

First UU Austin

Bridge to our Future



Session Data

18 May 2010

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Exercise 1 - Core Values

Transcendent, timeless qualities that we want to carry forward into the future of our religious community.

1	Community Freedom Acceptance	
2	Interconnected Community Liberation Being Present	
3	Community/Connection Mystery/Awe/Reverence/Transcendence Spiritual Growth	
4	Community Transcendence Personal Growth Healing	
5	Interdependence transcendence authenticity	
6	Transcendence Awareness Participation	
7	Interdependence transcendence awareness	
8	wonder Empowerment compassion and connection	
9	Connectedness safe environment to be vulnerable presence in the moment	
10	Connection to life, nature and the universe Receptive to all sources of wisdom, resistant to dogma Synthesis of intellectual, emotional and spiritual through art, music, literature, etc.	

11	<p>Connection/connectedness: to family, community, universe - brings forth a desire to serve</p> <p>Creativity - Music, art, language, losing oneself in the creative process and experience</p> <p>Mystery/awe - Truth is always unfolding</p>	
12	<p>Connections/connectedness</p> <p>Wider expansion of experience</p> <p>Sharing experiences</p>	
13	<p>Connectedness</p> <p>wonder and reflection</p> <p>intentionality</p>	
14	<p>Connection</p> <p>a moment of awareness</p> <p>love</p>	
15	<p>Interconnectedness/web of life</p> <p>Affirmation of worth through shared experiences</p> <p>Wonder and humility</p>	
16	<p>Transcendence (including awe)</p> <p>Hontrusty</p> <p>Connection (including love)</p>	
17	<p>Reverence</p> <p>Fellowship/commitment to others/communion</p> <p>Wonder/transcendence/intense feelings</p>	
18	<p>Wonder – Uniqueness / Nature</p> <p>Universality – Shared Experience / Community</p> <p>Awareness / Openness</p>	
19	<p>Presence, Openness</p> <p>Awe, Wonder</p> <p>Universality, Interconnectedness, shared experiences</p> <p>Shared core beliefs</p>	
20	<p>Transcendence</p> <p>Hope</p> <p>Sharing our talents through service</p>	
21	<p>Transcendence</p> <p>Awareness of preciousness of life</p> <p>Awareness of mystery-something out of ordinary is occurring</p>	
22	<p>Reverence/Being totally present/awe</p> <p>Service to others and to community</p> <p>Personal freedom/independence</p>	

Core Values Word Cloud



Within / Among / Beyond / Factors / Indicators

The material contained in this document is a wonderful gift of sharing by the congregation. Read it - completely if you can. Examine the similarities and distinctions among the core values, possibility statements, and read through the personal stories and wishes for enrichment and reinforcement.

Furthermore, tagging the possibility statements as Within / Among / Beyond / Factors / Indicators may help to see how these statements inform Mission and Ends. This can be useful, but the important point is to familiarize yourself with the content.

"Within" -- those differences we seek to make within the lives of individuals within the congregation (spiritual/ personal growth or transformation).

"Among" -- those differences we seek to make among (or through the interaction of) people in the congregation.

"Beyond" -- those difference we seek to make in lives beyond the congregation.

"Factors" - factors that contribute to the ability of First UU to make a difference.

"Indicators" - indicators of health or making a difference (e.g. growth in attendance)

The first few possibility statements have been tagged as an example...

Exercise 2C – Possibility Statements and Factors

What specific, significant meaningful difference will First UU Austin have made in the lives of its members, children and friends and beyond..

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe place where human needs are met. • Place where thinking is respected and answers are not shouted. • The larger community knows who we are & why we are here. 	<p>Within Within, Factor Beyond, Indicator</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal sense of purpose in which all can embrace, articulate and participate. • More concrete outreach through all stages of life within the congregation, the local community and the greater world. 	<p>Within Within, Beyond</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "go to" church on (A) social justice issue(s). • An active partner with others in the community (growing with progressive churches). • Has a strong identity. • Flourishing community with trust, shared purpose, meaningful dialog and a safe place to disagree. 	<p>Indicator, Beyond Beyond Factor Among</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelize to our greater community our values manifested in our actions. • Provided safe home encouraging spiritual growth and development. 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth through enacted spiritual practice • provide opportunities to build interpersonal relationships within our community • enact church values of social justice through social action. • Broadcast our message - make our presence known 	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every adult member of church has direct experience with other faiths; expand neighboring faiths program to adult RE 	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put a human face on marginalized group (muslim, homeless) • encourage common ground in politics • musical exchange with other churches 	

