

Summary of Congregational Assessment of the Board of Trustees

Over the past 2 years, the church has worked to develop a comprehensive system for assessing the Minister, the Board of Trustees, and elements of the Congregation. As the final part of this system, the Board asked the Congregation to assess how well the Board is fulfilling its responsibilities to the Church. We believe this may be the first Congregational Board Assessment ever conducted at First Unitarian Church.

This survey was sent to the congregation via Breeze, with reminders in the weekly Chalice newsletter, from the pulpit, and in a Breeze follow-up email. The survey was available from Dec 2 to Dec 31. Of the 244 members of the congregation, there were 39 responses, for a 16% response rate. Members 65+, longtime members, and those who are more heavily involved in church activities made up a large portion of the responses.

The Board received an average of between 4 and 5 out of 5 on most ratings, including in areas such as financial management, seeking congregational input, strategic planning and working with Rev. Kate. However, members only rated themselves an average of 3 out of 5 when asked “I know the mission and vision of this church”. Many members also responded “I don’t know” to the question “The Board attends to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the church”, although the rest of the respondents gave the Board an average score of 4.

Members could also leave open-ended responses to several of the questions, such as what the Board is doing well, what it could do better, and new initiatives the Board could champion. Many members submitted comments, with a few common themes including: communication (positive and room for improvement), finance and operations (positive), working with the minister (positive), and supporting membership growth and more families and young adults (room for improvement).

The Board is continuing to review survey responses and discuss ways to implement your recommendations. The Board thanks everyone who contributed to the survey! If you’d like to see a full summary of the survey results, please contact President Brian Junker.