

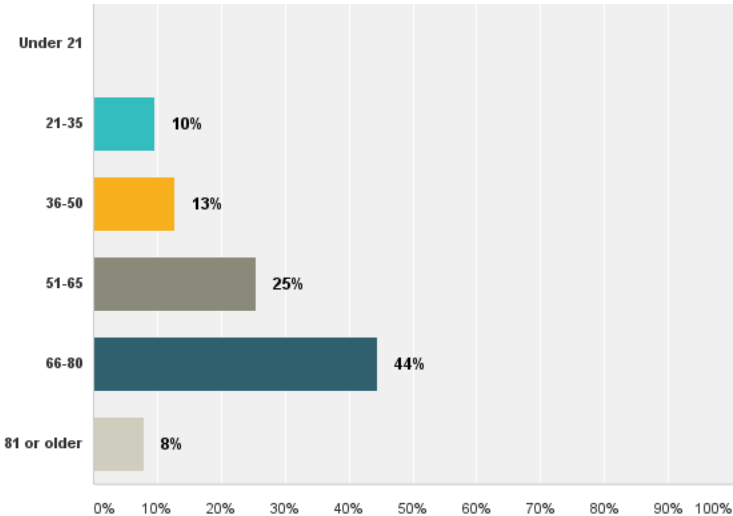
UCE Congregational Survey Results Highlights

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. Here is a highlight of the results. A more detailed report of the results will be out in March.

Who did we hear from?

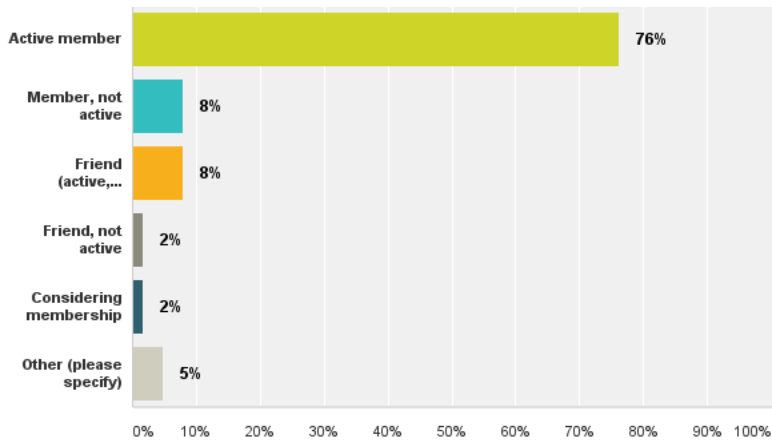
We received 65 completed surveys. This was an excellent response, representing over one-third of our members and friends (36%). The majority of respondents (44%) were in the 66-80 years of age category.

Age



Membership

In terms of "relationship to congregation", 76% were active members; 8% were members, not active and 8% were friends.

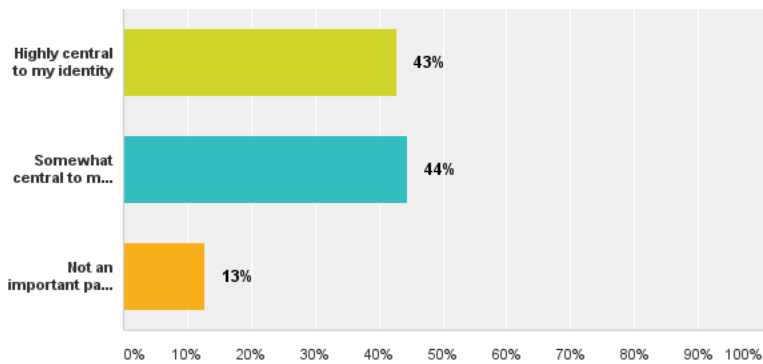


A total of 67% of respondents were active on a committee or project over the past year.

Your relationship to Unitarian Universalism and UCE

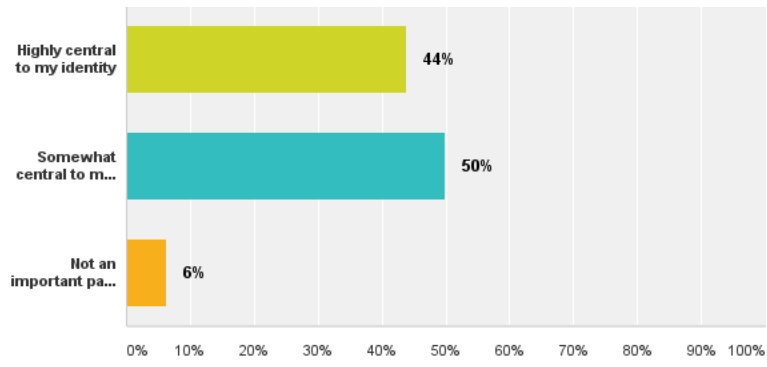
Respondents reported that their affiliation to Unitarian Universalism was highly central or somewhat central to their identity as an individual (43% and 44%). Only 13% reported it was not an important part.

