

UUC Congregational Assessment Report

Comparison of 2009 and 2004 results

2009 results based on 174 participants, 76% response rate

Demographics:

ITEM (2009 – these items not asked in 2004)	1 year or less	5 years or less	10 years or less	15 years or less	More than 15 years
For how many years have you considered yourself a Unitarian Universalist?	7 %	24 %	20 %	10 %	38 %
For how many years have you been attending this UUC Congregation?	12%	38%	19%	12%	19%

ITEM	Member	Friend	Male	Female	
Are you a member or friend of UUC? (2009)	77%	23%			
(2004)	69%	29%			
Do you indentify as: (2009)			41%	59%	
(2004)			38%	59%	

ITEM: Occupation / Employer (largest groups shaded in blue)	2009 Occupation	2004 Occupation	2009 Employer	2004 Employer	
Service, clerical, store clerk, cashier, waiter	2%	1%			
Business owner / Self-employed (free lance)	6%	8%	14%	9%	
Administrator, manager	6%	6%			
Social work, human service/ Non-profit	6%	6%	7%	8%	
Scientist, engineer, technical, computer	17%	14%			
Professional sales, real estate, insurance	1%	1%			
Educator / College or University	19%	22%	23%	28%	
Medical Professions	1%	2%			
Full-time Homemaker	8%	9%			
Artist, musician	3%	1%			
Student	3%	9%	2%	4%	
Retired	27%	17%	30%	19%	
Government			5%	5%	
Private enterprise			13%	11%	
Currently unemployed			7%	4%	

ITEM (wording in 2004 asked “How strongly do you identify with each of the religious orientations described below”. Numbers on the top line indicate those who responded with Strongly or Moderately. Wording in 2009 asked “Please indicate with a check mark the religious orientations from the list below that are part of your religious perspective)	2009	2004			
Theological Christianity: Jesus is a unique revelation of the divine.	9%	15% (27% slight)			
Ethical Christianity: Jesus is a great moral teacher.	62%	73% (19% slight)			
Some form of Judaism	7%	12% (37% slight)			
Humanism: Human nature is the basis of all religion and ethics.	52%	62% (31% slight)			
Atheism or Non-Theism: The concept of deity is not defensible or helpful.	21%	19% (32% slight)			
Skepticism: There is no way of knowing the truth with regard to theological matters.	30%	55% (22% slight)			
Agnosticism: I simply do not know “the truth” about theological matters.	43%	66% (21 slight)			
Ethical Religion: The function of religion is to encourage the development of ethical living.	56%	78% (15% slight)			
Naturalistic Theism: The powers we have traditionally attributed to a supernatural God are inherent in the natural world. The natural world elicits our respect and devotion.	45%	67% (20% slight)			
Mysticism: It is possible for humans to have a vital identification with the Cosmos.	24%	50% (27% slight)			
Theism: God (Christian or other concepts) is the center of faith.	10%	26% (36% slight)			
Buddhism	30%	Not included			
Earth-based spirituality	33%	Not included			

ITEM:	2009	2004			
Highest level of education					
Grade school	1%	1%			
High School	0%	6%			
Some college	10%	8%			
College graduate	16%	14%			
Some graduate school	5%	8%			
Graduate degree	68%	61%			
Current relationship status:					
Single	4%	13%			
Partnered or married	80%	86%			
Divorced, widowed or separated	17%	10%			
Gross family income:					
Less than \$20,000	4%	4%			
\$21,000 – 40,000	9%	11%			
\$41,000 – 60,000	25%	19%			
\$61,000 – 80,000	18 %	18%			
\$81,000 – 100,000	19%	24%			
\$101,000 – 120,000	14%	11%			
Over \$120,000	11%	4%			
Currently in a covenant group? (Yes response)	34%	38%			
How do you get your information about UUC? (select all that apply):					
Newsletter	95%	87%			
Web site	39%	27%			
Sunday services	81%	85%			
Email postings	64%	75%			
Facebook	6%	N/A			

Goals and Spirit of Our Congregation

ITEM (if wording varied in 2004)	Strongly Agree 2009 / 2004	Agree 2009 / 2004	Disagree 2009 / 2004	Strongly Disagree 2009 / 2004	Don't Know or Not Applicable
2009 largest group is shaded in blue					
1. Members and Friends have opportunities to develop their UU faith and its meaning for them within the Congregation.	46% / 52%	52% / 42%	1% / 1%	0% / 2%	2% / 3%
2. Members and Friends are encouraged to use their gifts and skills in the Congregational mission and ministry. (...to be involved in its mission and ministry)	48% / 51%	50% / 42%	1% / 1%	0% / 1%	2% / 4%
3. Our Congregation welcomes people of various cultural, ethnic, educational, and economic backgrounds.	48%	50%	1%	0%	2%
4. Our Congregation welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.	62%	37%	1%	0%	1%
(A sense of belonging is nurtured and widespread within our congregation among various kind of people)	/ 23%	/ 55%	/15%	/ 1%	/ 5%
5. I understand the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the UUC Congregation.	45%	48%	5%	0%	3%
6. I find meaning in our annual UU rituals (i.e. Ingathering/Water Ceremony, Flower Ceremony).	20%	54%	12%	3%	12%
7. I feel comfortable talking about my Unitarian Universalist faith with others outside the Congregation. (Members feel...)	37% / 14%	55% / 40%	5% / 14%	1% / 1%	2% / 31%
8. Training and/or support is available to members to help them share their faith and to witness to their faith values.	15% / 10%	49% / 41%	11% / 19%	2% / 0%	24% / 29%
9. Our Congregation is visible and well-known in the community.	6% / 4%	45% / 30%	29% / 47%	3% / 3%	17% / 15%

