

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ROCK VALLEY  
MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY, 2016**

1. **During the last year, approximately how often have you attended church on Sunday morning, either as an attendee or as an R.E. teacher?**

- 3 or more times/month
- 1-2 times/month
- Every few weeks
- Rarely, Never

2. **Indicate all the reasons you FIRST attended the church, and the importance of each:**

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	None
<b>Adult religious education (RE)</b>				
<b>Campus/setting</b>				
<b>Celebrating common values</b>				
<b>Children's religious education</b>				
<b>Choir</b>				
<b>Community</b>				
<b>Denominational involvement</b>				
<b>Family</b>				
<b>Fellowship</b>				
<b>GLBT concerns</b>				
<b>Intellectual stimulation</b>				
<b>Meditation/prayer</b>				
<b>Minister</b>				
<b>Music/aesthetic appeal</b>				
<b>Social action/service activities</b>				
<b>Spiritual growth</b>				
<b>Unitarian Universalist beliefs</b>				
<b>Women's groups</b>				
<b>Worship</b>				
<b>Youth group</b>				
<b>Young adult group</b>				
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>				

Reasons first attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Indicate all the reasons you CONTINUE TO ATTEND the church and the importance of each:**

	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	None
<b>Adult religious education (RE)</b>				
<b>Campus/setting</b>				
<b>Celebrating common values</b>				
<b>Children's religious education</b>				
<b>Choir</b>				
<b>Community</b>				
<b>Denominational involvement</b>				
<b>Family</b>				
<b>Fellowship</b>				
<b>GLBT concerns</b>				
<b>Intellectual stimulation</b>				
<b>Meditation/prayer</b>				
<b>Minister</b>				
<b>Music/aesthetic appeal</b>				
<b>Social action/service activities</b>				
<b>Spiritual growth</b>				
<b>Unitarian Universalist beliefs</b>				
<b>Women's groups</b>				
<b>Worship</b>				
<b>Youth group</b>				
<b>Young adult group</b>				
<b>Other (please specify below)</b>				

Reasons first attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**3. In which of the following church activities have you participated during the last year? (mark if participated)**

	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>2-3x/yr</b>	<b>Maybe yearly</b>	<b>Never</b>
<b>Adult RE</b>					
<b>Rockton holiday sale</b>					
<b>Board of Trustees</b>					
<b>Book group</b>					
<b>Children's RE activities</b>					
<b>Choir/other musical performances</b>					
<b>Denominational meeting/workshops</b>					
<b>Fundraising</b>					
<b>Lay led worship services</b>					
<b>Social action/service activities</b>					
<b>Social activity</b>					
<b>Sunday coffee hour</b>					
<b>Sunday volunteer</b>					
<b>Sunday service participant/leader</b>					
<b>Other</b>					

**4. For how many hours a week, on average, did you participate in church activities (including Sunday services, coffee hours, Religious Education, committee work, etc.) during the most recent church year?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 15+
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10-14
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6-9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-5
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 or fewer

**5. Which of the following reasons for attending worship services are important to you? (Mark any box if it is important to you.)**

<b>Celebration of common values</b>	
<b>Intellectual stimulation</b>	
<b>Fellowship period after services</b>	
<b>Hearing, playing or singing music</b>	
<b>Mystical, spiritual experiences</b>	
<b>Personal reflection and meditation</b>	
<b>Sense of belonging</b>	
<b>Support and encouragement for social action</b>	
<b>Uplifting emotional experience</b>	

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**6. Do you feel our congregational lay leadership...**

	Yes	No
<b>...is representative of different segments of church membership?</b>		
<b>...encourages and supports development of new programs?</b>		
<b>...is responsive to concerns of all segments of the congregation?</b>		

**7. What is the one main thing you would like to see our church achieve in the next 3 to 5 years?**

**8. What are your personal feelings about our membership growth? (Only mark one)**

<b>Favorable, to allow more people to benefit from Unitarian Universalism in general and the church in particular</b>	
<b>Neutral</b>	
<b>Unfavorable, because I prefer the current size of our congregation</b>	

**9. What are your personal feelings about remodeling our building to increase worship space?**

<b>Favorable</b>	
<b>Neutral</b>	
<b>Unfavorable</b>	

**10. In the past 12 months, have you attended any cluster, district, or denominational meetings (General Assembly, District Assembly, etc.)?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**If yes, (please describe below including name/type of meeting):**

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11. Using a scale of 1-5 with 1 being agree and 5 being disagree, where would you locate your response to the following statements?