Importance of affiliation to Unitarian Universalism



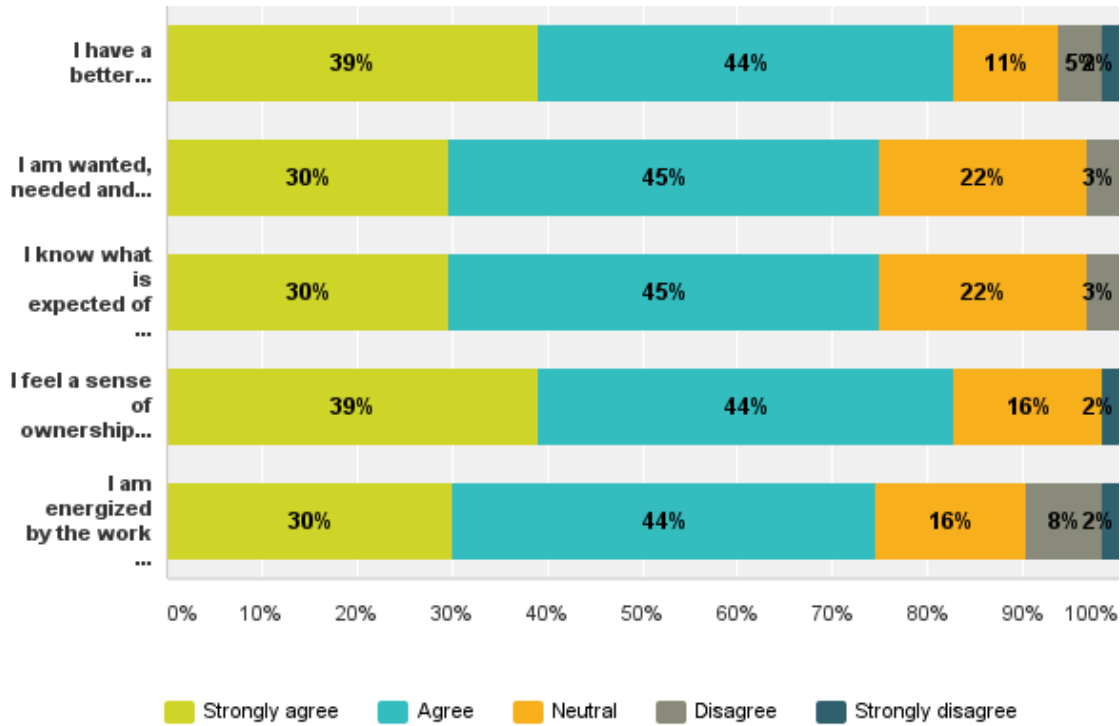
Importance of affiliation to the Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Respondents' affiliation to UCE was very similar to their affiliation with Unitarian Universalism (44% highly central and 50% somewhat central).



Over 75% strongly agreed or agreed with statements describing solidarity and kinship to the church and services and each other.

Sense of solidarity and kinship with UCE

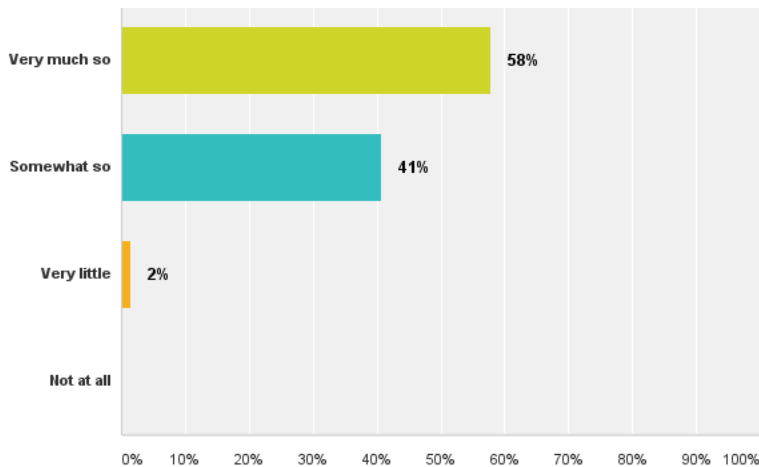


Full labels from top to bottom are:

- I have a better understanding of UU faith today because of the services and classes offered by this congregation.
- I am wanted, needed and valued in this congregation.
- I know what is expected of me as a member of this congregation.
- I feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for what the congregation is doing.
- I am energized by the work I do in and on behalf of this congregation.

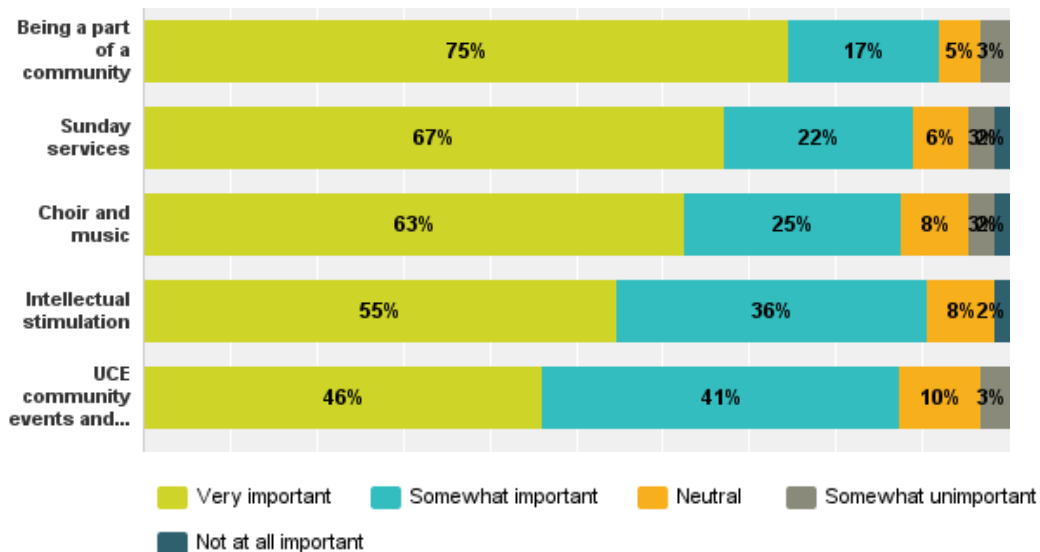
In response to the question "To what degree does UCE impact your life in positive ways", 99% reported "very much or somewhat," and described such factors as sharing of ideas, meditation, friendships, acceptance, social action, sermons.

Feel UCE has a positive personal impact



The aspects of UCE most important to you were: being part of a community; Sunday services; choir and music; intellectual stimulation and UCE community events and activities (potlucks, etc.)