8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy congregation as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generous budget that springs from an abundance mentality (?) • Specific programs that foster communication and mutual respect • The return of Split the Plate • A newspaper article that recognizes First UU for its service leadership to the community • To make these visions come alive several things must happen. First, the bylaws must be rewritten entirely to change them from being autocratic to democratic. Second, the church must start studying and relating the principles and purposes of Unitarian Universalism to each other and to new members. This specifically must include a policy that prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, creed, sexual orientation, education, political bias, etc. Anyone who does not abide by these principles and purposes must not be allowed to function in any advisory or supervisory position within the church. 	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor counseling: Well known, trusted and utilized resources • Increased visibility/presence in community: Public Understanding of UUFC • Restructured religious education for <u>adults</u> and kids • Knowledge of UU principles - mission statement (???) 	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a robust RE program which empowers children and adults to be religiously literate, spiritually nourished and makes all want to bring a friend • This is a passionate church that embraces uncertainty and fearlessly explores spirituality and religion • Our church is a strong presence in the Austin interfaith environmental networks, encouraging our members to pursue sustainability in all aspects of their lives. 	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every vital function of the church is managed through trusted and ever-evolving systems (written documentation of how we do what we do) • Two full houses every Sunday morning drawn by a dynamic, engaging minister, great music, overall inspiring service and yielding a culture of giving to have financial abundance, great facilities, member services, outreach, assistant or interim minister. 	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First UU RE is vibrant, e.g. RE offers programs such as OWL, survey of world religions. Young people have a safe place to ask questions, to explore issues, to find support for their beliefs. Adults will be supported in their journey toward growth - maybe more diverse religions explored within the church service itself. • First UU and UU in general grows and gains influence. The decision-making is open and transparent, especially when hiring ministers. Membership is constant and steady members make a lasting • First UU is a caring and compassionate congregation. Members know they'll be supported in times of need - when someone asks for help there is both an immediate outpouring of assistance and a systematic follow up. 	

13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong new membership program as evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular New UU classes • plug in immediately to a committee(s) meaningful to the new member • Meaningful financial commitment to the church • More active social action program as evidenced by participation by each member in a project at least once a year with a paid volunteer coordinator. • Strong intergenerational program supported by a new RE building and regularly structured dialogues between youth and adults. 	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know more about members of congregation • Ask each member about skills, job experience in addition to hobbies/interests (information like this should be in the member database) • Joyfulness: Spontaneity and flexibility in services (feel the music, make a joyful noise) <p>A minister who mingles with congregation - someone who enjoys people, a "people person"</p>	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a city on the hill that helps victims directly, inspires powerful people to better action, and helps our own people commune with each other. • Social action, worship and fellowship • New building facilities, all current programs fully funded • Dynamic ministry that reaches out to the community. P.R. 	
16	<p>Our church will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide sanctuary • empower our members • to amplify and act on our values as a justice-seeking community • Make connections to serve the broader community • Build tolerance and value and embrace diversity • Create an environment for children to broaden their experiences. 	
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a welcoming inclusive community • Being a community where we can develop our spiritual values and translate these values into action to build a better world. • Be the "mothership" for Central TX loving ideas (?) 	
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First UU will sustain people spiritually • First UU will facilitate closer connections among members and facilitate creation of the church family • First UU will inspire members to translate social and spiritual values into action in the community and world at large • Every participant in this congregation has the opportunity to become involved in some activity, creating a dynamic church that has a positive effect on the community at large; leading by example. 	

19	<p>In five years, possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community center • Source of interesting things • Inspire people to go out to act in the world in ways that other people can't serve (?) • be a place where people are safe to explore, come together, feel welcomed, accepted • Not hide our light under a bushel • Place where people can find what is true to them • Where people can grow in their beliefs and spirit • Caring community-making people feel that they belong and that someone cares about them. • Active participation • There are ways to get people into active roles in the church 	
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community where we all go for support and connection; we are connected to one another; we do have shared values, and do good things in the community. Church should be a refueling station, where your children go through class, they learn these core values. We actually do things at the church, i.e. housing project, soup kitchen, we support people who are ill and provide a place to celebrate the lives of those who have died, by announcing about member who are ill, have accidents, etc in the service. Keep people informed about members • People are to be inspired by good sermons by (can't translate the rest of this sentence) • Have a group discussion after the sermon, or the forum on the topics being (can't read word) to translate the values into social actions through the church. Try to connect with people who are in the same zip code for mutual aid. Integrate some information about members who are all in the same, with a minister who is inspirational and comfortable with others. First UU will sustain purpose spiritually. 	
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will have defined / embraced our mission / values • Will be acting in covenant (as we define it) 	
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community publicity, UT outreach, retention, buy-in, welcoming 	
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement, involvement by each member of the community throughout life in RE, Young Adults, and All • Broaden diversity of the church throughout church life, expand what it means to be a UU 	

