

# Ministerial Search Committee

## Survey 2021

### Preface

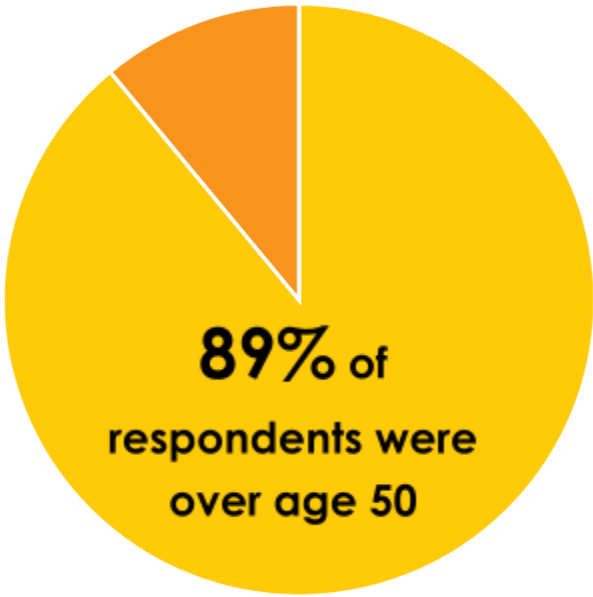
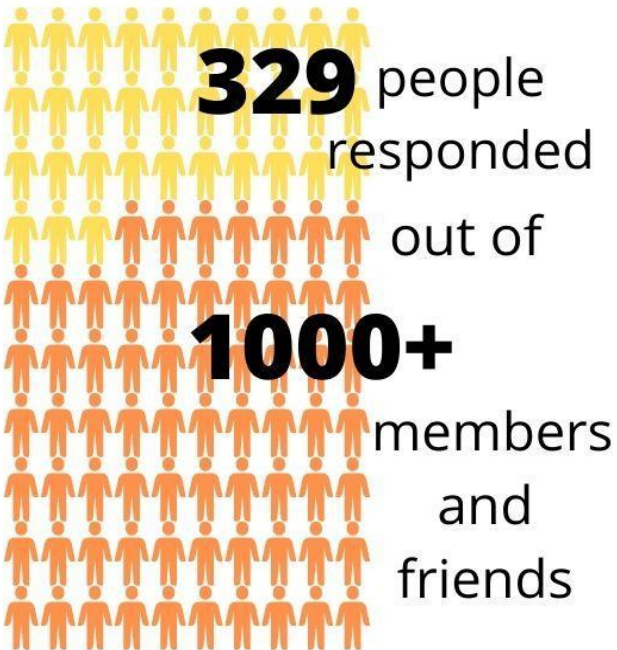
This initial sharing of survey results is an abstract, a more detailed version will be shared later.

Main roles of the survey in the search process are:

- To inform the Ministerial Search Committee about what the congregation wants, so we know what to look for among the ministers who are in search for a congregation
- To include in the Congregational Record, which is a snapshot of the church we provide to prospective candidates. It informs candidates about what our congregation would want from our senior minister and the other leaders of the church during the senior minister's tenure.

These are a few key results that stood out to the Committee, which gave us an idea of what other kinds of feedback to seek out, as we put together the Congregational Record.

# Demographics



In business, many consider reaching 1/3 of your target group as good.



## What we feel strongest about

How important are the following to you when it comes to building trust with a minister?	Top 2 on a scale of 5	5 - Extremely Important	4
Transparency about church operations	93%	65%	28%
Sermons that challenge me	89%	45%	44%
Financial health of the church	81%	37%	43%

How important are the following elements in a sermon?	Top 2	5 - Extremely Important	4
Inspiring	92%	50%	43%
Introduces me to other perspectives/beliefs	87%	36%	51%
Challenging	82%	27%	55%
Push me to examine my beliefs	81%	35%	46%

How important to you is the existence of each of these activities, gatherings, communities, and groups at First Unitarian Portland?	Top 2	5 - Extremely Important	4
Sunday worship services	93%	73%	20%
Music (choir, handbells, etc)	88%	65%	23%
Children's religious education	82%	53%	29%
Social justice action groups and Council	80%	43%	37%

When I consider how much to give, this is how important each of the following is to me. . .	Top 2	5 - extremely important	4
My other financial obligations/responsibilities	83%	53%	29%

