UUFD Ministerial Survey

Summary responses

What do you like best about Rev Samuel's services?

Overall, respondents most appreciate Reverend Samuel's **intellectual depth, passionate and enthusiastic delivery, inclusive and expansive spirituality, strong connection to UU values, relevance to contemporary issues, and his personal storytelling style.** His services are widely described as **informative, inspiring, thought-provoking, and energizing** , with a small number noting concerns about tone or changes over time.

What do you hope will stay the same for Sunday services?

Congregants most strongly hope to preserve the **variety of speakers and topics, the current service structure and balance, community-sharing elements like Joys and Concerns, children's involvement, uplifting and intellectually engaging reflections, and a strong sense of local connection and inclusivity.**

The dominant theme is continuity of what already feels meaningful, diverse, community-centered, and spiritually grounded.

What do you hope may change for Sunday service?

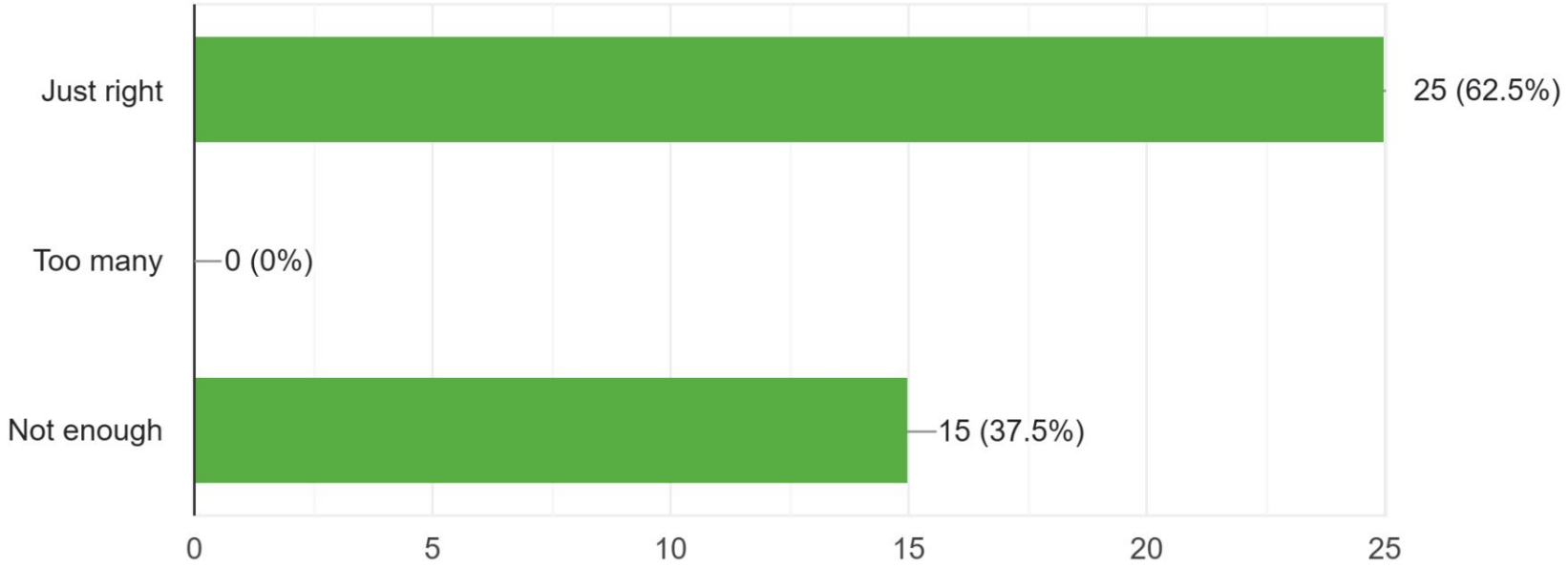
While many congregants are satisfied and prefer minimal change, the primary areas where adjustments are suggested include:

- Refining **Joys, Sorrows, and Concerns** (structure, length, and focus)
- Increasing **musical diversity and participation**
- Introducing occasional **format variation or broader spiritual practices**
- Expanding **children's inclusion**
- Improving pacing, delivery, or reflection space

Overall, the tone suggests **evolution rather than overhaul** —small refinements to strengthen clarity, inclusivity, and engagement while preserving what already works well.