24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, diverse music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ exchange music with other churches ◦ lively, engaging, soulful • Fostering sense of spiritual search • Stewardship • Bridge transition for parents as their (our) kids grow older • RE & Growth for all (know our history and other faiths) 	
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reached out to community & grown some • Kept sense of community with everyone connected equally • Everyone feels supported and part of supporting others 	
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeters – immediate welcome • Culture of members engaging newcomers • Creating special interest social groups 	
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Prince of Pulpit ◦ Leadership within church community ◦ Leadership within community at large • Social Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Homeless ◦ National, State Issues • Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$ and crisis management ◦ policy governance ◦ leadership training 	
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social action expanding to social justice • Creating a loving, supportive community: communication, fun, interaction • Understand who we are and be able to convey that to the larger world 	
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled minister who reflects/leads our mission and represents our community • More ongoing and sustained programs that reach local, national, international populations • Participation beyond Sunday morning :recruitment/ retention 	
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church is friendlier and more welcoming • The social action committee is more effective and well-funded • The church has a culture of abundance and generosity • People are more aware of the many smaller, more intimate groups within the church 	
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FUUCA becomes more visible for all of Central Texas • Model of a multicultural society operating democratically 	

32	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marketing statement of our purpose on all publications (esp. make renters and attendees at their events aware)• Celebrate other traditions• Partner a congregational swap• Form a covenant to visit other churches• Music: Cross Cultural Festival to intentionally attract others• Contact other UU entities who have tried and succeeded• College outreach• Use OWL to reach into the community	
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Exercise 2B – Personal Vision Reflection

A story about a peak moment when you experienced First UU Austin making a difference, a time when you felt particularly alive, involved, connected and engaged, a time when you felt affirmed in your decision to participate in this community. Now imagine five years have passed, what wish or wishes for this church have come true?

1	<p>Seeing people greeting each other, hugging after Sunday service. A new sense of warmth, welcome and vitality. Saw how touched everyone was (visitors and members) Intellectual coldness melted away. A real change in the community - after so much intellectualize hurt and stifling.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> That our church will become a beacon, a welcoming place for people who seek greater truth, but had thought they would never find it through religion.</p>	
2	<p>Last thanksgiving telling stories of what Wayne and Chris were thankful for. People responded very positively and openly. They heard that it invited family conversations - same sex partnerships. What a communal space of generous, unconditional love. Gay people don't often talk candidly because of fear that people aren't allowing themselves to see the diversity in community. At this church the differences don't matter.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> 5 years down the road Austin will know what a church community can be and see a place where a spiritual community exists - a community of openness, deep listening, acceptance, curiosity and care.</p>	
3	<p>During chemotherapy people mowed her lawn, unexpected people came to her to show support, planted budding plants. She didn't have to earn the right to this help, it was inherent. This help came from individuals, not necessarily provided by the church but the individuals bound together by the church.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> There would be an easy way for anyone to reach out for the help and support they need, and the church would find a way to get it for them. People would want to provide this help. The church would be a place people had a priority to support with time, talent and money.</p>	

4	<p>Church was here for person during our divorce. Keeton Rylander's efforts to remove FUUCA's tax-exempt status & subsequent attendance at funeral made her rethink about importance of our community despite not having a creed.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Act as beacon / message giver to the world - don't have to look / be / believe alike to act together as a community - be a bigger lighthouse.</p>	
5	<p>2009 Thanksgiving, see if I fit in. Wayne and Chris's story. Basic love. different ways of achieving.</p>	
6	<p>Knew that he had a family in this church, and had a support group. And could dedicate himself to the survival of humanity and something larger than himself.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> For the church to grow in membership and financial resources. Make a powerful radio station become a mission = spreading our message of an honest religion that will set us free.</p>	
7	<p>Hands on Housing - helping replace roof "my child was changed" Christmas eve service - every night a child is born is a holy night. Interim minister Janet - family of death row inmate accessory to crime. Congregation heard transformation story, family transformed.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Church will be a place for inward change and outward change. Ready to change ourselves in order to affect something larger. Hopes her son will come back.</p>	
8	<p>June 10 2007, wonderful worship service Brent had prepared orchestrated extended choir. Invited to do sermon covenant UU glue come together around promises every aspect of service - reading, storytelling, offering - all elements embodied our values. Inspiration, participation, liberation microcosm moment of awareness.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> A vision for how it is and can be. Remember who we are.</p>	
9	<p>Adult Education/covenant groups -- anger management learning where a member was able to learn and transmit these skill to their family to improve their lives. Spiritual autobiography process Small group experiences -- engages people in the community and transforms their lives</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Small group ministry -- infrastructure to hold our church together</p>	