	1 Agree	2	3	4	5 Disagree
A personal relationship with God is a vital part of my spiritual life and a necessary part of my worship experience					
The world illustrates the presence of an intelligent designer, but personal knowledge of a relationship with that reality is not a possibility					
The concept of god is a human illusion that has caused vast suffering throughout human history					
It may be that God exists, but it is a waste of human energy to argue over the existence of God when there are so many more important demands upon our time and resources					
The powers traditionally attributed to a supernatural deity are inherent in the natural world, which is the focus of my respect and devotion					
I do not know whether or not God exists, but I am willing to explore the possibility					
It is beyond the capacity of human beings to know whether there is a God					
"Goodness" and "meaning" are human constructs created as a result of the human encounter with each other and the world					
The life, teachings, and death of Jesus of Nazareth are central to my understanding of God, the Universe, and the human condition					
Family rituals and traditions are a central element in my religious and spiritual life					
My spiritual life is grounded in a sense of the fullness and connectedness of all things					
My spiritual life is lived in response to the sacred circle of being and the effort to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature					
I am inspired by the traditions of indigenous peoples and find in their rituals and practices a deepened sense of the sacred and interconnected quality of life					

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12. In addition to Unitarian Universalism, what faith traditions are important in your religious development? (Please mark all that apply)

Buddhism	
Hinduism	
Islam	
Judaism	
Neo-Paganism	
Theological Christianity	
Religious Humanism	
Taoism	
Other (please specify)	

13. What religious practices are important in your personal life and how frequently do you engage in them?

	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never – or this practice is not important to me
Prayer				
Meditation				
Yoga				
Journaling				
Engagement in small group ministries				
Being in nature				
Other (Please specify)				

14. How often would you like the minister to preach? (Please mark only one)

- Nearly every Sunday
- 3 times a month
- 2 times a month
- Once a month

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**15. How often would you like a guest minister or other speaker?**

- Nearly every Sunday
- 3 times a month
- 2 times a month
- Once a month
- Never

**16. How often would you like the Sunday service to be designed and presented by one or more church members?**

- 2 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every two months
- Once a quarter

**17. How important to you are the following specific items which may be part of a Sunday worship service?**

	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
<b>Announcements</b>				
<b>Celebrating religious holidays</b>				
<b>Chalice lightings</b>				
<b>Child dedications</b>				
<b>Children's story (Time for All Ages)</b>				
<b>Choir</b>				
<b>Coffee Hour</b>				
<b>Instrumental music</b>				
<b>Lay participation</b>				
<b>Meditation</b>				
<b>Multicultural sensitivity</b>				
<b>Prayer</b>				
<b>Readings</b>				
<b>Reciting congregational covenant</b>				
<b>Recognizing visitors</b>				
<b>Responsive readings</b>				
<b>Sermon</b>				
<b>Sharing joys and concerns</b>				
<b>Singing of hymns</b>				
<b>Other (please describe)</b>				

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18. How important to you are these various Sunday worship sermon topics?

