience (what is the value expressed?)**Community: (23)**

- Acceptance
- Acceptance and Love
- Accepting relationships
- Being present with others without words
- Being present with suffering of others
- Buying our church building and doing it on our own

- Celebrations
- Creating family, following the heart
- Cross-generational connections
- Feeling connected and part of the human community.
- Give people an opportunity to express themselves
- Helping others – expressing compassion, love
- Joining & recognition
- Memories, stories, and human ingenuity
- People sharing themselves, their feelings, their experiences, their lives.
- Realizing I was Unitarian Universalist, found my religious home
- Realizing the commonality of liberal values in others.
- Realizing we all have a part to play, a contribution to make.
- Safety net in small group
- Seeing lesbian/gay people welcomed at church
- Social experiences
- Support in growth, spiritual journey, safety
- Taking big step of buying building (investing in future)
- The community here, coming together at a sudden death and planning a memorial service.

- Spirituality: (16)**
- Appreciating the moment
 - Art – things as they should be – wholeness
 - Creating family, following the heart
 - Chance to use my creativity
 - Creativity and affirmation
 - Forgiveness from a friend as an epiphany
 - Gratitude
 - Humility (Embracing imperfection)
 - Meditation – lack of resistance – in harmony
 - Metaphysical
 - Music – like the planets have aligned
 - Music – pianist, choir, music moves me
 - Openness to the universe
 - Realizing I was Unitarian Universalist, found my religious home
 - Revelations with others that feel like a breakthrough was made.

- Safe alternative place for kids and adults
 - Support in growth, spiritual journey, safety
- Justice: (4)**
- Congregational action effecting community
 - Going back to work full time in a community w/disadvantaged kids
 - Opportunity to be a part of a group doing something valuable
 - Realizing the commonality of liberal values in others.
- Learning: (10)**
- Accepting changes
 - Adult RE is transformative and helps spiritual growth
 - Evaluation of who we are
 - Feeling strong and able to direct others.
 - Finding clarity in life decisions
 - Learning, hearing challenging viewpoints
 - Personal accomplishment
 - Physical accomplishment
 - Realizing we all have a part to play, a contribution to make.
 - Support in growth, spiritual journey, safety
 - Teaching children in RE classes and sharing their activities

Question 3: UUCY in 20 years, what will we be known for?

- Community: (30)**
- Affinity groups
 - Celebration of life
 - Celebrations!
 - Community center where lots of things happen.
 - Democratic process
 - Diversification (welcoming)
 - Great RE program to attract families
 - Good place to meet and connect
 - Joyful & vibrant/fun
 - Larger place in community (greater influence)
 - Meeting place for groups with different interests
 - More activities, more building use

- New forms of outreach
- Our longevity.
Place that offers a reason for people to participate, social services
Place that offers something for young kids and youth
- Presence at colleges
- Respectful and affirming interactions – healthy relations
- Strong circle of people
- The "fun" church.
- There will be people whose lives will have been touched and enriched by UUCY.
- There will be younger members.
- Valuing all people
- Valuing the interdependent web of all existence
- Warm welcoming place
- We are welcoming, open to everyone; there are no boundaries to participation.
- We have been steadfast in our holding of liberal values.
- We may change, but we will survive.
- Welcoming to everybody
- Young members
- Young people

- Spirituality: (22)**
- A church, a spiritual community
 - Celebration of life
Celebrates the interconnectedness of life as a core value
Center for spiritual growth and exploration
 - Center (hub) of principles, spirituality, joy
 - Church that shares humanity and spirituality
 - Compassion, spirituality
 - Compassion, spirituality in broader community
 - Connection with “nones” – being a place for expression
 - Great music
 - Hosting funerals for homeless people
 - Nurturing individual ministries
 - Our generosity.

- Personal growth
Place for personal growth, including meditation, music, dance, arts
Place that celebrates life
- Promoting meditation, mindfulness – “being vs. doing”
- Respected admired and appreciated by traditional church communities
- Still have core value of interconnectedness of life
- Survivors
- The church that shares humanity and spirituality.
- Valuing the interdependent web of all existence
- We have been steadfast in our holding of liberal values.

Justice: (20)

- “Cause (project) for the year” – Working as a group
- Advocating for slowing population growth
- An active voice in the community, people expect to hear what the UUs say
Compassion -- helping marginalized people
- Collaboration with other groups & efforts
- Helping solve problems of the world
- Helping the Homeless
- Helping those who are marginalized
- Helping Yakima be more compassionate community
- Holding up a light – society evolving
- Hosting funerals for homeless people
- It will be known in community, a clear liberal religious voice.
- Local & global thinking
- Mediating voice in the wider community (i.e. racial justice)
- Religious Education
Serving the community through our programs
- Social justice outreach
- Spiritual and social justice
Strong circle of people thinking both locally and globally
- Supporting community groups working for justice
- Valuing all people

Learning: (12)

Center for liberal learning and classes for all kinds of things

- Center for liberal thought and religion
- Democratic process
- Drive-by sermon
- Educating people about ecology, sustainability
- Famous for great RE program
- Nurturing and enriching young people
- Social justice, environmental awareness
- Still questioning
- The church that holds diverse programs that are open to the wider community.
- The importance of process as well as product.
- We see change as a positive thing.
- We still will be questioning and searching for truth and meaning.

Uncatergorized: Offer something that people want
Not do what we're doing today

Question 1: (What you value about UUCY at present:)

Community: (33)	40%
Spirituality: (26)	32%
Justice: (9)	11%
Learning: (13)	16%

Question 2: (What you value in life:)

Community: (23)	41%
Spirituality: (16)	28%
Justice: (4)	7%
Learning: (13)	23%

Question 3: (What you value about future of UUCY:)

Community: (30)	36%
Spirituality: (22)	26%
Justice: (20)	24%
Learning: (12)	14%