

## Report of Survey Results – Revised. 4/1/21

This message went out to the congregation about two months ago.

*The Worship Committee is dedicated to making our Sunday ZOOM services as meaningful as possible. To do this we need input from you! Please click on the link below to complete our short survey. The survey will only take a few moments of your time but your responses will be invaluable to guiding our efforts.*

We got a great response from the fellowship. Thank you for participating! Here is a summary of your main ideas. We do want to caution that this was not a study and the answers were not analyzed in any scientific way. The first question was short-answer so we could present the actual number (and percentage) of people checking specific elements. The rest of the survey included open-ended questions, so the Worship committee looked at themes in participants' responses. These have been listed under each question with a few specific examples of actual answers. One thing that became evident as we examined the responses is that we have a host of divergent answers to each question because we are a community of diverse thinkers. And also, most individuals listed a number of elements of the service and characteristics of our staff and community that they resonate with (or not!).

There are always some dangers to anonymous surveys, yet the Worship committee decided that the information, with its limitations, would be useful in our attempts to coordinate with the staff in meeting our Fellowship's needs. After all, we are all in brand new territory. Again, thanks so much for your help!

### Demographics:

**Overall we had 97 responses!** Most of them were from folks 60 and older.

Very few households with children responded: 2 had children younger than 5 years; 2 had children between ages 6 - 10; 3 had Middle School ages; 3 had YRUU. In NONE of those households did the respondents say those ages engaged in the service.

We had 2 households ages 18 - 30; 11 households ages 31 - 60; and the rest our over 60.

### Question 1: Which of the following deepen your experience of our Sunday worship service:

	<i># of checks</i>	<i>%</i>
Musical performance from members	77	79
Sermon:	72	74
Joys/Concerns	64	66
Intergenerational Sharing	52	54
Centering hymn	52	54
Meditation	50	52
Other musical performances	47	48
Singing favorite hymns	36	37
Scene of our site	35	36

In the room for personal comments to answer this question about what deepens your experience of services, many commented on UUFSD members' performing music, watching Katie play, coffee hours/break out rooms/ and family chalice lightings. Some mentioned seeking meaning in sermons, spiritual rituals like Day of the Dead, intergenerational sharing, and reminders of being at "our beautiful site." Kudos were given to the staff for switching to Zoom so professionally.

### Question 2. What keeps you coming back and tuning in each Sunday?

This was an open-ended question and responses ranged from 1) connection to the community, desire to stay connected and spiritual renewal to 2) inertia, habit, it's easy and feeling obligated.

Some specifics included: "I want to experience all of it. It's a welcome punctuation to my week, a re-set of my spiritual clock. All of it is meaningful." "Community, spiritual connection, see people I care about, comfort and inspiration." "Being part of something important and seeking to better understand life."

vs. "At this point, to be honest, it's almost inertia. I am so tired of the Zoom format, not just for UUSFD but in general, that I am skipping more and more often just to avoid the computer." " Vs. The community and break-out rooms were often mentioned. Specific examples: "I like that we can maintain our connection with UUFSD despite the pandemic. I enjoy the "coffee hour" following the service to touch base with other members."

Many mentioned appreciating Marshall and the music. Specifics include: "Marshall's music, antiracist/anti-oppression intergenerational sharing." "To enjoy seeing, listening, hearing, singing with familiar faces and friends."

In terms of Rev. Jo and her sermons, Fourteen individuals specifically mentioned Rev. Jo and her sermons positively in this open-ended question. five answers expressed difficulty connecting with Rev. Jo and/or her sermons. Examples of those coming back because of Rev. Jo and sermons: "The sermon is most important to me, and the break-out rooms after the service." "Sermon is intelligent, relevant and spiritual, deals with living today, and enhances spiritual life." "LOVE Rev. Jo, the wonderful music from our Music Director, and especially the RE stories." "Meaningful sermons, ability to hear from and see other members of the Fellowship." "The new minister's motivational sermons."

Examples of those with difficulty include: "What keeps me FROM coming back!! Pandemic blues. Lack of connection with sermons. I have been going to other fellowships and listening to services and we lack connection. Seems too bland and formulaic. Seeing a variety of services and the different approaches is helpful. We are pretty dull. Good effort but just hard to whip up energy."

**Question 3: If you could hit the delete button on something in the service, what would you get rid of?** In this open-ended question, many congregants mentioned three aspects of our services which were problematic for them. By far the most frequently stated element was the land acknowledgement. It was suggested that it be shortened or read less often. Some specific examples included: "Land acknowledgement is way too long. I like doing a land acknowledgement. I like how Palomar Fellowship just always acknowledges they are on land stolen from the Luiseno and Kumeyaay nations. The use of the word 'stolen' never fails to impact me." "The part of every service where Rev. Jo talks about our debt to the native Americans who lived on this land a long time ago. Somehow we need to blend acknowledging our ancestors past misdeeds, recognize the good things they did, celebrate our own efforts to lead a good, charitable life."

A second difficulty for some was the intergenerational sharing being too long and questions whether it was appropriate during Zoom where mostly adults are present. Specific examples: "Generational sharing should be for the kids and not to include adults unless the adult wants to attend. But not in front of the other adults that prefer not to participate." "Intergenerational sharing is better sometimes than others. Great when someone tells a story rather than reads it."

A third theme was problems with the use of different languages, especially in Spirit of Life and Welcome. An example: "I apologize for this ahead of time but, I feel that small parts in the beginning of the service spoken in Spanish (understood by a small percentage of the congregation) and/or language of the native Indians who occupied the land where our congregation now sits (and understood by even fewer congregants), seems a gratuitous attempt to be "inclusive" and open. Giving tribute to the native Indian tribes who originally lived on the land where our congregation now sits is both honorable and of good educational value. But practicing their language seems offensive to their culture and patronizing. Spanish, however, is spoken by a great percentage of people who live around/within our community. I believe a class in conversational Spanish, taught by a willing congregant on weekend afternoons or some night once a week (post Covid), would be of useful educational value and welcomed by some within our

congregation. Taking up time from our Sunday mornings with these two added practices seems pretentious and wasteful of precious time.”

Less frequently mentioned in terms of things to be deleted, but mentioned by a few include: meditation not working within the Zoom format; prayer after Joys and Sorrows; images and music for Joys and Sorrows too repetitious; overly long announcements.

**Question 4. What helps or would help you and your family connect more to our Sunday Zoom services?** In this open-ended question, three themes emerged: more meaningful sermons, more participation from congregation, and more variety in music, including from the choir and band.

In terms of sermons, comments indicated that some would prefer more intellectual sermons, with more unique content. A specific example, “Better sermons. They mostly appeal to the heart, which is fine as far as it goes. It’s good to be reminded of things. But I would like to learn something I don’t already know. I would like food for the head, as well as the heart. And more exploration of our spiritual sources would be good.”

In terms of more participation, examples include: “A little more connection to the kids and community members but I don’t really know how. I like the vignettes by families and musicians.” “More interaction, if possible; familiar hymns help this; when sermons are compelling – they often are.” “I don’t know if it is possible but a little more live audience participation would be cool.” “Love the questions posed for the breakout rooms after the service. Otherwise it gets off track and people who know each other only talk to people they know.”

In terms of music, congregants mentioned, “More opportunity to sing familiar hymns, accompanied by piano and in such a way that we hear each other as a singing community. This happens in other congregations’ services.” “I like visiting with people after the service. I miss the band greatly. I miss the choir and solo singers from the choir. I would like to have more musical performances from our members. I would like to do more business online instead of after the service.” “Would prefer more meditative music – flute perhaps.”