

Question 1: What do you like about the congregation that you do not want changed?

Everything.

I like this fellowship just as it is/change nothing.

I like just about everything

I like the way the fellowship operates right now.

Most should not be changed.

Keep the main Sunday morning program as is/as has been – speakers.

I don't see the need for any whole style changes.

The format for Sunday morning gathering.

Starting time at 11:00am

Starting time at 11:00. Prompt ending time.

Attempt to end by 12 but not pressure the presenter to do so.

Time of service.

Lay-Led/non-creedal, non-religious; discussion after the talk, coffee, music, people.

Non-religious format.

No pledges and no minister.

The people are great.

The people

Welcoming and open. Friendly.

Welcoming attitude.

The openness of the family.

Friendship with all.

Friendliness.

I like that the membership accepts people of all beliefs – Christian, Jewish, Agnostic, Atheists.

All who believe in the 7 UU principles.

The smart, friendly people.

Most members are friendly with all but there are still “cliques.” They need to open up. Maybe if we do not always sit in the same seats? Just change around.

People are stimulating, well educated.

I like the people – open minded – liberal – care about people in need – well educated.

I love that no one is preaching and telling me how to think.

The feeling of community.

Safe place to express my beliefs.

Our members and topics related to our values: protecting the Earth, open-minded, liberal and Democratic.

Open to many ideas (Perhaps need to remind us of our principle of respecting each person's spiritual journey).

I like the variety of weekly programs.

Diversity of speakers; Q & A after talks.

Diversity of presentations.

I currently like the quality of Sunday programs, the humanity focus with spirituality minimized; the ten minutes of Q&A at the end of each program.

I like the opportunity to join in smaller groups that meet outside Sunday.

Coffee hour to mingle with others.

I don't like the schism. Why not allow half the programs to be of a "spiritual" nature instead of dividing the group into two services.

Question 2: What do you like about the congregation that you would like modified?

Nothing except less politics during pre-ambles.

Less political talks before the services even start.

Less political talk from the podium. Some of our visitors may be of a different persuasion.

Eliminate the Sunday morning monologue.

In the words of Davey Crockett, "no political speechifying!"

Less politics.

No sermonizing in introduction or readings and not politics.

I do not like the meditation section. If someone talked during it like Ray did on time, it would help.

Remove the meditation.

Discontinue meditation.

No three-minute meditation.

I don't particularly like the new three-minute meditation prior to the meditation time during the music.

No meditation.

Hate the meditation. Watched one day and fully half

those attending were not engaged in it at all. Half the rest were probably faking it.

Drop the meditation, wastes time needed for presenter.

The new addition of meditation leaves me a little cold.

If you are having meditation, lead the audience in meditation techniques.

Rather than meditation, how about a moment of silence and reflection, perhaps reading a one sentence quote to reflect upon?

More active caring communication. And a way that we all know better who needs help or cheering up.

Either or attitude.

There needs to be more openness to change. There is an attitude here that "this is how we do things; if you don't like it, you need to leave." This is un-Unitarian.

Some people are arrogant, even unfriendly. Churches might do better in this area.

Older members resist ideas of activities that are proposed.

Less division.

Encourage the "tenured" members to be friendlier and participate, help the fellowship to achieve its goals.

No change needed in my opinion.

No changes come to mind.

No change. We do not want nor can afford a minister. We are secular. No prayer. No bible reading. Most of us do not believe in spiritualism. We are atheist or agnostic.

A monthly program on the principles.

Acknowledgement of religious holidays in programs including Christian holidays and other religious holidays.

Would like a FUF directory with photos and short bio of members.

Enforce limits on chalice lighting.

Limit time for readings to two minutes maximum. Longer takes time from presenter.

More friendly get-togethers, such as this one.

More participation in the Environmental Action Committee, i.e. Practice Our Principles. Speak up, reach out, become involved. Act!

More spiritual and motivational speakers.

Lecture series on ethic, religion and spirituality in the 20th century and social justice.

Selection of known good speakers, not just a good topic.

The service on Sunday has become a bit boring, the quality of the speakers is also for sure less than 2-3 years ago.

I want to have the intelligent, creative people give programs who are members as well as those who are not.

Social action. We should pick a few social issues as a group priority and provide volunteer opportunities and funding.

To develop a real exchange relationship with African American or other ethnic congregations.

Since programs occupy most of the service, they should be carefully chosen as too relevance of the topic and ability of the speaker.

Younger members and families that can grow the membership.

Increase youth activities.

It would be nice if we could have more young people.

More coordination with other organizations.

The UU we belonged to used tithing and an attempt at dedicated giving.

How many NEW people know anything about local history?

After joining the Fellowship in 2009, I still don't know many of the members – how do we organize, show and tell in a non-threatening way?

People should talk to diverse people, not always the same group.

Info in newspaper should include both services.

Night service should be at 9am on Sunday.

Eliminate separate spirituality meeting and discussion.

Mandate a number of spirituality-oriented programs in the context of the Sunday morning format.

