

Unitarian Church of Edmonton



Worship Services Congregational Survey 2005

Your response to this survey will help our Minister, Worship Committee and lay service leaders to provide Sunday worship services that meet your needs. (We use the word “worship” in its original meaning of “worth shaping” from the Old English *weorthscipe* - to honour, to respect)

Some questions have space for comments or further details. If you need additional room to answer a question, please use a separate piece of paper, and attach it to the completed survey indicating the question number related to your additional comments. Feel free to add any comments or concerns on Sunday worship issues that are important to you, but are not addressed in this survey.

Additional copies of the survey are available from the church office (phone 780-454-8073), or ask a member of the Worship Committee. A copy can also be downloaded from the UCE Web site: www.uce.ca.

You can return your completed survey in the following ways:

1. Place it in the Worship Survey box, which will be on a table in the gathering area at the church, each Sunday from June 5 until June 26, 2005.
2. Place it in the Worship Committee mailbox in the workroom, between Sundays.
3. Mail it to: Unitarian Church of Edmonton
10804 – 119 Street
Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
Attention: Worship Committee

Please return your completed survey by **June 30, 2005** to ensure that your views are taken into account.

Your response to this questionnaire will be confidential, and no effort will be made to link completed questionnaires with individual responses. Where relevant, however, comments or responses may be quoted in the report of survey results. Results will be available in September.

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, please contact:

Beth Jenkins (780) 458-1794
bethj@interbaun.com

Paul Childs (780) 457-4531
npchilds@shaw.ca

Your Opinions

1. The current time of 10:30 a.m. is a good time to begin the Sunday service:

Agree Disagree Don't know / No opinion

1a. If the church were to offer worship at a different time or on a different day, when might you attend¹? (Please circle ONE choice):

Weekday evening	Earlier on Sunday morning	Later on Sunday morning	Sunday evening
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1b. Please indicate the reason(s) for your choice:

¹ If you've indicated an interest in a weekday or Sunday evening service, please consider question 15 about opportunities for involvement on page 5 of this survey.

2. Most of our Sunday services run for approximately 70 minutes. Is this time

Too long

Too short

Just right

2a. If you selected “too long” or “too short” for Question 2, please indicate your preferred length, as well as what could be done to change the service. Examples: shorter / longer sermons, fewer / more hymns, omitting /extending announcements, adding /subtracting part of the service (please specify the part/parts)

3. The structure of our Sunday services follows a general pattern², with some minor variations from week to week, depending on the service topic or focus. Please check the space beside the phrase that indicates your view of the current structure of our services:

I like the current structure of UCE services and do not want to see it changed.

I dislike the structure. There are elements are missing / there are elements that don't belong. (*Please underline or circle the relevant phrase.*) I would like to see the structure changed.

I am comfortable with the general pattern, but I would enjoy the occasional change.

3a. If you would prefer to experience some variety / change in the structure of the service what adjustments would you prefer? (e.g. re-organize the sequence; add or subtract parts of the service; have a service of mainly readings and music; have an opportunity to share thoughts/feelings about a topic):

4. At UCE we use various physical elements to create different moods for worship. These elements include music, lighting, seating arrangements, the use of candles and chalice lighting, and the placement of the pulpit. Please check the space beside the phrase that indicates your view of the current use of these elements:

I like the current arrangements of candles, pulpit, etc. and do not want to see the setting changed.

I think the current arrangements are _____ and I would like to see a change.

I am comfortable with the general arrangement, but I enjoy the occasional change.

4a. If you would prefer to see some variety in the arrangement of the service elements, what kinds of changes would you prefer? (e.g. different arrangement of the chairs; increase or reduce meditation time - during or before the service; etc.):

5. At UCE we use a mixture of live and recorded music, and have several opportunities for the congregation to sing hymns during all services. Please check the space beside the phrase that indicates your view of the current use of music:

Good and should not be changed in any major ways

Could be changed

Don't know / no opinion

² Orders of Service usually include: announcements, prelude, opening words and kindling the chalice, a hymn, a responsive reading or an affirmation, candles of concern & celebration, offering, a hymn and/or reading, sermon, meditation, hymn, closing words and extinguishing the chalice.