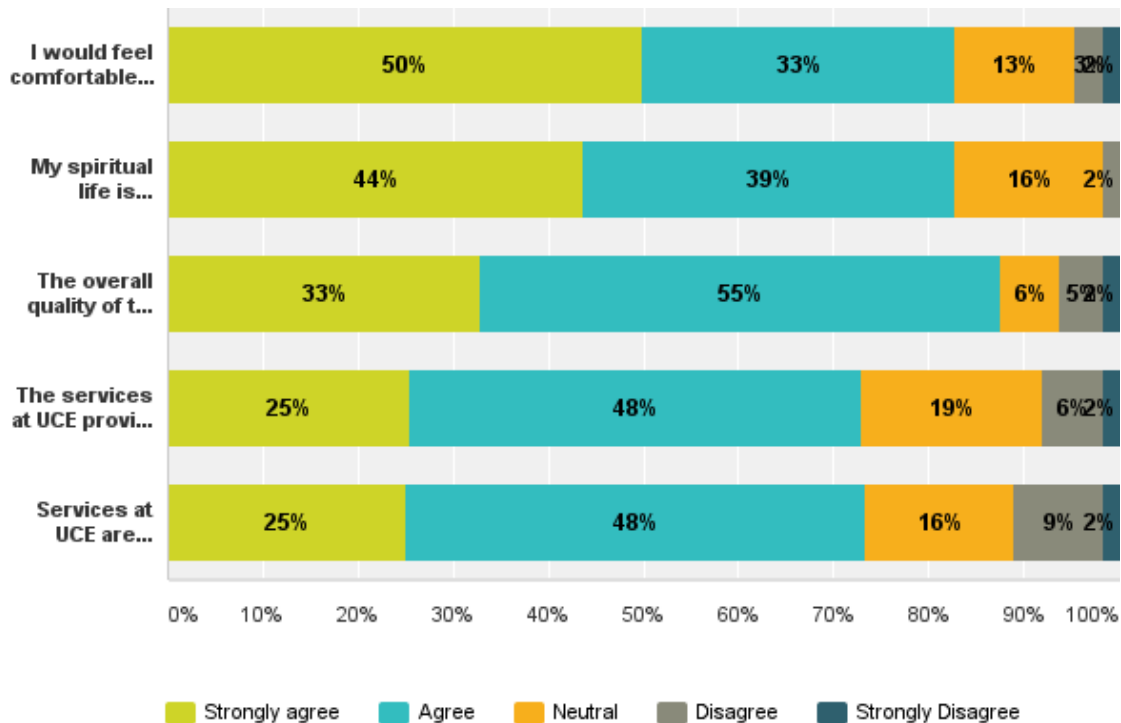
Five most important aspects of UCE



Our Services, Governance and Programs

Church Services

There were high ratings (73% to 88%) for the quality of materials used in services, for the inspirational quality of the services and the positive impact on our spiritual lives. A total of 83% would be comfortable bringing a guest to services.

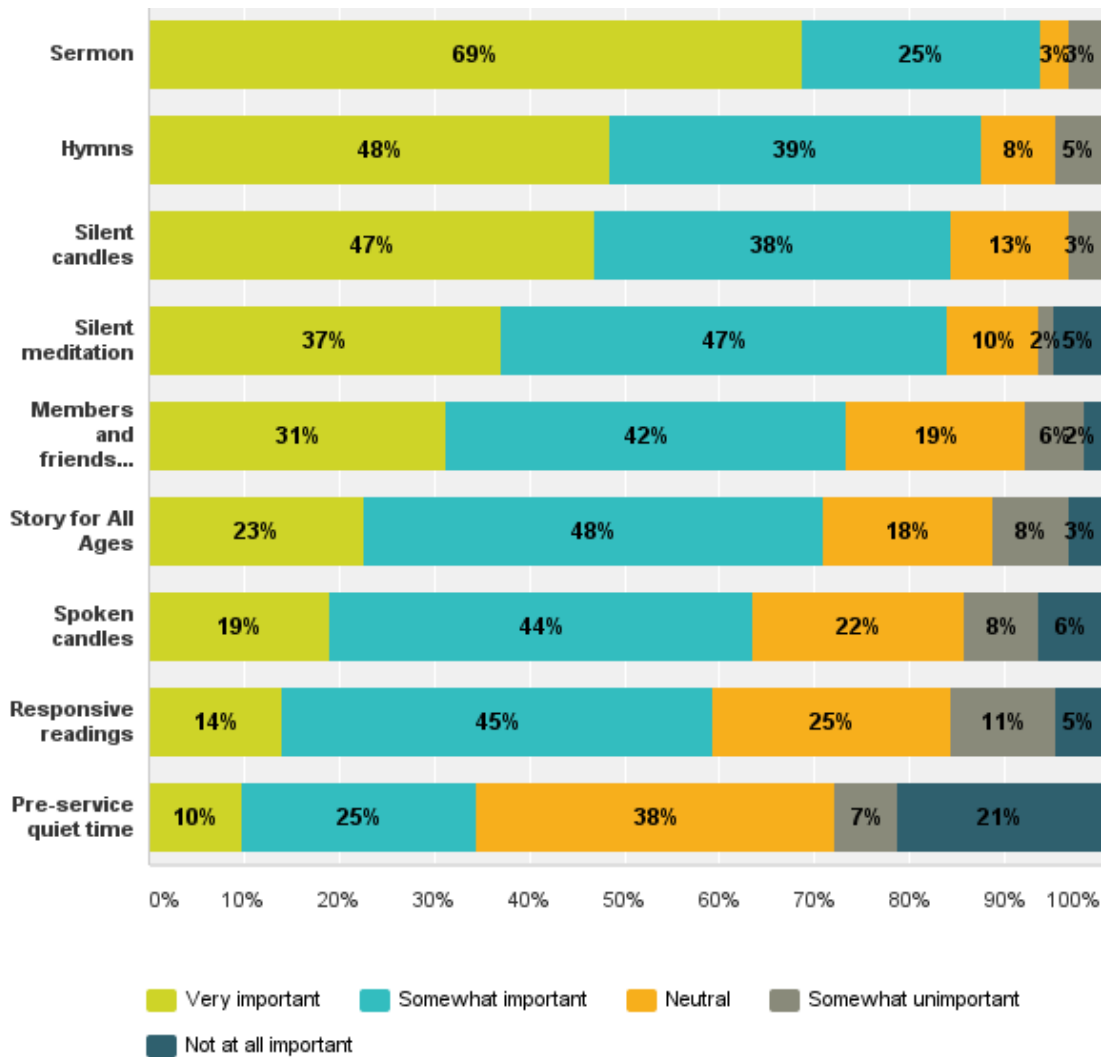


Full labels:

- I would feel comfortable bringing a guest to a service at UCE.
- My spiritual life is stronger and more satisfying because I am involved at UCE.
- The overall quality of the materials we use in services (music, readings, decorations) is satisfying to me.
- The services at UCE provide the challenge and inspiration I need to live out my values in the world.
- Services at UCE are personally satisfying to me.