We need more “spiritual” aspects such as music, chalice lighting – reading.

Basic UU info as a monthly service.

More philosophical and spiritual topics to ponder.

Change organization structure to provide more coordination of activities.

Enforce rule that committee chairs serve only 2 years.

New people to step up and relieve elderly congregation that has leadership members tired of doing the work.

We need more social support for the old and ailing members.

I attend for social reasons. I don't require formal prayer.

A monthly program about principles.

No clapping at service. Only at the end.

Yoga, meditation, art, music, and other activities for those who care to participate that encourage interaction among smaller groups of congregants in a space that is conducive to intimate gatherings.

Question 3: What would you like to see added to congregational activities?

Songs during morning presentations.

Songs during morning presentations. **Note: two people made this request.**

Singing for the congregation.

More music participation.

Add a congregational song at the beginning of service instead of meditation.

Sing-a-longs.

Organize more sing-a-longs to increase member involvement.

Choir is hampered by limited choices of music due to religious issues.

I would like to see the members join in singing more.

Love the music

More music.

Some congregational hymn singing – one secular word hymn with familiar tune from UU hymnal perhaps.

Music, including singing

More external events, trips

Trips to theatre/museums. More music. Fun things – congregation participation. Quiz tournament. Pot luck.

More fun things like trip to Africa Town, movie nights, Delta cruises, etc.

Fundraisers. Bus trips to shows in Mobile. Bean Bag Toss Tournament.

Try to increase the number of people coming to game night.

Would like restoration of a fiction book club.
We need a film festival or a joint adventure for the comradery.
Perhaps gather members birthdays and celebrate monthly birthdays.
Use of longer tables for potluck to allow more milling.
Movie night following discussion.
Uplifting movies (a movie night).
More events like this outside of Sunday.
Outdoor activities (canoe, kayak trips, etc.)

To attract younger members, we need to offer more for children, possibly after school events.
After school "youth center."
Pick a project to organize with youth participation like solar energy for the Fellowship or voting rights or immigration. What do youth want to be involved in?

Regular monthly social meetings for newcomers.

The implicit recognition of the importance of fellowship and volunteerism.
Without adequate fellowship, volunteerism will pale.

Every service could have an opportunity for the attendees to share their joys and sorrows, not through the president but by talking among themselves. Ask me about throwing a little stone in a container with water creating a wave to share (this done at the UU in San Miguel de Allende)

There are very good speakers at other UU fellowships who could be streamed in. We have a good projection video system/live or taped.

Ask members for more in newsletter if not at Sunday meeting.

Make energy efficient priority to reduce cost.

Thursday men's group news to be more open to new members.

Question 4: What suggestions do you have to increase revenue?

More members will probably bring more revenue.

More paid events can also be helping.

Encouraging people to pay a bit more than they are used to.

Having a clearer information of what is expected or needed could help.

A presentation and/or council on the fellowship's financial status. Suggested amounts members may contribute in order to maintain our minimal budget of \$50,000. A reminder that we do not want to initiate pledging.

People should pledge.

Educate congregation about expenses. There is much push back about pledging but that is a fact of church life. Bring in the UU finance folks.

Educate the congregation about the finances, how much is required on average per member to meet the annual budget, and the number of members (not names) that regularly exceed that average sum along with the cumulative total of that amount that exceeds the average required.

A finance committee that goes beyond bookkeeping.

Sorry, no answers. I can't even increase my own revenue!!

Perhaps an attendance "award."

Have an International Festival: German, Italian, Irish, Asia, Latin, Greek, etc.

Have a comedy club monthly.

Midnight Movies – Rocky Horror, Blues Brothers.

Arts & Crafts Festival Parking \$10 (they can walk to Big Lots to catch trolley.)

Have a poetry contest.

Have an art house/coffee/music/movie café/ bookstore.

Have a plant sale or sell memorial trees.

Have a car wash/bake sale/Bingo night/Spaghetti Dinner.

Make and sell a Music CD.

Make and sell a cookbook or sell coupon books discount.

Sell memorial bricks/pavers.

Have a hair-cut-a-thon fundraiser.

Sell whole BBQ Boston Butts.

Sell Krispy Kreme donuts (dozens) on Sundays.

Have regular dances (charge admission, hire DF). 2019-50th anniversary of Woodstock; 40's swing dance; 50's sock hop; 60's British Invasion; 70's Disco.

Have dances on Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras and October Fest.

A social dance.

Sell fruitcakes or candy for the holidays.

Have a silent auction of donated products/services.

We need the yard sale again.

Reinstate dinner parties for dollars.

We have many people with culinary skills. How about some theme meals where we charge enough for the materials and some funds for FUF.

Monthly Raffle – Hosted dinner for 6 (guests pay – food provided by the host)

Set Up Pay Pal account to allow electronic payments for donations.

Annual fundraiser dinner (much like this one) for fellowship and budget.

No pledging, but (since one cannot help seeing some pitiful questions dropped in the basket), float the idea that a suitable monthly minimum, say \$50 a month might help.

