

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE RESTORATION

December 2017

Dear members and friends,

The Search Committee is compiling this survey to provide information for potential candidates for a full-time consulting minister for 2018-2019. The survey will provide an updated demographic profile of the congregation, as well as a sketch of our expectations and priorities. The information will paint a portrait of our congregation for the benefit of potential minister candidates. Time is of the essence.

We need your response by January 15, 2018

Thank you for responding to this survey. **Everyone's participation is very important. Please encourage all others to complete this survey.** The percentage of the congregation completing the survey sends a strong message to prospective ministers.

Your individual responses will not be identifiable. All responses will be held in strictest confidence and only summary results will be reported. You will have access to the summary results.

Different ways you may access the survey. UUCR website will direct you to either the on-line (*Survey Monkey*) version or to a printable version that you can download and fill out by hand. The on-line method is easiest for the committee because data collating is done by the computer.

For the electronic (Survey Monkey) version:

- (1) Click on the link in the weekly newsletter.
- (2) Click on the link to the Survey Monkey version on the congregational website.

For the paper version:

- (1) Click on the link to the downloadable paper version on the congregational website. It can be printed and filled out.
- (2) Request a paper copy from the office.
- (3) Approach a member of the committee, listed below.

Please take the time to answer the survey thoughtfully and candidly. Thank you for your contribution. We look forward to your response. Completed surveys can be left at or mailed to the office, or given to a committee member listed below. NOTE: U.S. Post may require two stamps if you are mailing back more than one survey.

Sincerely,

The Search Committee: Annabel Grote and Carolyn Poerio, co-chairs; Anne Arfaa, Bill Dikeman, Shirley Green, Linda Hansell, Cathy McCoubrey and Allen Radway.

Please read each question carefully, and follow the instructions in italics.

Reminder: These questions are optional and your responses are anonymous. The information will be used to develop a demographic profile of the congregation for prospective ministers.

Responses below are those of: *Please check only one.*

- (1) Me , as an individual
- (2) Two adult partners, as in a couple
- (3) Our household including _____ children/youth (under voting age) and ____ adults.

SECTION A – ABOUT YOU

1. What is your affiliation with the congregation? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Active Member who participates and pledges, giving financial contributions
 - (2) Active Non-Member who participates and contributes but has not formally joined the congregation
 - (3) Regular attendee and contributor
 - (4) Other _____

2. How long have you been a Unitarian Universalist? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Less than 2 years
 - (2) 2 to 5 years
 - (3) 6 to 15 years
 - (4) More than 15 years (but not life-long)
 - (5) Life-long

3. How long have you been associated with this congregation? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Less than 2 years
 - (2) 2 to 5 years
 - (3) 6 to 15 years
 - (4) More than 15 years (but not life-long)
 - (5) Life-long

4. Over the past three years, how frequently have you attended Sunday services, not including summer services?
Please check only one.
 - (1) Less than once a month
 - (2) Once or twice a month
 - (3) Seldom miss a service

5. What is your gender? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Male
 - (2) Female
 - (3) Non-binary/Third gender/Genderqueer
 - (4) Prefer to Self-Describe as _____
 - (5) Prefer not to say

6. Do you identify as transgender? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Yes
 - (2) No
 - (3) Prefer not to say

7. What is your sexual orientation? *Please check only one.*
 - (1) Straight / Heterosexual
 - (2) Gay or Lesbian
 - (3) Bi- or Pansexual
 - (4) Queer
 - (5) Prefer to Self-Describe as _____
 - (6) Prefer not to say

8. What is your age? *Please check only one*

- (1) Under 20
- (2) 21-35
- (3) 36-50
- (4) 51-65
- (5) 66-80
- (6) Over 80

9. What is your ethnic/racial background? *Please check as applies.*

- (1) African American/Black
- (2) American Indian
- (3) Asian
- (4) Euro American
- (5) Hispanic/Latino
- (6) Multi-Racial
- (7) Other _____

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed? *Please check only one.*

- (1) Less than high school
- (2) High school
- (3) Trade school, associate degree or community college diploma
- (4) Bachelor's Degree
- (5) Master's Degree
- (6) Doctorate or Post-Doctorate degree
- (7) Other _____

11. What is your employment status? *Please check as applies.*

- (1) Full-time employment
- (2) Self-employed
- (3) Part-time or multiple jobs
- (4) Unemployed
- (5) Retired
- (6) Student
- (7) Other _____

12. How long does it take you to reach the church from home, by your most frequently used means of transportation?
Please check only one.

