

Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
State of the Fellowship Conversation Results
February 20/21 2016 (Combined Saturday 97)

1. What part of the sermon resonated with you most?

Openness of their observations (8)

"I am surprised by how uncomfortable I felt."

We are strong (3)

Who do we want to be? (3)

Change

focused too much on everything to change

"I felt challenged by the sermon. I'm very tired of change in my personal life. I think I've voiced my opinion on the state of our church a lot already. I felt scolded for liking some of my parts of the church service."

Lack of staff and staff needs (19)

Plateau or grow (15)

What are the best practices for continued smallness (7)

"The importance of keeping the small fellowship feel was discussed, yet the practices shared that seemed somewhat undesirable seem like exactly the things that create that feeling."

Need to reexamine Saturday service (11)

Consider Sunday evening service (2)

Lack of diversity (5)

"The ministers do not see diversity in us. I feel similarly."

"I am blind to the white culture here."

Not enough of a supportive presence for marginalized community (2)

The LGBT community is not apparent to outsiders (2)

Culture of Fellowship (7)

Names to be used: fellowship/church/gathering

Symbols of Fellowship (7)

Coffee (3)

Congregational response (6)

Balance between heads and hearts

Reaching out to the community/need to let the wider community know what we offer (4)

"Need to make sure our new minister is comfortable with our traditions."

Not a time to rest on our laurels

2. What should endure?

Congregational response (56)

Coffee (22)

"Also, coffee, coffee, coffee, tea in the sanctuary forever please!"

" I agree with NO coffee in the sanctuary. NO NO NO. People should NOT be getting up in the middle of the service to refill."

Welcoming spirit/welcoming feel (15)

Saturday Service (14)

Journey groups (10)

Small groups (9)

Maintain and encourage small group membership

R. E. Programming (8)

Children's story/children's participation

OWLS

Coming of age (2)

Music (6)

Welcoming to all forms of music

casual nature of musical guests

Growth (3)

"Ability to change and adjust and respond to growth, to changing environment (the building)."

The small feel of the fellowship (11)

Partner Church/committee (3)

Lay minister roles (3)

Social Action Teams/committees /social justice (9)

Our governing process is excellent (3)

Leah! (2)

Openness and diversity of spiritual practices (4)

Not a structured service - we search we don't point to a\ defined person/place (2)

Balance of head and heart

Would prefer a more spiritual message as opposed to focus on social action

Sermons that make me think are personal and respectful of all

"when I breath in" affirmation

Silence

Chalice

Dedication on Demand

The Weekly Scroll

Informal relationship of ministers with congregation

SOTF combined Saturday pp.3

2. What should endure? (continued)

"Ability to bring our authentic selves, be vulnerable, and thus learn and grow together"

"Sense of the Fellowship as a place that is not a conventional church - that welcomes everyone with a desire to improve the life of the larger community."

"As long as I feel welcome and safe I (we) will continue to be members."

3. What are your hopes and dreams for the future of the fellowship?

Continue to grow (15)

Maintaining our current level of growth

Continue with small fellowship feel (3)

Grow the diversity of the fellowship (19)

Grow staff and fair pay (9)

facilities maintenance committee/custodial committee or volunteers (2)

Continue to work for change in the community/social justice (14)ACTION vs Talk

Growing R.E. Program (2)

Youth and Young Adult ministry (5)

Adult RE share congregational experience with activism

Expand volunteer base/better organized volunteerism (3)

Expanded presence in the community (10)

Health Action committee role

Expanded music program (2)

Full time music director

"New, gorgeous, 'green,' 'safe, large, safe playground."

New Minister

Renewed leadership

Effective settled minister who is a good fit.

An interesting and politically active minister

" I hope the choice of a minister will be one who shares our values rather than wanting to change everything. He/she should represent our values , not vice-versa."

A strong stewardship campaign (2)

Keeping the small feel of the community within a larger congregation (5)

Maintenance of community, culture, spirituality and challenge while we grow

" I hope we will not grow too fast in our congregation, would like to see expansion gradually into new congregation."(2)

"A proper Oshkosh group be formed and additional services other than once a month"

Better response with Partner church involvement

SOTF combined Sat pp3.
Hopes and Dreams (Continued)

"Keep long term members engaged as we evolve and welcome more new members and continue to grow."

"I have heard 'god,' 'church,' 'a we/you' to it. Very off putting to agnostics."

" A spiritually-safe, welcoming environment wherein we do not fear words like 'church'."

"let's embrace change. If we do it with intention and care, we'll come out stronger than ever."

"That we grow into our size and are willing to let go of what isn't working."