How important is each of these church traditions to you? (This is a mixture of traditions past and present.)	Top 2	5 - Extremely Important	4
Music Services	82%	53%	29%

## Where we are more different

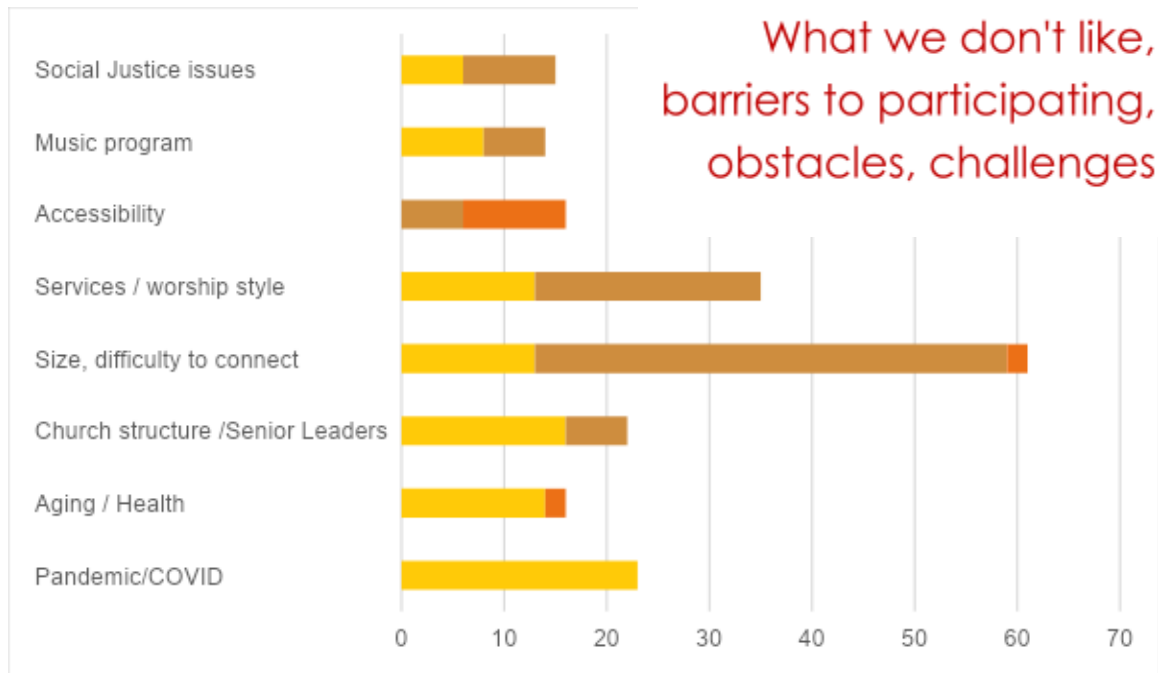
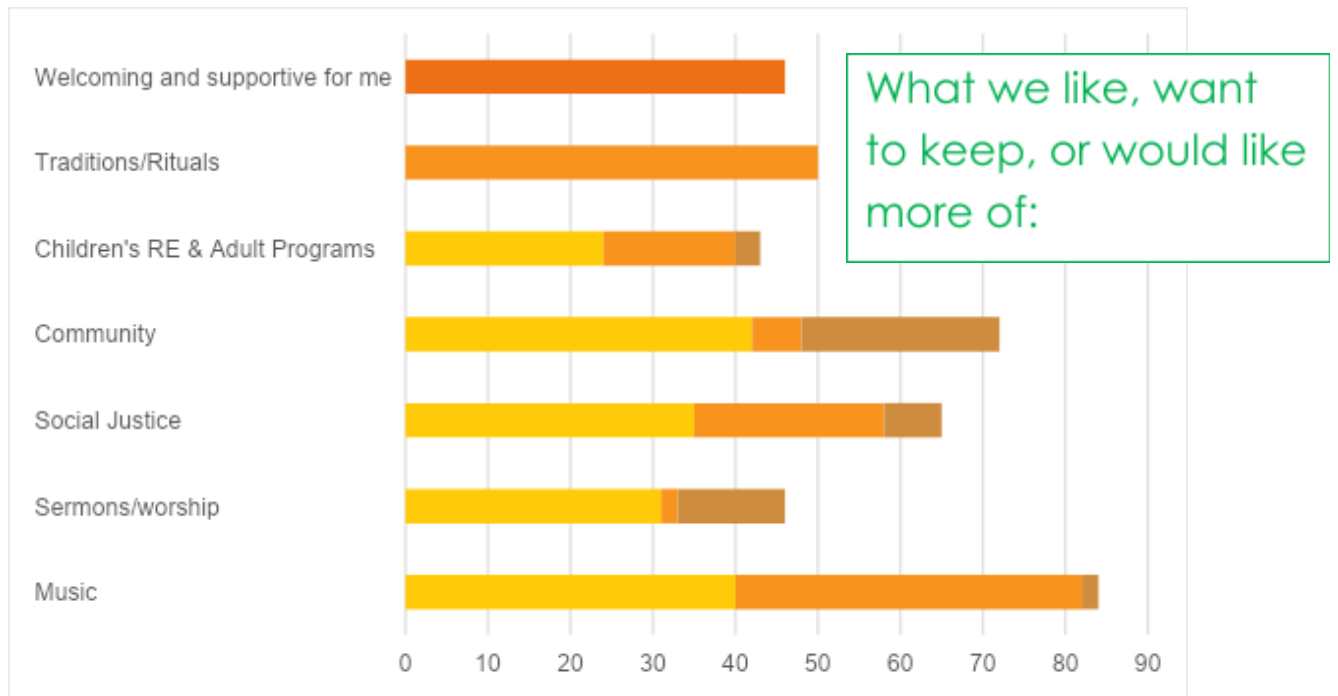
How important is spirituality in your day-to-day life?					
Top 2	5 - Extremely Important	4	3	2	1 - Not At All Important
<b>51%</b>	25%	25%	10%	3%	36%