5a. If you indicated that the music used for worship could be changed, what would you prefer? (e.g. more or fewer hymns, more use of live music, different styles of music.):

Your Experiences

6. Recently, we held a discussion that asked people about their best worship experiences. The main themes from that discussion are listed below. Please number from 1 to 6 (with 1 being the most important) the experiences that are significant to you:

- Services give a tranquil interlude in a high-pressured, stressful life.
- Stimulating and challenging ideas and discussions.
- Welcome, sense of community, acceptance, connection.
- Sharing the pulpit; all members equal.
- Themes that help integrate religion with all aspects of one's personal life.
- Freedom to discover what I truly believe without having to accept a certain dogma or creed.

If your most significant experience is not listed above, please describe your experience here:

Please indicate what part, or parts, of the service contribute to or provide the top 3 significant experiences you've identified.

7. Unitarian Universalists draw on a variety of sources and traditions³ as the basis for worship, rather than having a worship year defined by a single liturgy or creed. Are you comfortable with the diversity in sources and how they are reflected in service topics?

- Yes No Don't know / not sure Not important to me.

8. Is it important to you that there be some Unitarian Universalist content or perspective in every worship service?

- Yes No Don't know / not sure Not important to me.

8a. If you said "yes" in question 8, what kind of content / perspective would you prefer? (e.g. history, theology/philosophy, significant leaders, music, readings, symbolism, or other):

9. Do you have enough opportunity for personal interaction / participation (e.g. responsive readings, pulpit editorials, affirmations/prayers, hymns) in the Sunday worship services?

- Yes No Don't know / not sure Not important to me.

³ Sources and traditions include, but are not limited to, direct / personal experience; words and deeds of prophetic women and men; wisdom from the worlds' religions and philosophies.

10. Do you have enough opportunity to participate in planning or delivering worship services? (See page 5 for a list of current opportunities for participating in services):

Yes No Don't know / not sure Not important to me.

11. It has been the practice in our church to bring the children into the Sunday worship services at least once a month, and to include a story for all ages in this service. Once a month is:

Too frequent. Too infrequent. Just right. Not important to me.

12. It has been the practice in our church to plan intergenerational services, with all ages participating in the full worship service, several times during the year. Examples include the Mitten Tree Service, Flower Communion and the Thanksgiving / Hallowe'en service in October. This practice is:

Too frequent. Too infrequent. Just right. Not important to me.

13. Should our church develop a new practice of regular youth involvement in Sunday services such as chalice lighting or leading a reading?

Yes No Don't know / not sure Not important to me.

13a. If you indicated "yes" for question 13, how often would you prefer this regular involvement to happen?

Weekly Monthly Other (please specify) _____

14. If you could choose just three things (described in the questions above, or things that you believe we may have missed) that might be done differently, in order to enhance your Sunday worship experience, what would those three things be?

Your History With UCE

12. How long have you been attending UCE?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 5 to 10 years
- 10 to 20 years
- More than 20 years

13. How frequently do you attend services at UCE?

- Almost every Sunday
- About once a month
- 3 or 4 times a year
- Other (please specify) _____

Please tell us about the reason(s) for the pattern of your attendance (e.g. work schedule, involvement in programs, distance to church, etc.):

Your Involvement

This page will be separated from the attached survey before responses are tallied, to assure confidentiality.

14. At UCE, there are a number of ways in which people can choose to be involved in the Sunday programs. If you are interested in participating, or increasing your participation, in one or more of the tasks that support our Worship services, please place a check mark beside your area(s) of interest in the list below. Please add any area of interest that you believe we might have missed.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES	OTHER SUNDAY MORNING INVOLVEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggesting topics for services - Ushering - Selecting recorded music for the prelude, offering, meditation - Delivering a reading - Providing a pulpit editorial - Being a service leader when we have a guest speaker - Operating the sound equipment - Accompanying hymns on the piano (or other instrument) - Playing live music for the prelude, offering, meditation - Planning and delivering a service - Joining the Worship Committee and helping to plan the service schedule - Other (please specify) _____ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greeting people as they come into the building - Making and serving coffee/tea - Staffing the Membership desk - Helping with child care - Teaching in the Children's Program - Other (please specify) _____ _____

15. If we were to offer a weekday or Sunday evening service (question 1), what opportunities for involvement would be of interest to you?

- Leading a meditation service
- Other (please specify) _____

Please provide your name and contact information, so we can get back to you to discuss and make arrangements for area of interest you've indicated. The information collected here will be used only for this purpose.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Results will be available in September.