

Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
State of the Fellowship Conversation Results
February 20/21 2016
Major Themes and Observations (EG)

There were a series of internal contradictions or tensions in each section of the conversation. They were most apparent in the responses to the first two questions. Grow or plateau? Change or stay the same? Can we grow yet keep the qualities and characteristics that give us the feeling of community, warmth, welcoming and informality?

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

- a) Significant numbers of respondents were surprised by the description of staffing needs.

- b) Many were surprised by the description of our lack of diversity. One described themselves as being "white blind."

- c) The elements and symbols of our social culture were appreciated but many respondents felt threatened that there was an implied negative attached to them and feared they were about to be eliminated or changed. This was particularly true on Saturday.

- d) The desire to grow in numbers, racially, and economically; and yet remain unchanged by the growth in any and all of its potential forms.

2. What should endure?

- a) The service: all of its elements both formal and informal. In many respects this is the core. The spirituality is our glue.

- b) All of those elements that give us our sense of community/closeness/informality

- c) Many, many items suggested essentially form our mission statement. Consciously or unconsciously our mission statement reflects us and Fellowship lives it.

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

- a) MORE of just about everything!

- b) Yet keep the small fellowship feeling and do not change very much!

Footnotes:

- a) There are specific suggestions for more committees to help support the functioning of the Fellowship.
- b) There are some strong suggestions for improving the coordination of volunteering.
- c) As a result of the Saturday Service attention there were many and concerns regarding general attendance and membership