

## Emerson UU Church Congregational Survey

**Thank you for taking the time to tell us about yourself and your experience of our congregation! We estimate this survey will take about 20 minutes to complete, so please pour yourself a beverage and settle in. This survey will help you, your congregational leadership, your Minister Search Committee, and your future minister understand our congregation better. Responses to these questions will help guide small-group discussions and enrich the narrative about our ministry that your search committee will share with ministerial applicants.**

**If you are unable to take the survey online, contact Kris Taylor at ktaylor2106@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for completing your survey is Thursday, September 22.**

**The raw data will be kept confidential. If a question makes you feel uncomfortable or too vulnerable, please skip it. If you have questions or concerns, contact Kris Taylor.**

**Please be as honest as possible. Your leadership is ready to hear what you have to say. A summary and analysis will be reported to the congregation.**

1. What is your favorite thing about our congregation?

2. What do you perceive the top three functions of our congregation to be?

#1

#2

#3

3. What do you perceive the top three functions of our minister to be?

#1

#2

#3

## Emerson UU Church Congregational Survey

### Balcony View

**Below is a list of Emerson's programs and ministries. We want to know how these affect your life as a person of faith. We all recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed many of our patterns of church involvement and attendance. Please answer the following question based on a normal church year or, if you are a visitor or new member, how you would like to participate under post-pandemic circumstances.**

4. How often have you participated in the following activities in a normal church year?

	Weekly	Monthly	Several times a year	1 or 2 times a year	Never	Haven't, but hope to in the future
Sunday Morning Worship Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday Volunteer (sound system, usher, greeter, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative Worship Services (Solstice, Equinox, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult Religious Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Religious Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance (Board Meetings, Congregational Meetings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Committee Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising (pledge drive, auction, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Group Activities (covenant groups, book clubs, meditation, circle dinners)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music/Art (choir, theater, orchestra, ensembles, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social or Environmental Justice Activities or Events (PRIDE, ESL program, Rebuild Houston, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caring for the beloved community						

(Lay Pastoral Ministry, Caring Committee, Helping Hands, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intergenerational Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Church Activities (work days, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District, Regional, or General Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Regional Offerings (workshop, webinar, learning circles)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: looking back over the programs, ministries, and activities listed in the previous question, please choose one (or two at the most) programs for your responses to the following questions:

5. In which program, ministry, or activity do you feel most Unitarian Universalist?

6. Which program, ministry, or activity gives you concrete tools to live a dynamic UU life?

7. Which program, ministry, or activity inspires you to stretch and grow?

8. Which program, ministry, or activity gives you the deepest sense of belonging?

9. In which program, ministry, or activity have you experienced the greatest transcendence?

10. This congregation is generally open to change.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

11. This congregation has a flexible enough structure to implement new ideas easily.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

12. This congregation focuses on mission and the greater good, rather than the strong preference of some individuals.

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

13. I am confident in our congregation's financial sustainability.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

14. There is a high level of trust in leadership in this congregation.

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

15. We have a core group of leaders able to lead change in a non-anxious way.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

16. We do a good job of having difficult conversations and staying in relationship.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

17. Our mission and ministry continue to adapt to changing conditions in the world.

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

## Emerson UU Church Congregational Survey

### Expectations of our next Settled Minister & Vision for our Congregation

18. Consider the following roles of our future minister and their importance in different contexts. For each column, choose 5 roles:

- (column 1) 5 roles that are important to you,
- (column 2) 5 roles that serve the good of the whole congregation, and
- (column 3) 5 roles that will make the biggest impact on the next generation.

	Your preference	For the good of the whole congregation	For the good of the next generation
Pastoral Role - provides pastoral care, and, by example shows us how to care for one another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prophetic Role - helps us imagine our future and inspires us	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leading the overall ministry of our congregation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presenting inspiring and challenging Sunday services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encouraging social justice programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing volunteers and lay leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering a sense of community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supervising the church staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing visible leadership in Houston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting families and multi-generational ministries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching classes and leading workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. If you didn't agree with something the minister said or did would you...

