

Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
State of the Fellowship Conversation Results  
February 20/21 2016 (Sunday Combined 110)

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

Strong congregation

Appreciation for what we are

Questions about the future (9)

"The idea that we must learn to accept & welcome some level of discomfort - the place we come for comfort - so that others may feel more welcome & may find a spiritual home here , too."

"Valuing what is unique and successful about our fellowship and preserving that while we open to new identities and possibilities."

As a new visitor to the fellowship, I am most impressed with the consciousness of self-reflection embodied in the community & in today's meeting."

growth or plateau (24)

Are we ready for change

Are we changing things just to attract more people

opportunity to embrace change

Growth is necessary for financial stability (2)

"We need to assess certain core programs because we can't continue with the same level of programs and service with a larger congregation unless we are able to contribute additional funding."

"is it important or even necessary to be theologically monocultural to recruit?"

"I appreciate the challenge to change and examine our 'we'." (4)

Staff /size/compensation ( 24)

Saturday service - need for review (8)

Culture (32)

diversity

Growing in diversity seems more relevant than growing in numbers

Idea that we need to have small groups based on individual cultures

Culture of informality (8)

Groups/symbols of inviting (4)

Coffee

Congregational response (2)

Joys and concerns

LGBT presence

"is informality welcoming or unwelcoming" (4)

Symbols as negatives

How or should we sustain the feeling of community within? (4)

How to stay involved in social justice locally

Building community with other churches in the area

Young people need to find us

Expansion of all age involvement in services

Recognize the importance of committees

Need to stay "bottom- up " rather than "top-down."

Fellowship rather than church

The importance of this conversation in determining a new minister (2)

Recognition of the challenging position the Fellowship is.

What sermon?

Ministers seemed uncomfortable -not like regular services  
I don't like the word "tenacity" as it was used.  
conversation style  
"I DO NOT like performance sermons"

2. What should endure?

Congregational Response (47)

Coffee (12)

Joys and concerns (15)

RE (29)

Children's story (2)

Greater Good

Small Groups/action teams/groups (29)

Journey Groups (8)

Music (15)

Kid's music program

Staff/well paid (6)

Social justice issues and their relevance to social justice (17)

Leadership outreach in the community (2)

Connection to the community

Silence (4)

Chalice lighting

Gong

Leah ! (4)

Sense of community/keep the closeness/informality/Welcoming (46)

Define who we are to help be more welcoming (3)

Openness (34)

sense of "bring your own" religion beliefs

"Fellowship" not church language (5)

The social, fun community spirit

Cabaret

Inspirational and spiritually challenging sermons (5)

Minister on journey with us, not talking down

Three part mission

Feeling of connection with mission

List principles in bulletin for new and old members

Wellspring Wednesday

Democratic process (2)

Lay leadership (3)

Keep structure of Service

Monthly collection for important community causes

Support of St. Joseph Food Program

e-mail newsletters

Podcasts

Lunchbox sermons

Volunteer involvement

Growth (2)

Head vs Heart balance

figure out who we are

constant re-looking at the culture (2)

Tradition of "sacramental observances" i.e. flower communion, mingling waters, etc.

"I come for personal growth & community being welcome to all religious groups, cultures, etc."

"I come for personal spiritual, intellectual stimulation and growth which finds inspiration by social commitment."

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

That it never lose its vitality. (2)

Growth (16)

Preparing for growth

"I don't want us to be a mega-church. I want us to be a fellowship to connect with and support one another while we increase our impact on the community."

Increased diversity

Concrete Leadership

Settled minister who is a good fit (6)

Youth minister (2)

Stronger RE Programs (4)

More programming for middle/high school youth (5)

More adult religious education

Keep young people after RE age

An RE committee

Youth brought up in U.U> stay U.U. members for life (2)

A promotion for Leah (2)

Staff better funded (5)

Social Justice (13)

Hire social justice coordinator

Improve Volunteer activity and coordination (4)

Volunteer Board

Financial stability, stewardship and growth (4)

Readdressing/reestablishing a stronger connection with Oshkosh members

Stronger contact with National UU organization

Messages (sermons) that stem directly from our Principles (2)

Push us spiritually

Sermons created by or topic chosen by members

Expanded Music program (5)

Leader in the community (7)

Increased diversity (17)

Stability

Directory (2) on-line/photo

Welcoming to everyone but still being us (2)

All generation appeal

Green sanctuary