10	<p>Before Young Adults Group was lack of connection among young people. Group takes time out of worldly affairs to share spiritual. 22 year old who was painfully shy. Big deal just to show up Makes a difference in peoples lives People open, present, willing to try new spiritual practices, expound boundaries Trust -- people are willing to be there and take the risk</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Small groups -- where the space is created for meaningful action. Having cohorts. Being present</p>	
11	<p>All ages playground 2001-2002 - intergenerational - used to be physical/metaphorical place of isolation - belief in future -- not instant gratification, not sexy stuff has to be done - organizational/personal commitment</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Increased involvement ProUUd Recognized force in community</p>	
12	<p>2008 sermon on evangelical christianity -- pulpit and congregation connected by sharing and listening Extremely personal sharing Acceptance given and felt, appreciation</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Open and welcoming congregation, compassion for all Challenging ourselves to deliver and receive tough and important sermons every Sunday</p>	
13	<p>Hearing Jack's sermons -- vulnerable, connect, admit failure, open advocate against death penalty -- brought family of person on death row to church Dedicated service to this -- emotional, included child of the inmate. Child plead for dad's life. Moved to write a letter to Gov. perry -- the dad was executed. The child sang "This Little Light of Mine" Thankful for taking risk to conduct this type of service</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> That we keep stretching, taking the risk to make a difference in peoples' lives!</p>	
14	<p>Samir Ali course on Koran here post 9-11-2001. Proud our church hosted seminar for larger community -- learning, correcting stereotypes. We, First UU, are interfaith. Honor to all spiritual paths. We show the way.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Doing more interfaith understanding</p>	

15	<p>Heard slave spiritual song performed by the choir. He was a new member at the time. He was moved by the passion, the quality of song, the melody. He found it moving and vitalizing. It enhanced his connection with the church.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> More music - great powerful music</p>	
16	<p>During coffee hour this person and her significant other met an old couple. The personal conversation they had was so genuine and welcoming that it increased their connection and interest in the church. (However, they have been disappointed those conversations have not been as common since then)</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Better physical space for coffee hour discussions, perhaps in a different building. The present space can get too busy since it has other uses.</p>	
17	<p>The implications of the decision making process in replacing a minister with everyone having a voice. He found it great that everyone had a say.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> More people would go to board meetings and speak when they get an opportunity - take advantage of the churches democratic system</p>	
18	<p>A series of moments as he led the middle and high school students to learn about other faiths including visiting other churches. One moment was when the students realized that Hinduism is more like UU than one might expect (they explained it was an umbrella of belief systems. There is much more compassion out there, need for more understanding and awareness of many different things beint there</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> A similar program for adults</p>	
19	<p>Needed a place that was accepting, non-judgmental. Community, spirituality-seeking, kind, accepting, with joys and concerns so they learn about each other and thus be more invested in each other)</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> More specialized groups - discussion groups - to build community. Small groups help build relationships.</p>	
20	<p>Hill Country Ride for AIDS - Katie, Casey, Adam. Willingness to challenge self. Trust in others. Generosity/support of congregation. Sense of belonging/part of community</p>	

21	<p>All ages playground - was shaggy old parking field. Fleas and chiggers and bugs and we borrowed co-ops playground. Kids got yelled out for getting in trouble because nowhere to play. Someone said, "Let's just ask these kids what they want and build it." Kids made a list and began to map it out. Children wanted it to be all ages - so they could react more positively without adults. Playground consecration was the peak moment. Only time the minister came down to that side of the church.</p> <p>Big attendance at adult r.e. class he taught - learned that there is support for individual initiative here.</p> <p>Wishes: Give voice to marginalized minority, "other" groups of people, e.g. muslim community (get to know them personally)</p>	
22	<p>High points: Children's choir, allowing the children to be themselves. Quality of music programs... facilitates sense of acceptance.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Find a permanent pastor he can relate to, thought-provoking, lots of content Paradox Players have a leadership role for younger people also.</p>	
23	<p>Becoming unitarian - found accepting church - could agree with their creed. Senior lunch - hearing from others about life experiences.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Put a human face on muslims (?)</p>	
24	<p>1 1/2 years ago trick or treating for canned goods. Bonding among members. Gathering food for the needy. Participation and communication</p>	
25	<p>1) Spiritual inward experience shared with all - singing with rest of church. Meditate during service - feeling heartbeat of person to the right of you. 2) Hands on Housing, AIDS bike ride - community service, social action. Better organization and involved with social justice.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> (this was on back of page so it may be wishes... or could be for poster) Spirituality on personal level, enact church values, personal interaction with others in church</p>	
26	<p>1) Mutual respect - conversations that are fun but show shared values - Great way to meet people - we are comfortable and happy with what we have found - We talk about faith in the middle of dinner!</p>	