10. We support and encourage members in their contacts and involvement within the community around us.	25% / 14%	58% / 59%	5% / 9%	0% / 0%	13% / 17%
11. Our congregation members are active in our local community's service programs in those areas UU's care to influence, (i.e. projects involving environmental, LGBT, equality, peacemaking, Civil Liberties, poverty issues).	43%	48%	5%	0%	3%
12. Our Congregation values youth ministry.	46% / 17%	41% / 55%	4% / 8%	1% / 2%	8% / 19%
13. I like the mixture of instrumental and vocal music provided at the Sunday Service.	58%	39%	2%	0%	1%
14. I like a variety of musical styles as a part of the Sunday Service.	60%	37%	3%	0%	1%
15. We should encourage musical development in our Youth by having youth involved in the music at services.	45%	42%	6%	1%	6%
16. The amount of music in the service (hymn, offering, prelude, postlude) is pleasing.	41%	52%	5%	1%	2%
17. We have a competent group of leaders to help us build our programming. (...a core group...)	40% / 29%	54% / 57%	1% / 4%	0% / 0%	6% / 8%
18. I feel comfortable expressing my concerns and opinions to the leadership of our Congregation.	41%	39%	10%	1%	10%
19. I feel comfortable expressing my concerns and opinions to the minister.	45%	39%	9%	1%	6%
20. My opinions are respected and addressed by the Congregational leadership, even if others disagree with me. (My opinions are respected.)	32% / 21%	38% / 57%	5% / 3%	1% / 1%	24% / 14%
21. Our Congregation handles the budgetary process well through pledge campaigns and other fundraising. (...capital financial needs well through fund raising, endowment, or deferred giving.)	32% / 3%	51% / 20%	6% / 25%	1% / 4%	9% / 42%
22. I know how to become more involved in the activities offered by the Congregation if I want to do so.	49%	48%	2%	0%	1%

ITEM: Please indicate the activities or processes that have created a sense of welcoming for you and your family. Check as many as apply.					
Greeter at entryway to the building	86%				
Official greeter (with identifying name tag)	73%				
Introductions/ welcome during service	68%				
Mingling during coffee after service	69%				
Welcome packet	42%				
RE/parenting networking	28%				
Attended Circle Supper	33%				
Joined small group (covenant, choir, etc)	52%				
Being greeted by minister before or after service	59%				
Attending 'moving to membership' meeting	34%				

ITEM: Awareness of various leadership roles	Understand	Do NOT understand			
Congregational Administrator	79%	21%			
RE Director	98%	2%			
RE Assistant	81%	19%			
Music Director	96%	4%			
Volunteer Coordinator	87%	13%			
Sexton	68%	32%			
Board president or co-presidents	87%	13%			
Board members at large	74%	26%			

ITEM: Satisfaction	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't know or not applicable
Level of satisfaction with new building and facilities	56%	36%	4%	1%	3%
Level of satisfaction overall with UUC	42%	48%	11% (somewhat dissatisfied)	0% (dissatisfied)	

Future Directions:

Rate the importance of each goal for the next 3 – 5 years	Very Important 2009/2004	Important 2009/2004	Not Very Important 2009/2004	Not at all Important 2009/2004	Don't know or not applicable
1. Attract more members	35%	51%	9%	1%	4%
2. Encourage greater member/friend participation in programs	31% / 30%	58% / 47%	5% / 18%	1% / 3%	5% / 2%
3. Encourage greater member/friend financial support	27% / 25%	56% / 47%	7% / 23%	1% / 3%	10% / 3%
4. Foster personal spiritual development	45% / 44%	42% / 40%	9% / 13%	1% / 2%	3% / 2%
5. Foster personal intellectual search for truth and understanding	42% / 39%	48% / 40%	6% / 19%	0% / 0%	4% / 3%
6. Increase the diversity of our Congregation ("race", class, age, sexual orientation, theology)	35% / 28%	45% / 40%	13% / 19%	3% / 9%	5% / 4%
7. Create a greater sense of community within the Congregation.	42% / 48%	49% / 36%	5% / 12%	0% / 1%	4% / 3%
8. Identify service projects for group Congregational participation in our local community. (Provide outreach to those in need in the local community.)	29% / 31%	54% / 51%	12% / 14%	1% / 1%	4% / 3%
9. Identify opportunities for public witness by our Congregation as an expression of our UU values.	21%	40%	24%	2%	13%
10. Expand participation in denominational activities	7% / 3%	45% / 39%	29% / 40%	2% / 14%	15% / 4%
11. Become a Green Sanctuary	29%	50%	14%	2%	6%
12. Expand leadership development	22% / 14%	50% / 49%	13% / 29%	2% / 5%	13% / 3%