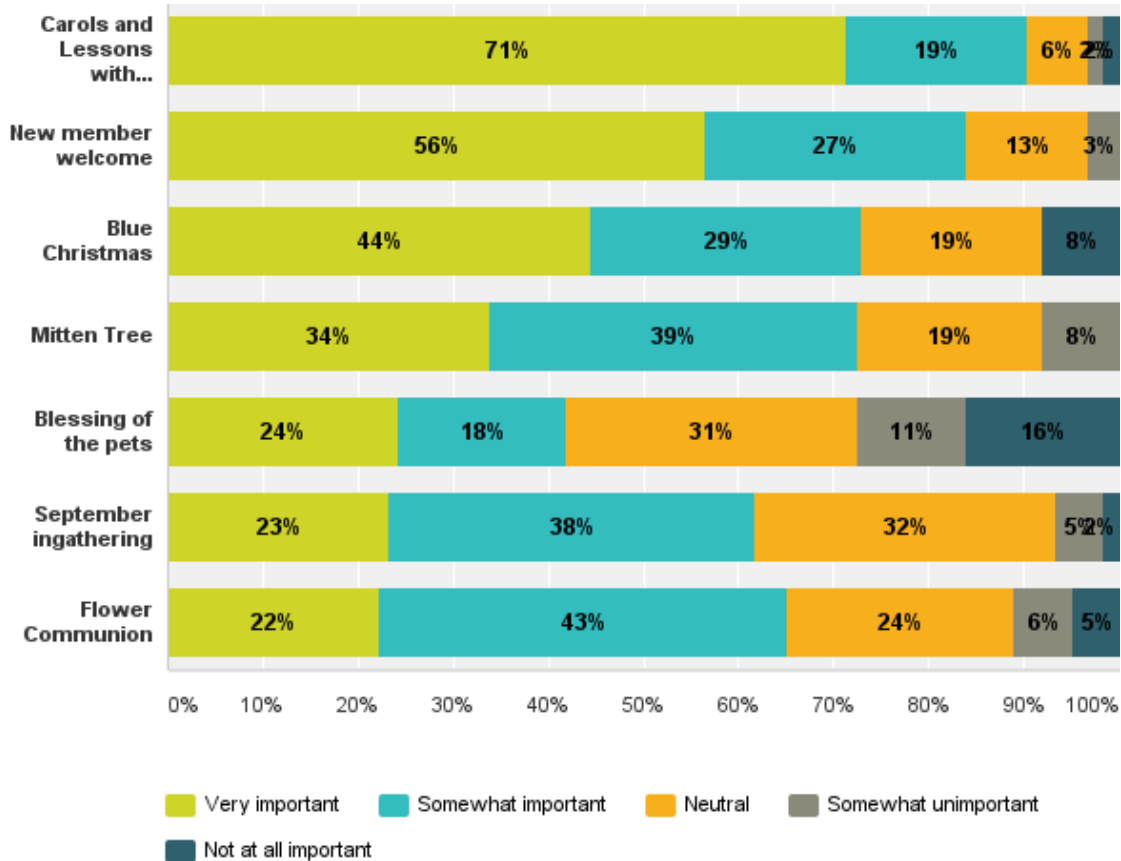
You identified the sermon, hymns, silent candles, silent meditation and members and friends lighting the chalice as the top five elements very important to you in order to have a meaningful service.

Elements necessary for you to have a meaningful Sunday service



Carols and lessons with Choralis, the new member welcome and Blue Christmas were the top three most important special services to you.

Importance of special services

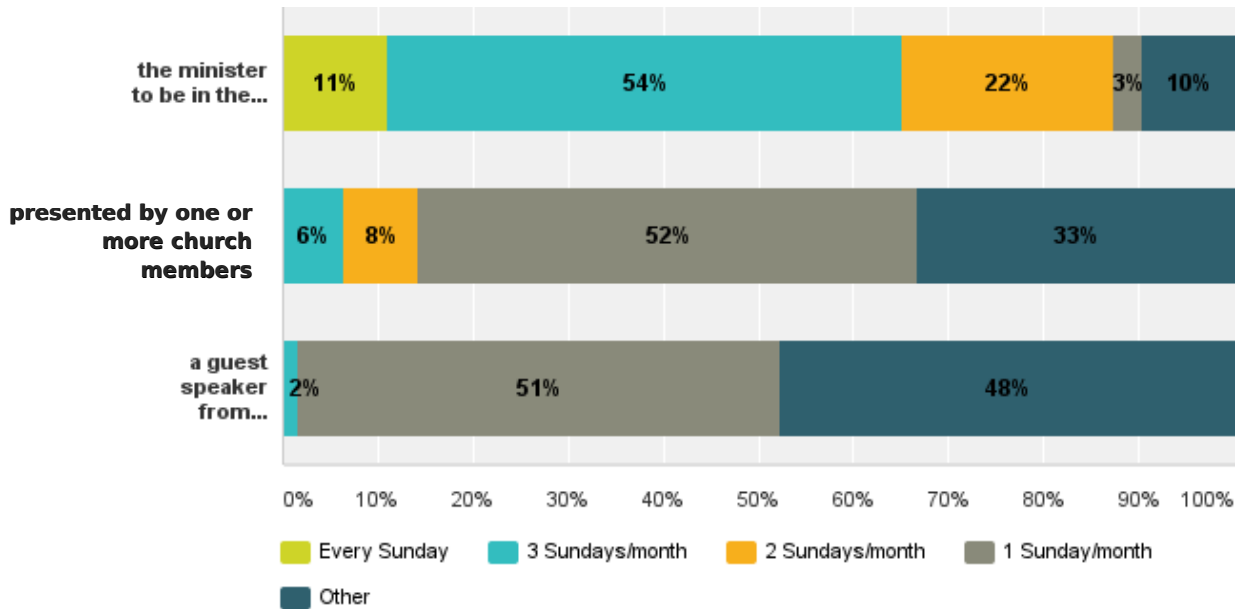


Suggestions for other special service topics included Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Aboriginal themes, a focus on the environment, Pride, volunteer recognition, peace, social justice, year-ending and year-beginning celebrations, and other faith traditions.