27	<p>1) Caroling for elderly and shut-ins. People being moved by song/joy of music. Diverse group of people in community, making connections.</p> <p>2) Hands on Housing - physical work/meeting goals. Making a physical difference in people's lives through our labors. Helping to create a sanctuary for people.</p> <p><i>Wishes</i> Creating a community where all feel not just tolerated but that our views and opinions have intrinsic value and serves as an example to the wider community.</p>	
28	<p>Important to go a distance to become part of a greater community. Working as part of the search committee</p>	
29	<p>Fairly new to the church. Came in January. The first YA group meeting she attended created a sense of connectedness. The group remembered her name and listened well. The group had leadership and active involvement. The group balanced its core values while planning activities for the next year. The meeting reviewed the groups activities for the last year and gave a firm impression of the group's character.</p>	
30	<p>The first holy experience came at age 12 as I delved into science fiction, specifically Arthur C. Clarke's magical stories (the ending of 2001) - connection to ancient, cosmic mysteries. The second was when I learned to share this with others in college ball/bull (?) sessions</p> <p>Your partners experience of the holy? The day she married she realized her life was changing forever. The second was when her first baby was born.</p> <p>Peak experience My peak experience was the saturday meeting on the dismissal of Davidson. Not the outcome necessarily but the care of hundreds of people to make sure everyone was heard.</p>	
31	<p>Uncertain about peak. Spectator - Davidson's departure. Needed to connect to community.</p> <p>Has been part of small group experiences: Sharing Suppers, PCC, Covenant group, Hands on Housing</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Establish a real sense of community</p>	
32	<p>Friend in Lubbock - memorial service here for her. The church provided an ideal location for wisely diverse group of people to come together to remember her. His involvement in pulling it together. Felt grateful to be able to provide that to people in general members or not. We were not charged for this.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Being able to offer things like this to people both in the church and the wider community.</p>	

33	<p>Making sack lunches for Arch on Monday nights with the kids. Other church members were also helping. Only a certain number be in the kitchen but everyone shared the desire to make a difference. Also had the opportunity to deliver the meals and meet the people who benefitted from the sack lunches. Shared when one child needed a service project for school. Made family feel connected and affirmed.</p> <p>Peak experience: Working with Melanie in the bookstore Building a niche Good deal for all Beacon/Skinner Good communication and feedback Exploring how to expand More meaningful to members and community</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Build ourselves in depth and experience (i.e. history) Story: More than one incident Covenant groups, building your own theology - they would share in groups and come up with their below beliefs that worked for them.</p>	
34	<p>Adults and children's choir together in 2009 fall at First UU. Brings in ideas, diversity in music selections, sharing with others, sub community identity for children outside of school</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Creating a community for children and tolerance for others and differences</p>	
35	<p>Hands on Housing - took tools, 50 volunteers for family home. Repaired house, etc. - finished in 4-5 hours. Good spirit among all and all left feeling good. Interacting with others on personal level led to connectedness with other church members.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Commonality without book, actions louder than words, affirming experiences.</p>	
36	<p>Stated when her son was with her in exercise class and she felt at peace here, made friends here. Wanted to build a community. After six months of attending church influenced a friend from class to join the church. She felt a real sense of community. Taught RE and had a lot of connections with other parents. A lot of parents have left but she still sees kids and feels a bond.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> That we all become one as far as our connectedness to the church</p>	
37	<p>When daughter was in religious education year she taught RE sense of community, she felt involved, making a difference in children's lives - doing something different than what she ordinarily did.</p>	

38	<p>Collecting the food with the children, people who brought and people who observe, community outside who receive food. Positive elevatory feeling.</p> <p>Wishes: Regular, repetitive (mundane) distribution of food to community. Baby steps adding up to big picture. Saving world one can of beans at a time - must serve our members before can serve community How do you create a community because parents and children? Bonding is important. Also wrote freeze night and hands on housing are neat communities in church</p>	
39	<p>Games night - community - small areas to choose from, visitors/friends, introduce selves, simple, no pot luck, mock game show, fellowship, focused (same purpose), learn/teach games, choices, child care available,e can volunteer to give back, neighbors could join with church people, huge variety of games, intergenerational, easily reproduced, affordable</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> a place for everybody to volunteer, take care of every visitor shared responsibility to connect</p>	
40	<p>First sunday of the month - serving dinner for homeless - ARCH coordinated and planned for three years of first Sundays. Became involved, met people, managed the event help herself through involvement that led to helping the community. This involvement led to other experiences.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> More people finding ways to become involved</p>	
41	<p>SWUUC 07-08 spring district conference Core planning group 6-10 people - work load shared over six months speakers, topics, Austin-centric activities for out-of-towners logistics and details and publicity chance to organize recognition for organizing a successful conference promoted denominational affairs creative ideas birthed through execution enter UU community supported</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> FUUCA actively involved in UUA vision and committed to SW leads to fair share participation</p>	