Minister's Functions:

ITEM: Level of agreement (if wording varied in 2004) 2009 largest group is shaded in blue	Strongly Agree 2009 / 2004	Agree 2009 / 2004	Disagree 2009 / 2004	Strongly Disagree 2009 / 2004	Don't know or not applicable 2009 / 2004
1. The Sunday Services meet my spiritual needs.	18%	57%	18%	2%	5%
2. The Sunday Services meet my intellectual needs.	23%	66%	8%	0%	3%
(The Sunday Services meet my spiritual and intellectual needs)	/ 18%	/ 53%	/ 17%	/ 3%	/ 9%
3. Our worship services provide the challenge and inspiration we need to live out our faith in the world.	21%	56%	16%	1%	7%
4. Sermon topics are interesting and relevant to me.	28% / 24%	55% / 58%	14% / 7%	0% / 2%	3% / 9%
5. A good variety of sermon topics are offered during the year.	39% / 38%	54% / 53%	4% / 2%	0% / 0%	3% / 8%
6. Our minister's style of delivery keeps my attention.	35% / 36%	52% / 46%	10% / 9%	2% / 3%	2% / 7%
7. The hymns selected can be easily sung and are appropriate to the service.	27% / 12%	56% / 66%	10% / 12%	1% / 2%	6% / 8%
8. Joys and concerns contribute meaning to the service.	35% / 35%	58% / 47%	4% / 11%	1% / 2%	2% / 6%
9. Reflection/comment time after the sermon is a meaningful part of the service to me.	31% / 38%	45% / 44%	18% / 8%	2% / 2%	3% / 8%
10. The Sunday service helps me feel more connected to others in the Congregation.	36% / 35%	53% / 46%	8% / 12%	0% / 2%	3% / 6%
11. I would be interested in attending an alternative service that was less formal and more interactive.	18%	23%	38%	6%	15%

ITEM: which content is important to you in the Sunday Service (check all that apply) 2004 wording asked for level of agreement, reported here is number who reported moderate or substantial level.	2009	2004			
UU values (Theological values)	86%	80%			
Jewish-Christian traditions	36%	45%	(+36% slight)		
Coping with life	70%	93%			
Philosophical ideas	75%	92%			
UU history	41%	59%			
Gender issues	31%	59%			
Values and perspectives on social issues	77%	90%			
Non-western religions	53%	81%			
Religious implication of science and modern knowledge	60%	80%			
Spiritual growth	70%	91%			
Ethics	70%	87%			
Family relationships and values	67%	Not included			

ITEM: Indicate which objectives of the worship service you desire (check all that apply) 2004 wording asked for level of agreement, reported here is number who reported moderate or substantial level.	2009	2004			
To inspire reverence	39%	69%	(+19% slight)		
To help us understand ourselves better	76%	96%			
To show new paths for individual growth and change	86%	97%			
To provide a supportive environment for developing and sharing individual feelings and beliefs.	69%	88%			
To promote feelings of self worth and individual dignity	60%	88%			
To spur individuals to act on their convictions	72%	94%			
To build community	87%	97%			
To strengthen my understanding of UU history and values	51%	Not included			

PASTORAL CARE	Strongly Agree 2009/2004	Agree 2009/2004	Disagree 2009/2004	Strongly Disagree 2009/2004	Don't know or not applicable
1. I have experienced a personal crisis during the past two years.	28%	28%	20%	6%	20%
2. I told the minister about that crisis.	15%	17%	20%	5%	43%
3. I told the Congregation about that crisis (joy or concern).	8%	15%	27%	11%	40%
4. When the minister knew of a personal crisis or personal difficulties I had, I felt that she was available to me.	28% / 40%	26% / 15%	3% / 3%	1% / 0%	42% / 3%
5. When I have discussed personal problems or concerns with our minister, I felt that she was easy to talk to.	29% / 40%	26% / 20%	3% / 4%	1% / 0%	41% / 31%
6. When I told the Congregation about my joy or concern, I felt supported by the Congregation.	20%	25%	2%	0%	53%
7. The Caring Network contacted me about my joy or concern.	11%	18%	6%	1%	65%

MINSTERIAL LEADERSHIP	Strongly Agree 2009/2004	Agree 2009/2004	Disagree 2009/2004	Strongly Disagree 2009/2004	Don't know or not applicable
1. Our minister provides leadership when appropriate	49% / 42%	40% / 45%	4% / 3%	0% / 0%	7% / 8%
2. She is open to other points of view or suggestions	42%	43%	7%	1%	8%
3. She fulfills her responsibilities	56%	37%	1%	0%	7%
4. She is effective in leading our Congregation	50%	41%	4%	0%	5%
5. She helps create a positive image of UUC through her work in the community	57%	28%	0%	0%	15%