Some commented that you want all cell phones off, no pets, and side bar conversations to stop as you find they distract from church services.

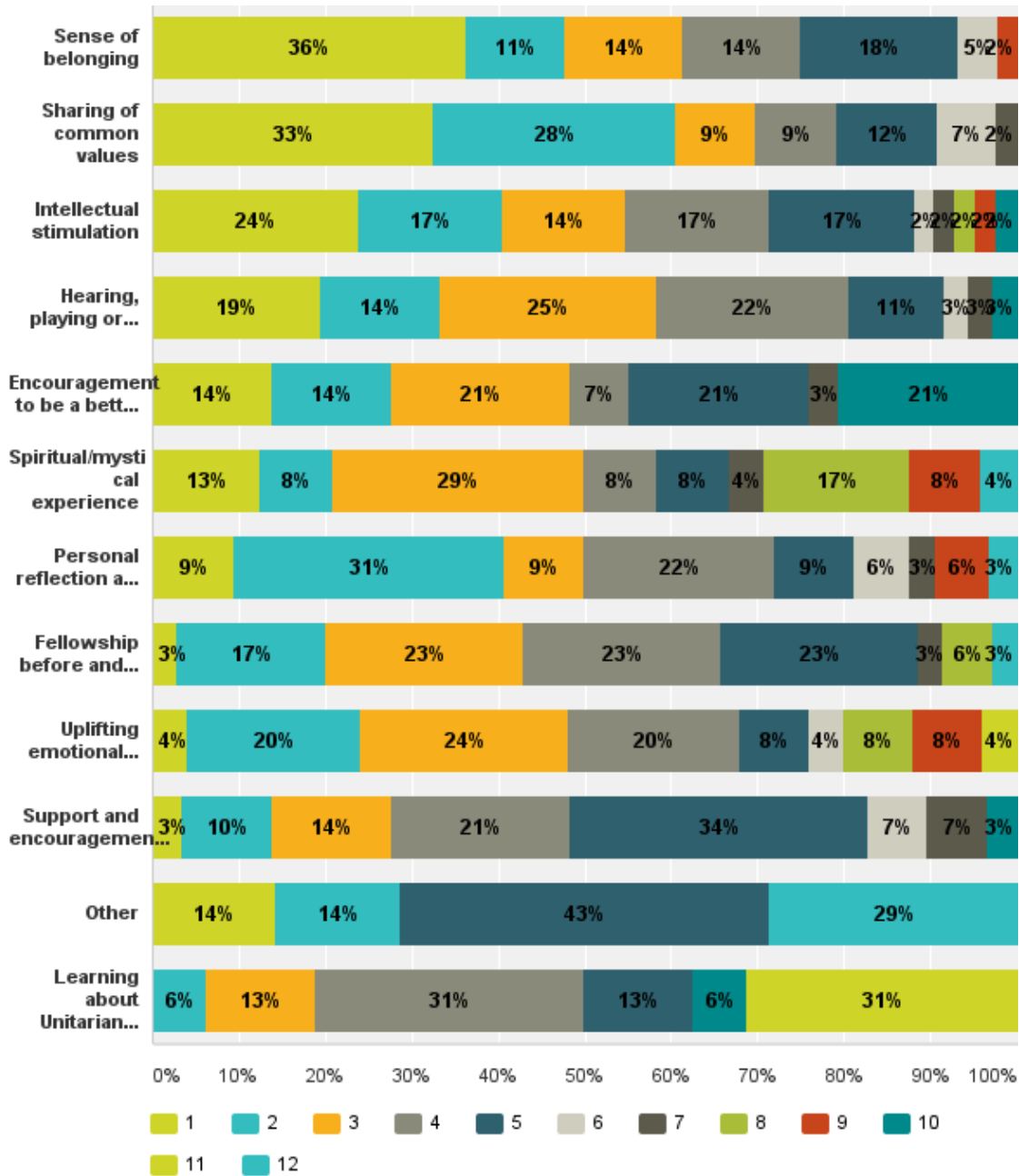
Leading the services

You would like to see the minister in the pulpit 3 Sundays a month (54%) or 2 Sundays a month (22%), with alternate services with presented by church members, and an occasional guest speaker. In the comments, there was support for continuing with member-led summer services.