42	<p>During the Saturday afternoon meeting regarding dismissal of Rev. Davidson Loehr realized that there over 400 people had given up their Saturday determined that the meeting would not end until everyone had a chance to speak (made him aware that so many people took the situation seriously and cared enough about everyone's feelings.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> fellowship</p>	
43	<p>Davidson resignation caused her to be more involved on committees. This made her feel more a part of this church.</p>	
44	<p>When she heard that the board wanted Davidson to resign she felt it was the right decision, that something was wrong. Afterwards they got much more involved and felt much closer to others</p> <p><i>Wishes</i> fellowship</p>	
45	<p>At Easter service Rev. Newman's service "everything in bud" poem and flower communion made her have a sense of wonder and transcendence. Reinforced her decision to join the church. Made her want to be more involved.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> A new fellowship committee</p>	
46	<p>Elephant in room: Davidson's departure Last canvas - testimonials from members. Did not realize size of task. No passion but (?) overrode it Result: Got enough to build future</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> 1) Community action - outreach service 2) Commitment - inspiration from congregation 3) Helping Hands - outreach to members of community 4) Community - we are all, us</p>	
47	<p>Davidson's departure - initially awestruck by some of the sermons - the realization of problems. What I saw happen was the church members who stayed came together - this has been inspiring. This has led to community. A point: The perception of the board as "us vs them." Community means us. Caused us all to think of what is important. Two or 3 sermons that inspired me led to my own greater understanding of things important to me.</p>	

48	<p>Background from family of control freaks who have had difficulties in churches but needing the church and community... Someone died in a motorcycle accident. The church was there for me to have a service for my friend. This was a powerful experience for me when I needed it most. This was truly valuable for me and created a real bond.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> A church being a church for me. A place that really shined for me when it really needed to. This created a space for grieving when I really needed it.</p>	
49	<p>The process of deciding whether to dismiss D.L. people under great stress and disagreement still working together to make a decision.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Being challenged in service and religious education, people doing an admirable job under difficult circumstances - people didn't just leave - stayed to try to make it work, continued moving forward</p>	
50	<p>Ten years ago president of congregation - had an offer from quakers outside outside of Kerrville was disbanding.. talked to Roseanne to see if the congregation would want it as a retreat center. Lots of discussion, forums, took a vote. Similar intensity to the vote on Davidson (pro and con) - the process was respectful/honesty. Differences were expressed clearly. Vote was 2 to 1 for taking the gift. Took gift to all congregations in the district. Doing something for generations to come for all UU's</p> <p><i>Wishes/Hope:</i> that we will be open to new opportunities to grow, not just the strategic plan but things that that become available</p>	
51	<p>Congregation met to vote on Davidson. Turmoil palpable. Honesty - brutal honesty. Struggle</p> <p>There was love for him, for process, otherwise things would snap. Community at a boiling point - handling issues constructively. Had to take action. Commitment. Sense of the future unfolding. A sense of the relevance of tomorrow, the future being definite interest, respectful listening with dignity.</p>	
52	<p>Positive moment- SWUUC Conference. Arrange rooms,</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Wishes for strong social action, would like one or two causes that the church can come together for.</p>	
53	<p>Story: First came helped in religious education with second-third graders with other teachers. Would up on RE committee to make a difference.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Involvement with the whole UU community and also include those who need help throughout the world</p>	

54	<p>1) When I read the statement of belief (goal) of this church I feel a real spiritual uplift</p> <p>2) Connection little by little to reach out</p> <p>3) Desire to be part of Halloween, dressed in costume. I enjoyed the kids, immersed in the activities.</p> <p>Peak moment: Halloween party for kids. Dressed up as a clown and wizard. Made balloon animals. Enjoyed interaction with kids of all ages.</p> <p>Wishes: Social action within church, community and world</p>	
55	<p>Sense of difficulty from need to rebuild the community, concern how to continue and not cut programs</p> <p>Dinner was a time of deep sharing: stories, experiences around the church, all facets of church life. Came together in thankfulness and with a sense of stewardship, and relief that church could go forward without major cuts.</p> <p>History represented by people's tasks and stories from over the years.</p>	
56	<p>Youth Sunday did not go at first (mid 80s) excited - wisdom of teens - wise. Changed her awareness of what church was about.</p> <p>Value of community and what some people had to say</p> <p>Chance to hear kids of that age when her own were... uncommunicative</p>	
57	<p>Story:</p> <p>Easter celebration/flower communion draws large number of people; good feeling; special day; enjoyed the sharing and the children being involved. Everyone received a flower - affirmation of worth, every (all ages) are involved. Good music.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i></p> <p>More all age gathering and services</p>	
58	<p>Paradox players creative expression... Community coming together to create something</p> <p>That affirms - you are part of a team effort, you are creating - you hear audience feedback. You meet new people. You find community</p>	
59	<p>A death row inmate was invited to participate in a church service. He had been convicted of murder. Pride we had a minister so aware and took a stand in hearing his story. UUs in public eye in this issue, source of pride in minister and man's plight.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> We continue being organized and active in issues of moral justice</p>	