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
<b>Christian traditions</b>				
<b>Coping with life</b>				
<b>Creative and artistic abilities</b>				
<b>Current political events</b>				
<b>Defining Unitarian Universalism</b>				
<b>Earth-centered traditions</b>				
<b>Family relationships and values</b>				
<b>Jewish traditions</b>				
<b>Non-western religions</b>				
<b>Personal growth</b>				
<b>Philosophical ideas</b>				
<b>Psychological perspectives on life's issues</b>				
<b>Religious implications of science and modern knowledge</b>				
<b>Spiritual growth</b>				
<b>Stimulate action of convictions</b>				
<b>Theological values</b>				
<b>UU denominational issues</b>				
<b>UU history</b>				
<b>Values and perspectives on social issues</b>				
<b>Other (please specify)</b>				



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19. **How important to you are these Sunday worship service objectives?**

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
<b>Build community</b>				
<b>Help us understand ourselves better; self-reflection</b>				
<b>Inspire reverence and awe</b>				
<b>Promote a supportive environment for developing an sharing individual feelings and beliefs</b>				
<b>Show new paths for individual growth and change</b>				
<b>Spur individuals to act on their own convictions</b>				
<b>Other (please describe)</b>				

20. **A variety of roles comprise a minister's work. Each minister has to prioritize these functions, and thus his or her time. In what rank order would you like our next minister to do so? (Use 1 as the most important and 8 as the least)**

	1 most	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 least
<b>Pastor: counsels, visits the sick, visits people at home, etc.</b>								
<b>Social activist: promotes ethical values in the larger community</b>								
<b>Facilitator: involves people in congregational life</b>								
<b>Spiritual leader: prepares and leads worships and celebrations</b>								
<b>Intellectual leader: challenges and stimulates the thinking of the congregation</b>								
<b>Administrator: achieves results by coordinating and supporting the efforts of others</b>								
<b>Person of character: models the ethical life</b>								
<b>Other (Please specify)</b>								

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21. **Responsibility for a successful church is shared among the minister, other staff, and lay leadership. In terms of personal capabilities and time and attention, which of the following priorities for the church's next minister do you consider to be the most important? (Please select only 3.)**

Assuring efficient and effective church administration	
Caring for and counseling individuals	
Creating a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday services	
Encouraging congregational social justice programs	
Encouraging volunteers and developing lay leadership	
Fostering a sense of fellowship and community within the church	
Guiding/facilitating committee work	
Leading and guiding church staff	
Offering and stimulating adult enrichment programs	
Participating in RE for children and youth	
Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services	
Providing visible leadership in the community beyond the church	

22. **Which are the following qualities do you think are the most important considerations in screening ministerial candidates? (Please select only 3.)**

Character (strong moral consistency, stability, reliability)	
Consultative and cooperative approach	
Creativity (ability to develop and present new ideas and methods)	
Empathy (genuine interest in and concern about others)	
Humility (awareness of his/her limitations)	
Intellectual depth and rigor	
Open-mindedness (receptive to other ideas)	
Professional competence (ability to communicate, counsel, empower, etc)	
Scholarship (educated, informed, interesting)	
Sense of calling (motivated, enthusiastic)	
Sense of humor	

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23. UU tradition and the congregation's historical practice is that the minister should have freedom of the pulpit, whereby s/he may express whatever views s/he may hold without censorship from the congregation.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Do you agree with this policy?			
Do you believe that this policy extends to the expression of partisan political views?			

24. How would you personally feel about our congregation calling as a minister a person who is...

	Enthusiastic	Comfortable	Uncomfortable
Male			
Female			
White			
A person of color/member of historically marginalized ethnic/cultural group			
Gay or lesbian			
Bisexual			
Transgender			
Physically challenged			
Politically liberal			
Politically conservative			
From a moneyed background			
From a working class background			
Younger than 40			
Older than 60			
On a co-ministry team			

25. What predominant style of ministry would you prefer in our next minister? (Choose one.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Facilitator: the minister as go-between; due to the connections forged among them by the minister, the congregation feels itself "spontaneously" under way

\_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: the minister as chaplain; by virtue of his/her spiritual and moral gifts the minister becomes an influential counselor to individuals and to a strong lay leadership

\_\_\_\_\_ Prophet: the minister as visionary; envisioning a future of promise, the minister inspires the congregation and the larger community to pursue it