- (1) Less than 10 minutes
- (2) 10 to 30 minutes
- (3) 31 to 60 minutes
- (4) More than 60 minutes _____

13. Where do you live: *Please check only one.*

- (1) Mt. Airy
- (2) Elsewhere in Philadelphia
- (3) Suburbs of Philadelphia
- (4) New Jersey
- (5) Other _____

14. How do you normally travel to church? *Please check only one.*

- (1) Walk
- (2) Cycle
- (3) Personal Vehicle
- (4) Public Transit (including para-transit)
- (5) Other _____

SECTION B – YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CONGREGATION

15. Why do you attend and continue attending this congregation? *Please check one column in each line:*

<i>N = Not Important, S = Somewhat Important, Q = Quite Important, E = Extremely Important</i>				
	N	S	Q	E
Unitarian Universalist beliefs	((((
Location	((((
Celebrating common values	((((
Children’s religious education program	((((
Music	((((
Religious community and fellowship	((((
Involvement with the broader UU movement	((((
Your family	((((
Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender support/interest	((((
Intellectual stimulation	((((
Friendliness/welcoming/social interaction	((((
Groups (men’s, women’s, young adults, youth)	((((
Minister	((((
Black Lives Matter vigils	((((
Spiritual growth opportunities	((((
Social Justice Involvement	((((
Worship	((((
Pastoral Care	((((
Other (specify) _____	((((

16. Over the past three years have you participated in group activities apart from attending Sunday services?

Please check all that apply.

- (1) Member of a committee (RE, Social Justice, Audit, Building and Grounds etc.)
- (2) Participated in music program: Restoration Singers, Handbells, soloist or ensemble
- (3) Assisted at Sunday service (e.g., sound technician, decor)
- (4) Attended discussion, meditation or social groups
- (5) Volunteered in religious exploration or youth group
- (6) Participated in hospitality teams
- (7) Assisted with book sales, flea markets or bargain shoppe
- (8) Attended congregational meetings (e.g. AGM, Budget discussion, town hall)
- (9) Served as Worship Associate
- (10) Served on the Board of Trustees
- (11) Other _____

17. Over the past three years, how much time did you typically spend **each month** on the above activities?

Please check only one.

- (1) Less than 5 hours
- (2) 6 to 10 hours
- (3) 11 to 20 hours
- (4) More than 20 hours

18. Are you interested in fellowship/spirituality groups? *Circle as many as desired.*

- (1) Build Your Own Theology
- (2) Women’s or Men’s groups
- (3) Covenant groups/Adult education groups
- (4) Meditation
- (5) Vigils
- (6) Other _____

SECTION C – YOUR PERSONAL THEOLOGY

19. What religious/spiritual practices are important in your personal life? *Check all that apply.*

- (1) Prayer
- (2) Meditation
- (3) Yoga
- (4) Journaling
- (5) Reading spiritually focused literature
- (6) Creating personal spiritual experiences
- (7) Experiencing nature
- (8) Social Activism
- (9) Other _____

20. What best describes your religious orientation?

Please select the one or two beliefs closest to your own and check off in the box.

(1) ___ Theism: <i>I find support and challenge in a God (Christian or otherwise) with whom I (long to) feel a personal relationship</i>	(9) ___ Mysticism: <i>I find support and value in the fullness and the connectedness of all things, with or without God</i>
(2) ___ Deism: <i>I believe that there is a god, but with whom we cannot have a personal relationship</i>	(10) ___ Traditions of Indigenous Peoples: <i>I follow the path of my ancestors and find inspiration in their traditions.</i>
(3) ___ Atheism: <i>I deny the existence of a god of any kind</i>	(11) ___ Earth-Centered Spirituality: <i>I celebrate the sacred circle of life, and the interconnected web of life, celebrating with the changing seasons.</i>
(4) ___ Non-Theism: <i>I don't relate to the notion of "god," but I don't deny the possibility that god exists</i>	(12) ___ Wicca/Energy-Based Spirituality: <i>I hold the law of return: energy connects us all and each person, plant or emotion has its own energy, affirming the divinity in all living things.</i>
(5) ___ Naturalistic Theism: <i>The powers traditionally attributed to a supernatural deity are inherent in the natural world, which thus elicits my respect and devotion</i>	(13) ___ Feminist spirituality: <i>I join with others in reclaiming the Divine Feminine through honoring the sacredness of the earth</i>
(6) ___ "Open" Agnosticism: <i>I am undecided about whether God exists or not</i>	(14) ___ Pantheism: <i>I equate God with the forces and laws of the universe</i>
(7) ___ "Strict" Agnosticism, or Skepticism: <i>I don't believe we are able to know whether God exists or not, such knowledge being beyond human capabilities</i>	(15) ___ Buddhism, Taoism: <i>I incorporate elements of Eastern religions into my UU spirituality</i>
(8) ___ Humanism: <i>I believe that human beings are responsible for "goodness" and "meaning," and that we must rely on one another for support</i>	(16) ___ Other: <i>Please specify and describe:</i> _____