60	Davidson's prayer: Transcendent - can we get this prayer on-line? Talked to web team sermons on case - put sermons on web to be shared with the world. The impact on the world from these needed to happen. Needed to hear them. <i>Wishes:</i> Our church needs to post forums. We need to be big in ways we can't even imagine because our message is so important.	
61	Peak experience is forum. Service was enjoyable but forum totally impressed her and made a connection. Specific forum was about veterans. Forum honors reality she experiences and values she has and connection with others who want to go out and make a difference in the world.	
62	Feeling inspired at the forums talking about social justice issues. Reaffirms her own views by talking to others. Inspires her to go out and get involved. Possibility statements: First UU will sustain people spiritually First UU will inspire members to translate social and spiritual values into the community and world at large.	
63	First time here: The lighting of the candles, sitting quietly with others - when lightening - transcendent - connection with all of the other lighting - receiving grace - felt grateful where everyone has the opportunity to do an intentional action conjoined energy - connected with the others who may be asking for a need to be filled, usually for a person they love. Being able to individually take an action within the group. <i>Wishes:</i> expand congregational care, inspirational ministry, promote covenant groups, provide support	
64	Story: Volunteering support for paradox players... created a doorway into church	
65	Big attendance at adult r.e. class he taught - learned that there is support for individual initiative here. <i>Wishes:</i> Give voice to marginalized minority, "other" groups of people, e.g. muslim community (get to know them personally)	
66	High points: Children's choir, allowing the children to be themselves. Quality of music programs... facilitates sense of acceptance.	
67	All ages playground - was shaggy old parking field. Fleas and chiggers and bugs and we borrowed co-ops playground. Kids got yelled out for getting in trouble because they had nowhere to play. Someone said, "Let's just ask these kids what they want and build it." Kids made a list and began to map it out. The children wanted it to be all ages so they could react more positively with adults. Playground consecration was peak experience. Only time the minister came down to that side of the church.	
68	Very involved in third/evening service - doing music with friends I really cared about. We would stand in a circle - we would all sing a familiar song. Last time voyagers were really a part of the church - feeling really involved. Was heartbreaking when it ended.	

69	<p>In montclair, CA Chuck made a pulpit to celebrate ernie howard's retirement from ministry. Later Chuck was talked into making a second (?) for First UU of Austin.</p>	
70	<p>Trouble finding peak, general presence of this group in her life is a "peak" - taking a leadership role - first church involved with Coming first time - sermon - about "religion re-litigation - covers things that are supernatural - raised adamantly atheist Started coming due to kids - classmates and neighbors were mostly conservatives and baptists.</p>	
71	<p>Inwardly directed (bust out) Been a member since 2004. Moment - helped with freeze night on one of the coldest nights, bust dropped them off two blocks away. Saw men running to get in. Something we can do. It allowed focus on what I can do, global isn't necessary.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> outward focus Stop talking this stuff to death We embrace what we share just as much as our diversity My daughter will be in middle school with a higher quality level of religious literacy and body image and sexual education (?)</p>	
72	<p>Becoming unitarian - found accepting church - could agree with their creed. Senior lunch - hearing from others about life experiences.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Put a human face on muslims (?)</p>	
73	<p>Paradox Players have a leadership role for younger people also.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Find a permanent pastor he can relate to, thought-provoking, lots of content</p>	
74	<p>Not a moment, per se. Children's education programs. Impressive education provided. His boys are able to express feelings about religion easily. Sex education is an impressive program. A reason to join the church. Freeze night program - A desired destination for homeless, encounter open minds and open hearts, not preaching. It is an eye opening experience and provides a sense of connection - they are like us.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Live our environmental ideals Exciting RE expanded congregational care.</p>	