Top Five Reasons for Attending Services

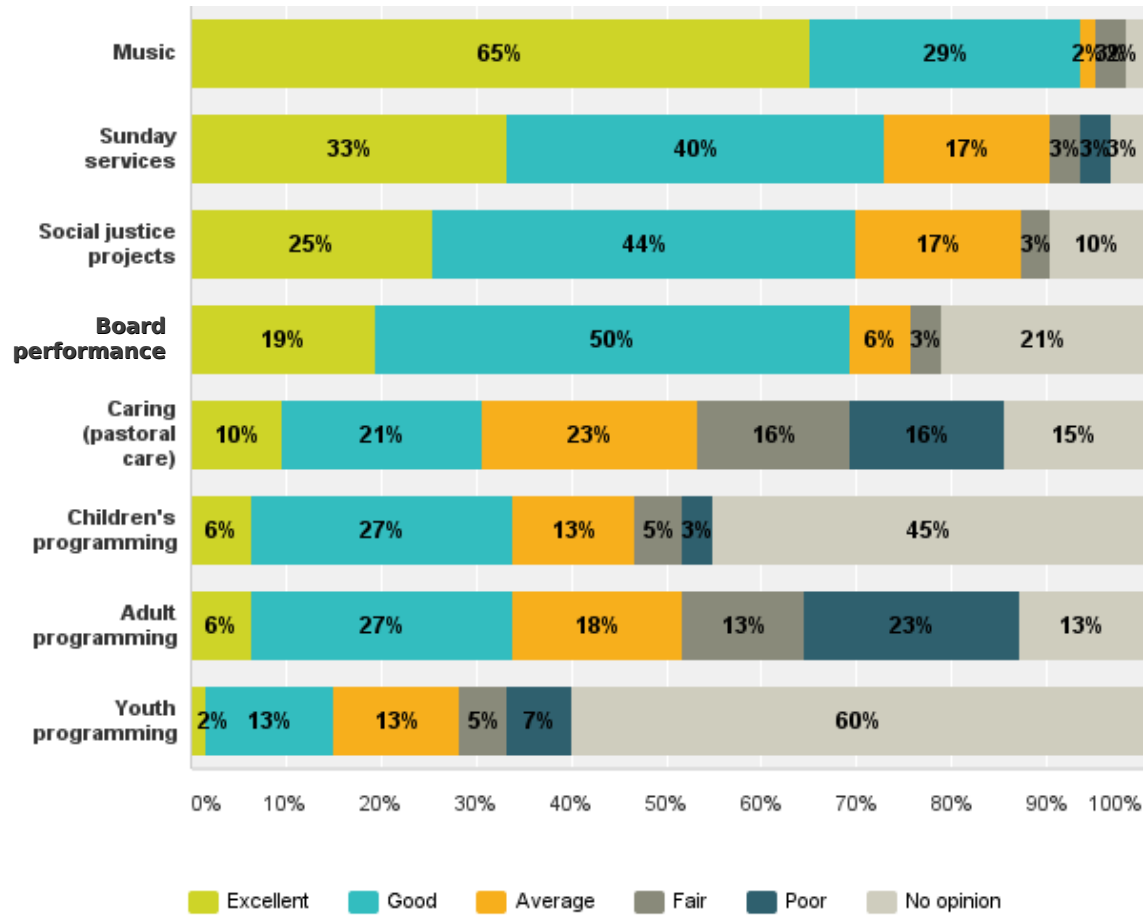
A sense of belonging, sharing of common values, intellectual stimulation, the music and encouragement to be a better person were the top five reasons for attending services.



(Q16) You rated several broader aspects of UCE from excellent to poor.

Ratings for various aspects of aspects of UCE varied widely.

Pastoral care and adult programming were rated "average to poor" by 55% and 54% respectively. The comments included 31 suggestions for improvement.



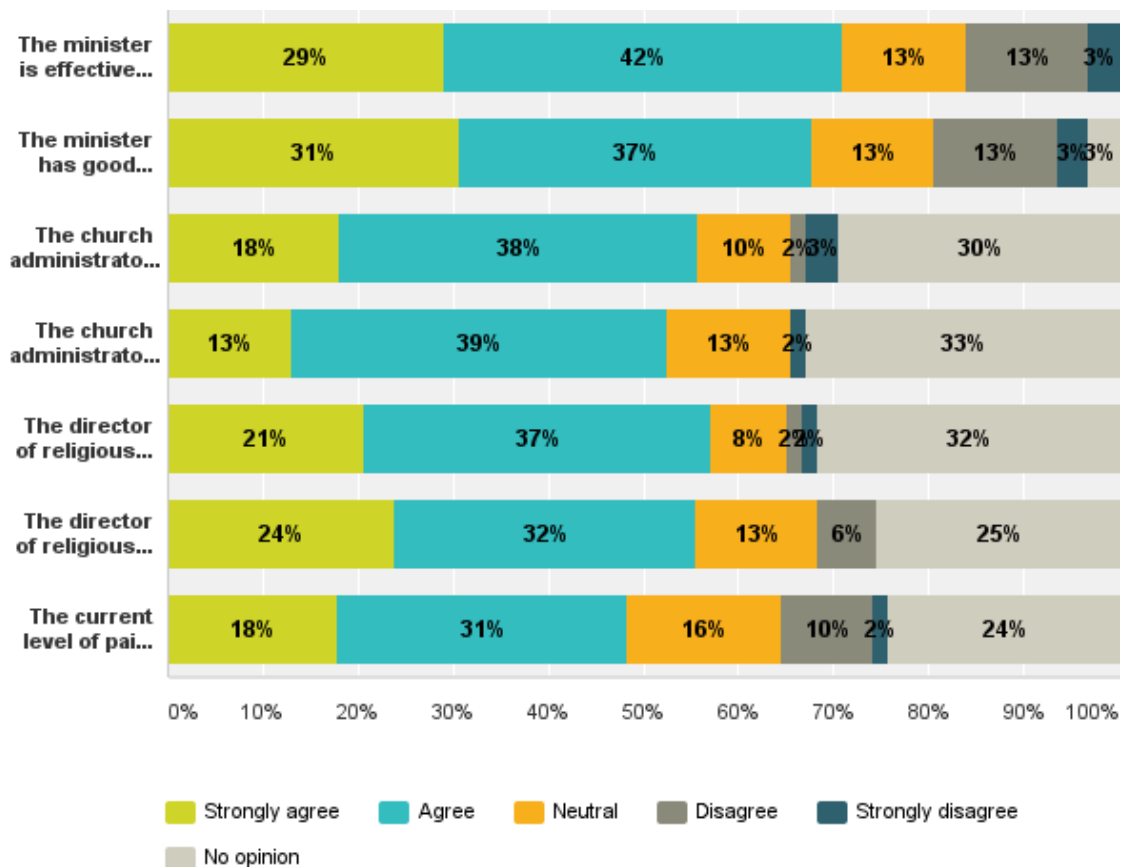
Staffing

There were suggestions that our volunteers and committees could be more effective in their work (pastoral care, for example). Of the 30 respondents to this question, 49% thought the current level of staffing was adequate.