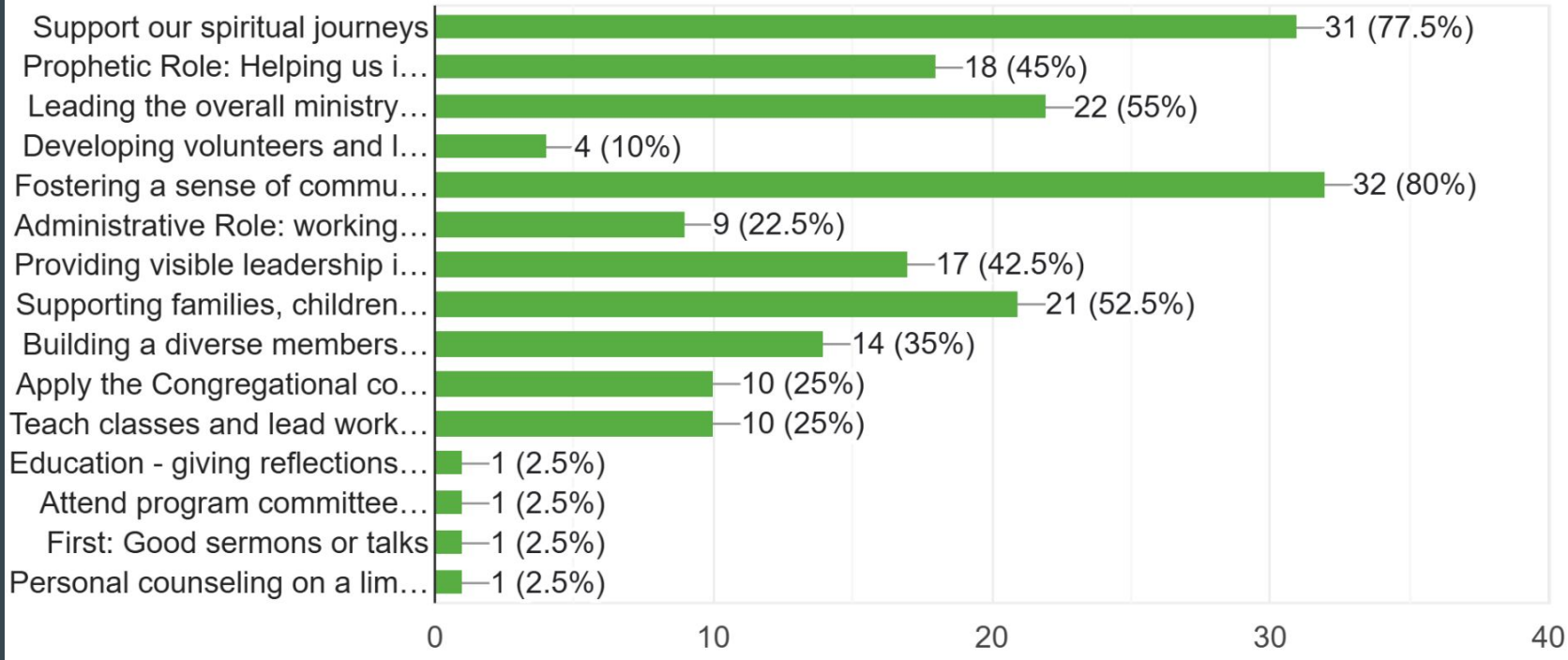
Samuel is contracted for 18 services per year. Is this

40 responses



Consider the roles of our future minister. Choose the 5 roles that are of the most importance to you and the congregation now and in the future:

40 responses



It could be energizing or unifying if the new minister did ...