75	<p>Hands on Housing work day. It was intergenerational, put values into action, opportunity to do something he couldn't have done on his own. Whole level of giving when he donated time (most valuable commodity), blood, sweat. You could see what you have done at the end of the day. What we're really supposed to be about.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> UU RE program is a place where he can raise religiously-literate children without drowning her in dogma Story: So much intellectual power - should commit to being a church (evolved from fellowship.) grew from social group to community that practices social responsibility.</p>	
76	<p>Liked that that the UU's had similar values and were interested in acting out beliefs about six years ago - started coming a few months ago inspired hope. There was a group who shared core values. Could talk to other UUs.</p>	
77	<p>New UU is learning about UU., enjoying a beautiful place to share in the dream of a better future for all.</p>	
78	<p>First time enrolled in EvenSong - 6 weeks and followed by a potluck. Series of questions and they would discuss topics with no comments. Group bonded and learned about life and death experiences. Profound - wanted to comment but couldn't. I had friends at church to say hello, still do things with them. 2002 when joined the church. Connectedness was affirmed.</p>	
79	<p>Peggy and Fred: Not as involved as thinks would like. At least eight years ago Fred and Peggy in Houston saw Judge Muio (?) was going to be speaking at the forum. Recalled the judge preoccupied on another case when their child came before her. Fred listened and went to the forum - made impact. Made Peggy and Fred feel better about judge. Renewed confident that judge would not overcorrect in all situations. Peggy loves form - welcomes diverse views and perspectives. Fred comes to other activities, including services. Forum affirmed their commitment to the church.</p>	
80	<p>During time of integration, minister asked the owner of the Frisco to welcome black people. Minister went there and took a black guest. My daughter went to the first integrated swim party at Barton Springs. I was in favor of it, remember it. It was a struggle in those days. I was probably on the board at that time. I felt like it was the right thing to do. I thought the the busing would work out better than it did.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> Hope church survives. I'm very encouraged. Hope our new minister is as good as our interim. Tolerance, bravery.</p>	
81	<p>Volunteered to be photographer. First volunteer position enjoyed - passion. Gets to travel around church, see R.E. Thought this year would be sad, depressing. See lots of activity, healthy congregation. Janet has been very encouraging - everyone has. Jane Parson has been emailing a lot of pictures also.</p>	

82	<p>Prison in Taylor, Tx. Protest in December before Christmas. Very cold. Social action group - Corrina spoke, other cities there too. Not allowed to go in. Presents for family. Came to door.</p>	
83	<p>The little ones - heard a story about a caregiver concert we were singled out for referring to god as a "she." She liked that There is some distaste for being "evangelical" but outreach is needed because don't know about us.</p> <p>Darwin Day at RE - examples of why she liked being there. Liked Davidson's sermons - doesn't know other aspects of the controversy. Makes you really think and talk about. Must be engaging.</p> <p>Involvement in caring committee. Assisted members. Had congregational care committee help for mental illness, support and concern from so many people helping with getting people to get to appointments</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> compassion, willingness to help, support/structure for volunteers.</p>	
84	<p>Had a hard time coming up with a "peak" experience. Intergenerational choir and religious education program. Minister that year really advocated against capital punishment - pushed the issue. Eventually the governor stayed the execution. It made me proud that our church stood up - I liked that it helped me take an active step.</p> <p><i>Wishes:</i> A minister with conviction, leadership, facilitator, reflection.</p>	
85	<p>Being on the task force for congregational care committee - create a system to gather requests for help, needs.</p> <p>Wanted to ensure committee lived on beyond any one person</p> <p>Did research, had honest debate about situation.</p> <p>Transformative because I had to become more open and thoughtful about the process.</p>	
86	<p>Davidson's sermons intellectual integrity</p> <p>peak - felt safe refuge. Felt home.</p>	
87	<p>Service committee - stan huchinson's funeral</p> <p>emails from beyond (stan's daughter on computer) felt grateful to be part of church of</p> <p>Hands on Housing</p> <p>Sanctuary garden</p> <p>Men's breakfast</p>	
88	<p>Peak moment - listening to Davidson preach - was thinking of a particular sermon that was meaningful. Loved the clear logical messages. Made him glad he was there. Also likes Brent and the choir. Interesting and inspiring. Davidson made you think. Did great research</p>	

Feedback

- I really liked the interactive nature of this workshop. I felt listened to and liked listening to others - one on one sharing is very powerful.
- Good program - it helped to have board members help us with it especially with creating our possibility statements
- More events like this will bring the church together. We discuss the true wonder of the church - one another.
- I really enjoyed this whole thing. We learned a lot.
- I enjoyed the small group interaction - I felt we came up with some good recommendations.
- This was a wonderful evening - thank you for facilitating this experience.
- Today was much more than I expected. It was wonderful to meet other members on a deeper level.
- The last exercise should have been easier. Perhaps some simple concrete examples would have helped. Rewording would have improved it.
- I understand the exercise much better now that it is done.
- A few of my favorite comments from above:
" Saving world one can of beans at a time"
- Good job