

UUCE Budget Survey

April 11 to April 19, 2009

We received 141 responses!

1) Introduction – No Question

2) Personnel

a) General Thoughts

93 Responses

Comments fell within these areas:

- 1) This is difficult to face
- 2) Support for all positions
- 3) Personal preferences for positions to be retained
- 4) If cuts are necessary, they should be equitable

b) How can the congregation step up to do more of the work?

74 Responses

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Have volunteers do custodial work and office tasks as well as assist more in RE
- 2) Give a list of items to be done and we'll do it – be specific on tasks (several comments)
- 3) Staff need to make an effort to delegate non-essential tasks to volunteers
- 4) Direction from Steve and office staff on tasks that volunteers could do – several people said they would step up
- 5) Can we really ask more from a group already working hard? Some people still doing everything. Some congregants mention “burning out” with the amount of work they are asked to do.
- 6) Get a three person volunteer committee together to make personal connections to recruit volunteers – and follow up on new member questionnaires on how they want to volunteer. This would be a substitute for the volunteer coordinator position.
- 7) Have volunteers do more child care

3) Use of Church Facilities

Proposal: Restrict use of church facilities for meetings and potlucks to 2 or 3 days/nights per week.

Support: 72.5%

Neutral: 18.8%

Don't Support: 8.7%

70 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Is there enough space at the church for everyone to meet there just 2 to 3 nights per week?
- 2) This would impact member's ability to be involved in more than one committee.
- 3) Is the little bit of \$1,500 saved per year with this effort?
- 4) There would be accessibility issues for off-site meetings.
- 5) General support

4) Child Care

Proposal: Offer UUCE-paid childcare for Sunday services only. Ask individual committees and programs pay for any additional childcare.

Support: 60.4%

Neutral: 17.9%

Don't Support: 21.6%

75 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Parents (and other members) are concerned about being able to participate in committees and programs if child care isn't available. Single parents were especially vocal about this.
- 2) Reduce child care providers from two to one and have parents sign a waiver saying they are fine with this (HUGE liability issues here!)
- 3) How would it work to "pass the hat" at committee's and not have the one or two people needing childcare feel embarrassed?
- 4) Have parents share care responsibilities.

5) Summer Services

Proposal: Schedule fewer summer services.

Support: 42.2%

Neutral: 20.7%

Don't Support: 37.0%

90 comments – this question had the most comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Lots of support for every other week services
- 2) Less formal gatherings instead of services
- 3) Would church members drift away if we reduce or eliminate services?
- 4) Reducing services could open up the church for wedding rentals
- 5) Summer is a popular time for visitors and newcomers to attend
- 6) Having a consistent spiritual community is more valuable than the savings
- 7) Several respondents don't attend in the summer

6) Youth Program

Proposal: Reduce funding for the Coming of Age program, requiring parents to pay more.

Support: 24.6%

Neutral: 31.3%

Don't Support: 44.0%

82 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Provide a scholarship program and/or sliding scale so that families who can't afford the increased costs can still participate.
- 2) Have the kids do fundraising
- 3) Put program "on hold" for one year
- 4) Questions about why the program costs \$5,000
- 5) These kids are our future – do not cut their program
- 6) Solicit funds with third Sunday offering

7) Children's Program Snack

Proposal: Do not fund snacks for children. Ask parents to pay.

Support: 67.2%

Neutral: 19.4%

Don't Support: 13.4%

71 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Have no snack at all
- 2) "Nickel and diming"
- 3) Have parents provide snacks or ask church members to donate
- 4) Have scholarships or sliding scale program
- 5) Tracking who is paying and who isn't could be messy

8) Orders of Service

Proposal: Eliminate printed Orders of Service and all inserts.

Support: 78.2%

Neutral: 9.8%

Don't Support: 12.0%

79 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Yes, reduce paper – lots of support
- 2) New attendees may feel more comfortable with an OOS
- 3) Use a board in the lobby for announcements
- 4) Single sheet better than nothing at all
- 5) Loathing of board or projected OOS but most okay without OOS too
- 6) Make sure board or projected image visible to all
- 7) Have people pay a quarter for each OOS they take
- 8) Information on inserts is available by newsletter and website – no need to duplicate this

9) Newsletters

Proposal: Provide paper copies of the newsletter to only those members who "opt in."

Support: 91.7%

Neutral: 5.3%

Don't Support: 3.0%

61 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Postage costs may increase if less than 200 are mailed out – bulk rate kicks in at 200 but we'll pay first class rate if the total number is less than 200
- 2) Ask for donations from those wanting paper copies - \$9 per year
- 3) Would some congregants fall through the cracks if they don't have internet access?
- 4) Have a policy that if you have internet access, you can't have a paper copy
- 5) LOTS of support

10) Directory

Proposal: Eliminate print versions of the directory and create an online directory.

Support: 73.1%

Neutral: 12.7%

Don't Support: 14.2%

67 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Support for photo directory – done at no cost to church – add more for those who didn't get pictures taken
- 2) Charge members for paper directories
- 3) Basic distrust of personal information online
- 4) What about folks without computer access?
- 5) Lots of hand-holding for folks who forget their passwords, etc.
- 6) Produce one every other year
- 7) Make online directory printable by end-users
- 8) Several folks really use their directories and don't want to let go of them

11) Dues

Proposal: Pay all dues to PNWD and one-half of dues to UUA.

Support: 51.1%

Neutral: 29.3%

Don't Support: 19.5%

63 comments

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) What are long term ramifications?
- 2) Lots of folks feeling iffy
- 3) We need to stay connected to UUA
- 4) What is UUA doing to tighten their belts? Will they reduce dues?
- 5) More support for reducing 20 to 25%

12) Final Thoughts

a) Cost Saving Ideas

59 Responses

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Reduce expenses for or eliminate Celebration Sunday
- 2) Conserve energy
- 3) Stop looking for new property and divert money from new building to current budget
- 4) Have a wish list board for members to buy things and complete needed tasks
- 5) Suspend paid musicians
- 6) Reduce janitor costs
- 7) More energy savings
- 8) Don't provide cakes for celebrations
- 9) No food for any committee, meeting, celebration
- 10) Use the third Sunday offering for our programs, not outside groups
- 11) Bolster volunteerism
- 12) No board retreats, no travel expenses
- 13) Rent out church for day care during the week
- 14) Use cloth towels in restrooms
- 15) General kudos

b) Fundraising

51 Responses

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) Ask members to pledge their tax rebate
- 2) Have more fundraising events
- 3) Put kids art on shirts and sell to congregants
- 4) Have UUCE groups (not committees) pay nominal fee to use church
- 5) Use E-Scrip, Albertson's card and Target card rewards (WAMU also)
- 6) Charge for lectures, movies, mini-concerts that are offered
- 7) Get more rentals (many comments)
- 8) Do a "Church Aid" event
- 9) Holiday craft sale, bake sales, garage sales
- 10) Charge for coffee – not a donation
- 11) Charge UUCE groups to use space
- 12) Get members to submit pledge commitments by monthly bank withdrawals – income is more consistent this way
- 13) No additional fundraising (several comments)
- 14) Have a walk like the Cancer walk
- 15) Look at what schools are doing to raise money and copy it
- 16) Get a mortgage

c) Additional Input

61 Responses

Comments mostly fell within one of these areas:

- 1) General kudos
- 2) Create a more positive atmosphere
- 3) Tell members how much it costs UUCE for them to be members
- 4) Would have prefer to see the budget before completing survey
- 5) Why did so many questions target families?
- 6) We should extend ourselves and help other groups instead of pulling in
- 7) Stop working on securing a new building (many comments)