

First UU Austin

**Bridge
to our
Future**



Categorized Possibility Statements

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Possibility Statements

Within

Religious Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructured religious education for adults and kids • RE & Growth for all (know our history and other faiths) • Every adult member of church has direct experience with other faiths; expand neighboring faiths program to adult RE • Knowledge of UU principles - mission statement (???)
Worship Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, diverse music • - exchange music with other churches • - lively, engaging, soulful • Joyfulness: Spontaneity and flexibility in services (feel the music, make a joyful noise) • People are to be inspired by good sermons by (can't translate the rest of this sentence)
Spiritual Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth through enacted spiritual practice • Where people can grow in their beliefs and spirit • Fostering sense of spiritual search • Being a community where we can develop our spiritual values • Place where people can find what is true to them • Provided safe home encouraging spiritual growth and development. • First UU will sustain people spiritually
Outside of Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of interesting things • empower our members

Among

<p>Caring Community</p> <p><i>ie., how we reach out to each other, especially in times of need.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a loving, supportive community: communication, fun, interaction • Caring community-making people feel that they belong and that someone cares about them. • Pastor counseling: Well known, trusted and utilized resources • 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. • 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
<p>Organizational</p> <p><i>i.e., policy governance, decision making, etc.</i></p>	<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) • Model of a multicultural society operating democratically • Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - \$ and crisis management • - policy governance • - leadership training • Ask each member about skills, job experience in addition to hobbies/interests (information like this should be in the member database) • People are more aware of the many smaller, more intimate groups within the church • The decision-making is open and transparent, especially when hiring ministers. Membership is constant and steady members make a lasting
<p>Outside of Worship</p> <p><i>Thought about calling it Church Life, but really all of these represent some aspect of church life</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation beyond Sunday morning :recruitment/ retention • 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. • Broaden diversity of the church throughout church life, expand what it means to be a UU • 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.

<p>Religious Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an environment for children to broaden their experiences. • Strong intergenerational program supported by a new RE building and regularly structured dialogues between youth and adults. • 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 • 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.
<p>Welcoming Community. how we welcome people into our congregation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a welcoming inclusive community • The church is friendlier and more welcoming • be a place where people are safe to explore, come together, feel welcomed, accepted • First UU will facilitate closer connections among members and facilitate creation of the church family • Will be acting in covenant (as we define it) • Place where thinking is respected and answers are not shouted. • Know more about members of congregation • Build tolerance and value and embrace diversity • Flourishing community with trust, shared purpose, meaningful dialog and a safe place to disagree. • provide opportunities to build interpersonal relationships within our community • helps our own people commune with each other. • Greeters – immediate welcome • Culture of members engaging newcomers • Kept sense of community with everyone connected equally • Safe place where human needs are met. • Internal sense of purpose in which all can embrace, articulate and participate.
<p>Worship Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Celebrate other traditions • Ministerial Team • - Prince of Pulpit • - Leadership within church community • - Leadership within community at large
<p>Spiritual Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a passionate church that embraces uncertainty and fearlessly explores spirituality and religion

Beyond

<p>Community Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visibility/presence in community: Public Understanding of UUFC • Community center • provide sanctuary • More concrete outreach through all stages of life within the congregation, the local community and the greater world. • Understand who we are and be able to convey that to the larger world • College outreach • Use OWL to reach into the community • More ongoing and sustained programs that reach local, national, international populations • Community publicity, UT outreach, retention, buy-in, welcoming • Inspire people to go out to act in the world in ways that other people can't serve (?) • Marketing statement of our purpose on all publications (esp. make renters and attendees at their events aware) • Evangelize to our greater community our values manifested in our actions. • The larger community knows who we are & why we are here. • Dynamic ministry that reaches out to the community. P.R. • Broadcast our message - make our presence known • Make connections to serve the broader community
<p>Denomination Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First UU and UU in general grows and gains influence. • Contact other UU entities who have tried and succeeded
<p>Interfaith Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a covenant to visit other churches • An active partner with others in the community (growing with progressive churches). • Music: Cross Cultural Festival to intentionally attract others • Partner a congregational swap • musical exchange with other churches • Our church is a strong presence in the Austin interfaith environmental networks, encouraging our members to pursue sustainability in all aspects of their lives.
<p>Political Involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage common ground in politics • inspires powerful people to better action