Responses indicate that congregants see potential energy and unity emerging from changes that increase **member engagement, foster deeper connection, refine tone, and adjust structural elements like Joys & Concerns** —while some respondents express uncertainty or feel significant change may not be necessary.

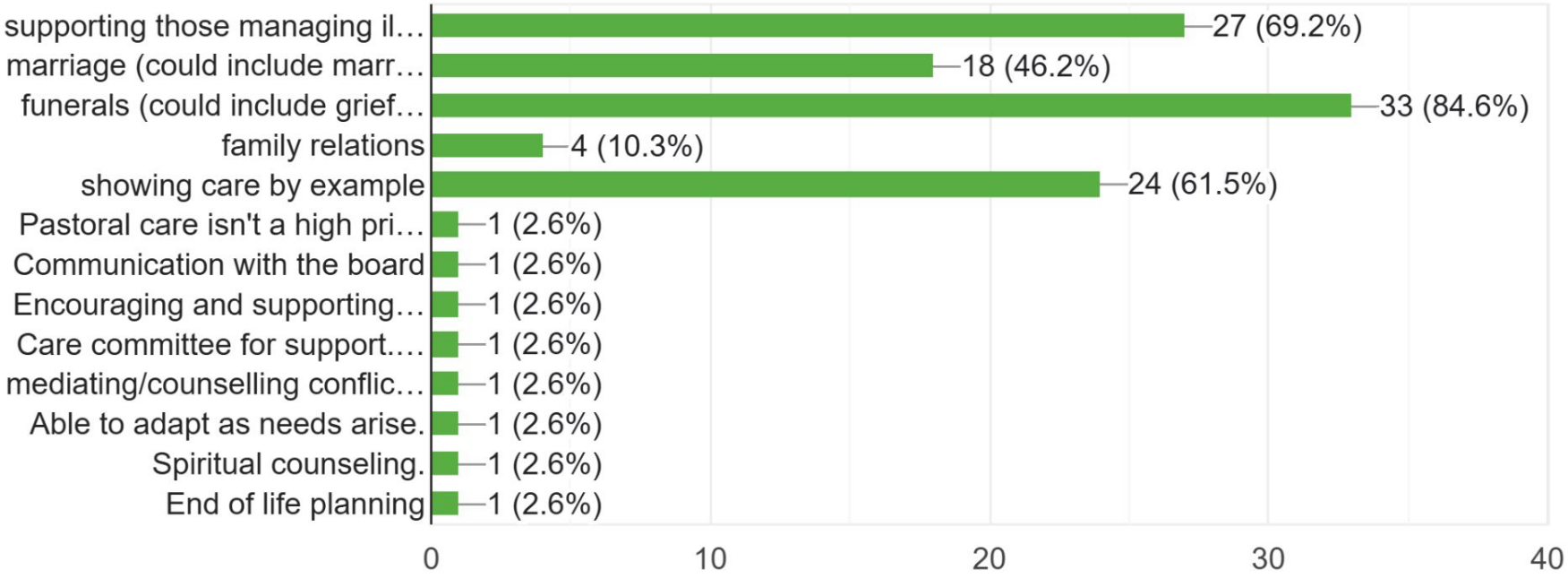
It could become contentious if the new minister tried to change

Congregants indicate that conflict could arise if a new minister makes **major structural changes to services, disrupts the lay/minister balance, alters governance autonomy, shifts theological openness, or moves too quickly without building trust.**