21. What other faith traditions are important/relevant to you? *Please check all that apply.*

- (1) Buddhism
- (2) Christianity
- (3) Hinduism
- (4) Islam
- (5) Judaism
- (6) Neo-Paganism
- (7) None
- (8) Other (Please specify _____)

SECTION D – YOUR VIEWS ON PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY

22. From the list below, please rank the talents that you think are most important for our minister to focus on and excel in. Please check a box for each statement in the appropriate column

	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Worship/Spiritual Leader	((((
Administrator	((((
Social Justice/ Anti-racism/anti-oppression leadership	((((
Pastoral Care	((((
Children's religious education supervisor	((((
Small group facilitator	((((
Adult religious educator	((((

23. Which of the qualities below do you think are the most important in screening ministerial candidates? Please check the three most important qualities.

(1	Intellectual Depth and Rigor/Scholarship
(2	Sense of calling to urban ministry
(3	Inspirational worship leader and speaker
(4	Communication skills: deal with conflict
(5	Empathy/love
(6	Sense of humor
(7	Other _____

SECTION E – YOUR VIEWS ON WORSHIP

24. What are the most important reasons for you to attend worship services?
Please check two or three.

(1)	Being part of a community/fellowship
(2)	Celebration of common values
(3)	Intellectual stimulation
(4)	Music within services: singing, special music
(5)	Opportunities to regularly sing with the Restoration Singers
(6)	Mystical, spiritual experience
(7)	New paths for individual growth or change
(8)	Personal reflection and meditation
(9)	Support and encouragement for social action
(10)	Other _____

25. How important to you is each of these Sunday worship service **sermon topics**?

Please check a box for each topic to show how important you feel each is.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Quite Important	Extremely Important
Social Justice and Action	((((
Unitarian Universalist Principles/beliefs	((((
Other Faith & Spiritual Traditions	((((
Philosophical Ideas	((((
Current Political Events	((((
Spiritual Growth	((((
Help with challenges of everyday life	((((

SECTION F – HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Reminder: These questions are optional and your responses are anonymous.

*NOTE: The following questions apply to households. If another person in your household is completing this questionnaire, please agree which **one** of you will answer these questions **for your entire household**. If you both answer, the information will be duplicated and thus misleading.*

26. Please describe your present household **in total**: Please fill in number(s) as applicable.

(1 ____ Number of adults, including yourself (but excluding adult children over 18 years old)?
(2 ____ Number of children under age 13?
(3 ____ Number of children aged 13 to 18?
(4 ____ Number of children <i>living at home</i> over age 18?

Your annual household income before tax is: <i>Please check <u>one</u></i> (1 Less than \$25000 (2 \$25000 to \$50000 (3 \$50000 to \$100,000 (4 \$100,000 to \$150,000 (5 More than \$150,000
Your total household pledge and/or contributions to UUCR for the current year: <i>Please check <u>one</u></i> (6 Less than \$600 (7 \$601 to \$1000 (8 \$1001 to \$3000 (9 \$3001 to \$ 6000 (10 \$6001 to \$10,000 (11 More than \$10,000
Your financial contributions to UUCR include the following: <i>Please check <u>all that apply</u></i> (15 Sunday morning collection plate (16 “Change for Change” cash donations (17 Annual Pledge (for current budget expenses) (18 Donations above pledge, designated to UUCR Endowment (for future needs) (19 UUCR is named as a beneficiary in my Will (20 Other special donations/ gifts to UUCR

SECTION G – OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS. (Brief answers please.)

27. Describe your ideal of full-time (consulting) minister for UUCR:

28. What are our congregational strengths? What is working well?

29. What are our congregational weaknesses? What needs improvement?

30. What is at the “heart” of our congregation?

31. What are the most challenging issues facing our congregation in the coming years?

32. What congregational issues are likely to be most pressing over the next ten years?

33. What congregational issues may never be resolved?

Please add any further comments if you wish.

Thank you for your participation!