\_\_\_\_\_ Steward: the minister as city manager; with the minister dogging the details the congregation runs like a well-oiled machine

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26. **What responsibility should the parish or senior minister have for the day-to-day administration of the church?**

- The parish minister is the chief administrator, with all staff reporting directly or indirectly to her/him
- The parish minister is a member of the executive team which has overall responsibility. The other members are the Board President, the Treasurer, and the Administrator
- The parish minister has little responsibility for administration
- Administrative responsibility is shared collaboratively between the parish minister and the board
- No opinion. This is for the Board and the parish minister to work out

27. **How long have you been associated with the congregation?**

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- Founding member

28. **Thinking back to a time when you have been unwell, to what extent did the congregation reach out and offer support to you?**

- Not at all
- A little bit
- A fair amount
- A great deal
- Not applicable, I have not been unwell while affiliated with the congregation

29. **What is your age?**

- 18 or under
- 19-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80 or over

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30. **What is your affiliation with the congregation? (Choose one.)**

- Member
- Friend
- Other

31. **How many years you been a Unitarian Universalist?**

- 0-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- More than 15 years

32. **Other than this UU affiliation, what was your most recent prior religious affiliation?**

- None
- UU
- Buddhist
- Catholic Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Protestant Christian
- Other (please indicate)

33. **How much is your affiliation with this congregation and/or Unitarian Universalism a source of strength or comfort to you?**

- None at all
- Somewhat
- A fair amount
- A great deal

34. **What is your current marital status?**

- Divorced
- Domestic partnership
- Living with partner
- Married
- Separated
- Single
- Widowed

35. **Is your spouse/partner affiliated with the congregation?**

- Yes  No  Not applicable

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**36. What is your ethnic/racial background?**

	Primary Ethnicity	Other Ethnicities
African American/Black		
American Indian/Alaska Native		
Asian		
Hispanic/Latino		
White (not of Hispanic origin)		
Other (Please specify)		

**37. What formal education have you completed? (Check highest level)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Less than high school
- \_\_\_\_\_ High school or GED equivalent
- \_\_\_\_\_ Associate's degree, trade school, or some college
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bachelor's or conservatory degree
- \_\_\_\_\_ Master's degree
- \_\_\_\_\_ PhD, M.D., J.D., or similar advanced degree

**38. If you have children, please indicate how many in each group.**

	Number at church	Number in RE
Preschool		
K-3		
4-6		
7-8		
9-12		
College		

**39. What was your total gross family/household income before taxes last year?**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Less than \$25,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25,000 to \$50,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50,001 to \$75,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75,001 to \$100,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100,001 to \$125,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$125,001 to \$150,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$150,001 to \$200,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ Over \$200,000

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40. **What is your current annual family/household pledge – whether you pledge as individuals or as a family?**

- Less than \$50
- \$50 to \$99
- \$100 to \$199
- \$200 to \$299
- \$300 to \$399
- \$400 to \$499
- \$500 to \$599
- \$600 to \$799
- More than \$800
- Other

41. **How central/peripheral is your affiliation with this congregation to your identity as an individual?**

- Highly peripheral
- Somewhat peripheral
- Neither peripheral nor central
- Somewhat central
- Highly central

42. **About how long does it take you to travel to the church from home?**

- Less than 15 minutes
- 15-30 minutes
- 30-45 minutes
- 45-60 minutes
- Over an hour

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43. **What current strengths does our congregation possess that you would like to either see maintained or developed in the immediate future?**
44. **What are the main things you would like the congregation to accomplish or get involved in within the next three to five years?**
45. **What current church problems/issues concern you? What problems/issues are likely to be pressing in five years?**
46. **What achievements will make you say, "I'm glad the minister is among us?"**
47. **Describe the worst mistake your new minister could make.**
48. **What expectations, however unstated, do you have about the minister's family and personal life?**
49. **Would you like to see the church's membership grow? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of growing?**
50. **Are there any special issues that you would like our Ministerial Search Committee to consider and on which you would like to express your views?**