You were asked to rate the minister, office administrator and Religious Education director. Note, for the administrator and RE director, over one third of respondents had no opinion or were neutral due to limited interaction with these two staff members staff and the recent start of the administrator.

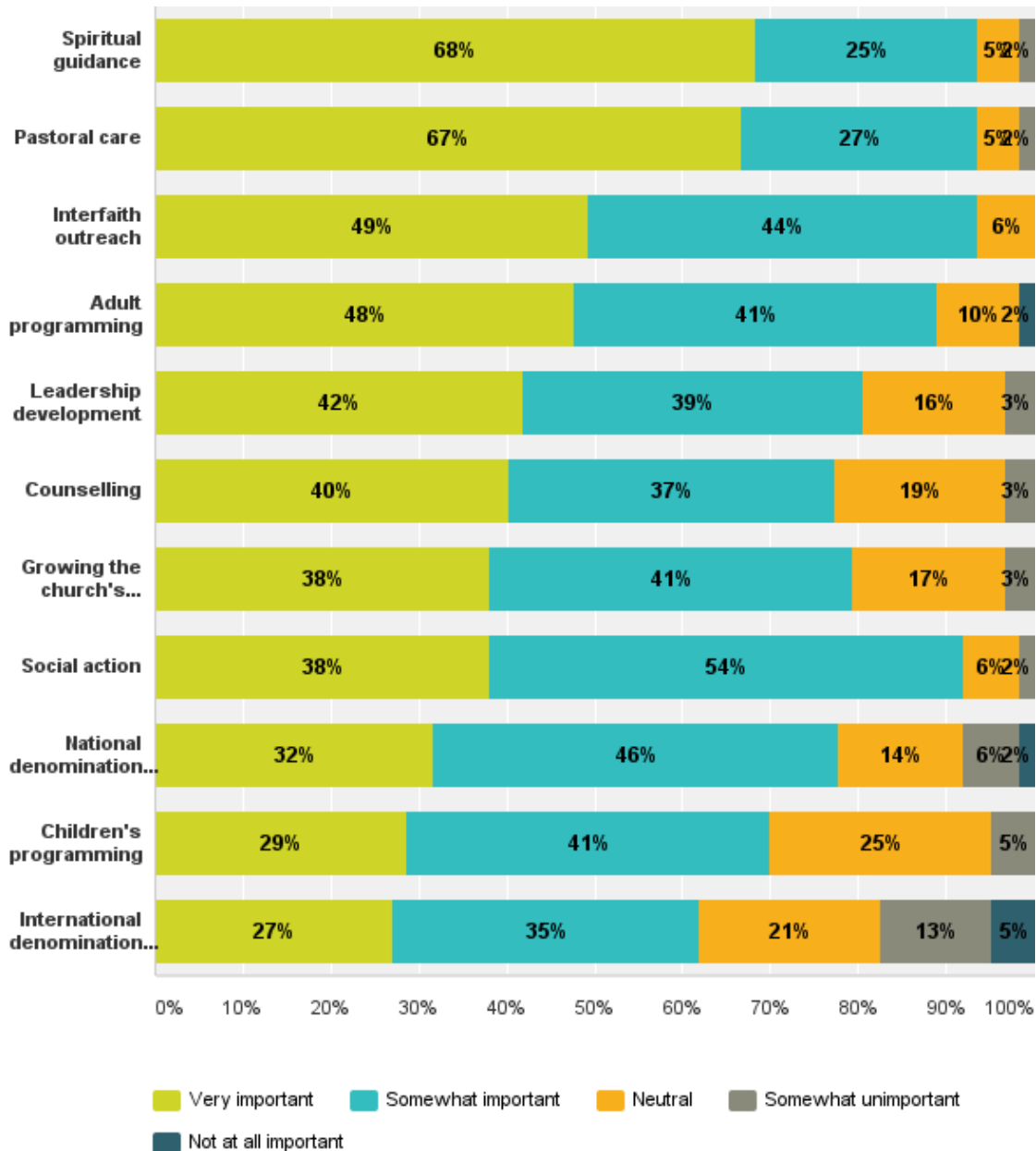
Seventy one per cent (71%) strongly agreed or agreed the minister is effective and 68% felt he has good relationships with the congregation. Of those who responded to the question of the effectiveness of the administrator, 56% thought she was effective, with comments she was new to the job. You reported that the RE director was effective in her work (58%) and had good relationships with members and friends (56%).

Level of agreement with staffing and leadership questions



The comments section focused on how the minister's role could be enhanced, how strengthening RE could be a priority, and some alternative staffing suggestions.

You indicated that it was important to you that the minister be involved in spiritual guidance, pastoral care, interfaith outreach, adult programming, leadership development and counselling. Less important was his involvement in growing the church membership, social action, national denominational activities, children's programming and international denominational activities.

