

# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

## 2016 Congregation Survey

*Please note that all responses will be kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only*

### Section 1a – PROGRAMS, STAFF AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Guidelines: Please rate the performance of our congregation in the areas that you have experienced. For each of the qualities or skills listed, circle the number below that most reflects the performance of this church and how important this element is to you. Even if you leave some question blank, your other responses will be tabulated.

**If you circle 1 or 5, please consider providing comments in section 1b.**

*In this column "NE" means that you have No Experience in this area. A rating of "5" means that, as a group, we do this very well.*

*In this column, please rate how important this area of the church is to you. "NE" means that you have No experience in this area. A rating of "5" means that this aspect is very important to you.*

**"How are we doing?" Rating:**

**Importance Rating:**

	<b>INREACH</b>	
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Sunday Morning Worship Experience	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Music	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Religious Education (Children & Youth)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Adult Faith Development (i.e. Racism Workshop series, UU history class, World religions class, etc.)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Social Justice Programming	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Soulful Sundown Services	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Welcoming of newcomers and visitors	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Social Events and fellowship (i.e. Men's Group, Book Clubs, Women's Runaway Weekend, etc.)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Climate of inclusiveness	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Lay Pastoral Care (Parish Services)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Overall sense of community and fellowship	NE 1 2 3 4 5
	<b>OUTREACH</b>	
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Homelessness ministry (IHN)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Hunger ministry (Loaves and Fishes / Crop Walk)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Visibility within the larger community	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	UUA and N.E. Regional Working Group (Clara Barton District)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
	<b>STAFF / ADMINISTRATION</b>	
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Professional Religious Leadership (Minister)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Professional Religious Education Leadership (Affiliated Community Minister)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Professional Religious Education Leadership (Director of RE)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Professional Religious Leadership (Music Director)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Ministerial Intern	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Administrative Assistant	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Sexton	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Nursery Assistant	NE 1 2 3 4 5

FINANCES		
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Annual Stewardship Campaign (All Church Cavass / Pledge Drive)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Fiscal transparency	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Fund raising events	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Our financial health	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Ongoing Collections (Children's Collection/ 50/50 Collections)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Digital Giving Methods (Simplegive/ Paypal/ Text-to-give)	NE 1 2 3 4 5
BUILDING		
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Attractiveness of grounds	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Cleanliness and orderliness of facility	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	RE space	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Sanctuary Aesthetics	NE 1 2 3 4 5
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Facility ambiance	NE 1 2 3 4 5
OVERALL		
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Rate your overall satisfaction with this church	NE 1 2 3 4 5

**Comments:** (Please reference subjects or other activities not mentioned)

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### Section 1b Mission and Visions

Guidelines: Please rate UUCW as it relates to our performance against our Mission and Visions. Use the same guidelines as you used in Section 1a but note that the definitions below for rating are slightly different:

*In this column "NE" means that you have No Experience in this area. A rating of "5" means that, as a group, we do this very well.*

"How are we doing?" Rating:	
Mission	
NE 1 2 3 4 5	"The members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester covenant to be a congregation of love, hope and justice inspiring people to take on the challenges of a changing world."
NE 1 2 3 4 5	<b>Covenant:</b> "UUCW's culture is open, welcoming, and inclusive"
NE 1 2 3 4 5	<b>Inspiration:</b> "UUCW engages in and encourages spiritual growth across the life span in ways that are contemporary, relevant, and inspiring"
NE 1 2 3 4 5	<b>Outreach:</b> "UUCW fosters social justice and positive transformation in our community and the world"
NE 1 2 3 4 5	<b>Resources:</b> "UUCW grows and maintains the human and financial resources to support the mission and ministries of the congregation"

**Comments:**

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**Section 1c Our Covenant**

Guidelines: Please rate UUCW as it relates to our performance against our Covenant. Use the same guidelines as you used in Section 1a but note that the definitions below for rating are slightly different:

*In this column "NE" means that you have No Experience in this area. A rating of "5" means that, as a group, we do this very well.*

<b>"How are we doing?" Rating:</b>	We the members and friends of the UUCW covenant to sustain and support a courageous and caring community by:
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Bringing our best selves to form a welcoming, loving, and inclusive community of faith
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Creating an atmosphere of celebration and worship in a safe environment
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Providing opportunities where diverse people and points of view are respected and where open-hearted and open-minded discussion of our differences is encouraged
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Treating each other with kindness and respect
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Approaching conflicts with a spirit of humility and with the respectful intent for peaceful resolution
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Engaging in and encouraging spiritual and intellectual growth across the lifespan
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Fostering social justice and positive transformation in our community and the world at large
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Growing and maintaining the resources necessary to support the missions and ministries of this congregation
NE 1 2 3 4 5	Fostering fellowship and enjoying each other and the unique gifts that each person brings to our community.