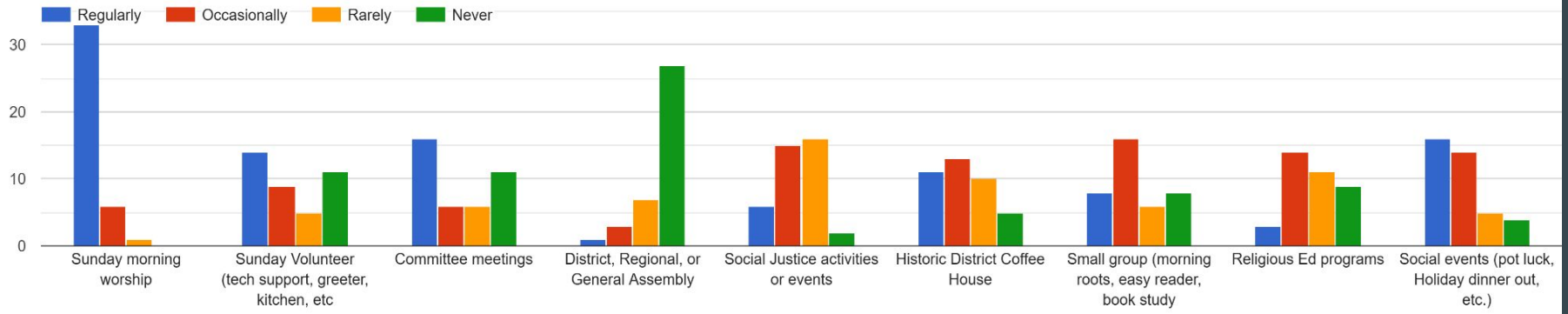
The strongest sensitivities appear around **shared leadership, theological inclusivity, cherished service elements (especially Joys & Concerns), and gradual rather than drastic change.**

Below are pastoral care services a minister might provide. Check the 3 that you think would be most important to our fellowship.

39 responses

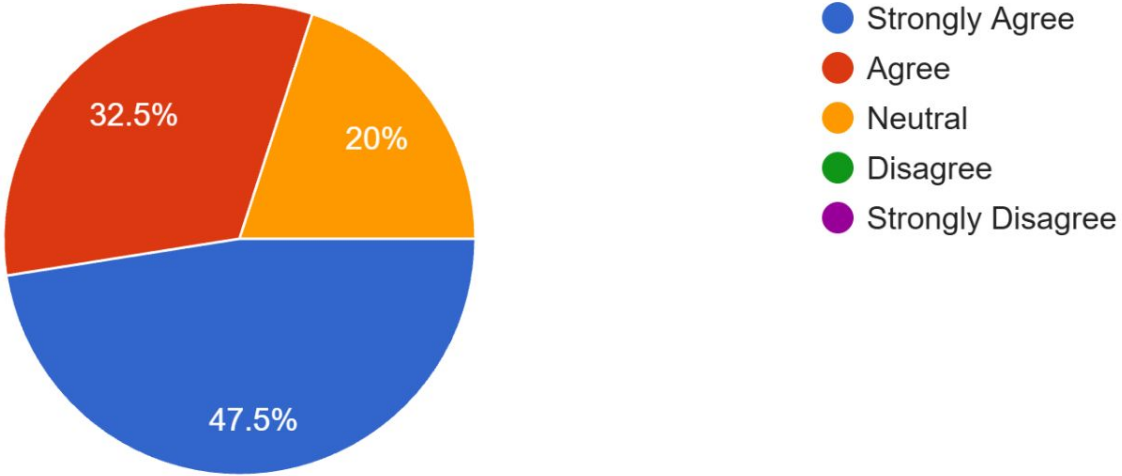


On average, how often did you participate in the following activities over the past year? Check all that apply.