<p>Social Justice / Social Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put a human face on marginalized group (muslim, homeless) • Social action expanding to social justice • Translate these values into action to build a better world. • 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. • enact church values of social justice through social action. • First UU will inspire members to translate social and spiritual values into action in the community and world at large • The social action committee is more effective and well-funded • to amplify and act on our values as a justice-seeking community • We are a city on the hill that helps victims directly • FUUCA becomes more visible for all of Central Texas • The "go to" church on (A) social justice issue(s). • Social Action • - Homeless • - National, State Issues
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Factors or Indicators Only

<p>Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Settled minister who reflects/leads our mission and represents our community • Has a strong identity. • 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 • A newspaper article that recognizes First UU for its service leadership to the community • Bridge transition for parents as their (our) kids grow older • Stewardship • Engagement, involvement by each member of the community throughout life in RE, Young Adults, and All • There are ways to get people into active roles in the church • Creating special interest social groups
<p>Indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not hide our light under a bushel • Everyone feels supported and part of supporting others • Reached out to community & grown some • Will have defined / embraced our mission / values • New building facilities, all current programs fully funded • The church has a culture of abundance and generosity • A minister who mingles with congregation - someone who enjoys people, a "people person" • 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

Within	Among	Beyond
Transcendence/ Wonder/Mystery/ Awe/ Reverence (14)	Sharing experiences/talents/beliefs (6)	Connection/connectedness: to family, community, universe - brings forth a desire to serve
Connection to life and nature(7)	Connection/Connectedness to love, family, community (4)	Freedom
Awareness (6)	Interdependence/Interconnectedne ss/web of life (4)	Service to others and to community
Presence (3)	Community (3)	Wider expansion of experience
Personal/Spiritual Growth(2)	Freedom	Empowerment
Awareness of mystery-something out of ordinary is occurring	love	Liberation
Awareness of preciousness of life	Participation	
Creativity - Music, art, language, losing oneself in the creative process and experience	safe environment to be vulnerable	
Freedom	Fellowship/commitment to others/communion	
Healing	Acceptance	
Hope		
intentionality		
Liberation		
authenticity		
Mystery/awe - Truth is always unfolding		
Personal freedom/independence		
Receptive to all sources of wisdom, resistant to dogma		
Synthesis of intellectual, emotional and spiritual through art, music, literature, etc.		
Wider expansion of experience		

In the Moment	A Wonderful Universe/There's Something Larger Out There	A Growth Environment	Community / Connection	Personal Development	Sharing	Artistic/Creative/Intellect
authenticity	Awe, Wonder	Acceptance	Community	Freedom	Service to others and to community	Creativity - Music, art, language, losing oneself in the creative process and experience
Awareness	Mystery/awe - Truth is always unfolding	Affirmation of worth through shared experiences	Community	Healing	Shared core beliefs	Synthesis of intellectual, emotional and spiritual through art, music, literature, etc.
awareness	Mystery / Awe / Reverence / Transcendence	safe environment to be vulnerable	Community/Connection	Hontrusty	Sharing experiences	
Awareness / Openness	Transcendence	Empowerment	compassion and connection	Hope	Sharing our talents through service	
Awareness of mystery- something out of ordinary is occurring	transcendence	Liberation	Connectedness	intentionality		
Awareness of preciousness of life	Transcendence	love	Connectedness	Personal freedom / independence		
a moment of awareness	transcendence		Connection	Personal Growth		
Being Present	Transcendence		Connection (including love)	Receptive to all sources of wisdom, resistant to dogma		

In the Moment	A Wonderful Universe/There's Something Larger Out There	A Growth Environment	Community / Connection	Personal Development	Sharing	Artistic/Creative/Intellect
presence in the moment	Transcendence		Connection to life, nature and the universe	Spiritual Growth		
Presence, Openness	Transcendence (including awe)		Connection /connectedness: to family, community, universe - brings forth a desire to serve	Wider expansion of experience		
Being Present	Reverence/Being totally present/awe		Connections/connect edness			
	Reverence		Fellowship / commitment to others / communion			
	wonder		Interconnected Community			
	Wonder / Uniqueness / Nature		Interconnectedness / web of life			
	Wonder and humility		Interdependence			
	wonder and reflection		Interdependence			
	Wonder / transcendence /intense feelings		Participation			
			Universality/Shared Experience / Community			
			Universality, Interconnectedness, shared experiences			