**Comments:**

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**Section 2 - Strengths**

Please list specific activities where we have done well this past year.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3 – Areas needing further strengthening

Please list, in priority order, specific activities where performance needs improvement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 4 - Planning

Our Mission states: “The members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester covenant to be a congregation of love, hope and justice inspiring people to take on the challenges of a changing world.” What are the challenges we as a congregation will face in the next 3 -5 years?

(List in priority order)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 5 - Accessibility

Are there additional things the Church can do to make it more physically accessible for you in the near future? The next five years? Are there additional things the Church can do to make you feel more included in the near future? The next five years? Are there any accommodations you would find helpful?

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## Section 6 – Demographic Information

Please complete the following demographic information to assist the assessment process.

### What is your Membership Status?

- Active Member  
 Active Non-member  
 Inactive Member  
 Friend of the Congregation  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### How many years have you been a Unitarian Universalist?

- 0 - 3 Years  
 4 - 7 Years  
 8 - 11 Years  
 12 - 15 Years  
 16 - 19 Years  
 20+ Years  
 I am not a Unitarian Universalist

### Education

- Grade School  
 High School  
 Some College  
 Associates Degree / Certificate  
 College Degree  
 Master Degree  
 Doctorate

### Your Gender

- Male  
 Female  
 Transgender

### Marital Status

- Single  
 Committed Relationship  
 Married  
 Divorced/Separated  
 Widowed  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

### How often do you attend worship with this congregation?

- Regularly  
 Occasionally  
 Rarely

### How are you involved in church activities?

- Serve on a Committee/Board/Taskforce  
 Attend a support group  
 Involved in Social Action Projects  
 Volunteer in the Religious Education program (children/youth/adult)  
 Participate in Adult Faith Dev. Programs (workshops, courses, meditation, yoga group, book group, etc.)
- Sing in the choir or other musical involvement  
 Attend a social or fundraising event  
 Provide Sunday Morning Hospitality  
 Participate in Pastoral Care Opportunities

### How many years have you been associated with this Church?

- 0 - 3 Years  
 4 - 7 Years  
 8 - 11 Years  
 12 - 15 Years  
 16 - 19 Years  
 20+ Years

### In what religious tradition were you raised?

- Unitarian Universalist  
 Protestant  
 Orthodox/Catholic  
 Jewish  
 Muslim  
 Buddhist  
 Hindu
- Humanist, Atheist, Agnostic  
 I was not raised in a religious tradition.  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Age:

- Under 14  
 14 - 19  
 20 - 29  
 30 - 39  
 40 - 49  
 50 - 59  
 60 - 69  
 70 - 79  
 80+

### Number of school age children:

- 0 - 5 years  
 6 - 13 years  
 14 - 19 years

### How many attend RE?

\_\_\_\_\_

### How many hours per week are you active in church affairs?

- 1 hour  
 2 - 3 hours  
 4 - 5 hour  
 More than 6 hours

### Which service do you attend most often?

- 10:00 a.m.  
 Soulful Sundown  
 Either

Do you identify yourself as an individual with a disability?  Yes  No

## Section 7 - Interests

As we plan for future programs, worship experiences and service projects, what interests do you have in terms of topics, programs, projects, etc.? (What would you be willing to put energy into?)

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## Section 8 - Comments

What comments do you have about the questions in this survey? What additional comments would you like to make about your answers?

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Please fill out and return to:

**Committee on Ministry, UU Church of Worcester**  
**90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606**  
(or place in the return folder in the church office)

If this survey stimulated your opinions and you wish to talk with a member of the Committee on Ministry, please email or speak with any of the following or you may check this box to have a member of the COM contact you:

**Committee:**

Greg Aldrich	<a href="mailto:greg@greg-aldrich.com">greg@greg-aldrich.com</a>
Joan McGinn	<a href="mailto:celts1600@aol.com">celts1600@aol.com</a>
Mara Pentlarge	<a href="mailto:mara@pentlarge.org">mara@pentlarge.org</a>
Dan Secour	<a href="mailto:dsecor60@gmail.com">dsecor60@gmail.com</a>
Marilyn Martin	<a href="mailto:marilynmartin7@icloud.com">marilynmartin7@icloud.com</a>
Barbara Wahlstrom	<a href="mailto:bwahlstrom@worchester.edu">bwahlstrom@worchester.edu</a>

**Minister:** Rev. Aaron Payson [apayson@charter.net](mailto:apayson@charter.net)

**OPTIONAL:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_