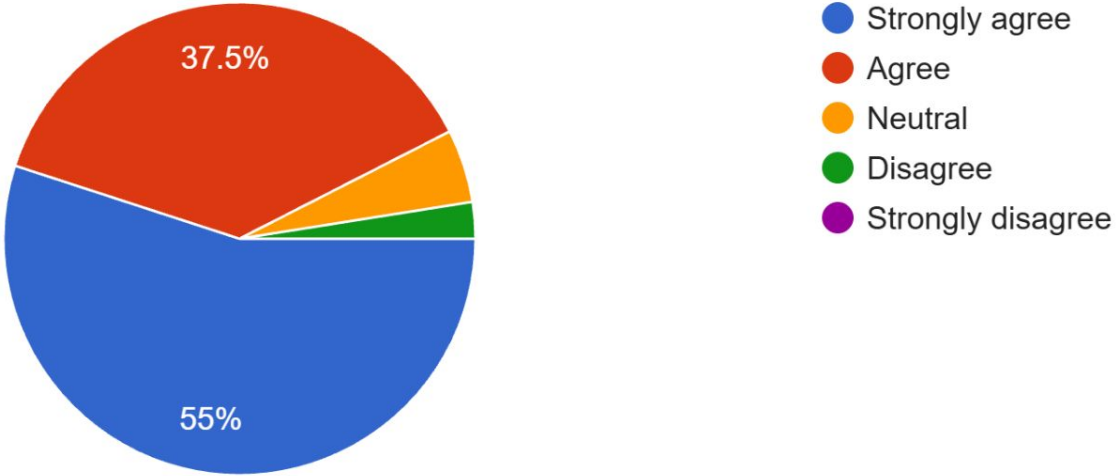
I am confident in our congregation's financial sustainability.

40 responses



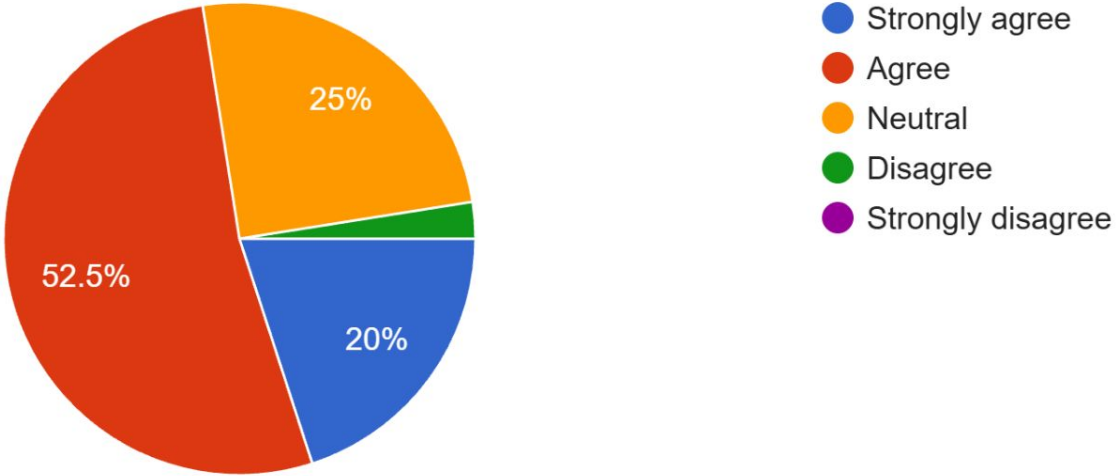
There is a high level of trust in leadership in this congregation.

40 responses



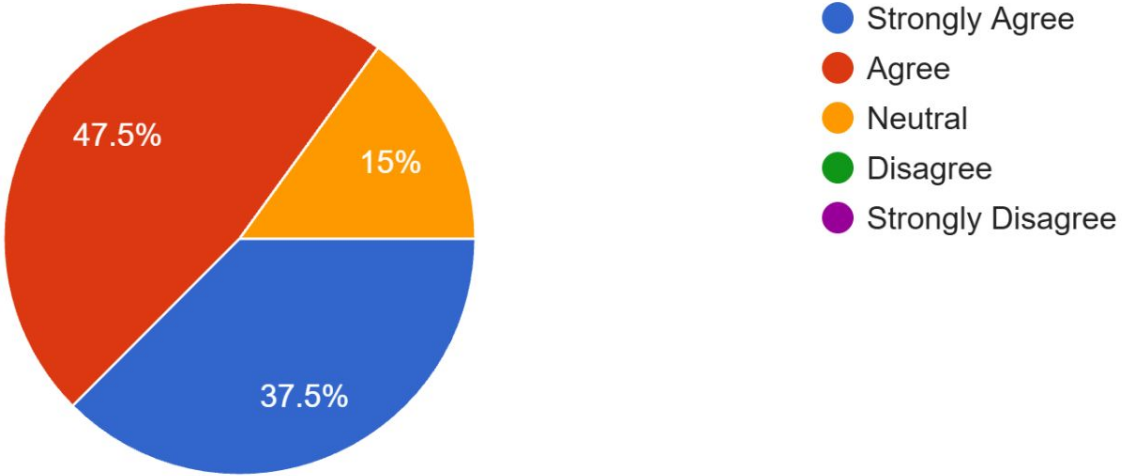
We do a good job of having difficult conversations and staying in relationship.