If the minister said or did something I didn't agree with, I would be likely to . . .	Top 2	5 - strongly agree	4	3	2	1 - strongly disagree
	Write a note to the minister	<b>43%</b>	9%	34%	22%	22%
Tell those in my circles	<b>37%</b>	12%	25%	29%	22%	11%
Not be bothered/find	<b>36%</b>	9%	27%	30%	15%	18%
Keep my opinions to myself	<b>26%</b>	7%	20%	29%	27%	18%
Tell the minister immediately	<b>12%</b>	3%	9%	27%	35%	27%
Write a note or talk to the Board	<b>11%</b>	2%	9%	17%	33%	40%

About our congregation - Rate your level of agreement with the following statements from 1-5	Top 2	5 - strongly agree	4	3	2	1 - strongly disagree
	I have a high level of trust in the leadership of this congregation.	<b>78%</b>	34%	45%	13%	7%
I perceive the spirit / health / energy of the church to be ...	<b>77%</b>	20%	57%	18%	4%	1%
I feel welcome at the the church.	<b>75%</b>	41%	34%	17%	6%	1%
I trust our congregation as a whole to move smoothly through ministerial transition.	<b>73%</b>	27%	47%	21%	5%	1%
Our mission and ministry continue to adapt to changing conditions in the world.	<b>72%</b>	19%	53%	22%	4%	2%
I feel confident about our congregation's financial sustainability.	<b>61%</b>	15%	45%	28%	9%	2%
I feel connected to the church community.	<b>60%</b>	28%	33%	25%	12%	3%
My opinions are valued when decisions are being made.	<b>45%</b>	11%	33%	38%	12%	6%
This congregation is generally open to change.	<b>40%</b>	3%	37%	40%	16%	5%
This congregation is welcoming to new people.	<b>39%</b>	6%	33%	38%	<b>19%</b>	<b>4%</b>
We choose community over individualism.	<b>38%</b>	5%	33%	45%	14%	3%
We do a good job of having difficult conversations and staying in relationship.	<b>32%</b>	3%	29%	46%	18%	4%
This congregation is able to implement new ideas easily.	<b>23%</b>	2%	21%	48%	25%	4%

# What we wrote about

There were over 1600 responses to the 10 'free write' questions. Many of the same themes emerged in the responses to each question.





What the MSC will do next with the survey data

- Delve deeper at a congregational forum on Sunday, September 19
- Share the full numerical survey data and sample comments on the church website
- Include the results in the Congregational Record that all interested ministers will see