- Tell the minister immediately
- Write a note to the minister
- Write a note to the Board
- Tell those in your circles
- Stifle, just keep your opinions to yourself
- Would think it said more about you and less about the minister.
- Stop coming to church
- None of the above

20. It could become contentious if the new minister tried to change:

21. It could be unifying and energizing if the new minister tried to change:

## Emerson UU Church Congregational Survey

### Demographics

**This part will remain confidential and great care will be given to report in a respectful way.**

22. What is your age?

- 17 years or younger
- 18-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80 years or older

23. Which racial or ethnic identity/identities do you hold? Please check all that apply.

- Asian
- Black
- Caucasian/ White
- Latinx
- Multiracial
- Native American/ Alaskan Native
- Pacific Islander

24. Do you consider yourself part of a multiracial family?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

25. With which gender do you most identify? Please check all that apply

- Woman
- Man
- Genderqueer/ Gender Fluid
- Transgender
- Two-Spirit
- Agender/ Gender Androgynous

26. What is your sexual orientation?

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay

27. What is your relationship status?

- In a Committed Relationship
- In Committed Relationships
- Married
- Separated or Divorced
- Single
- Widowed

28. How many children under the age of 18 are there in your family? If other adult family members are filling out a form, too, please choose one family member to report number of children.

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more
- Another family member is answering this question.



29. If you have children under the age of 18 in your family, please check all that apply. Again, if other adult family members are filling out a form, too, please choose one family member to answer this question.

- All the children are in the house full time.
- Some of the children are in the house part time.
- All the children are in the house part time.
- It's complicated.
- Another family member is answering this question.

30. If you have children under the age of 18 in your family, how many are currently participating in the Religious Education program at Emerson? Again, if other adult family members are filling out this survey, too, please choose one family member to answer this question.

- Not Applicable (No children under the age of 18)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more
- Another family member is answering this question.

31. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

- Some high school
- High School/ GED
- Some college
- 2-year college (Associate Degree, e.g. AA, AS)
- 4-year degree (BA, BS, etc.)
- Trade school or apprenticeship
- Master's degree (e.g. MA, MS, MEd)
- Doctoral degree (Ph.D, Ed.D, ect.)
- Professional degree (e.g. MD, DDS, DVM, JD)

32. What is your current employment status? Check all that apply.

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Employed and looking for more work
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Self-employed/freelance
- Student
- Unable to work
- Unemployed and currently looking for work
- Unemployed and not looking for work

33. Which of the following income categories best describes your total annual household income?

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,000
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$124,999
- \$125,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 to \$249,999
- \$250,000 or more

34. What is your current household annual giving pledge, whether you pledge as individuals or as a family?

- \$0
- Less than \$299
- \$300-\$599
- \$600-\$999
- \$1000 - \$1499
- \$1500 to \$2999
- \$3000 to \$4999
- \$5000 to \$7499
- \$7500 to \$9999
- \$10,000 to \$19,000
- \$20,000 or more

35. What do you take into consideration when deciding an amount to give?

36. When was the last time you increased your giving to Emerson?

- This year
- Last year
- Two years ago
- Three or more years ago
- Never

37. What inspired an increase (or decrease) in giving?

38. On average, how long does it take you to travel to Emerson from your home?

- Less than 15 minutes
- 15-30 minutes
- 31-45 minutes
- 46-60 minutes
- More than 60 minutes

39. What is your relationship to Emerson?

- Member
- Friend
- Visitor
- Staff

40. How long have you attended Emerson?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- More than 20 years

41. Besides this congregation, are you a member of another congregation? Please check all that apply.

- Member of another religious community
- Member of Church of the Larger Fellowship
- Member of another UU congregation (other than CLF)
- Member of a UU Covenanting Community
- Member of Emerson only

## Emerson UU Church Congregational Survey

### Conclusion

42. What brought you to Emerson?

43. What keeps you here?

44. Why should our future minister consider joining the next chapter of our journey?

Thank you!

Again your Minister Search Committee and Board thank you for taking the time to tell us about yourself and your experience of our congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kris Taylor at [ktaylor2106@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ktaylor2106@sbcglobal.net).