Publicize more so public knows about us. Try to get articles in the paper.

Have more concerts. Maybe bingo open to the public.

How about an auction within our group – not with Unity – with money going to FUF?

A committee to research organizing fundraisers.

Look at renting the facility more.

More research into marketing.

Try to encourage real property donations.

Let's give 25% more.

Fundraiser – Baby/young pictures – competition –guess who?

Ask members if they have considered inflation.

Talk to friends who aren't members. I tell people about TED and invite people. How can we attract younger (middle aged members for example).

Someone needs to take over and re-think the yard sales.

How about bake sales, holiday cookie exchange, car wash, unadulterated pt photo contest (with no cheating!)

More fundraising events like yard sales, concerts, etc.

Dessert Cook Off - \$5 per dish, \$10 to eat food, free to spectate. Categories: cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, pudding, fudge, ice cream, frozen yogurt, cinnamon rolls. Every dish must be made at home. First prize \$100, 2nd prize \$50, 3rd prize \$25.

Bingo and bake offs.

Ask for topics from people outside of the fellowship.

Increase membership.

Run B&B program – many UU churches do this.

Increase attendance.

Movies and snacks one night. Charge \$1.00 for movies.

Bring visitors in more quickly.

Study all who contribute. Large donors should be identified and tapped when shortfalls are incurred.

Individual and group creative enterprise (yard sales, mowing, pruning, fixing, repairs...for a contribution should be encouraged.)

A social committee that did paying events.

Raise building fees.

Try to encourage real property donation to the holding company that owns this facility.

Only have fire and theft insurance – not wind or hail.

To raise money to support fellowship, ask for .005 to .019% of total income which is not much.

Increase membership, increased donations on part of current members, more fund drives, raffles, bake sales, yard sales, dinners with price

Question 5: What suggestions do you have to increase membership?

A social dance.

Marketing! That's the key word to get more people to enjoy a good product. The UU is a hidden treasure. Not enough know what it really is.

Advertise on the back of BART buses.

Be more welcoming to people whose viewpoints, while differing in spiritual, religious or political level, are still well within the UU principles. Members should make an effort to be more open-minded

and less threatened by individual differences.

I would like more of our members to do a Sunday program, so we can get to know more about our members.

Infiltrate any local “progressive” groups; tell them about our outlooks on society.
Ask members to ask their 20s, 30s,40s relatives what would get them to UU and report those responses.
More programs that would interest that age group.
Fun events like murder mystery dinners.
Reach out to the LGBT community.
Enhance the welcoming atmosphere. Offer programs that appeal to all. Welcoming committee needs to be more active.
Change the services to Saturday morning at 11:00 am.
Increase membership by honoring and offering a service that performs the rituals of any holiday or religious belief of the world, i.e., Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Korean, Baha’i, Bring a friend.
More getting less expensive concerts so people can see our welcoming.
Buy rally signs (9 for \$20 on uua.org) and sand outside polling places on Voting Day inviting people to visit us.
Advertise by placing a sign out front listing day, time and topic of weekly service.
Contact information and “All are Welcome!”
Participate in Community Projects – cleanups, walks for Alzheimer’s and Suicide Prevention.
Publicize programs, and activities through newspaper and media.
Have each member recruit another member.
Encourage each member to bring 4-5 guests per year.
Write article on what’s different about the UU Fellowship in Fairhope.
More outreach to visitors.
More small interest groups.
Canoe trips, hikes.
Why ask those who have stayed. Why not ask those who have left?
Reach out to a friend.
Bring a friend event.
If other groups have had similar issues, why not find out how they addressed this issue. Maybe we could use some of their ideas.
Advertise UU message (tea for two at the museum)
Seek out the godless.
More publicity to attract visitors.
Educational speakers.
Have concerts and invite the public.
Have a lively membership committee that has a new member meeting once a month with sandwiches after the service. This would bring the new people in to ask questions and get to know people.
Where are the new member forms? They should be available.
Sign! New Sign! A sign – marquee that entices people to look – change of events on it; colorful – definitely list ALL GROUPS accepted (as I was years ago). Many do not know what a Unitarian is; includes; creed; accepts; anything that highlights information about Unitarians. There is much traffic constantly on Fairhope Ave. “They” will notice.
Good programs that appeal to retirees since that is the base group.

Advertising in conjunction with quality programming should attract new potential members. Also have group activities that foster participation. Dinner parties focused on potential new members used to be utilized to cement new memberships.

Building use by outside groups should be expanded for its value to the community and us (advertisement).

Apply for UU membership grant. The campaign works.

Recruit : Like-minded (progressives/liberals, retirees, youth, friends, LGBT, other faiths). Advertise

Use membership committee as an outreach group.

Wear our T-shirts.

Speak up about beliefs.

Once again train members about UUism.

Additional comment:

There once was an octogenarian,
A cranky but friendly contrarian,
When asked about God,
He said don't be so odd,
Don't you know I am a Unitarian?