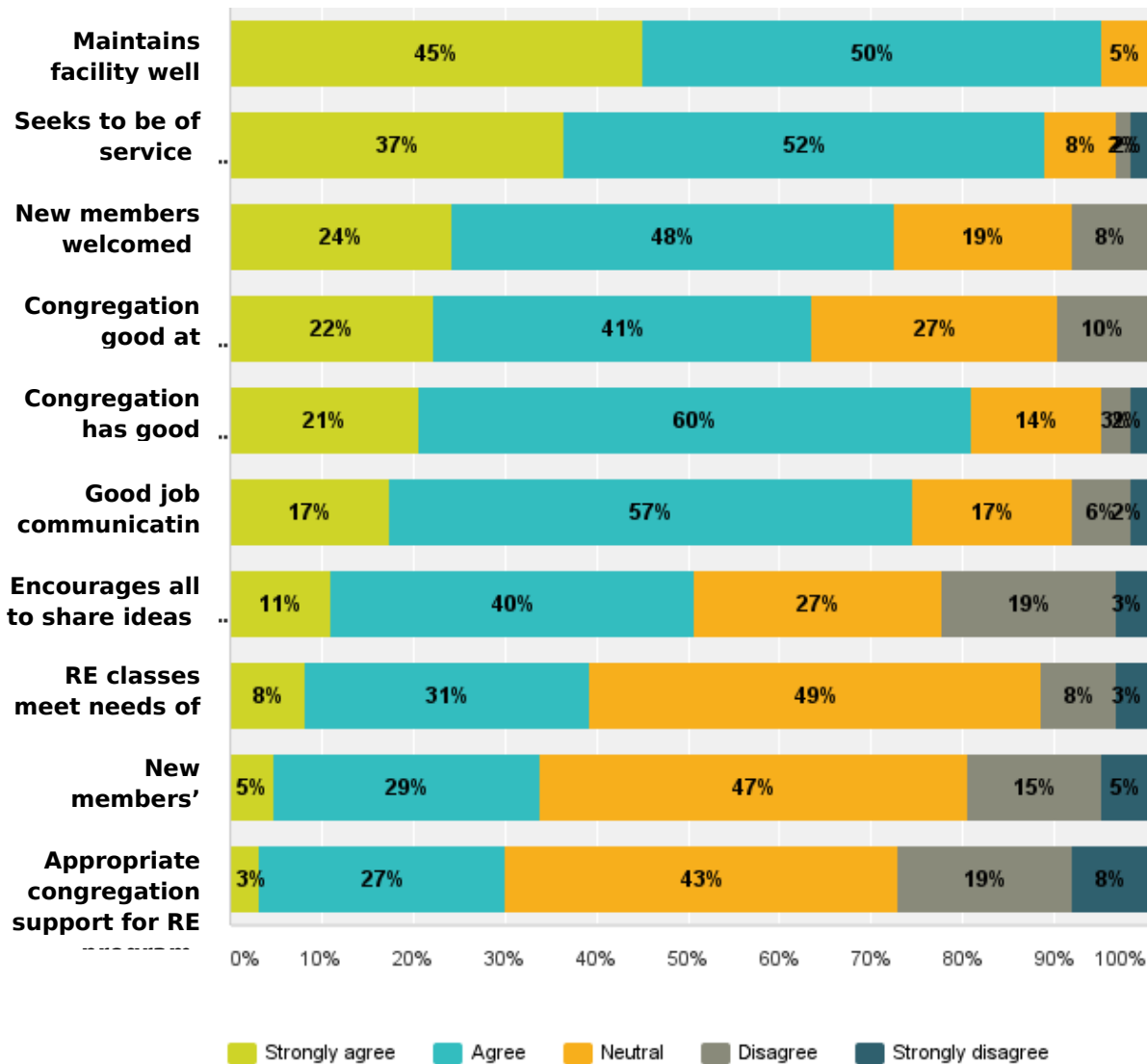


If you had feedback about any of the staff, you generally knew where to take your idea or concern (Ministerial Relations committee, Board, minister), although it is

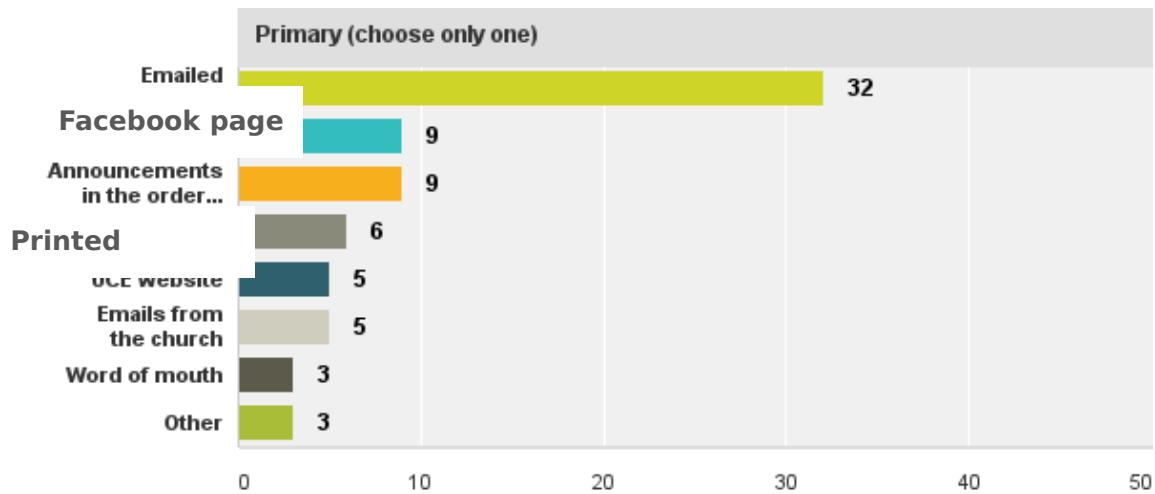
clear that there is room for clearly communicating who the most immediate and appropriate contact should be.

Communication

(Q15) Respondents gave top marks to how we maintained its facilities(95%). We also do a good job actively seeking ways to be of service to the community and world and report good morale in our community. UCE needs to do a better job of communicating with members and friends and welcoming new members. There was a suggestion that the Board have regular coffee sessions with the congregation to improve communication.



Members primarily stay informed through the newsletter and the order of service.



Pledging

Responses to the questions about finance and pledging indicated you preferred email solicitation.(26 respondents); in-person at church was preferred by 15 respondents. Nothing about pledging turned off 80% of respondents. The vast majority indicated that primary source of funding should be from members. Revenue from renters and casinos was mentioned a few times.

Priority Areas for next three years

Several topics were suggested as priorities for the next three years. They include:

- Increase membership (includes more diversity, youth)
- Enhance church services
- Attend to Adult/youth programming
- Assist with refugee family
- Complete physical structure
- Attain more financial security
- Prioritize pastoral care

This survey, along with the information you have offered through conversations, congregational meetings and the religious education survey, provides a rich view of where we are and where we want to go. It helps frame the direction of our future, which will be outlined in the strategic plan that we are looking forward to presenting to you this spring. Thanks you so much for your thoughtful participation.

Your Strategic Planning Team,
Karen Mills, Louise Charach and Julius Buski

February 2016