40 responses



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

40 responses



What keeps you coming to UUFD?

What keeps people coming to UUFD is, above all, **a strong, welcoming community of open-minded, caring people who share progressive values and spiritual curiosity.**

Congregants are sustained by **meaningful relationships, inclusive beliefs, intellectual engagement, inspiring services, social justice commitments, and a sense of belonging.**

Community is not just one theme among many—it is clearly the heart of why people return.

What would you tell a minister is the best part of UUFD?

The best part of UUFD, according to respondents, is its **people—caring, thoughtful, diverse, welcoming individuals who share leadership, value meaningful conversation, and actively live their progressive values.**

The congregation's warmth, inclusivity, intellectual depth, and strong lay involvement together form the core strength that members believe a new minister should appreciate most.

The biggest challenges facing a new minister for UUFD:

- **Growing and diversifying the congregation, especially among younger generations**
- **Navigating the transition from a beloved long-time minister**
- **Balancing leadership within a strong lay-led structure**
- **Managing change while honoring tradition and diverse expectations**
- **Addressing financial and part-time ministry realities**

Overall, the next chapter will require **relationship-building, adaptability, cultural sensitivity, and collaborative leadership** to sustain and grow the congregation while honoring its history.

Recommendations, things you wish we'd asked?

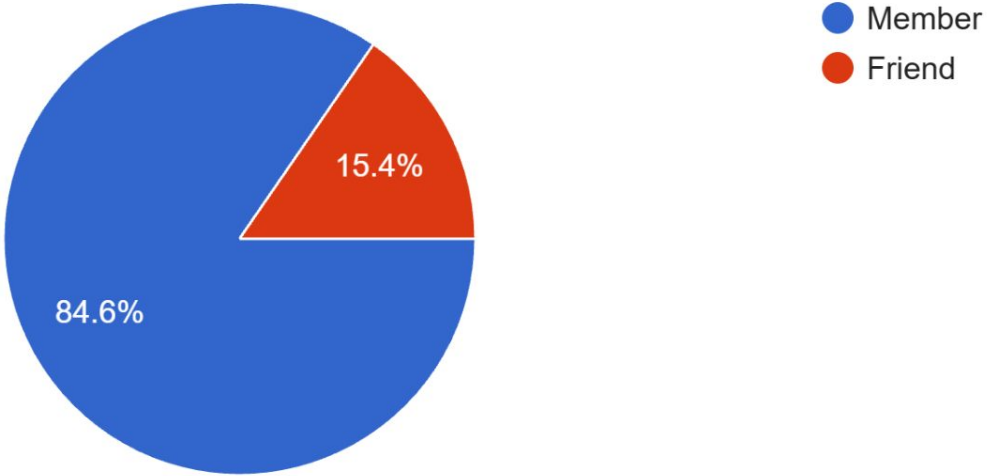
Respondents suggest future discussion groups focus on:

- **Clarifying ministerial expectations and part-time structure**
- **Ensuring UU identity and qualifications in leadership**
- **Growing membership and improving outreach**
- **Strengthening inclusion and diversity**
- **Building deeper community engagement beyond Sunday services**
- **Supporting youth and applying the congregation's covenant in times of disagreement**

The overarching themes are **clarity, growth, inclusion, and community strengthening** as UUFD moves into its next chapter.

What is your relationship to UUFD? (Select one)

39 responses



Are you currently a member of another religious community?

35 responses

Thank you!